

Partnerships Addressing Land Application Challenges

Michigan Water Environment
Association

Biosolids Conference

Biosolids

- Michigan DEQ regulates biosolids by class, according to how much treatment they receive
- Land Application is a beneficial solution
 - Nutrients for farms
 - Environmentally friendly



The Challenge



www.michiganradio.org

- Concerns about land application:
 - Odors
 - Dust
 - Nutrient loss?
 - Food safety rules?
 - Public Perception
 - New processes have different regulations
 - Pressure to change/increase regulations

Requirements for Land Application

- Soil testing every 2 years
- Agronomic Application Rate – cannot exceed Bray P1 test of 300 lbs per acre in Michigan
- Cannot apply where endangered species or surface waters would be impacted

Michigan Biosolids Program



Protecting Michigan's Environment
Ensuring Michigan's Future

But...GAAMPS Don't Apply

- Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices provide recommendations for on-farm practices
- They only apply to agricultural activities, not to commercial activities on farms



Partnership Action

- MWEA Biosolids Committee brought a work group together to find solutions
- How to address public concerns and provide guidance to applicators?



Using What Works

- Held meetings with concerned citizens organized by Senator Dale Zorn and Representative Bronna Kahle
- Developed fact sheets and recommendations based on existing standards



Biosolids being recycled on farmland to help grow crops.

www.owasa.org

Now Available

https://www.mi-wea.org/biosolids_land_application.php

- Fact Sheets
 - Regulations
 - Uses
 - Different Biosolids Types
 - Phosphorus 101
- Land Application of Biosolids in Michigan: Management Recommendations
- **NOT REQUIRED**
 - Guidance Only!

Recommendations

- Site Selection
 - Takes residential/commercial density into account
 - Consideration for incorporation and how and when to apply
- Onsite Stacking/Storage
 - Away from roads, ditches, water
 - Complete removal

Recommendations

- Soil Sampling
 - Every 10-15 acres
 - Consider application rate if nutrient level approaches regulatory limit
- Application timing
 - Avoid weekends, holidays
 - Spread in the morning
 - Avoid wind blowing toward populated areas

Recommendations

- Barriers
 - Take advantage of treelines, fence rows, vegetation
- Avoid high-speed spinners
- Mark Sensitive Areas
 - Flag setbacks
 - Provides application guidance and assurance to neighbors

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The Big Picture

- Innovative thinking by cooperative partners can provide solutions that don't require more regulation or legislation
- Living Documents
 - Can be amended to address new challenges
 - Additional information can be added to answer questions

The Big Picture

- This solution works if biosolids processors and applicators agree to follow it
 - And suggest improvements!

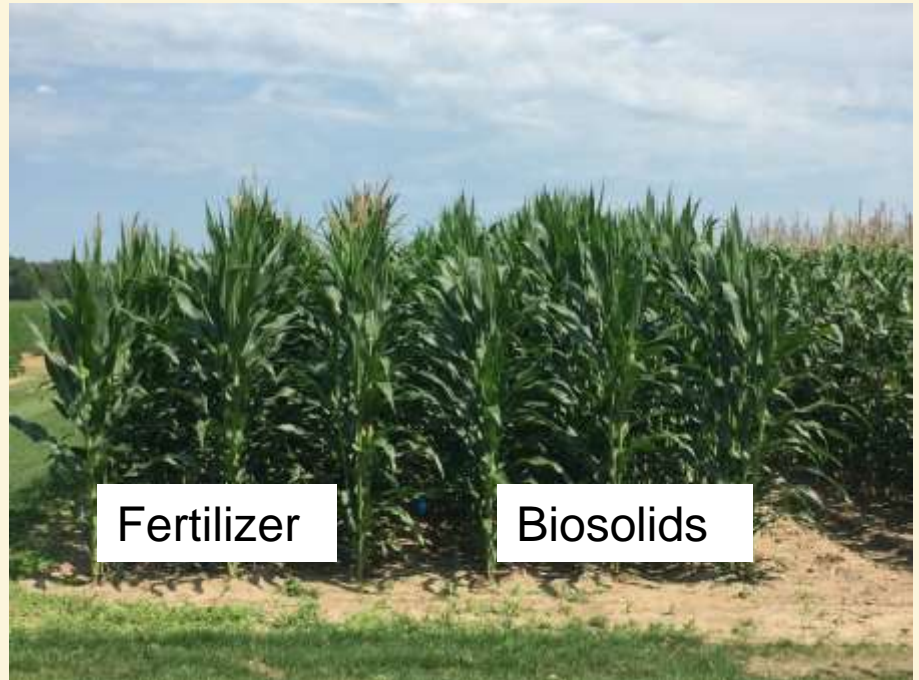


Photo by Steve Mahoney, MDARD

Thank you!

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