



Title: Meeting North Carolina's Phosphorus Challenges

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Organization: NC State University

State: NC **Region:** Southern

Year of Funding:

Theme: Animal Waste Management

Situation: North Carolina is number one in turkey production, number two in swine production and number four in broiler production. Along with the animals, a large amount of animal waste is produced which contains excess levels of P. Due to new national nutrient management standards, there must be an assessment of the potential for P loss to fields on which animal waste is applied.

Objectives: The objective of the project was to build a P assessment tool and train relevant people to use the tool. We also wanted to determine the number of producers that the NC PLAT would affect.

Methods: An interagency committee spent 3 years designing a science-based P assessment tool for NC - the NC PLAT. Once the tool was designed, data was collected from throughout the state to determine the affects of the tool on producers. Training was conducted for individuals wanting to use the tool.

Partnerships: Numerous state agencies, including NC Cooperative Extension and NC State University were included in this project.

Research: Without the years of research available at NC State University, we could not have produced NC PLAT. The NC PLAT tool provides a springboard from which to educate about the different pathways of P loss. The required training for anyone who wants to use NC PLAT in a certified nutrient management plan helps with the educational message about P loss.

Resources: Grants with similar objectives were used to find money for programming of the NC PLAT tool. Some USEPA 319 grants are currently being used to further refine NC PLAT.

Results: The NC PLAT is one of the most science-based P loss assessment tools in the U.S. To date we have trained close to 500 agency and private individuals on P issues, as well as the tool. When NC PLAT is used, we determined that this analysis will effect 20% of all livestock producers; either they will only be able to apply P at crop removal rates or they will not be able to apply P.



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