

Tarp Method for Measuring Application Rate

Supplies:

- Bucket
- Three or more plastic sheets or tarps
 - 3 feet by 7 feet 4 inches or 4 feet by 5 feet 6 inches
 - Equals a collection area of 22 square feet
- Stakes to hold tarps in place
- Scale

Steps:

1. Weigh bucket with one tarp or piece of plastic inside and record the weight.
2. Lay the tarps or plastic on the ground in line with the direction of travel of manure spreader.
3. Drive over tarp or plastic with manure spreader.
 - a. Record speed, RPM's, and spreader settings
4. Carefully pick up plastic or tarp and place inside bucket.
5. Weigh bucket and tarp and record weight.
6. Subtract weight of empty bucket and tarp or plastic.
7. Weight in pounds is application rate in tons per acre (if 22 ft² sheets are used)
 - If a different sized tarp is used you can follow the worksheet in Table 2 (<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/manure-spreader-calibration-for-nutrient-management-planning>) or use Table 3 to calculate a corresponding rate (<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/manure-spreader-calibration-for-nutrient-management-planning>)
8. Repeat Steps 4-7 for each tarp or piece of plastic and average all values.