



# Crop Sensor Research for Corn N Management at DuPont Pioneer

What's the **best hybrid** for my field?

- Disease
- Insect pressure
- Yield potential
- Stress

What's the **environment** the crop will be growing in?

- Cold/hot
- Drought
- High yield

How do I need to **manage** the crop?

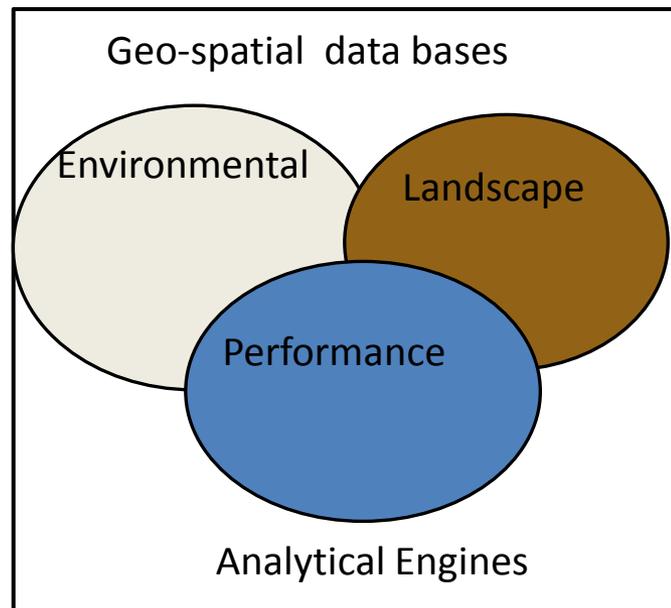
- Planting date
- Fertility
- Population
- Pests



# Better Decision Aid Tools

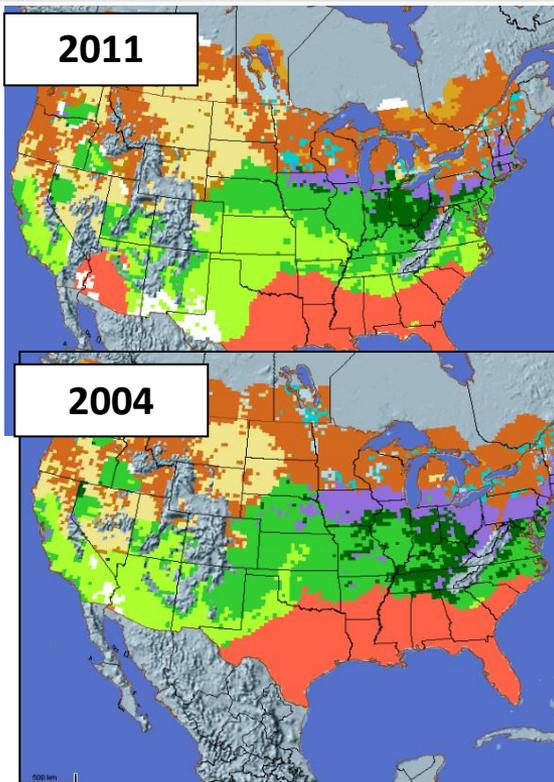
IN THE FIELD OF  
DISCOVERY

1. *Geo-spatial data bases combined*  
*Environmental* information (historical & real-time climatic data)  
*Landscape* information (i.e., soils, topography, imagery, etc.)  
*Genotypic and agronomic* performance information
2. *Geo-spatial orientation* enables both regional & within field evaluation
3. *Analytical **engines*** to distill information into knowledge and **real-time decisions**

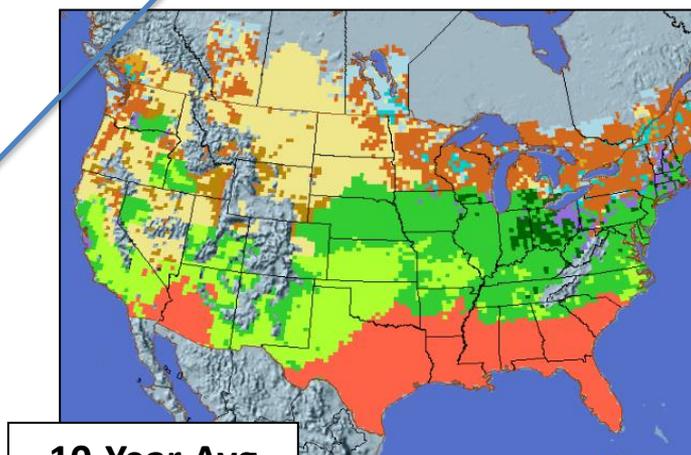
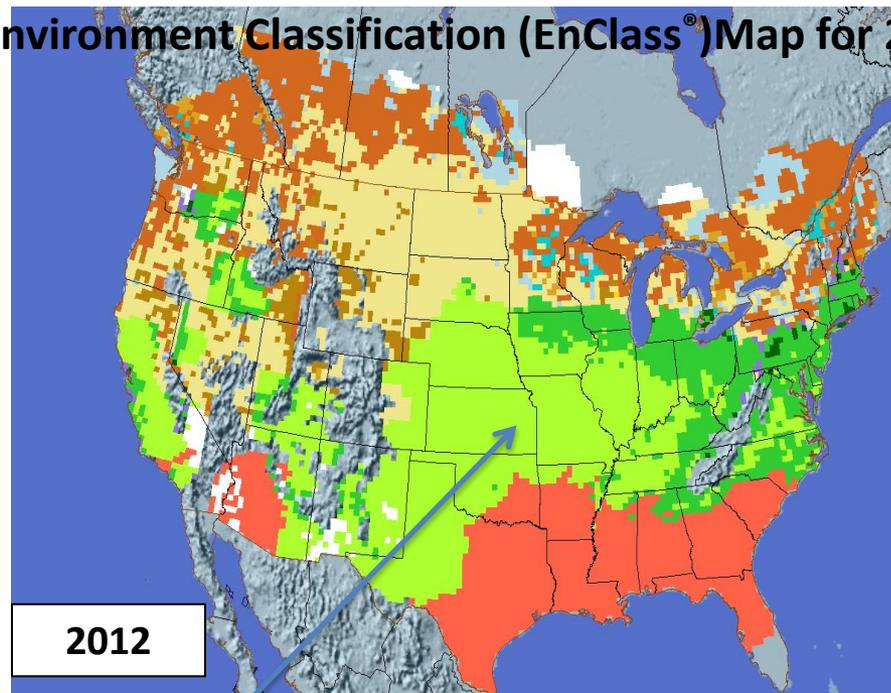


# Environmental Information

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Environment Classification (EnClass®) Map for 2012



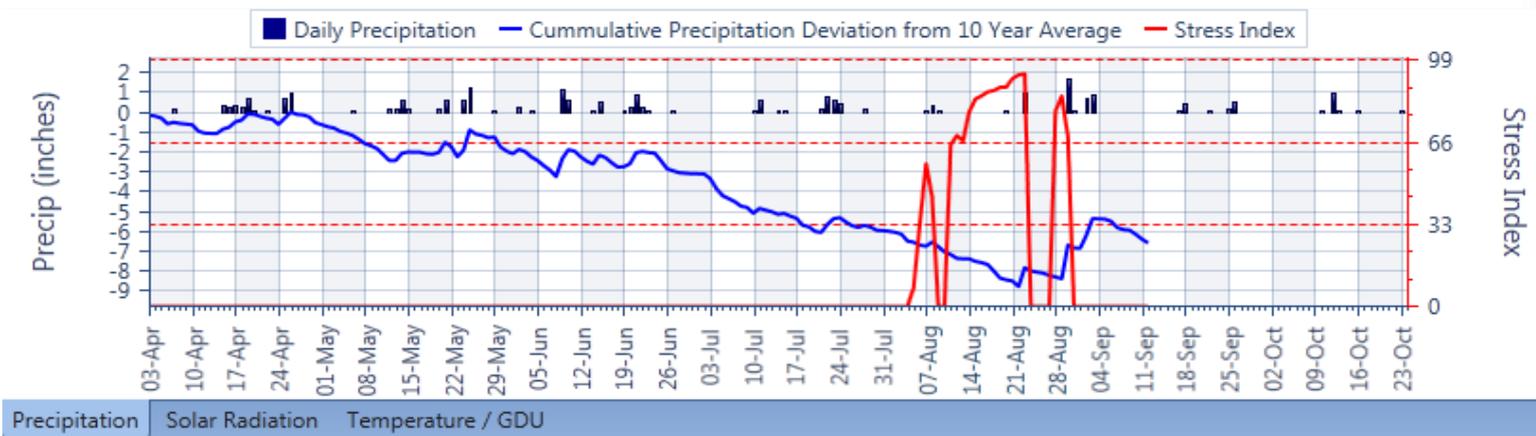
- Oceanic Dry
- Oceanic Humid
- Con Dry
- Con Humid
- Con Warm
- Con Cool
- High Latitude
- Temperate Humid
- Temperate
- Temperate Dry
- Subtropical
- Not Classified



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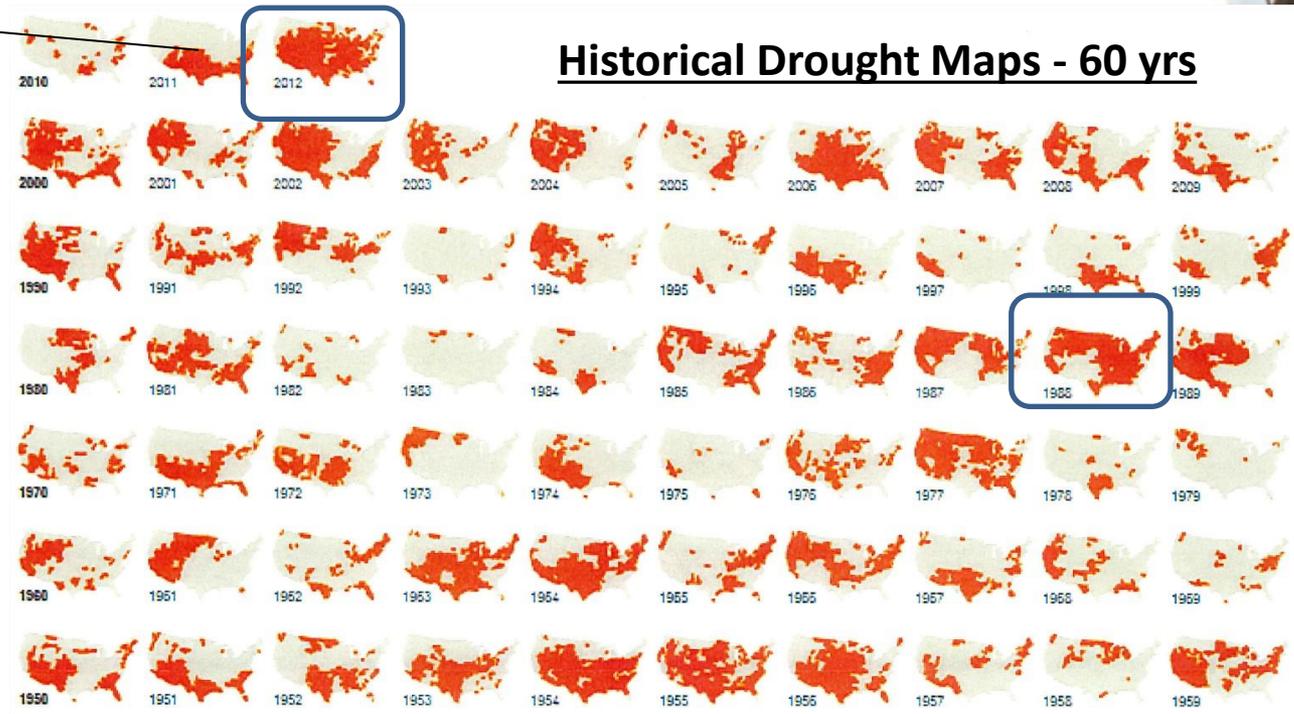
PIONEER.

# Environmental Information – Real-time & Historical IN THE FIELD OF DISCOVERY



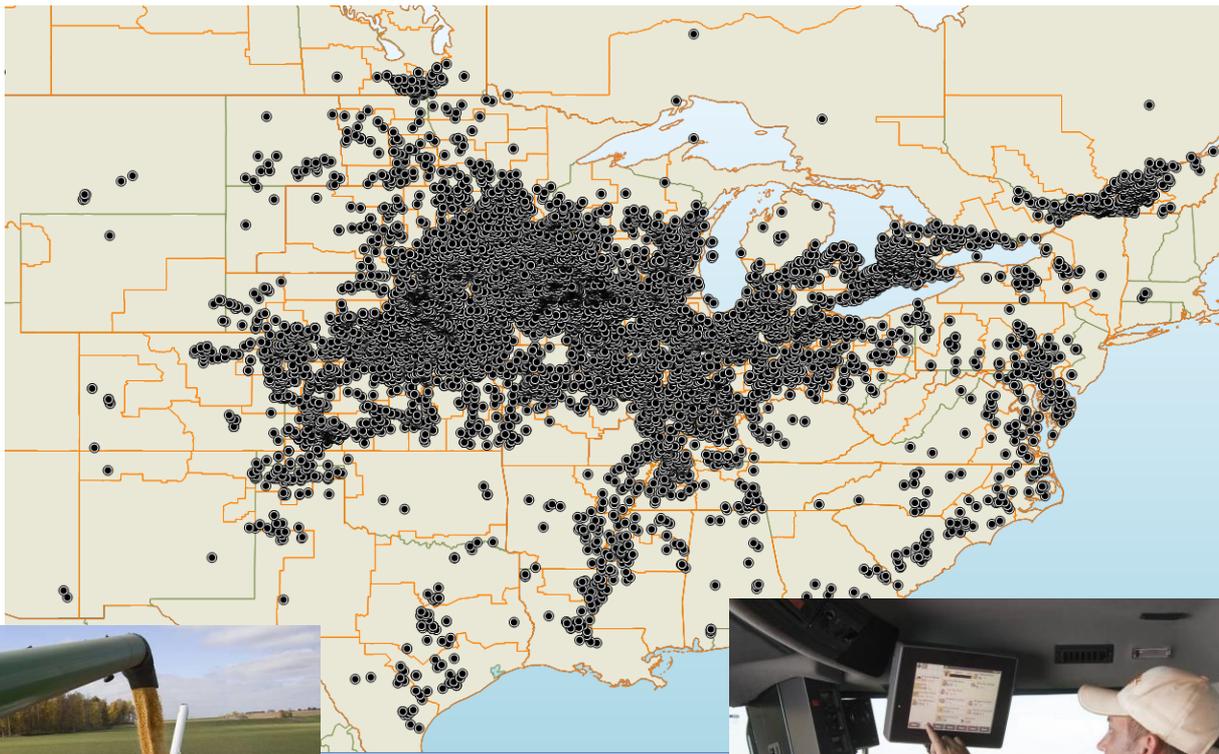
Precipitation    Solar Radiation    Temperature / GDU

## Historical Drought Maps - 60 yrs



# Performance Information

## On-farm Agronomy Trial Locations in 2012



Weigh Wagon



Yield Monitor



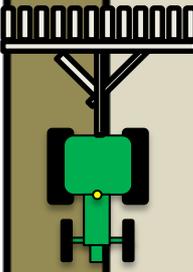
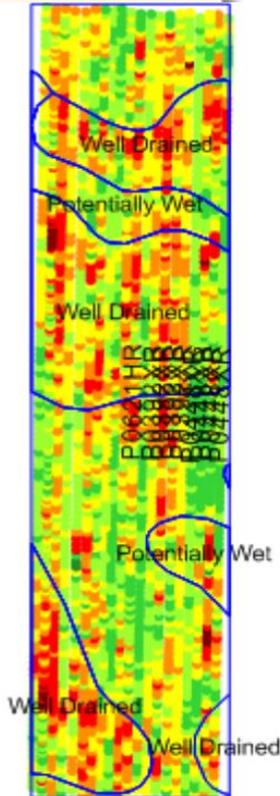
# On-farm Hybrid by Population Protocol

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**Field Layout of Hybrid and Population Field Strips**

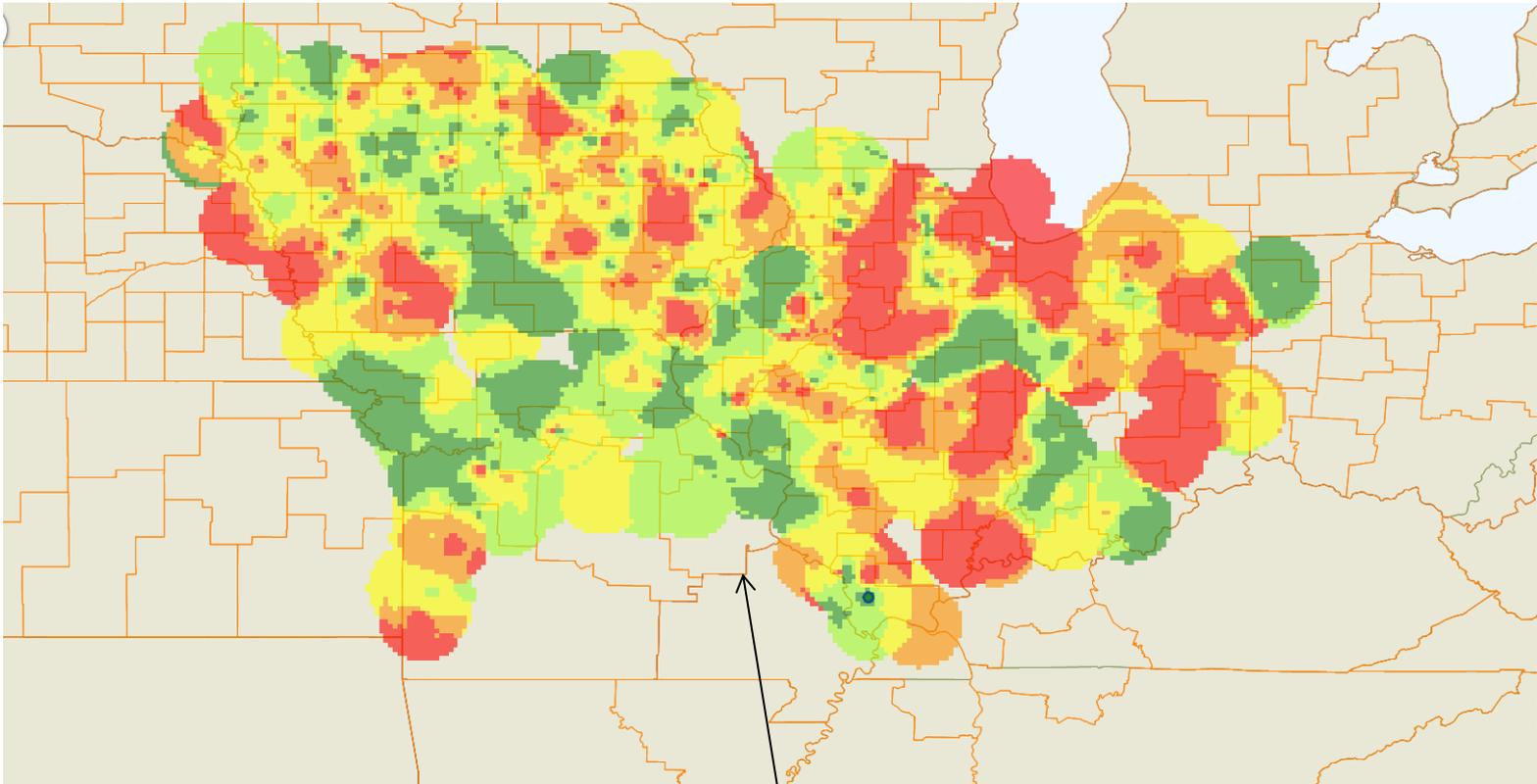
**FIT Yield Map of Strips**

Planter Width		Planter Width		Planter Width		Planter Width		Planter Width		Planter Width		Planter Width		Planter Width	
				Change Population				Change Hybrid				Change Population			
Hybrid A	Hybrid B	Hybrid B	Hybrid A	Hybrid A	Hybrid B	Hybrid B	Hybrid A	Hybrid C	Hybrid D	Hybrid D	Hybrid C	Hybrid C	Hybrid D	Hybrid D	Hybrid C
26K	26K	30K	30K	34K	34K	38K	38K	38K	38K	34K	34K	30K	30K	26K	26K
		Change Population				Change Population				Change Population				Change Population	

# Regional Evaluation of Hybrid Performance

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Interpolated Difference Map

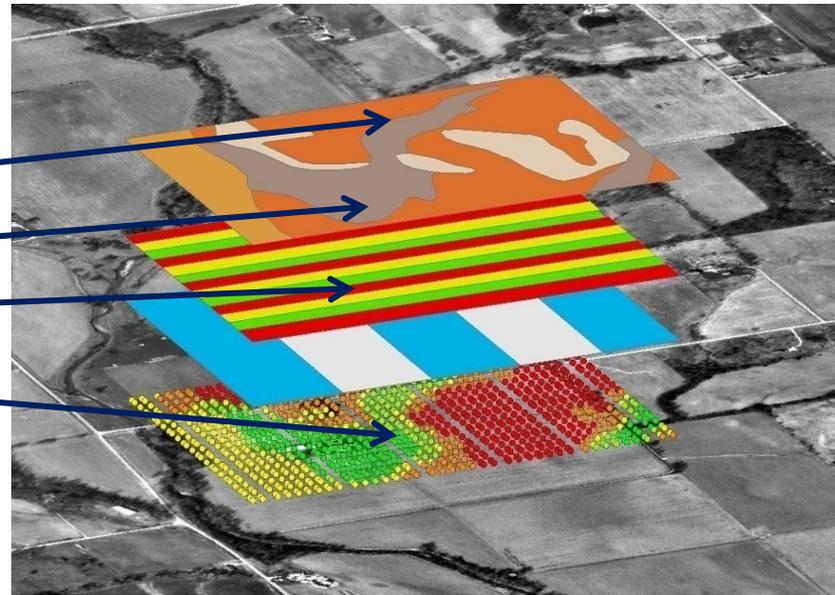


# Within Field Evaluation

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- Pioneer Field360® Studio is a proprietary version of MapShots' AgStudio™ precision Ag software package.
- Customers inputting yield data in system since early 2000's
- GIS analysis tools, with ability to import multiple information layers, Pioneer EnClass® Soils
- Can analyze performance data using unique combinations of polygons

SURGO Soils, Topo, Soil EC, Imagery  
As-Planted  
Nitrogen Treatment  
Yield Map



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# Other New Tools in 2013

Pioneer  
Field360®  
Select



Pioneer  
Field360®  
Field Notes app



Corn Plantability app



# Precision Ag Education Materials

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## CROP INSIGHTS



### Utilizing On-the-Go Soil Sensing Devices to Improve Definition of Management Zones

by Bob Gunzenhauser<sup>1</sup>, John Shanahan<sup>2</sup> and Eric Lund<sup>2</sup>

#### Summary

- Apparent soil electrical conductivity (EC) mapping is a simple, inexpensive tool farmers can use to quickly and accurately characterize soil differences within farm fields.

considerable promise for characterizing field variation in soil properties. Soil EC is a measure of the soil's ability to transmit or conduct an electrical current, and the units are reported in milliSiemens per meter. Soil EC measurements are correlated with soil properties that affect crop productivity,

change capacity, drainage characteristics (Kitchen et al., 2007). There are two methods currently used to measure soil EC (Figure 1). The first method uses coulter probes placed in the soil to measure soil EC; the second method, used by DuPont Pioneer, uses electro-sensors to measure soil EC by passing an electrical current through the soil (Lund et al., 1999).

introduced the first mapping system (Figure 1). It is currently used as the device for mapping soil EC. These systems are being used by farmers, and researchers to evaluate soil EC and provide additional

## CROP INSIGHTS



### Using Crop Sensors to Improve Corn Nitrogen Management

by John Shanahan, Agronomy Research Manager

#### Summary

to 1/2 of the projected needed N at or prior to planting and using sensors to direct the balance of crop N requirement as in-season applications (Figure 1).

Compared to current N management practices, sensors are better able to account for within field spatial variability and year-to-year changes in rainfall and the soil's capacity to mineralize and supply N. This method has the potential to better match fertilizer N supply with crop N need. Use of sensors minimizes the potential for over- and under-applications of nitrogen. Research results suggest this approach not only allows the grower to maximize yields and profitability, but also leads to the highest crop NUE and reduced potential for environmental pollution (Hong et al., 2007; Shanahan et al., 2008). This *Crop Insights* will discuss the active canopy reflectance sensor systems ("crop sensors") commercially available and their potential for improving N management in corn production.



### Transforming On-Farm Trials into Improved Crop Management Decisions with Pioneer® Field360™ Services

Andy Heggenstaller and Scott Nelson, Agronomy Research Managers

#### Summary



### Use of Remote Sensing Imagery for Improving Crop Management Decisions

by Bob Gunzenhauser<sup>1</sup>, and John Shanahan<sup>2</sup>

#### Summary

- Remote sensing is the practice of collecting reflected light information from objects like crop canopies using remote platforms such as satellites, aircraft, or ground-based booms.
- In 2013, DuPont Pioneer is offering remote sensing imagery services to growers in Pioneer® Field360™ via the RapidEye satellite company which can be displayed on mobile version for iPad® or other tablet devices, and can be used for directed field scouting.
- Images can be used to develop management zone directed soil sampling schemes, validating hybrid tests or evaluating other agronomic practices on your farm.

#### Introduction

Remote sensing is defined as collecting information about objects (e.g., soil or crop surfaces) from remote platforms like satellites, aircraft, or ground-based booms. This practice involves the collection and analysis of reflected light and is potentially important as a source of data for



Figure 1. Aerial color-infrared image depicting spatial variation in crop vigor for several fields. Images courtesy of

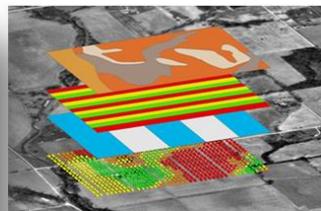


Figure 1. Illustration of how Pioneer Field360 software overlays geo-referenced soils data (upper layer) with hybrid and management zone positions (middle two layers) to determine how these factors affect yield (bottom layer) in an on-farm trial.



# Research Questions

Can Hybrid Canopy Architecture and Color  
Affect Sensor N Recommendation?



# Crop Sensor Study Description

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Map of 2011 and 2012 trial locations in central Nebraska  
Total of 8 Site -Years.



Hybrids used by year and their respective canopy characteristic.

Year	Hybrid	Color
2011 ■	P0902XR (HXX, LL, RR2)	Dark
	P1395XR (HXX, LL, RR2)	Light
2012 ★	33D49 (HX1, LL, RR2)	Dark
	P1498HR (HX1, LL, RR2)	Light



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# Study Description (continued)

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Hybrid Color	Sensor Trt,	Pre-plant or Early Sidedress N (lbs/A)	Description
Dark	1	190-275	Reference
	2	75-120	Dark Ref.
	3	75-120	Light Ref.
	4	75-120	Average
Light	5	190-275	Reference
	6	75-120	Dark
	7	75-120	Light
	8	75-120	Average



Sensor-directed N applications made around V9

# Study Description (continued)

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Small-Plot Trials  
with University of Nebraska  
in 2011 and 2012

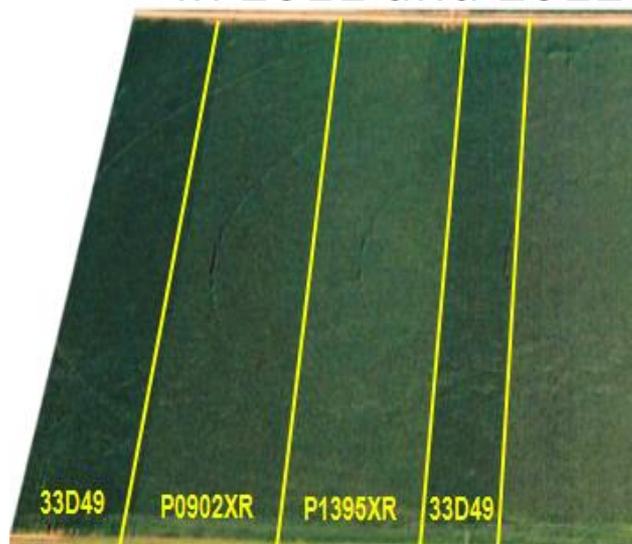
Rep 1	Rep 2	Rep 3	Rep 4	Rep 5	Rep 6	Rep 7
5	2	4	7	5	1	6
4	7	5	3	2	6	2
2	6	6	1	1	8	1
3	5	8	2	4	7	4
1	8	7	4	3	5	3
8	4	3	6	6	3	7
6	1	2	8	8	2	5
7	3	1	5	7	4	8

P0902XR      P1395XR

Rep 1		Rep 2	
5	6	2	1
7	8	3	4
1	3	8	5
2	4	6	7

Darker green 33D49 (plots 1 - 4)  
Lighter green P1498HR (plots 5 - 8)

On-farm Trials  
W/ Field Length Strips  
In 2011 and 2012



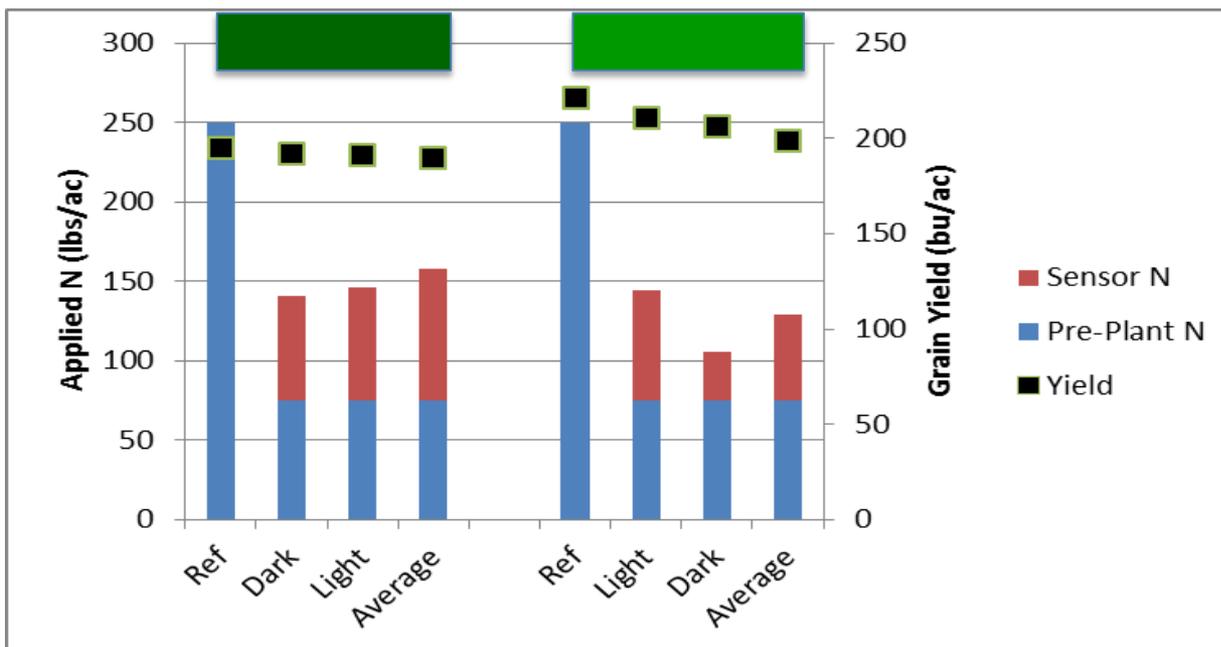
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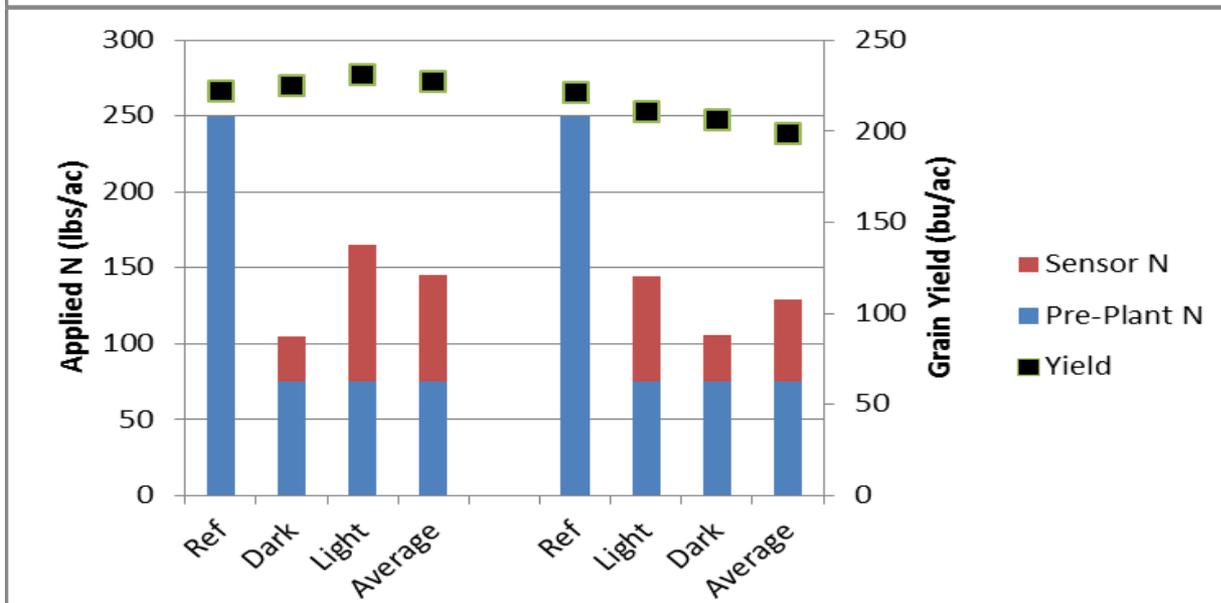
# UNL Small Plot Trials

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DISCOVERY

2011

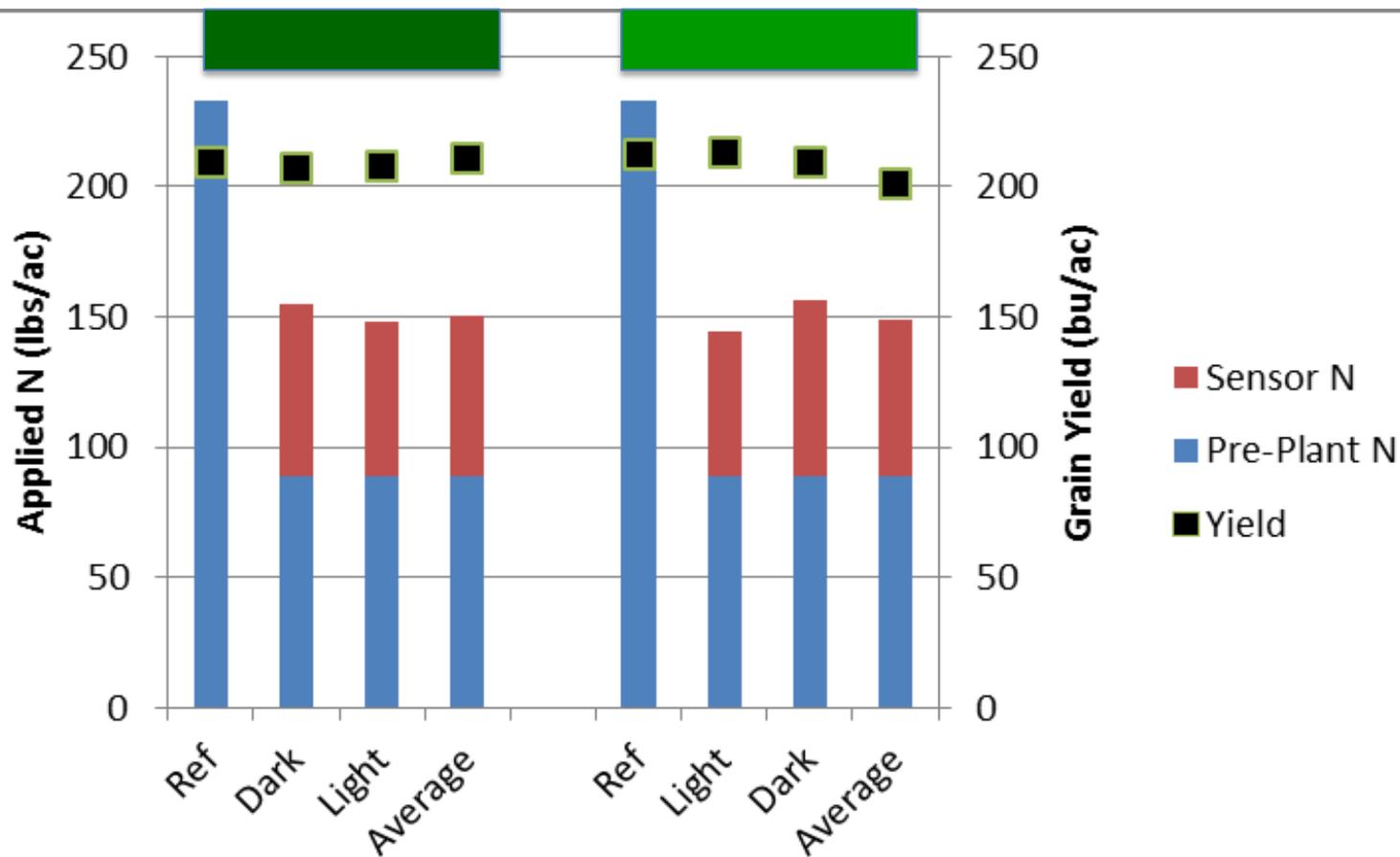


2012



# Averaged Across Eight Site-Years

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- Profit Potential of \$30 to \$50 per acre
- NUE substantially improved
- Studies continued in 2013 to confirm results



Thanks for Your Attention  
Questions?

