

PRECISION AGRICULTURE

• What is precision agriculture?

- Use of:
 - Soil sampling
 - Remote sensing
 - Geospatial systems
 - GPS
 - GIS
- Management of:
 - Inputs fertilizers, pesticides, seeding rates, etc
 - Outputs yield, runoff, biomass



THE 4 R'S

Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place

- Right Place
 - Soil Sampling
 - Fertilizer
 - Broadcast
 - Band/drill/inject
 - Variable rate
 - Nematode control

- Right Rate
 - Fertilizer
 - Water
 - Low spots
 - Pesticides



SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT



BENEFITS OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE

- More accurately manage diverse fields
- Increase fertilizer use efficiency

• INCREASE PROFIT



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TOOLS OF THE TRADE

- GPS Global positioning system
- GIS Geographic information system
- Greenseeker N management tool
- Variable rate
 - Sprayer
 - Seeder
- Yield monitor
- Veris





VERIS - **EC**

• Electrical Conductivity:

• A materials ability to conduct an electrical current





Veris[®] 3100 Soil EC Mapping System









SOIL SAMPLING

Methods

- Grid
- Management zone
- Soil type



GRID SAMPLING

- Decide how refined sampling is needed
 - 2.5 acre grid
 - 5 acre grid
 - 10 acre grid











ZONE SAMPLING

- Similar to grid
 - Chose size of zones
 - Should not go over 10 acres
 - Dependent on soil variability













WHAT METHOD SHOULD I USE?

• Make use of other data:

- EC data
- Yield data (multiple year average)
- Soil Map
- What are you interested in evaluating?
 - pH, P, K, or micronutrients
- How much variability is there in the field?

WHAT METHOD SHOULD I USE?

- Make use of other data:
 - Producers knowledge
 - EC data
 - Yield data (multiple year average)
 - Soil Map
- What are you interested in evaluating?
 - pH, P, K, or micronutrients
- How much variability is there in the field?

TAKING THE SOIL SAMPLES

- Multiple cores need to be taken to reduce variability
 - 15-20 samples from each zone or grid
 - If the field is using banded fertilizer (Phosphorous), it has been shown that samples should be taken with the following ratio
 - 30 inch band spacing 1: 20(1 sample from a band for every 20 samples in the zone)
 - 24 inch band spacing 1:16 (1 band sample for every 16)
 - 12 inch band spacing 1:8

Page 8-4 in Four R book











WEB SOIL SURVEY

- Soil survey data online
- Quicker data delivery
- Decide what data is relevant
- Must use Internet Explorer
- www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov



WEB SOIL SURVEY





SoilWeb

App for iPhone and Android phones



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Save	Soil	Web for i	Phone	
	G	PS Accuracy Thres	hold (m)	
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clear	covered	dense canopy	¢	lucky

SoilWeb is developed and maintained by Dylan E. Beaudette and Anthony T. O'Geen of the Soil Resource Laboratory, Dept. LAWR, UC Davis. Data are provided for educational purposes only, and should not be used for final land-use decisions.

For more information on SoilWeb, please see:

Soil Survey (SSURGO) data was collected from the NRCS Soil-Data Mart. []



SoilWeb





WHAT IS ON THE HORIZON?

Evaluating N management

- Recommendations
- Especially alluvial clays irrigated
- Evaluating K application techniques
 - Split applications (Corn)
- Cover Crops
 - What all can they provide?

QUESTIONS?

