

## N Ledger Nitrogen Management Software

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Parcel size and shape prohibits sprinklers  
in Northern San Joaquin Valley  
Drip with lagoon water may not be viable on a  
large scale



Two basic approaches to reducing N leaching:

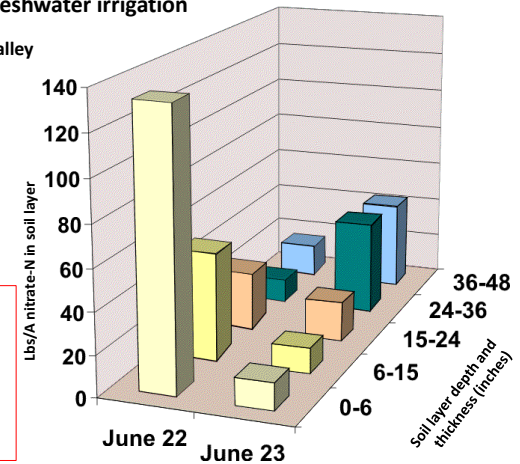
1. Improve irrigation efficiency so water  
doesn't move past roots



Nitrate-N losses (lbs/acre)  
from a single freshwater irrigation

N. San Joaquin Valley  
silage corn  
1st irrigation  
6.7 ac-in  
fine sandy loam

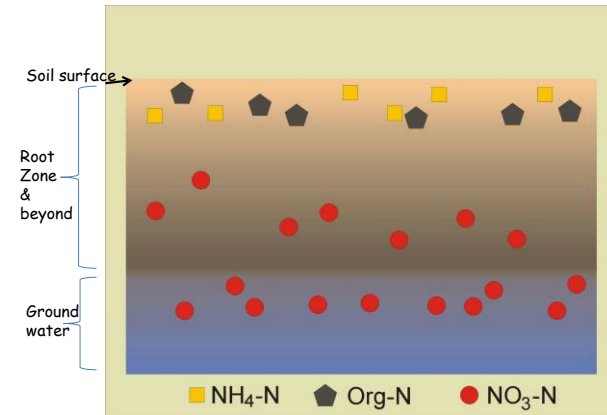
On 12 sites  
(loam to sand or sandy  
loam soils),  
averaged > 50 % loss  
of N in top 2 ft of soil  
(Irrigations averaged 5-7  
inches)



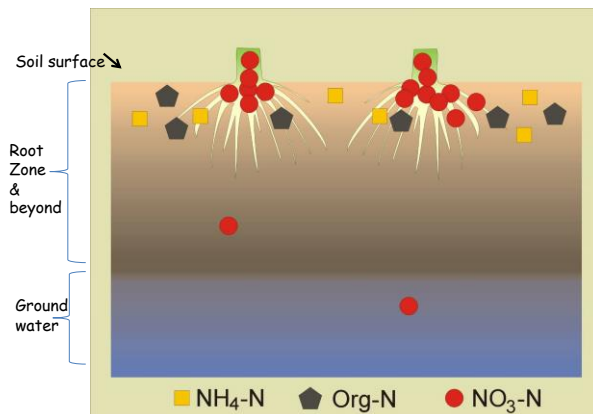
## Two basic approaches to reducing N leaching:

1. Improve irrigation efficiency so water doesn't move past roots

2. Strategic timing of applications so there is a minimal amount of nitrate in the soil during leaching events

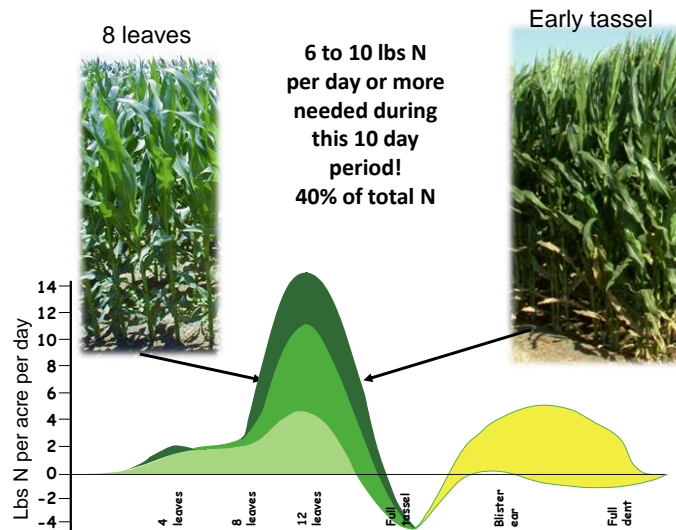


Slide source: Marsha Campbell Mathews University of California Agronomy Farm Advisor



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Strategic timing of applications can minimize the amount of nitrate in the soil profile when losses are expected.



## Organic form nitrogen

Releases slowly over years

Multiple forms

Multiple applications per year



### Assets:

- Nitrate in irrigation water
- Mineralized N from organic sources this year & previous
- N fertilizer residual from previous crop

### Losses:

- leaching with rainfall or irrigation
- denitrification

### Goal:

- have N in soil when crop needs it
- don't have N in soil when it can be lost

### Irrigation schedule

### User entry

### Days between

### ET scheduling

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac-inches
w pre irrig	11 Sep 00					
w pre irrig	23 Oct 00				11.1	6.8
winter planting	1 Dec 00					
w 1st irrig	26 Feb 01	Lagoon Water	182	71	4.8	6.1
w 2nd irrig	28 Mar 01				16.5	10.2
w 3rd irrig	17 Apr 01				11.3	7.2
winter harvest	11 May 01					
s pre irrig	25 May 01				3.2	8.6
summer planting	2 Jun 01					
s 1st irrig	22 Jun 01				2.6	5.7
s 2nd irrig	3 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	25	14	4.9	7.0
s 3rd irrig	12 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	47	18	3.7	5.8
s 4th irrig	22 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	39	17	3.1	6.6
s 5th irrig	2 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	41	17	3.5	6.3
s 6th irrig	11 Aug 01				3.9	6.0
s 7th irrig	22 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	33	24	2.7	6.0
s 8th irrig	2 Sep 01				8	6.0
s 9th irrig	12 Sep 01				5.3	8.9
summer harvest	21 Sep 01					
fall planting	23 Sep 01					
fall harvest	1 Dec 01					
<b>totals</b>			<b>613</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>84.6</b>
						<b>97.2</b>

Irrigation  
amountNitrate in  
irrigation  
water

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic lbs/A	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches
	11 Sep 00				11.1	6.8
w pre irrig	23 Oct 00					
winter planting	1 Dec 00					
w 1st irrig	26 Feb 01	Lagoon Water	182	71	4.8	6.1
w 2nd irrig	28 Mar 01				16.5	10.2
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s 2nd irrig	3 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	25	14	4.9	7.0
s 3rd irrig	12 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	47	18	3.7	5.8
s 4th irrig	22 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	39	17	3.1	6.6
s 5th irrig	2 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	41	17	3.5	6.3
s 6th irrig	11 Aug 01				3.9	6.0
s 7th irrig	22 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	33	24	2.7	6.0
s 8th irrig	2 Sep 01				8	6.0
s 9th irrig	12 Sep 01				5.3	8.9
summer harvest	21 Sep 01					
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<b>totals</b>		613	367	161	84.6	97.2

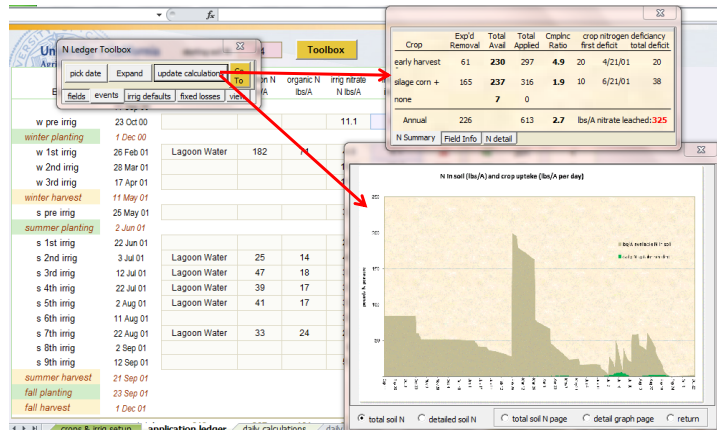
Material  
type  
applied

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches
	11 Sep 00				11.1	6.8
w pre irrig	23 Oct 00					
winter planting	1 Dec 00					
w 1st irrig	26 Feb 01	Lagoon Water	182	71	4.8	6.1
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s 4th irrig	22 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	39	17	3.1	6.6
s 5th irrig	2 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	41	17	3.5	6.3
s 6th irrig	11 Aug 01				3.9	6.0
s 7th irrig	22 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	33	24	2.7	6.0
s 8th irrig	2 Sep 01				8	6.0
s 9th irrig	12 Sep 01				5.3	8.9
summer harvest	21 Sep 01					
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fall harvest	1 Dec 01					
<b>totals</b>		613	367	161	84.6	97.2

Ammonia  
form  
lbs/acreOrganic  
form  
lbs/acre

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic lbs/A	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches
	11 Sep 00				11.1	6.8
w pre irrig	23 Oct 00					
winter planting	1 Dec 00					
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w 2nd irrig	28 Mar 01				16.5	10.2
w 3rd irrig	17 Apr 01				11.3	7.2
winter harvest	11 May 01					
s pre irrig	25 May 01				3.2	8.6
summer planting	2 Jun 01					
s 1st irrig	22 Jun 01				2.6	5.7
s 2nd irrig	3 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	25	14	4.9	7.0
s 3rd irrig	12 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	47	18	3.7	5.8
s 4th irrig	22 Jul 01	Lagoon Water	39	17	3.1	6.6
s 5th irrig	2 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	41	17	3.5	6.3
s 6th irrig	11 Aug 01				3.9	6.0
s 7th irrig	22 Aug 01	Lagoon Water	33	24	2.7	6.0
s 8th irrig	2 Sep 01				8	6.0
s 9th irrig	12 Sep 01				5.3	8.9
summer harvest	21 Sep 01					
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fall harvest	1 Dec 01					
<b>totals</b>		613	367	161	84.6	97.2

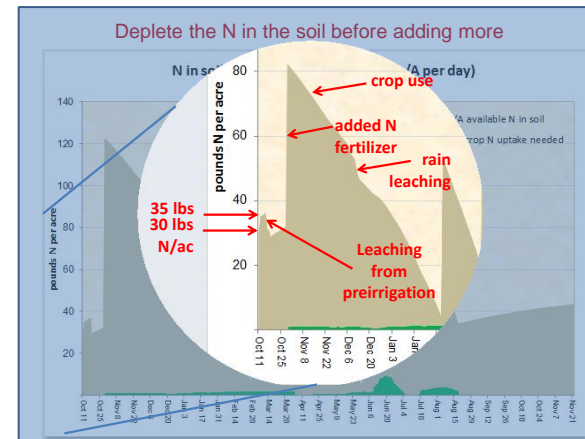
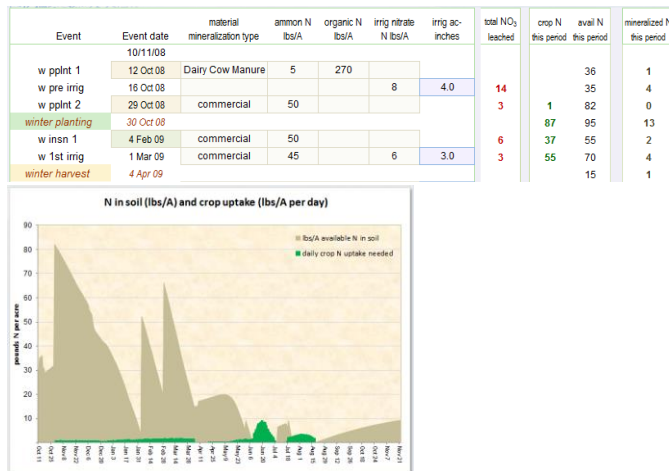
Event	Event date	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
	10/11/08						
w ppint 1	12 Oct 08					36	1
w pre irrig	16 Oct 08	8	4.0	14		35	4
w ppint 2	29 Oct 08			3	1	82	0
winter planting	30 Oct 08				87	95	13
w insn 1	4 Feb 09			6	37	55	2
w 1st irrig	1 Mar 09	6	3.0	3	55	70	4
winter harvest	4 Apr 09					15	1
s pre irrig	9 Apr 09	8	4.0	6	0	18	1
s insn 1	20 Apr 09				21	35	7
s 1st irrig	1 Jun 09	6	3.0	2	45	60	2
s 2nd irrig	15 Jun 09	6	3.2	3	88	99	2
s 3rd irrig	26 Jun 09	6	3.1	2	24	67	2
s 4th irrig	7 Jul 09	6	3.2	6	5	45	2
s 5th irrig	19 Jul 09	6	3.0	5	27	93	1
s 6th irrig	29 Jul 09	4	2.0	2	60	71	3
summer harvest	18 Aug 09					11	0
fall planting	20 Aug 09					18	7
fall harvest	30 Oct 09						
<b>totals</b>		56	28.5	51	450		53



Crop	Exp'd Removal	Total Avail	Total Applied	Cmpnc Ratio	crop nitrogen deficiency first deficit	total deficit
early harvest	61	230	297	4.9	20	4/21/01
forage						
silage corn + roots	165	237	316	1.9	10	6/21/01
none	7	0	0			
Annual	226	613	613	2.7	lbs/A nitrate leached:325	

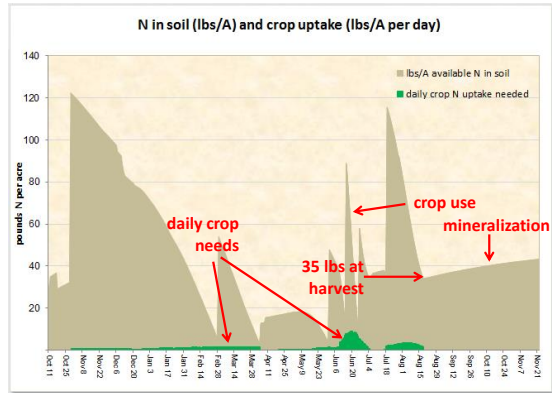
N Summary | Field Info | N detail

**Winter silage: 3 fertilizer applies: 50 at planting, 50 Feb. topdress, 45 at spring irrigation**



Brown shading is lbs available N/acre in soil & the green is **daily** corn N uptake

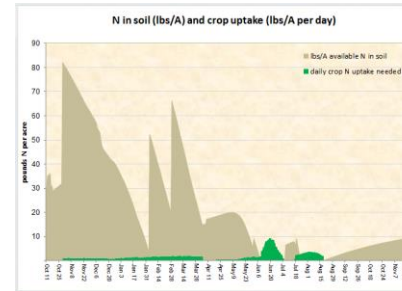
Deplete the N in the soil before adding more



Brown shading is lbs available N/acre in soil & the green is daily corn N uptake

Winter silage: 3 fertilizer applies: 50 at planting, 50 Feb. topdress, 45 at spring irrigation

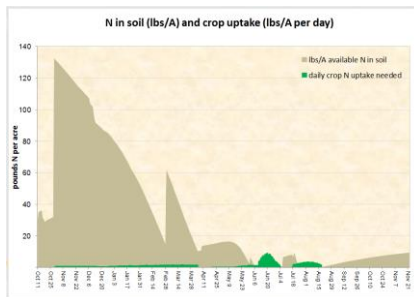
Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
w pplt 1	10/11/08									
w pre irrig	12 Oct 08	Dairy Cow Manure	5	270					36	1
w pplt 2	16 Oct 08				8	4.0	14		35	4
	29 Oct 08	commercial	50				3	1	82	0
winter planting	30 Oct 08							87	95	13
w insn 1	4 Feb 09	commercial	50				6	37	55	2
w 1st irrig	1 Mar 09	commercial	45		6	3.0	3	55	70	4
winter harvest	4 Apr 09								15	1



32 lbs N  
leached

Winter silage: 2 fertilizer applies: 100 at planting, 45 with spring irrigation

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
w pplt 1	10/11/08									
w pre irrig	12 Oct 08	Dairy Cow Manure	5	270					36	1
w pplt 2	16 Oct 08				8	4.0	14		35	4
	29 Oct 08	commercial	100				3	1	132	0
winter planting	30 Oct 08							124	147	16
w 1st irrig	1 Mar 09	commercial	45		6	3.0	13	55	65	4
winter harvest	4 Apr 09								11	1



36 lbs N  
leached

## N Ledger used for

- Developing N budgets
- In-season management decisions

N Records program tracks applications and sends results to the N Ledger for immediate visualization of current and projected soil N status

- Commercial fertilizer
- Manure application amounts
- Irrigation water amounts
- Nitrate in water
- Expected (and actual) N removal at harvest

Accommodates difficult situations:

- leaching that cannot be controlled through irrigation management
- variable and/or unpredictable N application rates such as lagoon water
- manure or other organic form N based systems

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Who will use this program?

Best: person who makes N management decisions

Many growers will need help with set up and customization

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Use in conjunction with soil testing and leaf color monitoring

Soil N can be re-set to match soil test results

Uses published equations that can be customized

Excel platform expandable template that can accommodate new information and additional functions

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Manure.ucdavis.edu

SAREP solution center

mcmathews@ucanr.edu

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**UCCE Nitrogen Ledger Calculator**

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	irrig nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches
date 1	3 May 14					
s pplt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure		180		
s pre irrig	6 May 14				18	8.0
summer planting	16 May 14					
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14				7	3.0
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14				7	3.0
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14				7	3.0
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14				7	3.0
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14				7	3.0
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14				7	3.0
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14				7	3.0
summer harvest	29 Aug 14					
<b>totals</b>			<b>258</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>34.0</b>

**N removal = 250**

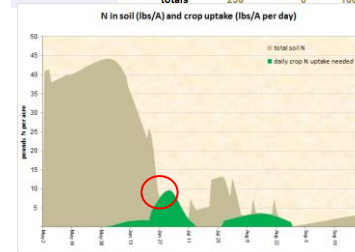
*Handwritten notes: A red circle highlights the calculation  $10 \text{ mg/L} \times .226 \times 8 \text{ ac-in}$  in the 'irrig nitrate' column. A red arrow points from this calculation to the value '18' in the 'irrig nitrate' column for the 's pre irrig' event. A blue arrow points from the value '8.0' in the 'irrig ac-inches' column for the same event to the calculation.*



## UCCE Nitrogen Ledger Calculator

Event	Event date	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period	soil test soil N
date 1	3 May 14					41	0	41
s pplt 1	4 May 14					42	1	
s pre irrig	6 May 14	18	8.0	22	0	41	3	
summer planting	16 May 14			0	10	47	7	
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14	11	5.0	13	18	38	2	
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14	7	3.0	3	76	26	2	
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14	7	3.0		53	2	2	
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14	7	3.0		2	7	2	
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14	7	3.0		11	14	2	
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14	7	3.0		30	12	2	
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14	7	3.0		34	5	1	
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14	7	3.0		17	5	1	
summer harvest	29 Aug 14							
<b>totals</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>23</b>	

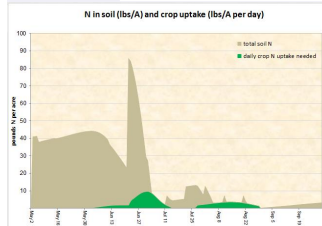
Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	soil test soil N	mineralized N this period
date 1	3 May 14								41		0
s pplt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure	180						42		1
s pre irrig	6 May 14				18	8.0	22	0	41		3
summer planting	16 May 14						0	10	47		7
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0	13	18	38		2
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14				7	3.0	3	76	26		2
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14				7	3.0		53	2		2
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14				7	3.0		2	7		2
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14				7	3.0		11	14		2
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14				7	3.0		30	12		2
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14				7	3.0		34	5		1
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14				7	3.0		17	5		1
summer harvest	29 Aug 14										
<b>totals</b>			<b>258</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>250</b>		<b>23</b>



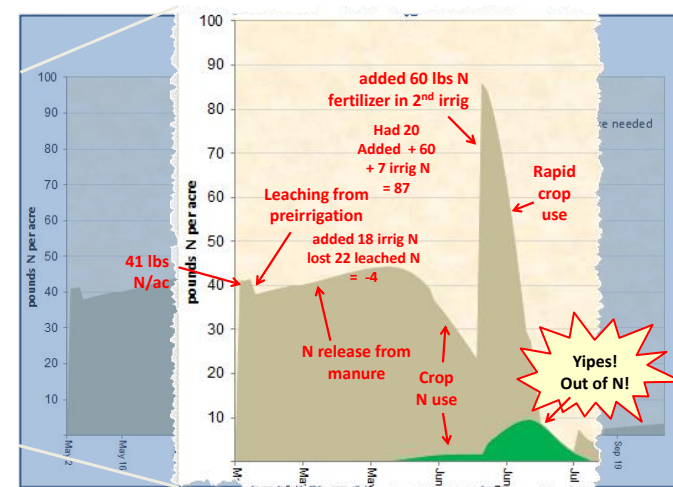
Crop	Exp'd Removal	Total Avail	Total Applied	Crop:N Ratio	crop nitrogen deficiency first deficit	total deficit
none	1	0				
Slage Corn	250	101	258	1.0	101	6/27/14
none	4	0				
Annual	250	258	1.0	lbs/A nitrate leached: 38		

Brown shading is lbs available N/acre in soil  
& the green is daily corn N uptake

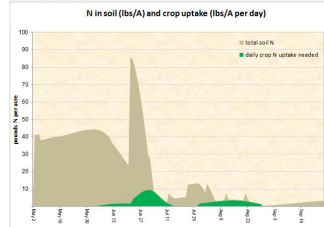
Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
date 1	3 May 14								41	0
s pplt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure		180					42	1
s pre irrig	6 May 14				18	8.0	22	0	41	3
summer planting	16 May 14						0	10	47	7
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0	13	18	38	2
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14	commercial	60				3	76	86	2
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14				7	3.0		53	79	2
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14				7	3.0		2	35	2
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14				7	3.0		11	41	2
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14				7	3.0		30	39	2
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14				7	3.0		34	48	1
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14				7	3.0		17	22	1
summer harvest	29 Aug 14									
<b>totals</b>			<b>318</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>23</b>



Crop	Exp'd Removal	Total Avail	Total Applied	Crop:N Ratio	crop nitrogen deficiency first deficit	total deficit
none	1	0				
Slage Corn	250	161	318	1.3	34	7/4/14
none	4	0				
Annual	250	318	1.3	lbs/A nitrate leached: 38		

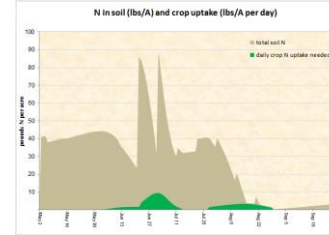


Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig a- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
date 1	3 May 14							41	0	
s pplnt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure		180				42	1	
s pre irrig	6 May 14				18	8.0	22	0	41	3
summer planting	16 May 14						0	10	47	7
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0	13	18	38	2
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14	commercial	60		7	3.0	3	76	86	2
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14				7	3.0		53	79	2
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14				7	3.0		2	35	2
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14				7	3.0		11	41	2
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14				7	3.0		30	39	2
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14				7	3.0		34	48	1
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14				7	3.0		17	22	1
summer harvest	29 Aug 14								5	
<b>totals</b>			318	60	180	78	38	250		23



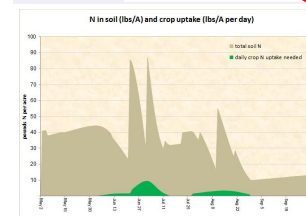
Crop	Exp'd Removal	Total Avail	Total Applied	Crop/c Ratio	crop nitrogen deficiency first deficit total deficit
none	1	0			
Silage Corn	250	161	318	1.3	34 7/4/14 93
none	4	0			
Annual	250	318	1.3		lbs/A nitrate leached: 38

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig a- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
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s pplnt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure		180				42	1	
s pre irrig	6 May 14				18	8.0	22	0	41	3
summer planting	16 May 14						0	10	47	7
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0	13	18	38	2
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14	commercial	60		7	3.0	3	76	86	2
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14	commercial	60		7	3.0		53	79	2
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14				7	3.0		2	35	2
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14				7	3.0		11	41	2
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14				7	3.0		30	39	2
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14				7	3.0		34	48	1
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14				7	3.0		17	22	1
<b>totals</b>			318	60	180	78	38	250		23

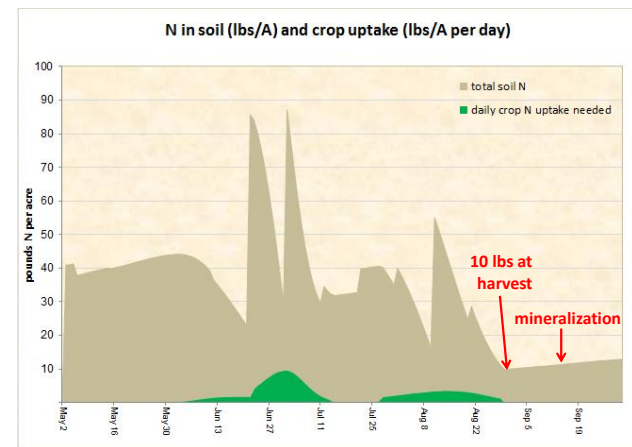


Crop	Exp'd Removal	Total Avail	Total Applied	Crop/c Ratio	crop nitrogen deficiency first deficit total deficit
none	1	0			
Silage Corn	250	221	378	1.5	16 8/16/14 28
none	4	0			
Annual	250	378	1.5		lbs/A nitrate leached: 38

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig a- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
date 1	3 May 14							41	0	
s pplnt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure		180				42	1	
s pre irrig	6 May 14				18	8.0	22	0	41	3
summer planting	16 May 14						0	10	47	7
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0	13	18	38	2
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14	commercial	60		7	3.0	3	76	86	2
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14	commercial	60		7	3.0		53	79	2
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14				7	3.0		2	35	2
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14				7	3.0		11	41	2
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14				7	3.0		30	39	2
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14	commercial	35		7	3.0		34	53	1
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14				7	3.0		17	27	1
summer harvest	29 Aug 14								10	
<b>totals</b>			413	165	180	78	38	250		23



Crop	Exp'd Removal	Total Avail	Total Applied	Crop/c Ratio	crop nitrogen deficiency first deficit total deficit
none	1	0			
Silage Corn	250	256	413	1.7	no N deficit
none	4	0			
Annual	250	413	1.7		lbs/A nitrate leached: 38



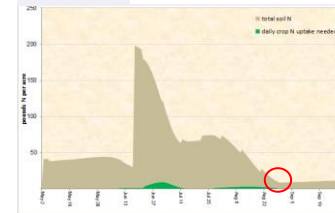
Brown shading is lbs available N/acre in soil & the green is daily corn N uptake

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
date 1	3 May 14							41		0
s pptnt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure	180				22	0	42	1
s pre irrig	6 May 14			18		8.0	0	10	41	3
summer planting	16 May 14						0	10	47	7
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0	13	11	37	2
s insn 1	18 Jun 14	commercial	170				19	7	197	1
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14			7		3.0		76	180	2
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14			7		3.0		53	113	2
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14			7		3.0		2	68	2
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14			7		3.0		11	75	2
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14			7		3.0		30	73	2
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14			7		3.0		34	51	1
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14			7		3.0		17	25	1
summer harvest	29 Aug 14								8	
<b>totals</b>			428	170	180	78	54	250		23

54 lbs N leached vs  
38 with split applications

If shanked in before 1<sup>st</sup> irrigation, needed  
to apply 220 lbs and leached 110 lbs

Event	Event date	material mineralization type	ammon N lbs/A	organic N lbs/A	nitrate N lbs/A	irrig ac- inches	total NO <sub>3</sub> leached	crop N this period	avail N this period	mineralized N this period
date 1	3 May 14								41	0
s pptnt 1	4 May 14	Dairy Cow Manure	180				22	0	42	1
s pre irrig	6 May 14			18		8.0	0	10	41	3
summer planting	16 May 14						0	10	47	7
s 1st irrig	12 Jun 14				11	5.0	13	11	37	2
s insn 1	18 Jun 14	commercial	170				19	7	197	1
s 2nd irrig	22 Jun 14			7		3.0		76	180	2
s 3rd irrig	2 Jul 14			7		3.0		53	113	2
s 4th irrig	12 Jul 14			7		3.0		2	68	2
s 5th irrig	22 Jul 14			7		3.0		11	75	2
s 6th irrig	1 Aug 14			7		3.0		30	73	2
s 7th irrig	11 Aug 14			7		3.0		34	51	1
s 8th irrig	21 Aug 14			7		3.0		17	25	1
summer harvest	29 Aug 14								8	
<b>totals</b>			428	170	180	78	54	250		23



78 lbs N from irrigation nitrate  
23 lbs N from mineralization

8 lbs N at harvest

Soil and tissue testing confirmation

Traditional N recommendations based on typical fertilizer rates

Groundwater protection emphasizes N budgets

potential yield (N removal)  
previous crop residue and soil organic N  
irrigation water nitrate  
compensate for losses

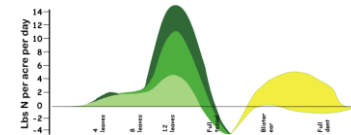
potential for nitrate leaching

timing applications with crop uptake  
crop uptake curves  
mineralization of organic N sources  
leaching events, magnitude and frequency

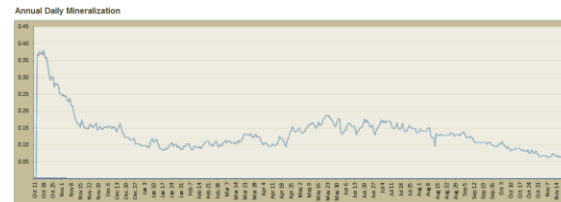
Need to consider and rough calculate:

Crop uptake needs throughout season  
How much irrigation water N to credit  
Organic N mineralization  
Estimate leaching losses

We have been calculating these by  
hand



Have a prototype calculator that does  
all of them simultaneously



**Traditional N recommendations based on typical fertilizer rates**

**Groundwater protection emphasizes N budgets**

potential yield (N removal)

previous crop residue and soil organic N

irrigation water nitrate

compensate for losses

**potential for nitrate leaching**