

Phosphorus Balancing: Dietary P and Spreadable Acres

DIETARY PHOSPHORUS (P) FACTS:

- The maximum dietary P level that is needed for high milk production is **0.38%** according to the National Research Council.
- Recent surveys indicate that more than one-half of Wisconsin dairy cows are fed over **0.38%** dietary P!
- High dietary P = high manure P.

SPREADABLE ACRES FACTS:

- Your land may be subject to new and proposed regulations that target P applications to cropland.
- In general, you will need more spreadable acres if you have a phosphorus-based nutrient management plan.
- High manure P = more acres needed to spread manure (according to new/proposed regulations).

Flip the card to see the relationship between dietary P and spreadable acres →

Lowering dietary P reduces manure P, which requires fewer spreadable acres!

	Dietary P (%)	Manure P (lbs/cow/year)	Spreadable Acres (acres/cow/year)	Acres needed <i>on a 100 cow dairy</i>
Exceeds NRC rec's	0.55	78	2.9	290
	0.48	65	2.4	240
Within NRC rec's	0.38	47	1.8	180
	0.35	42	1.6	160

For example, on a 100 cow dairy farm, if you lowered dietary P from **0.55%** to **0.38%**, you would reduce the land needed to spread manure on by **110 acres!**

UWEX,CALS, USDA-ARS Dairy Forage Research Center, USDA-CSREES Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, WDATCP.
For more cards contact the Nutrient and Pest Management Program at (608) 265-2660.