

Whole Farm Nutrient Balance Calculator

Nutrient Management Tools and Curriculum

Tool

Whole Farm Nutrient Balance Calculator is a stand-alone program written in Visual Basic© that calculates the annual difference between nutrients (N, P and K) imported onto the farm as feeds, fertilizers, animals, and bedding and exported nutrients in milk, animal and crop sales and manure and/or compost exports. Production characteristics such as cropland area, animal numbers, and average crop yields are also recorded.

The tool was designed to be used annually by producers and/or their advisors to determine where the greatest nutrient use efficiencies occur and to identify areas of concern and opportunities for more efficient nutrient use that, if addressed, could increase profitability and reduce environmental impact.

This tool can be used as an extension tool on its own and/or integrated into a complete 4-hour nutrient management curriculum (1-hour lecture, 2-hour engaged activities and 1-hour advanced concepts). All components can be downloaded.

Curriculum

The nutrient management curriculum *Whole Farm Nutrient Balance Calculator* includes the following downloadable parts:

Teaching Guides

1. Background Lecture (1 hour)
2. Tutorial Workbook Teaching Guide
 - Software Demonstration (1 hour)
 - Instructional Examples (1 hour)
 - Advanced Exercises (1 hour)

Materials

3. Tool (Software and Data Collection Sheet)
4. User Manual
5. Tutorial Workbook
 - Software Demonstration (1 hour)
 - Instructional Examples (1 hour)
 - Advanced Exercises (1 hour)
6. Glossary

Fact Sheets and Extension Material

- Agronomy Fact Sheet # 25: Mass Nutrient Balance Software

For more information: Contact Quirine Ketterings at the Nutrient Management Spear Program, Department of Animal Science, Cornell University, 323 Morrison Hall, Ithaca NY 14853, or e-mail: gmk2@cornell.edu.