



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[Extension Applications of Nutrient Budgets in Pennsylvania – Biomass Energy](#)

As part of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Program, cropland phosphorus budgets for states, counties, physiographic regions and watersheds have been developed. In Pennsylvania, small-group meetings with representatives from government agencies, environmental organizations and industry were used to introduce this tool's potential use by decision-makers. To learn about the implications and possible uses, the budgets were presented neutrally without interpretation at these meetings. While some uses were identified it became apparent that demonstrations of the tool's application to water quality, land use, economic development or regulatory decision that affect nutrient flows was necessary. Recent interest in biomass energy production provides another opportunity to demonstrate the usefulness of this tool. This paper will discuss integrating nutrient budgets with biomass energy production decisions for both identifying areas with large quantities of manure for potential energy production but also areas where increased animal production using by-products from energy production should not be encouraged.

Author: Robert E. Graves

University Affiliation: Penn State University

Co-Author(s): Charles W. Abdalla, Douglas Beegle and Kathleen Arrington