# Manureshed Modeling: Water quality outcomes of manureshed management

Cibin Raj

Associate Professor Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Pennsylvania State University



### Manureshed: A framework for sustainable manure management





**Manureshed:** A land surrounding a livestock operation containing enough suitable acreage for crop utilization of nutrients from the generated manure.

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Saha et al., 2018. https://doi.org/ 10.13031/aim.201801218

Manureshed modeling in Susquehanna River Basin – Chesapeake Bay watershed



### Nutrient Imbalance – Chesapeake Bay watershed – Manure hotspots and nutrient hotspots





Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) was used for evaluating water quality impacts of nutrient management strategies



Process-based model. Represents on-farm management practices and crop growth processes.



□ Drainage Area ~71,000 km<sup>2</sup>

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### Manure management scenarios in SRB

- Manure transport restricted –manure utilized in the same region
- Manure balanced no transportation constraint – manure utilized based on crop demand
- Manure applied based on land suitability
- Crop nitrogen demand-based application
- Crop phosphorus demand-based application



### Manure transported and applied based on crop phosphorus demand – 67% of SRB crop area under manure



- Manure could meet 67% of crop phosphorus demand in the Susquehanna River Basin
- Manure not transported into or outside Susquehanna River Basin

Manure transportation and application based on phosphorus demand-based reduce nutrient loading to the Chesapeake Bay



Manure transport scenarios were more effective in improving the quality of local streams in livestock-intensive regions



**78%** manure is transported in P-based application



### Manure injection reduced nutrient loading compared to surface application





Manure application considering weather forecast (application in a period which expects low rainfall) reduced nutrient loss (4% TN, 6% TP)



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## National scale analysis of manuresheds – disconnect in nutrient demand areas and manure sources



**Tonnes of Manure P Availability across United States** 



## National scale analysis of manuresheds – disconnect in nutrient demand areas and manure sources



#### Wet manure (beef, dairy, and hog) is difficult to transport

Manuresheds for Excess Wet Manure



**Crop P Demand based** 



#### Wet (beef, dairy, and hog) and Dry (Poultry) manureshed

Manuresheds for Excess Wet and Dry (Combined) Manure



**Crop phosphorus Demand based** 

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#### 50% of the farms adopt manure application

Manuresheds for Excess Dry and Wet Manure P Combined Considering 50% Crop P Demand is Met by Manure



Take-Aways

- Manure transport scenarios were more effective in improving the water quality of streams in livestock-intensive regions
- Crop phosphorus demand-based manure application, manure injection, and weather-based manure application improves water quality
- More precise and consistent data will improve analysis!