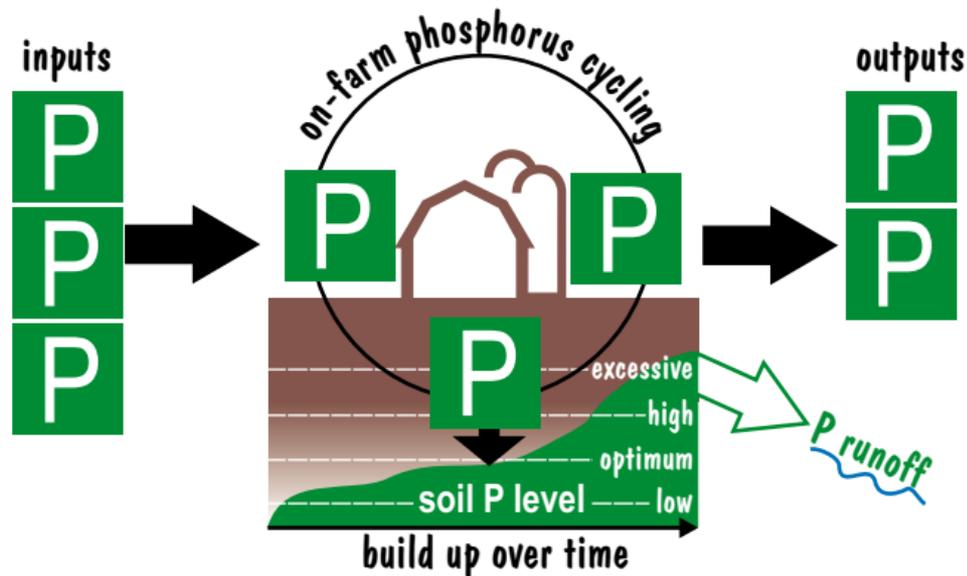


Phosphorus Balancing: *The in's and out's*

Recent surveys and research on Wisconsin dairy farms indicate that:

1. Phosphorus (P) inputs are often greater than outputs.
2. When inputs are greater than outputs, P will build up in the soil over time.
3. The potential for P runoff increases when soil P is built up to excessive levels.

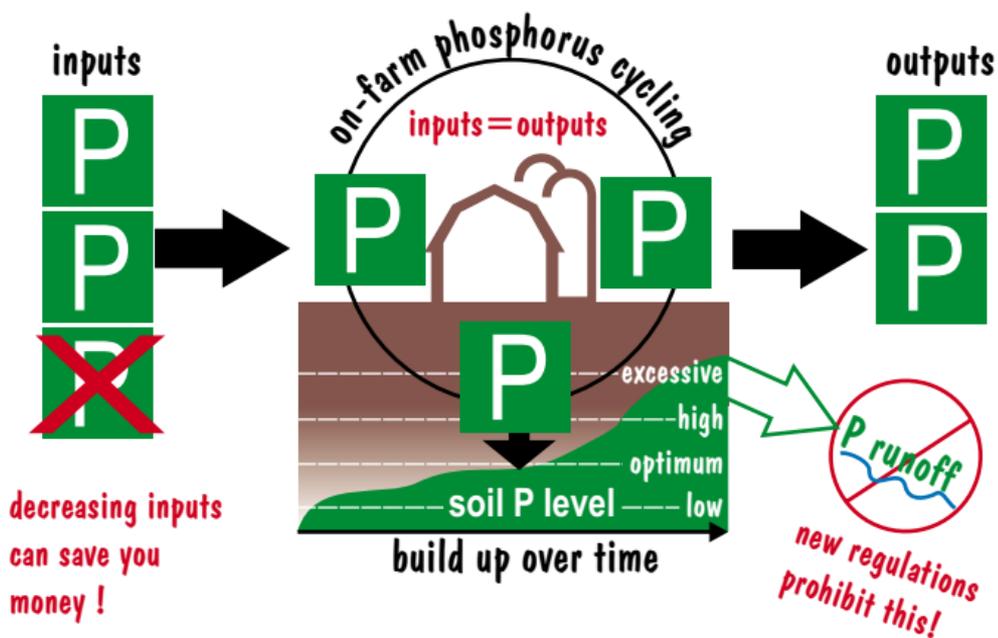


Phosphorus in runoff causes excessive algae growth in surface waters, which can reduce water quality of streams and lakes.

Why phosphorus balancing may be important to you:

- **PROFITS** — your profits can be reduced by purchasing more P than you need!
- **REGULATIONS** — your land may be subject to new and proposed regulations that target P applications to cropland!

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.



One strategy for balancing phosphorus is to decrease dietary P inputs by following the National Research Council's recommendations.