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A Message from the Professional Nutrient Applicators Association of Wisconsin

The Professional Nutrient Applicator Association of Wisconsin, in cooperation with UW-Extension, would like to encourage its customers to prepare for the upcoming manure spreading season. PNAAW member companies employ trained, tested, and certified equipment operators. We are best able to serve the Wisconsin dairy and livestock industry when we are supplied with two vital pieces of information: manure application maps and spreading rates set in accordance with a nutrient management plan. Application maps with spreading rates are an important form of communication between you, our businesses, and the equipment operators servicing your farm.

A good map will indicate where the manure application setbacks are on your farm. There are a number of types of setbacks. For example:

Prohibition setbacks are areas where manure is prohibited from any application. Examples of manure prohibition areas include within 50 feet of drinking water wells, grass waterways, non-harvested vegetative buffers, and over sinkholes or drain tile inlets.

Other setbacks are areas where manure applications are restricted by the time of year, method, or decreased rate of application. Examples of manure application restriction areas include within 1,000 feet of a pond or lake, 300 feet of a perennial stream or river, fields with slopes greater than 9%, highly permeable soils (sandy), places with less than 20 inches of topsoil to bedrock, soils with a seasonal water table within 12" of the soil surface, and within 1000 feet of municipal wells. Manure can be spread in fields with these areas but maps identifying these features will give our drivers more guidance.

Application maps can be obtained from numerous sources. You can begin by identifying the fields and the setback features on copies of soil survey maps. Most County Land Conservation offices can provide a more detailed map with soil, surface water, and slope features. Another option is to download the free 590 nutrient application restriction maps at: <http://mmas-mapping.soils.wisc.edu/> . However, please keep in mind that these maps lack local setbacks such as wells and drain tile inlets so mark these features on the map before supplying them to the applicator.

Thank you for helping us service you better in 2010,

PNAAW Board of Directors

March 17, 2010