

FL651.0403(d) Animal waste characteristics – Beef

“As Excreted Values” do not identify the source of the nutrients in a grazed situation. Consequently, nutrients extracted from soil reserves and/or water table by plants are not considered to be an import to the site. The following example illustrates this concept.

EXAMPLE of a typical grazing situation:

A beef cow is allowed to graze 3 acres of unfertilized Bahia grass pasture for one year. During this period the animal was provided minerals and supplemental feed that contained 9.0 lbs of phosphorus. The estimated “As Excreted Value” for phosphorus is 39.2 lbs./AU/year (Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook, 2008 Table 4-8).

Because the site was not fertilized, the phosphorus contained in the vegetation cannot be counted as an import to the site. Therefore, the only phosphorus imported onto the site was 9.0 lbs of P in the mineral and supplemental feed. The remaining 30.2 pounds of P is phosphorus that was supplied by the soils and water table on the site.

EXAMPLE of a beef grazing situation on a dairy:

If beef cattle are brought into a dairy spray field to graze and no supplemental feed and/or minerals is provide to the beef cattle, the amount of nutrient contributed to the spray field by the beef cattle is zero (0) and the total nutrient exported is the body mass

gained by the beef cattle plus the total amount of nutrient removed by the production of the crop in the spray fields (actual calculated quantity and nutrient analysis of the crop removal (sod, hay, haylage, and/or silage)).

“As Excreted Values” should not be used to develop nutrient management plans for grazing animals (beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, etc.).

Nutrient budgets for grazing animal operations should be developed using the mass budgeting procedure and should include the amount of nutrients imported as feed, fertilizer, animal products, irrigation water, and other sources that are physically imported onto the site by the manager.

As Excreted Values should be used to develop nutrient budgets only in the following situations;

- On CAFO's or AFO's where the animals are fed a ration that meets their daily nutritional requirements and are not allowed the opportunity to pasture.
- On CAFO's or AFO's where the animals receive more than 50% of their daily dietary requirements and are allowed limited access to pasture. In this situation, the estimated amount of nutrients provided by grazed forages will be subtracted from the daily “As Excreted Value”.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK