A DAFOSYM User’s Perspective

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Overview

- How have I used DAFOSYM?
- Strengths
- Limitations
  - Audience
  - Use
- Future features
Use of DAFOSYM

- Helped in development
  - Losses, transformations from ensiling
  - Nitrogen losses in manure collection, storage
Use of DAFOSYM

- Use of DAFOSYM for research
  - Effect of specialized bunker silo unloading equipment
  - Wilted vs. unwilted alfalfa silage
  - Silo management alternatives
    - Silo type
    - Separation by quality
    - Covering bunker silos
DAFOSYM/IFSM Strengths

- Interaction of all the parts of the farm
  - Weather
  - Labor, energy
  - Material flow
- Depth of science incorporated
- Easy to use in spite of complexity
- Tremendous output detail available
DAFOSYM/IFSM Limitations

Audience

- Primarily research and teaching tool for strategic decisions

Why?

- One big field - one soil type, topography, rotation
- Limited field carryover effects
- Time-consuming to set up and adjust for a particular farm
DAFOSYM/IFSM Limitations

Using

- Generally easy to use; however…
- Tend to use one of Al’s farm files because getting the right complement of machinery is not easy.
- Sometimes options are limited like 6 or 12 mo. manure storage
- Need to carefully look through results: do they make sense?
Features I Would Like

- Improvements in N and P losses, transformations
- A few more options in places
- More than one field per farm
  - Differing crop rotation based on soil type, topography