



ATCP 50

Nutrient Management on Pastures

ARM Pub 244, 03/14

ATCP 50 implements soil and water conservation standards adopted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which includes the requirement that pastures comply with the soil loss and Phosphorus Index (PI) standards. This document explains the conditions under which ATCP 50 pasture requirements apply and the flexibility allowed in ATCP 50 when developing a nutrient management (NM) plan for pastures to demonstrate compliance with the soil loss and PI standards. SnapPlus2 can be used to determine soil loss and PI values under a number of pasture and dry lot management scenarios.

The new pasture requirement applies to all farms as of May 1, 2014, but may not apply to every pasture on a farm. Farmers who receive NM cost-sharing must include required pastures in their NM plans. Farmers may continue to claim FPP tax credits without planning for pastures until January 1, 2016, at which time they must come into compliance or agree to a performance schedule to achieve compliance.

WHEN MUST A PASTURE BE INCLUDED IN A NM PLAN?

INCLUDE A PASTURE IF EITHER APPLIES:

- It receives mechanical applications of nutrients. Develop a NM plan for this *pasture* using soil samples collected at the frequency of 1 sample per 5 acres every four years and analyzed by a DATCP certified soil testing laboratory (ATCP 50.04(3)).
- It is stocked at an average of MORE than 1 animal unit (AU) per acre. Develop a NM for this pasture either using soil tests according to ATCP 50.04(3) or “assumed soil test values” of 150 ppm P and 6% OM.

DO NOT INCLUDE A PASTURE IF EITHER APPLIES:

- It is a *feedlot*, OR
- It is stocked at an average rate of 1 AU per acre or LESS at all times during the *grazing season*, AND
It does not received mechanical nutrient applications.

*Words in *italic* are defined on the second page of this document.

HOW ARE AVERAGE ANIMAL UNITS PER ACRE CALCULATED?

SnapPlus2’s Grazing Application Estimator can determine AU per acre during the grazing season and is available for free at <http://snapplus.wisc.edu/>. To calculate AUs manually, use DNR’s Form 3400-025A, available at http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/agbusiness/documents/3400025a_wt.pdf, or use the following equation:

$$\frac{(\text{Animal Units in Herd} * \text{Days Pastured} * \text{Percent of Day Grazed})}{\text{Acres of Pasture}} = \text{Average Stocking Rate during the grazing season (AU/acre)}$$

244 grazing season days
(Average grazing season = April through November)

EXAMPLE STOCKING RATE CALCULATION

$$\frac{(10 \text{ AU in herd} * 100 \text{ days pastured} * .50 (50\% \text{ of day}))}{5 \text{ Acre pasture}} \div 244 \text{ days} = 0.4 \text{ AU/acre over the grazing season}$$

HOW DO PASTURES DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH PI STANDARD?

If a pasture is included in a NM plan developed using SnapPlus2 that meets the phosphorus index limits in NR 151.04, the NM plan can be used to demonstrate compliance with DNR's PI standard. If the soil test phosphorus method is used to develop the NM plan, then DNR will provide an equivalent calculation to meet the PI requirements.

DEFINITIONS

Animal unit (NR 243.03 (5)): a unit of measure used to determine the total number of single animal types or combination of animal types, as specified in s. NR 243.11, that are at an animal feeding operation.

Feedlot (NR 151.015 (8)): a barnyard, exercise area, or other outdoor area where livestock are concentrated for feeding or other purposes and self-sustaining vegetative cover is not maintained. "Feedlot" does not include a winter grazing area or a bare soil area such as a cattle lane or a supplemental feeding area located within a pasture, provided that the bare soil area is not a significant source of pollution to waters of the state.

Grazing Season (ATCP 50.04 (3) b. Note): Includes the months of the year when pasture vegetation is actively growing.

Pasture (NR 151.015 (15m)): Land on which livestock graze or otherwise seek feed in a manner that maintains the vegetative cover over the grazing area. Pasture may include limited areas of bare soil such as cattle lanes and supplemental feeding areas provided the bare soil areas are not significant sources of pollution to waters of the state.