Nutrient Management Planning at Dairies



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Dairy Operations

- Dairy General Order (Order No. R5-2007-0035)
- Three phases of operations:
 - Production area
 - Storage
 - Land application

Purpose and Expected Outcome

- Apply nutrients efficiently
- Maximize plant uptake
- Minimize percolation and runoff
- Protection of water quality

Nutrient Management Planning

- Land Application Area
- Sampling and Analysis
- Nutrient Budget
- Reporting

Land Application Area

- Map
- Fields
- Storage and conveyance
- Acreage and crops grown
- Sampling locations
- Third-party agreements

Sampling and Analysis

- Wastewater
- Manure
- Soil
- Plant tissue
- Irrigation water
- Groundwater

Nutrient Budget

- Crop need on a field scale
- Planned rate and timing of application
- Nitrogen Balance
 - 1.4 total N vs. N removed by crop
 - 1.65 if needed and no pollution
- Certified Nutrient Management Specialist

Reporting

- Field inspections
- Nutrient monitoring
- Groundwater
- Nutrient Management Plan

Reporting Tools

■ Merced County reporting tool



Measures of Success

- Effective implementation of nutrient management
- Understanding impacts to water quality
- Water quality meets objectives or is improving

Benefits and Challenges

- Benefits:
 - Protection of water quality
 - Efficient use of resources
- Challenges:
 - Complicated
 - Requires commitment
 - Differing opinions
 - Tracking compliance at 1,300+ dairies

Questions?

