

Precision Farming

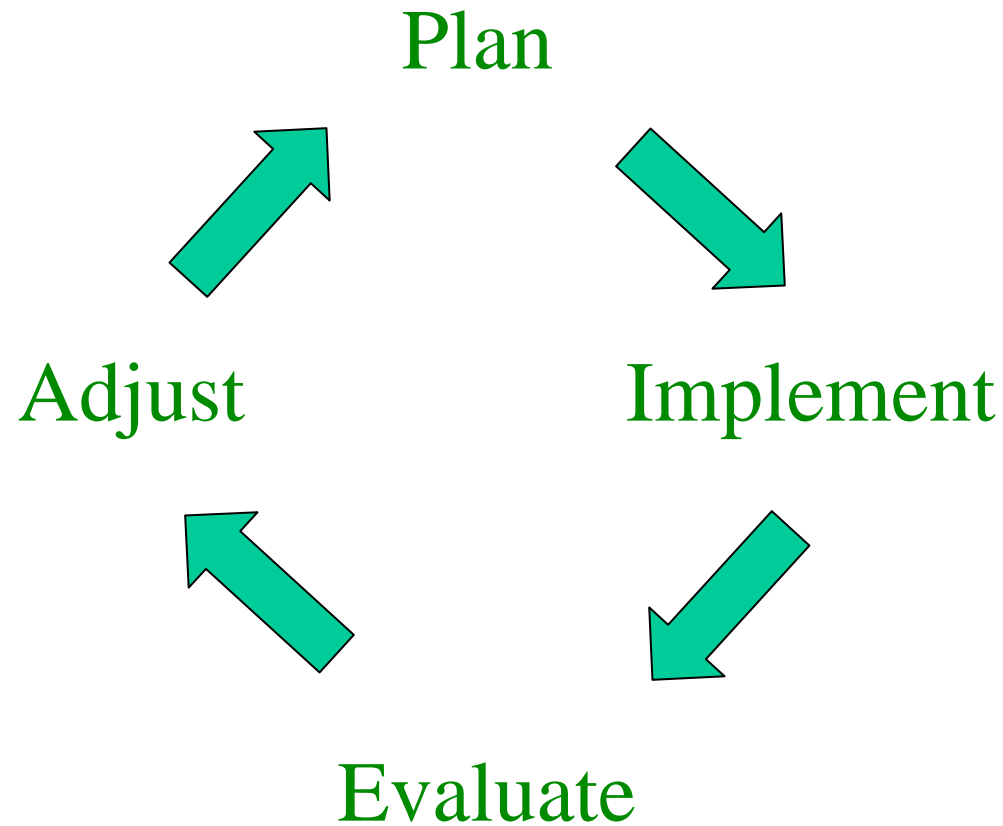
Tracy Blackmer
Director of Research
Iowa Soybean Association



Diesel fuel usage

Activity	Crop Type	
	Corn	Soybean
	-----gallons/acre-----	
NH3 Application	0.60	-
Field Cultivating	0.57	0.57
Planting	0.37	0.37
Spraying	0.15	0.15
Disk ripping	1.75	-
Combine	1.2	0.95
Grain cart	0.48	0.17
Total	5.12	2.21

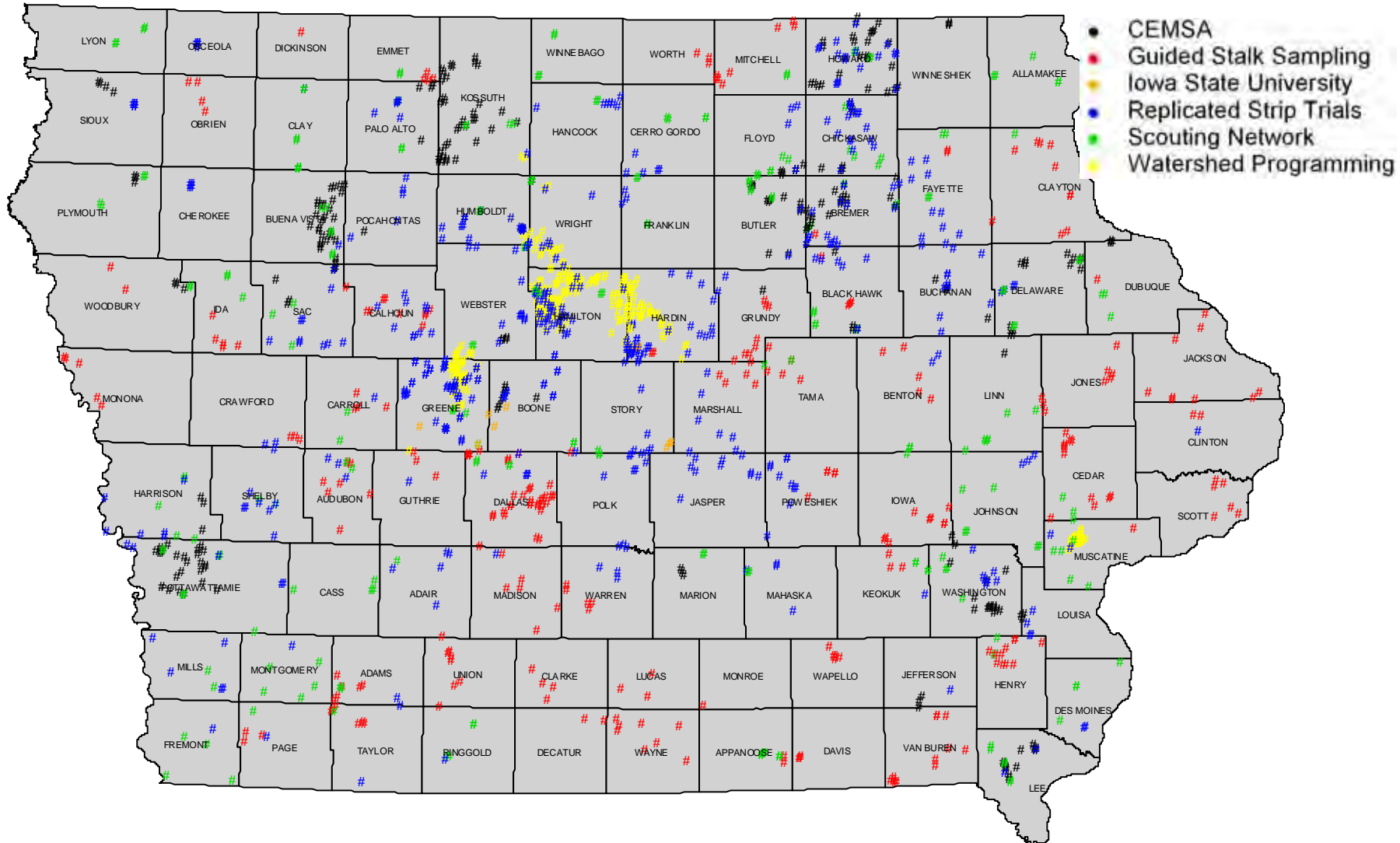
Quantifying Agronomic Performance



Quantifying Agronomic Performance



Site locations



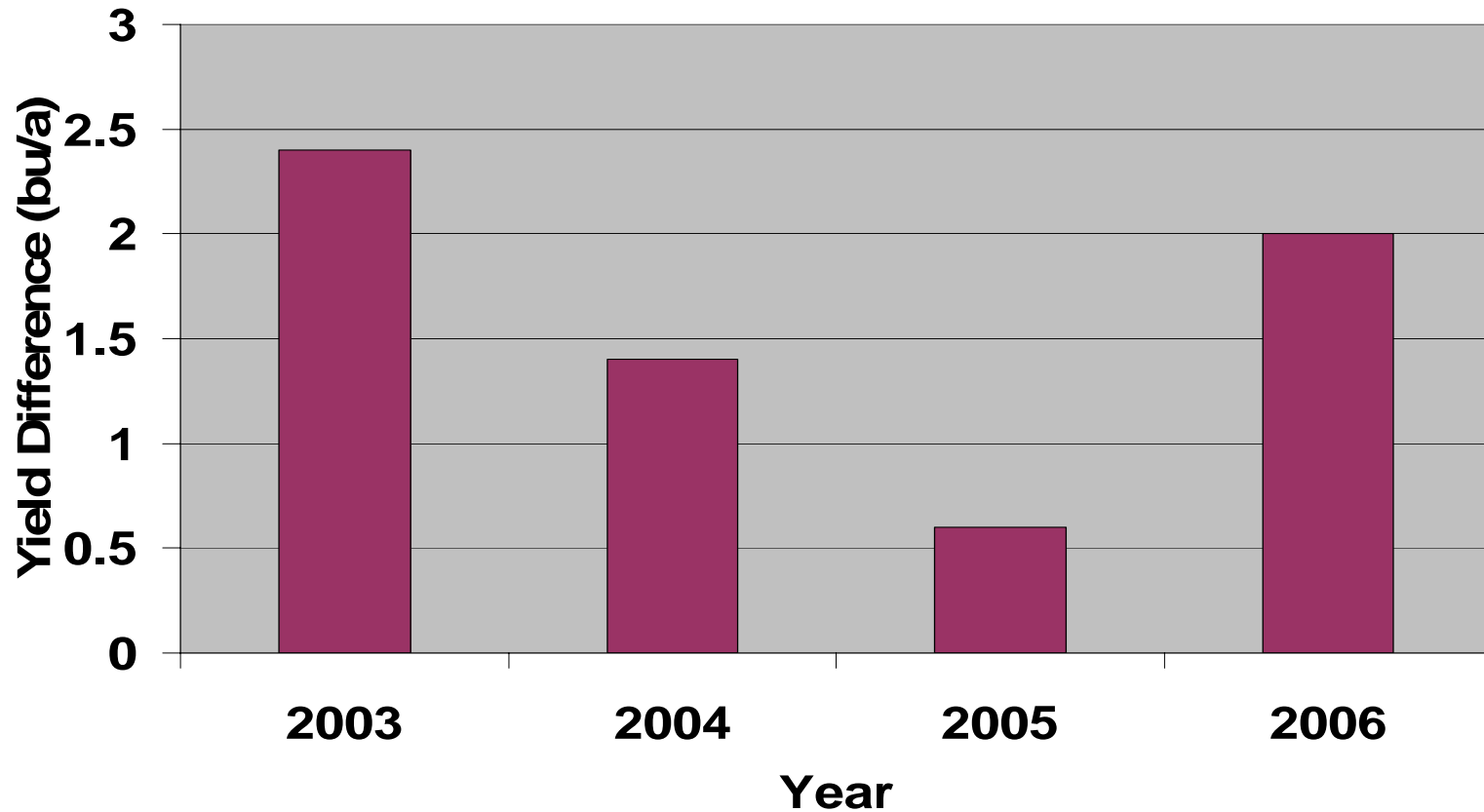


Quantifying Agronomic Performance



Deep Ripping

Average Yield Difference for Four Years of In-Line Ripping Trials



Quantifying Agronomic Performance

Tillage Map



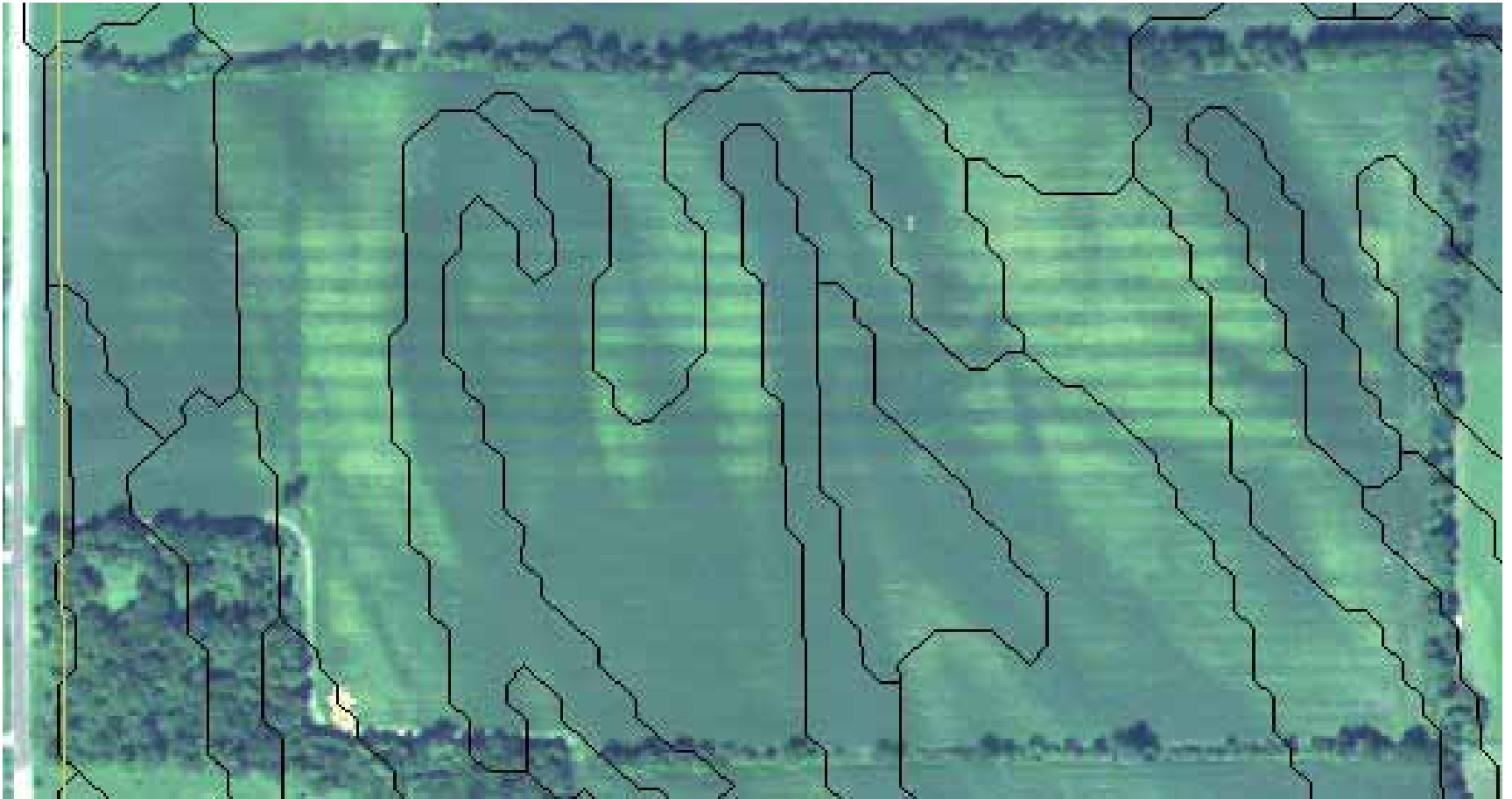
Quantifying Agronomic Performance

How well is this grower managing their N?



Quantifying Agronomic Performance

At least 3 replications across the field of fixed rates.



Case Study – Six years of evaluations

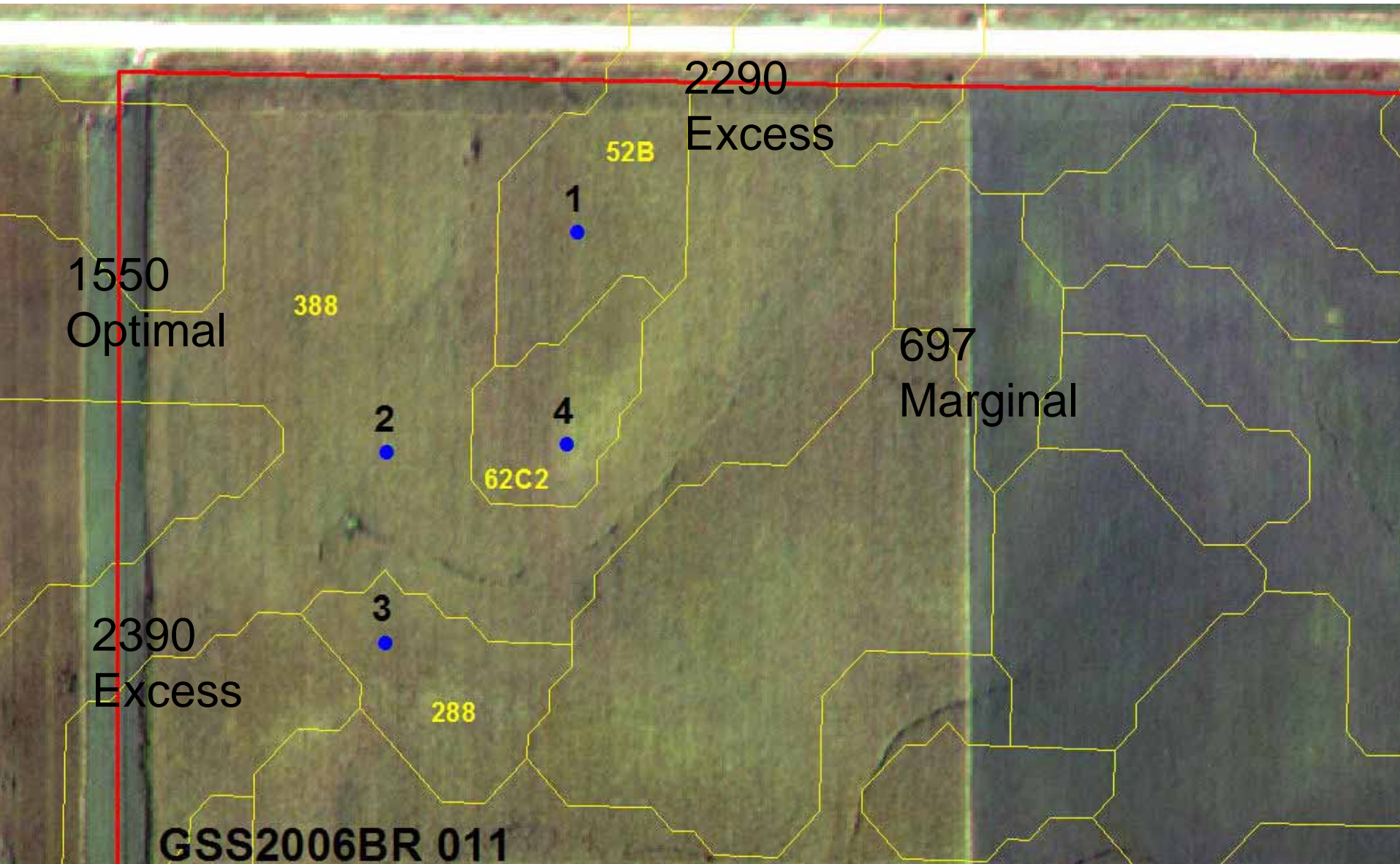
Year	Rotation	Fertilizer N		Grain Yield		Diff.
		Low Rate	High Rate	Low Rate	High Rate	
		-----lb N/acre-----		-----bu/acre-----		
2001	C-SB	80	130	176.8	175.6	-1.2
2002	C-SB	70	120	192.5	195.4	2.9
2003	C-C	130	180	166.6	166.2	-0.4
2004	C-SB	60	110	199.7	206.1	6.4
	C-C	110	160	172.0	178.3	6.3
2005	C-SB	60	110	191.8	197.6	5.8
	C-C	110	160	182.1	193.9	11.9
2006	C-C	120	150	188.4	192.5	4.1



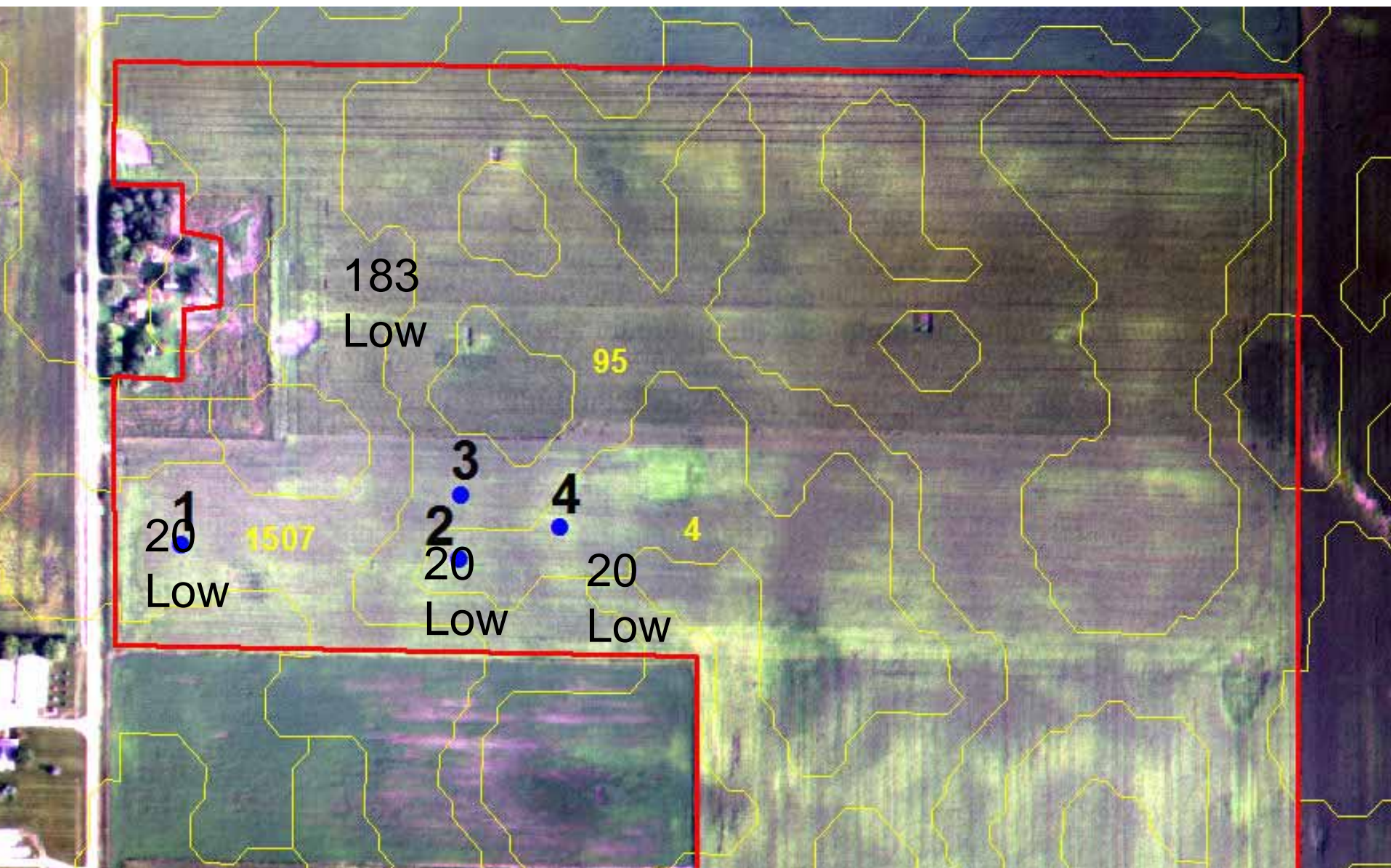
USDA NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Date: September 15, 2004
Pay To The Order Of: **Iowa Soybean Association** \$ 1,000,000.00
One million and 00/100 DOLLARS
Conservation Innovation Grant
Melvin E. Everts



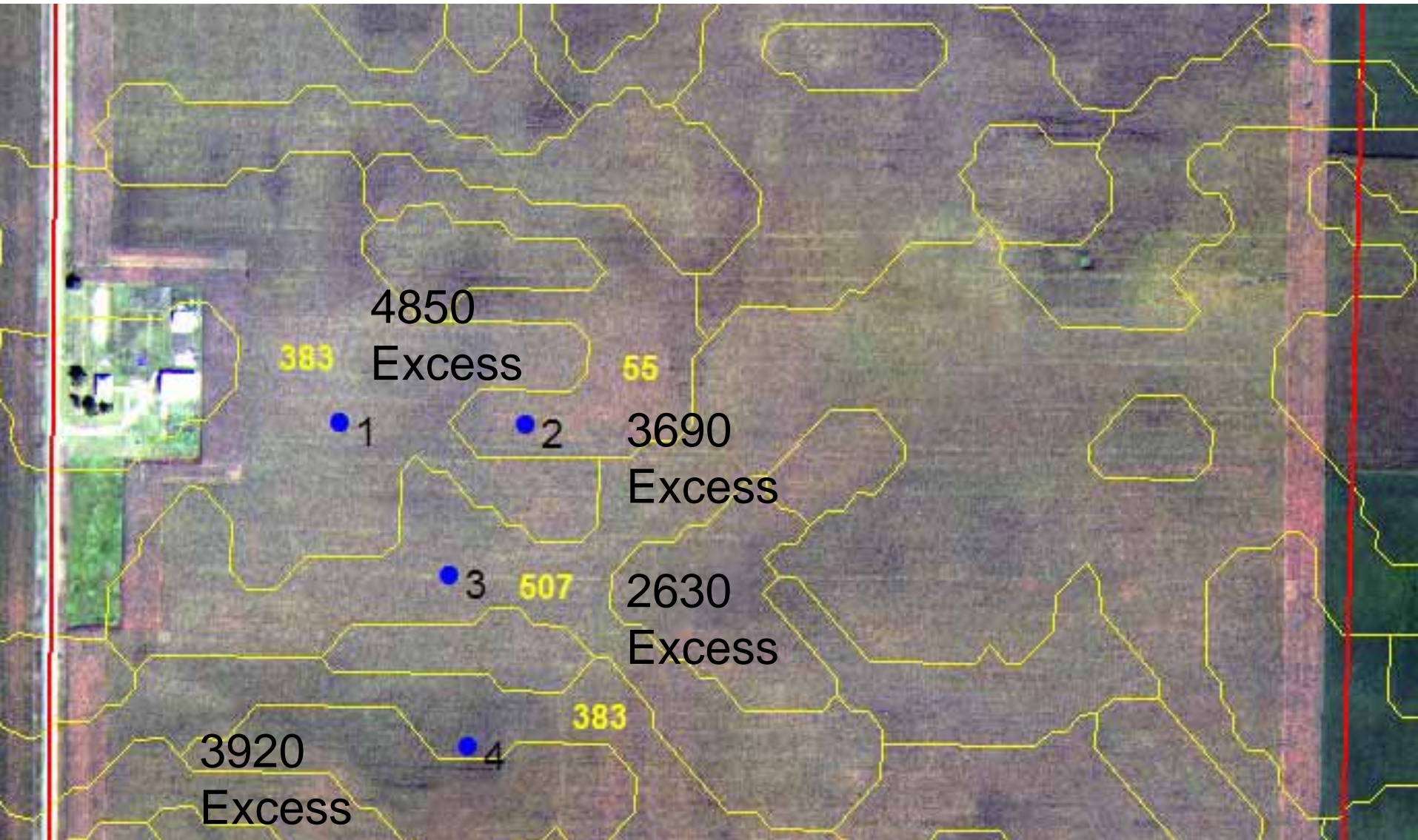
Guided Stalk Sampling



Guided Stalk Sampling

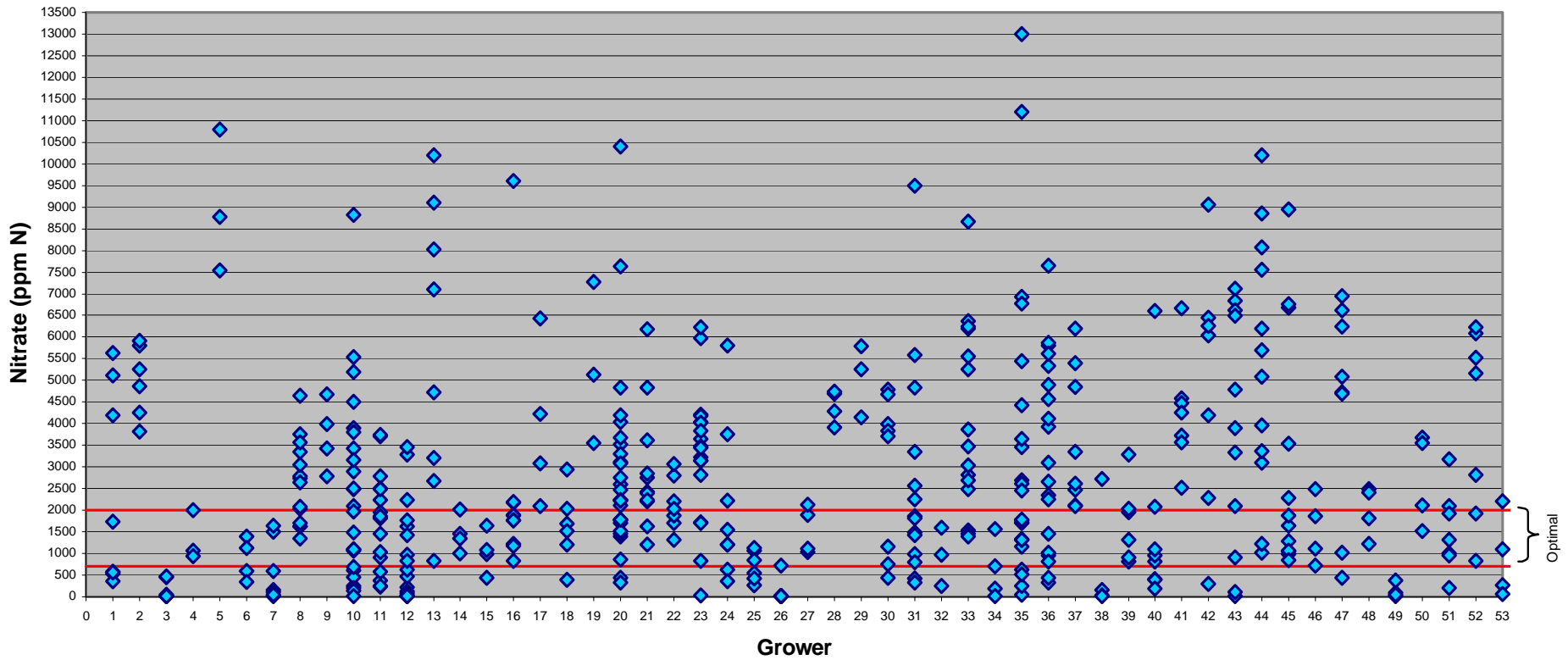


Guided Stalk Sampling



Guided Stalk Sampling

2005 Corn Stalk Nitrate Analysis (West Buttrick Creek):
Comparison Between Growers



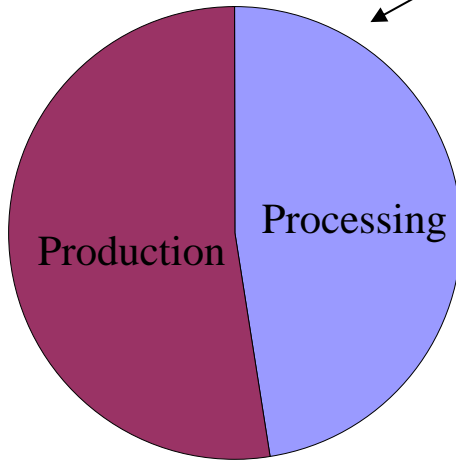
Energy in crop production

Energy Gain = Biofuel energy (Ethanol/biodiesel) - Energy to Produce crop - Energy to process grain into biofuel + Energy in coproducts (DDGs / soymeal)

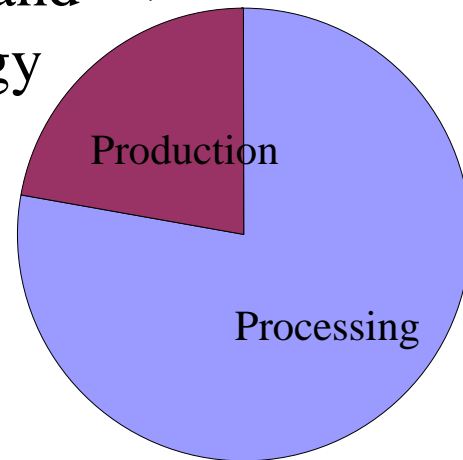
Energy in crop production

$$\text{Energy Gain} = \text{Biofuel energy (Ethanol/biodiesel)} - \left[\text{Energy to Produce crop} - \text{Energy to process grain into biofuel} \right] + \text{Energy in coproducts (DDGs/soymeal)}$$

The production and processing energy estimates



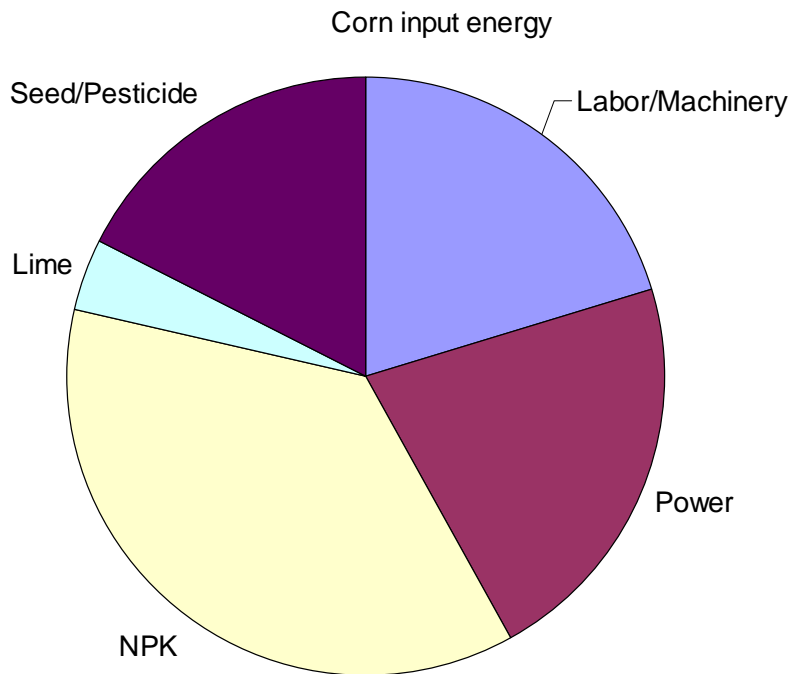
Corn



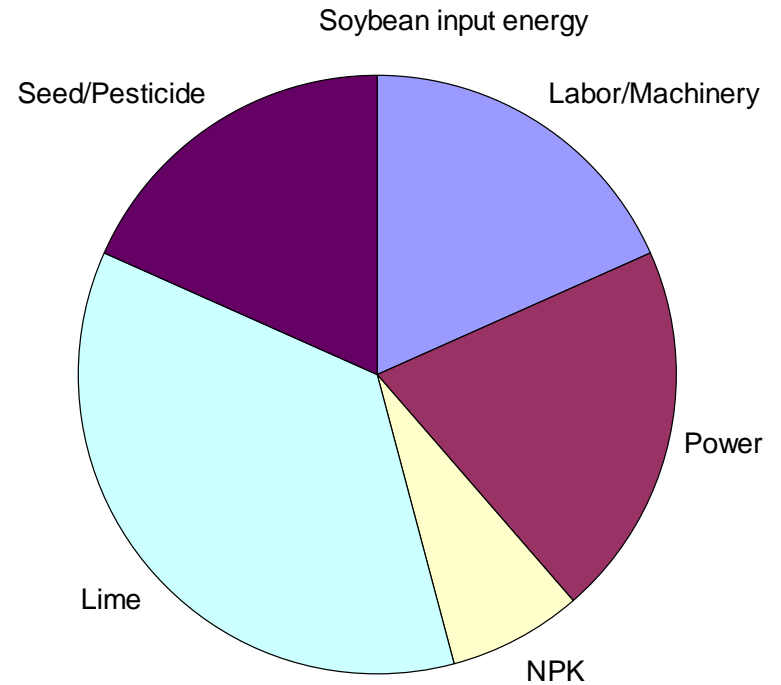
Soybeans

Energy in producing crop

Corn



Soybean



Quantifying Agronomic Performance

The energy to produce N fertilizer is a major part of the input costs

$$50 \text{ lb N} * 35,000 \text{ BTU/lb N} = 1,750,000 \text{ BTU}$$

This is roughly equivalent to BTUs in 13.6 gallons of petroleum diesel.

State average rate applied is around 150 lb N/a ~ 40.8 gallons DFE

The rotation credit is often assumed to be 50 lb N/a



Using animal manure as a fertilizer



Quantifying Agronomic Performance

A benefit of manure is the nutrient value and the energy is saved by not having to manufacture the N, P, and K.

The N, P, and K in manure can be credited with 40.8 gallons DFE for 150 lb N and 6.7 DFE for P and K = 47.5 gallons DFE

-The manure application has been reported at less than 2 gallons/a of fuel based upon a local contractor's records.

Quantifying Agronomic Performance

