Determining Slope:

**How to estimate slope classes for your Animal Waste Management Plan**

A) **Slight** - Less than 3 feet rise or fall in each 100 feet or 0-3% slope. This is not a limiting factor.

B) **Moderate** - 3 to 8 feet in each 100 feet or 3-8%. *This could be a limiting factor.*

C) **High** - 9 to 12 feet in each 100 feet or 9-12%. *This could be a limiting factor.*

D) **Extreme** - More than 12 feet in each 100 feet or over 12%. *This is a serious limiting factor.*

**Examples;**

1. It is possible to “eyeball” your slopes according to the following grids which may allow you to make a relative estimate of slope. Remember that it may be difficult to compare the slopes on your farms with the small graphs shown here.

   ![3% Slope](image1)

   ![8% Slope](image2)

   ![12% Slope](image3)
2. The following tool may be useful in determining field slope. It is probably accurate to about 5%.

Attach a copy of this diagram to a board or straight edge. Notch the board where the lines converge. Hang a plumb line from the notch.

Sight along the edge of the straight edge parallel to the slope. Note where the string lies. Read slope to the nearest 5 percent. It may be helpful to stake the crest of the slope and sight your straight edge to the top of the stake.

3. Estimates based on soil maps.
http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/