

Winter Manure Spreading Considerations

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Why are we winter spreading?

- Regulations have required some, but not all farms to have adequate winter storage
- Investment in storage does not “cash flow”
 - Lenders want to know that it will be used for many years
 - Older farmers/urban fringe less willing to invest if livestock facilities do not have a resale value




Why are we winter spreading?

- Weather conditions
 - “It takes 18 months to recover from a wet fall”
 - Dave Eisentraut, Wisconsin Custom Manure Applicator



History

- Year round spreading has happened for hundreds of years. Why is the concern greater now?
- A farm with 200 cows produces much more manure than one with 20 cows.
- Technology exists to test well water for viruses/pathogens that was not available 10 years ago



History




Credit: Paul Tollard



Is Storage the Answer?

YES and NO

- If manure spreading is done 365 days/year, only a small portion goes on the highest risk fields at a high risk time.
- With storage, 6 months of manure can go on the wrong field at the wrong time, and the impact can be much greater



Weather Challenges



Credit: Practical Applications, LLC

Winter spreading impacts



Credit: Kevin Erb, UW Extension

Winter spreading impacts




Credit: Mark Cain, Wisconsin DNR

Today's Program

- What is the impact of winter spreading on surface water?
 - Eric Cooley

- The impact of Winter Manure Spreading plans on resident's wells in one county
 - Brent Peterson

- A professional manure applicator's perspective
 - Eric Dresbach



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