

Nutrient budgeting tools – use as a regulatory tool or not?

OVERSEER

- OVERSEER is an ‘annual average’ budget model developed as a nutrient management decision support tool for farmers.
- Outputs from this annual budgeting include predictions of N and P loss from the field (leaching below root zone and runoff).
- TLG sees OVERSEER as a useful component of the modelling system for predicting sub-catchment scale nutrient loss where ‘averaging’ is OK.
- TLG has concerns about the scientific robustness of using OVERSEER for setting limits at the farm scale.
- TLG can see OVERSEER being a useful ‘screening tool’ to identify potentially high risk farms requiring further analysis and a priority farm action plan.



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MitAgator

- MitAgator not released for widespread use yet so practical experience lacking.
- Uses and extends OVERSEER to target ‘hotspots’ on farms.
- Includes consideration of all 4 contaminants.
- TLG see MitAgator being a useful tool in developing spatially-explicit farm action plans on identified high risk farms.

