

WHOLE-FARM NUTRIENT PLANNING CHECKLIST

To design a whole-farm nutrient management plan specific to your farm, the following information will need to be compiled by the person preparing the plan:

- ✓ Current (four years or less) soil tests for each field from approved laboratory.
An essential tool for nutrient planning.
- ✓ Farm map of each field showing layout, field ID's, acres and areas with manure spreading restrictions. *This can be air photos or a simple drawing.*
- ✓ Soil type(s) and % slope for each field. *See your soil conservation plan.*
- ✓ Crop rotation on each field for previous and upcoming year.
Essential for crediting legumes, allocating manure.
- ✓ Percent stand of previous forage legumes and height of regrowth.
"good", "fair", or "poor" following UW guidelines.
- ✓ Estimate total yearly manure production available for spreading.
Use number, type, size of livestock, portion of year manure is collected.
- ✓ Manure applications in tons or gallons/acre, and, if manure will be incorporated within 72 hours. *Essential to know manure spreading rate for crediting.*
- ✓ Fertilizer to be applied. *List "starter" fertilizer separately.*

Preparing a nutrient management plan does take time and commitment to do it right. After a plan is written the first time, however, it becomes much easier in subsequent years. With the exception of crop rotations and soil tests, most of the information remains the same from year to year.

A certified (e.g., ARCPACS, REAP, CCA) agronomist or crop consultant can help you to put together a crop plan specific to your farm.

The goal of whole-farm nutrient management is to improve the economic and environmental performance of your farm!
