

Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) are to help prevent phosphorus from entering surface water.

Dikes/Berms are ways to prevent water moving from agriculture fields to surface waterways. I have not been able to find in the NMP program outlining where the dikes/berms are to be located.

There are some draw backs of a dike/berm at the bottom of a field.

1. Cost to install
2. Poor use of top soil
3. Maintain and keep weeds under control
4. Creates a tail water pond that decreasing the number of acres in field
5. Creates breeding ground for mosquitoes

The shortage of ground water and surface water are factors all agriculture is facing today. The cost of power to pump ground water and pressurize surface water is also increasing each year.

The cost of commercial fertilizer and the cost of applying manure to crop land is also going up.

Growers and dairymen are going to do whatever is best to save costs in their operation.

Dammer Diking need more credit in phosphate indexing in the NMPs. I have seen it work in the many years since it has become an agriculture practice.

A dike in a furrow of a row crop slows, if not prevents, runoff from a field. It keeps water and crop nutrients, commercial or organic, where the plants can use them. The greater the slope the greater the value of dammer diking.

I have attached two articles of information and links to from Ag Engineering, a manufacture of dammer dikers:

NC State Extension, information is in Slow Water Flow

University of Wisconsin Madison, information is in the Summary

Ag Engineering website, dammerdiker.com

Both studies talk about phosphorus moving with soil and water. The information from Ag Engineering gives great inside into how dammer diking works and its value.