It's milking time, do you know where your phosphorus is?

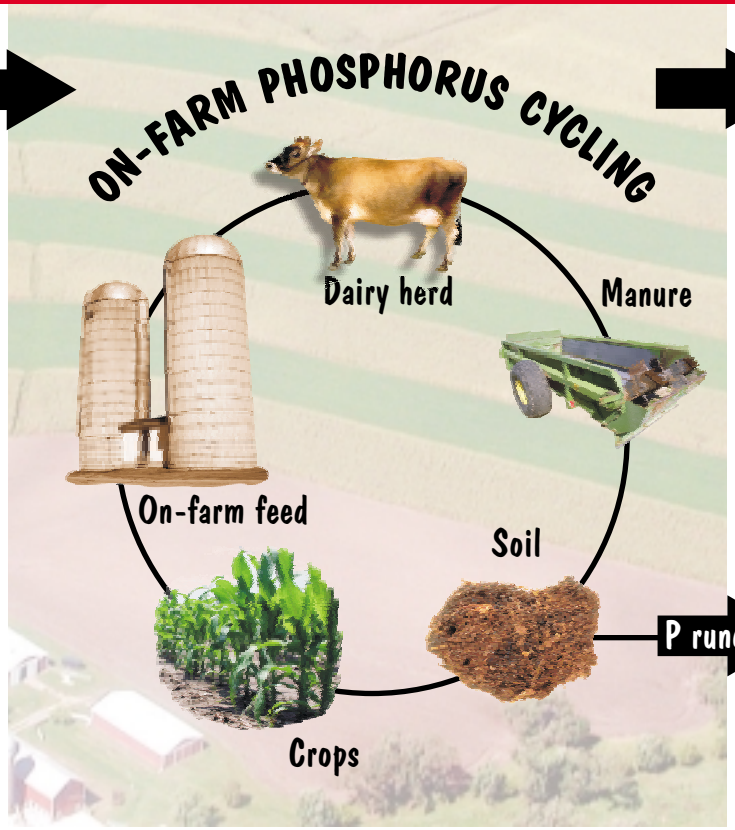
POTENTIAL **INPUTS** THAT CONTAIN P

Purchased feed
Protein supplements
Mineral supplements
Fertilizer
P-based detergents

Excess phosphorus inputs may be reducing your profits.

For example, on a sample 100-cow dairy typical phosphorus (P) inputs totaled 3,900 lbs (protein supplement 1220 lbs, mineral supplement 1500 lbs and fertilizer 1180 lbs) and outputs 2,100 lbs (milk 1800 lbs, culled animals 300 lbs). That leaves a remaining 1800 lbs which stays on-farm, in the form of manure P and eventually soil P. Over time P levels build up and the potential for P runoff increases. Phosphorus in runoff causes excessive algae growth which can reduce water quality of lakes and streams.

One strategy for balancing phosphorus is to decrease dietary P inputs by following the National Research Council's recommendations.



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POTENTIAL **OUTPUTS** THAT CONTAIN P

Cull cows
Calves
Milk
Crops
Manure

Phosphorus in runoff can reduce the quality of lakes and streams.