

## Need a Concise Guide for Staying on Top of Biosolids Tasks?

REVISIT YOUR POCKET GUIDE!



With our increased time constraints in this day and age, are you having a hard time organizing your thoughts about biosolids tasks and record keeping? Then get out your handy dandy pocket guide developed for you by other Type IV Operators. Turn to page 2 and see the Checklist to be used Before Application for a particular cropping year. Record your vehicle calibration/s on the bottom of page 3 and any other information pertinent for the driver or applicator in the blank space above it. Check off that all tasks are done – an easy routine!

Of utmost importance is the task of having good records of the application event/s. These records must be kept INDEFINITELY – how much went where and the cumulative dry tons applied to a site. This is one record [I find during my inspections] that could use a bit of improvement. If you do not have a formal system set up

for recording applications [I call them hauling logs], I suggest using the ones on page 12 and 13 of your pocket guide called Field Records. Since there are two pages to record data in the Guide, it's particularly good for facilities that use a couple of sites each year. If you do use more than two sites each year, these pages can be reused after making a copy of the previously completed site application information. [I hope you still have your "Sharpie"].

Field Records				Application dates	Volume	Acres covered
Year	Site code	Approved acres	Acres covered			
Crop this year	Crop previous year	Realistic yield goal	MMAA rate/ lb. N/acre			
Soil test results (within last 3 yrs./ Test date)						
Texture		Potassium				
pH (limit 5.5)		Phosphorus (limit 200 ppm)				
Organic Matter		Soluble salts (limit 4 meq/100g)				
Available N (lb/ton)						
Analysis used (date)						
Max. application rate =		ton/acre =				
Planned rate =		actual rate =				
				Totals		
				How was it applied?		
				<input type="checkbox"/> injected		
				<input type="checkbox"/> surface-applied		
				<input type="checkbox"/> surface-applied & incorporated		

Aside from a record that has to be kept indefinitely, Field Records are where you can and I always go to resolve any issues that come up as a result of a complaint or a question of compliance. For this reason they should be as accurate as possible especially with respect to the volumes in loads. All this information is the basis of the calculations made for reporting to both the farmer and the Agency. That brings up the tasks of filling out a "Farmer Information Sheet" and Biosolids Annual Report. [See page 14 of the Guide for the "Checklist to be used After Application"]. The farmer should get application information very shortly after biosolids are applied – like a week or so. For this task I suggest using Steve Stark's "Biosolids Tool" filled out for each site because it completes a "Farmer Information Sheet" for you. Once that is done, most of the information needed to fill out an Annual Report is also known. Always feel free to send Annual Reports in at anytime once they can be completed. This really helps to get all the data entered into the computer in a timely manner. Also, I have been reviewing Reports that come in early – as time allows and getting a response back to operators. This way any problems identified would not reoccur with the upcoming fall application.

The "Biosolids Tool" has been emailed to those on my Type IV distribution list a couple of times. If you are not on that list, and want the Tool, send an email to me to get it.

PS. Please let me know of topics and presenters for training. I hope the weather improves for application this fall!