

Field Days set for 1992 On-farm Demos

The opportunity to talk to NPM cooperating farmers and exchange ideas with University and local people is here. Our field day season will be in full swing during August and September. The topics presented are tailored to local priorities and settings, but a common theme will be the producers' description and evaluation of their demonstrations.

The geographic range has expanded this year. Larry Samson is host of NPM's northern-most demonstration. Located in Washburn County between Spooner and Shell Lake on Hwy 63, the field day is August 19 at 10:00 with lunch included. Demonstrated practices include: taking nitrogen credits from manure and plow down alfalfa, examining different starter fertilizer rates, and showing what it takes to be successful using non-chemical weed control practices.

A number of the hosts have worked with NPM and local teams for three years now. For instance, at the Thull field day on August 18 in Washington County, Mike and Ralph will share their ideas about reducing herbicide rates and improving nutrient management practices on owned and rented land beyond the demonstration boundaries.

Since NPM regional specialists expanded to nearly 50 demonstrations this year, there are also new cooperators to meet. One is Hermon Miller of Columbia County who will host a field day near Lodi on September 3. Herman is looking at nutrient management on reduced till and no-till corn acres.

Don't miss this chance to get out and see the demos all across Wisconsin. We know you'll appreciate the extent of the



Karen Talarczyk, NPM SW regional specialist, records the weight of an empty manure spreader as part of a spreader calibration method.

cooperators' efforts and their dedication in managing the plots and hosting the field days.

For more specific information on the field days listed on page 3, contact these NPM regional or state staff: Paul Kivlin (NW) at 715-839-7375, Karen Talarczyk (SW) at 608-723-2240, Kevin Shelley (SC) at 608-265-2660, Richard Proost (SE) at 608-262-7845, or Scott Sturgul (NC) at 608-262-7486. ■

Vernon County Dairy Farmers Share Demo Experience

by Karen Talarczyk

Jody and Ardene Wirts are cooperating with NPM for a second season. They farm cropland typical of the southwest area of Wisconsin, marked by rolling ridges and steep valleys. In this landscape, tight management of their on-farm dairy and poultry manure is required to keep nutrients from being lost in runoff.

The 1992 NPM demonstration field is on rented ground along Highway 82, 1.5 miles west of LaFarge. It is similar to the 1991 NPM field, which was directly across the road and featured manure nutrient crediting and nitrogen crediting for corn following a soybean crop. The 1991 corn yields ranged from 154 to 170 bushels per acre, and



Jody and Ardene Wirts

the Wirtses found that they got similar yields whether or not they applied additional commercial nitrogen to supplement the 160 lb/a supplied by the manure and soybean residues.

In 1992, the Wirtses extended some NPM practices to their whole farm. They are using reduced herbicide rates on all 120 acres of corn ground; are crediting forage legume nitrogen on 70 acres of first-year corn; are using a newly purchased Yetter rotary hoe; and are managing their on-farm manure as a

resource. They have an annual production of 1,800 tons of dairy manure and 170,000 gallons of poultry manure. Total fertilizer value of the manure is estimated at \$5700. With 360 acres of

(continued on page 4)

Whole-Farm Demonstration/Research Project Update

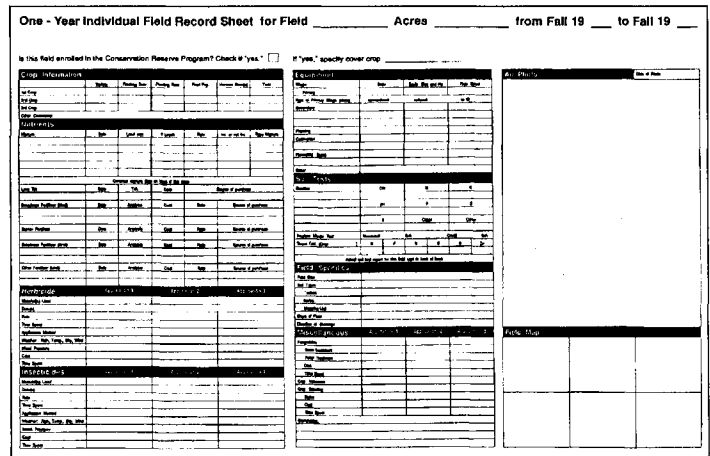
by Richard Proost

Last year at about this time, NPM became involved with a whole-farm analysis which we call the ACE Project. This project was awarded to NPM through a USDA/EPA competitive grants program called "Agriculture in Concert with the Environment" or ACE. In a nutshell, the ACE project is designed to:

- i) develop and evaluate a whole-farm systems approach to sustainable nutrient and pest management,
- ii) research nutrient cycling, specifically N, P, & K, on a whole-farm scale,
- iii) identify and define obstacles to adoption of best management practices, and
- iv) to build informational bridges between farmers and their urban cousins.

Originally the project started with 3 farms: the William Thull Farms, run by William, Mike and Ralph Thull, located near Kewaskum in Washington county, the John and Annette Guttman Farm, located near Grafton in Ozaukee county, and the Lee and Tammy Montgomery Farm, located near Argyle in Lafayette county. However, due to tremendous interest in rotational grazing, a fourth farm, (with funding provided through the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems) the Larry and Bridget Mundth Farm located near Rock Springs in Sauk county, has been added to the list and will start keeping records this fall.


The progress of the ACE project is good. Cooperating farmers have been keeping exceptional records of farm inputs, which is no small job for farms with 80 individual fields or more! These input records along with soil test and crop scouting reports will be the backbone of the whole-farm nutrient and pest management plans for the 1993 growing season. The crop production plans for each individual farm will be planned late



Sample of record keeping form being used by the ACE project.

this fall with a team made up of the cooperating farmers, crop consultants, UW crop production specialists and the associated regional NPM staff.


Once the team has agreed on the crop plans for 1993, the cooperating farmer, regional NPM staff and crop consultants will begin the work of implementing the plans. As in the initial year, farmers will again keep track of farm inputs and the time and labor associated with the "new" practices. Stay tuned! As more information is available, updates will be printed in future issues of *Field Notes*.

For further information contact Richard Proost, Southeast Regional NPM Specialist at (608) 262-7845 or Karen Talarczyk, Southwest Regional NPM Specialist at (608) 723-2240. 

New Publications for Wisconsin Water Quality Programs:


Reduced Herbicide Rates: Aspects to Consider

(A3563). Authors: Jerry Doll, Ron Doersch, Richard Proost, and Paul Kivlin. Laura Ward Good, technical writer. Design and desktop publishing by Kimberly Binning.

-  As a guide for corn growers, the authors discuss common issues raised by farmers considering a reduced rate program.


The Bottom Line, An Economic Summary Nutrient and Pest Management Practices (A3566).

Kathleen Duffy, editor. Design and desktop publishing by Roger Schmidt.

-  Drawn from both research findings and demonstration projects, the *Bottom Line* emphasizes the economic advantages of adopting recommended practices.

1991 Nutrient and Pest Management On-Farm Demonstrations, Balancing Water Quality and Farm Profits (revised A3542).

Kathleen Duffy, editor. Design and desktop publishing by Kimberly Binning.

-  This booklet summarizes second year results of NPM demonstrations. Each of 24 projects is featured on a page which includes a farm profile, cooperator comments, site description, field facts, and economics of the practices compared.

These publications are available from Cooperative Extension Publications, 30 N. Murray St., Madison, WI 53715, Phone 608-262-3346 or Wisconsin county Extension offices.

1992 NPM Cooperating Farmer Field Day Dates

Northwest Region

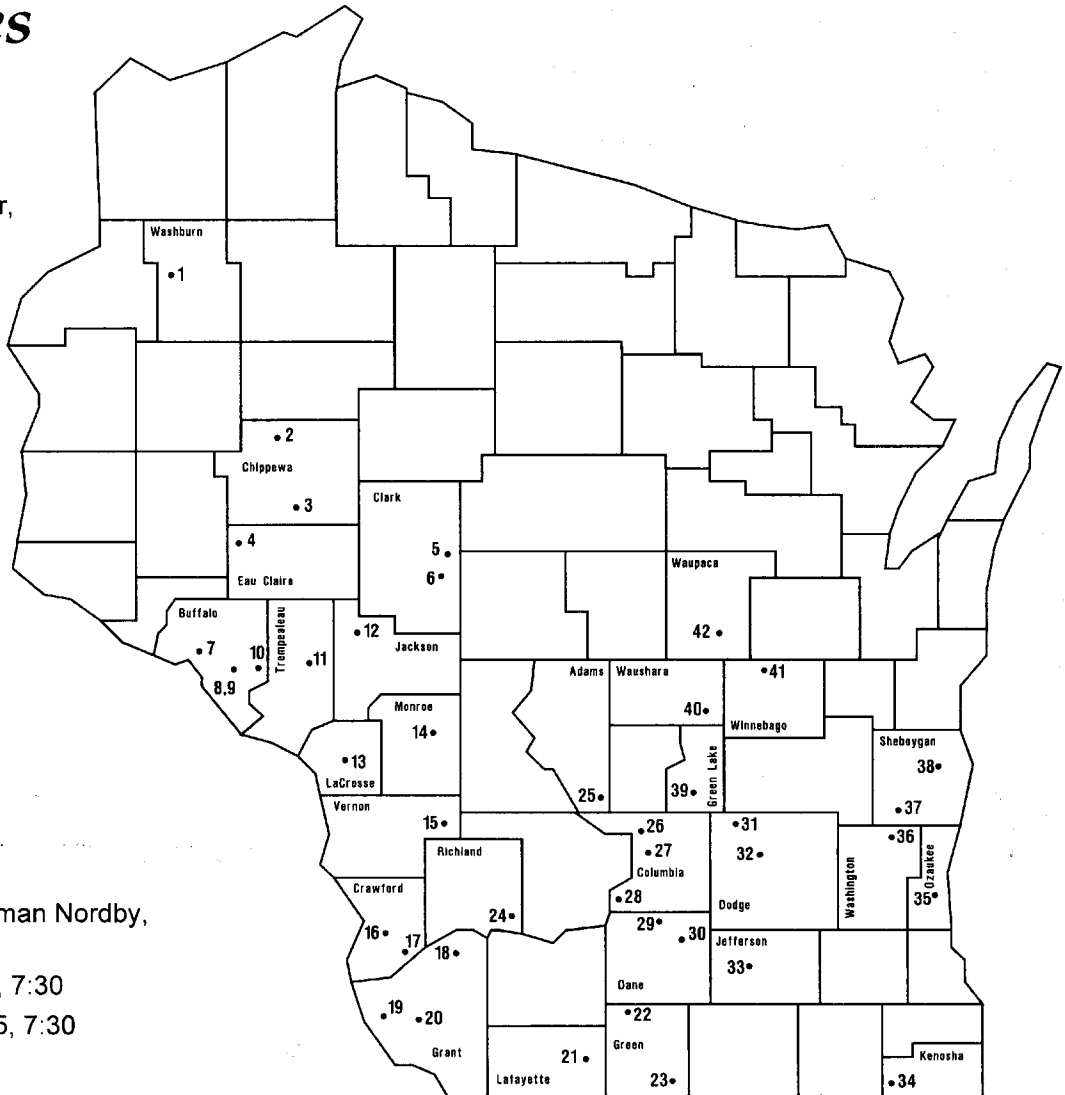
1. Larry Samson, Aug 19, 10:00
2. Mike and Roseanne Zwiefelhofer, Aug 10, 7:30
3. Chippewa County Farm, Sept 3, 11:00
4. Dick and Donna Cleasby, Farm Progress Days, Sept 15-17
5. Curt and Debra Johansson, Aug 24, 11:00
6. Jack and Karen Vanderwerff, Aug 27, 11:00
7. David and Cindy, Melvin and Carolyn Danzinger, results summarized later
8. John and June Sendelbach, Aug 20, 11:30
9. Rosenholm Farms: John, Nettie and Paul Rosenow, results summarized later
10. Gaylord, Dan and Russell Weltzien, Aug 26, 11:30
11. Trempealeau County Farm, Norman Nordby, Sept 9, 11:30
12. Tom and Linda Nehring, Aug 17, 7:30
13. Ervin and Barb Nuttleman, Aug 5, 7:30

Southwest Region

14. Howard and Margaret Zastoupil, Tom and Alice Zastoupil, Sept 3
15. Jody and Ardene Wirts, Sept 29
16. Gene and Mary Fritsche, August 26 1:30 farm tour; Sept 23
17. Dick, Rita & Scott Folbrecht, Sept 23
18. Studnicka Brothers Farm, Bob and Karen Studnicka, Sept 22, 11:00
19. Steve and Cheryl Mergen, Sept 15
20. Lancaster Agricultural Research Station, July 22
21. Lee and Tammy Montgomery, Sept 9
22. Larry and Zenda Klassy, Sept 9
23. Troy & Cristy Klessinger, Russell & Sally Kundert, Sept 24

Southcentral Region

24. Albert, Ann and Greg Greenheck, July 20, 7:30
25. Ken and Dick Huber, Sept 1
26. Randy and Vicki Miller, TBA
27. Jerry and Karen Franz, TBA



28. Herman Miller, Sept 3, 1:30
 29. American Breeders Service, TBA
 30. Lloyd Klein, Aug 25, 7 pm
- ## Southeast Region
31. Jim Heurer, TBA
 32. Charles Hammer, TBA
 33. Steve Knoebel, Sept 2
 34. Wilfred and Connie Meier, Aug 11, 10:00
 35. John and Annette Guttmann, Aug 27, 12:00
 36. William Thull Farms, Aug 18, 12:00
 37. David Heidel, Aug 21, 12:00
 38. Edward and Sandy Strauss, Aug 4, 12:00
- ## Northcentral Region
39. Alan and Joyce Affeldt, TBA
 40. Gordon Krentz, Aug 25, 1:00
 41. Ron Becker, July 29, 1:00
 42. Duwayne Nickel, Sept 22, 12:30

Vernon County Demo *(continued from page 1)*

owned cropland, and 46 acres of rented land, Jody can depend almost entirely on manure for fertilizing his hay, corn, soybean, and barley crops.

A July visit to the farm was intended to catch up on plot input information and for a visual evaluation of corn fields. Weed control was good. A minor problem initially with the rotary hoe left plant populations slightly reduced in some fields. Jody was also interested in the pre-sidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT) on some of the corn fields that were in legumes previously and were heavily manured. For this test, soil is sampled to a depth of one foot and the subsequent lab analysis gives a nitrate analysis in ppm. If the soil nitrate-N level is greater than 21 ppm, response to additional N is unlikely. Tests taken from five corn fields gave a range of nitrate values between 33 and 46 ppm. The Wirtses gained confidence in their initial decision not to apply additional N.

Following our discussion and inspection of the fields, Jody headed off to complete chores. As he left, he mentioned the many variables in farming that he has no control over -- such as the weather, milk prices, machinery and feed costs. However, there are certain fixed on-farm resources such as manure that need to be identified and quantified so that growers use them with confidence.

We hope that people will look for the Wirts Family Farm NPM field sign and attend the September 29th Middle Kickapoo Watershed tour. At the Wirts farm stop, we'll be talking about on-farm resources and how they can be used over many fields. ■



Eau Claire County
September 15 - 17

Cleasby & Schacht Farms
(Southeast of Fall Creek, just west of U.S. Hwy 12 on Hwy V)

Tour the NPM field demonstration featuring manure and legume nitrogen crediting. The site will be marked with a red & yellow NPM sign. Information for self-guided tours will be available.

Daily presentations at the demonstration site.

Visit us at the NPM Booth in the Pavilion Tent for information, publications, and conversation!

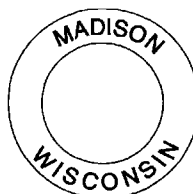
Wisconsin Nutrient and Pest Management program provides educational and informational opportunities for Wisconsin farmers, farm supply businesses, and agchemical dealers. NPM is administered through:

**University of Wisconsin-Extension
Cooperative Extension Service**

**College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison**



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