

Precision Agriculture

Lesson 1, Part B

Components of Precision Agriculture

- A *GPS Receiver*
- Equipment with *sensors*
- Equipment with *meters*
- A *monitor*
- *Software*

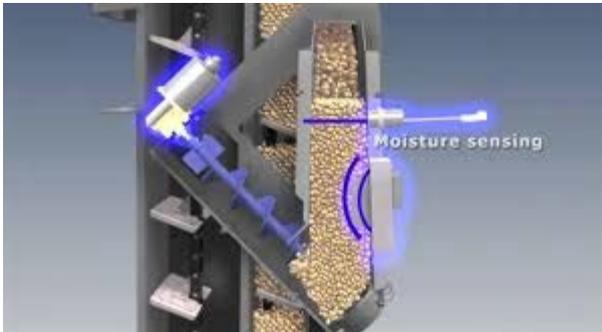
GPS Receiver

- Tracks the equipment location in a field



Equipment with Sensors

- “Sense” the conditions in which you are farming
- “Sense” the operation of the equipment
- Take readings about each area of the field



High Rate Seed Sensor

Equipment with Meters

- Control the amount of inputs
 - Seed, fertilizer, pesticides, water, etc.
- Can steer the equipment
 - Aids in precise field placement

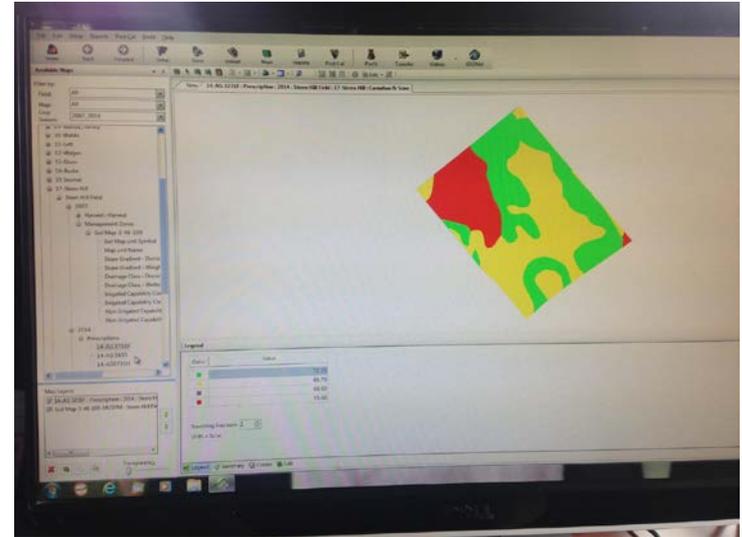
Monitors

- Indicate the rate inputs are being applied.
- Tells the operator if equipment is working at peak performance.
 - Gives off a warning if not working properly.
- Acts as a user interface.
 - Operator can make adjustments on the go.
- Records all information gathered by GPS, sensors and meters.
 - Used later to help with decision making.

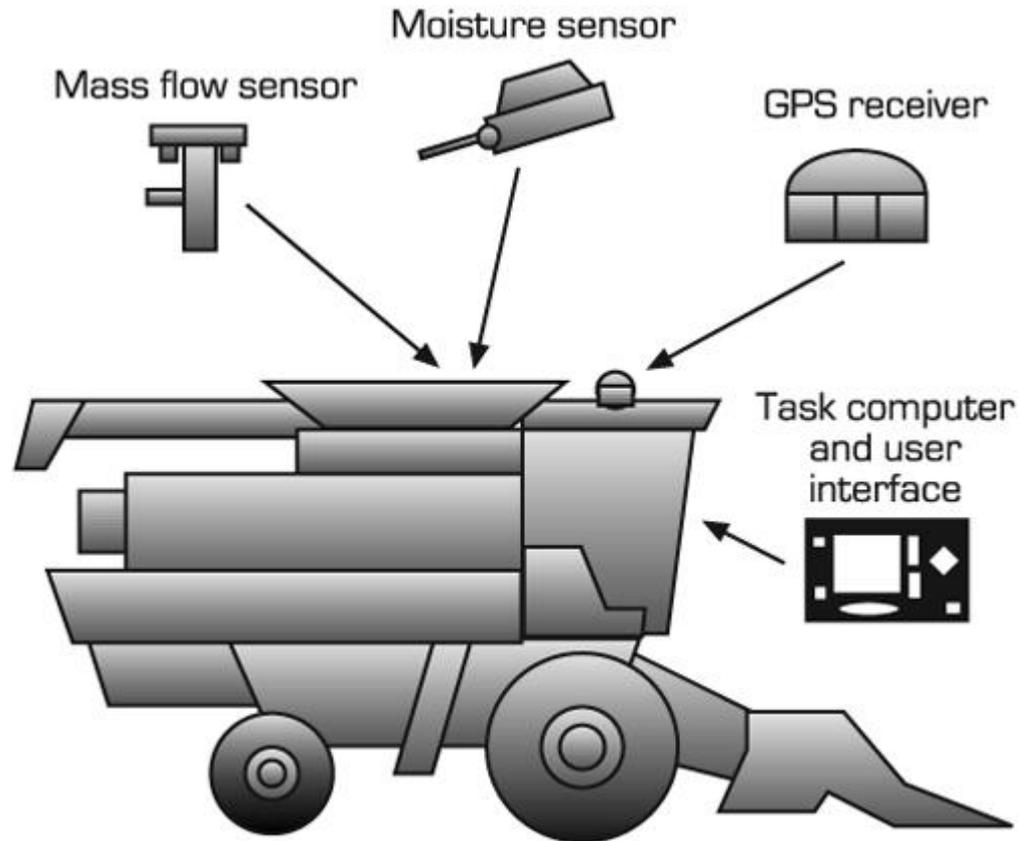


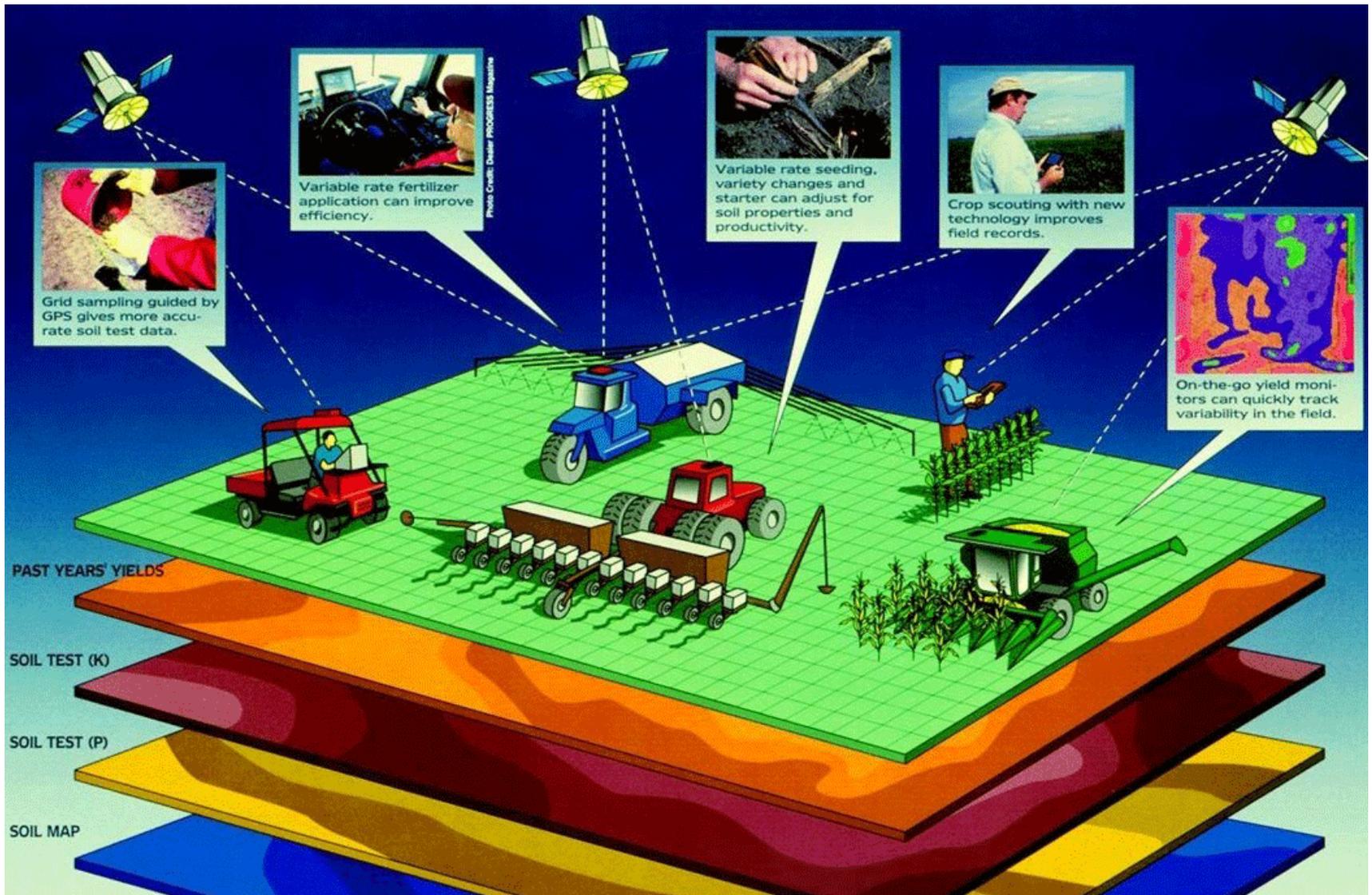
Software

- Keeps track of information gathered.
 - Throughout the season
 - Across multiple years
- Allows operator to
 - Analyze data
 - Make informed decisions to improve production
 - “minimize” inputs to “maximize” outputs and profit



Putting it all Together





Big data comes to the farm

US farms generate **\$375 billion** from crops.

Almost all new farm equipment is equipped with sensors.

60% of farmers report using some sort of precision data.

80% of data now stays on tractors.

Farmers choose whether to use data themselves, share it locally or upload it to the cloud.

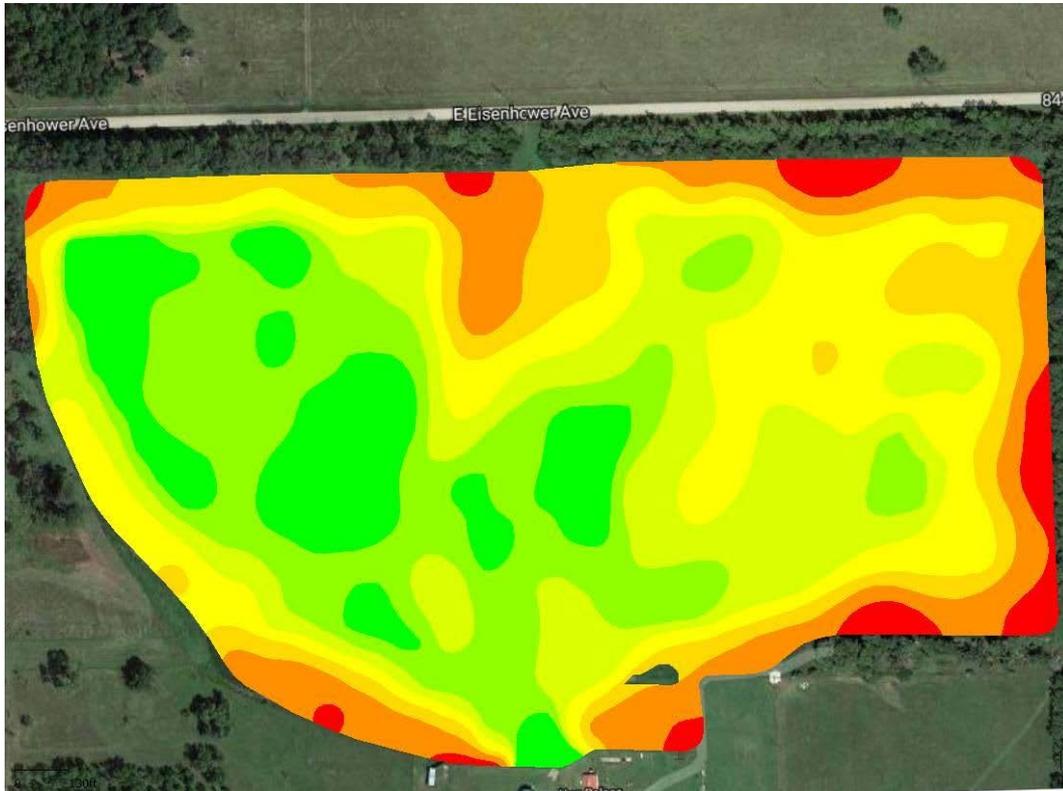
Farmers say data analytics have reduced input costs by **15%**; crop yields up by **13%**.

Source: American Farm Bureau Federation, 2015

What is the Goal of Precision Ag?

- Primary goal = identify **variability** in the field.
 - Differences in the field
- Allows an operator to adapt management practices to the different areas of a field.

Yield Map



Dark Green – Highest

Med. Green – 2nd Highest

Light Green – 3rd Highest

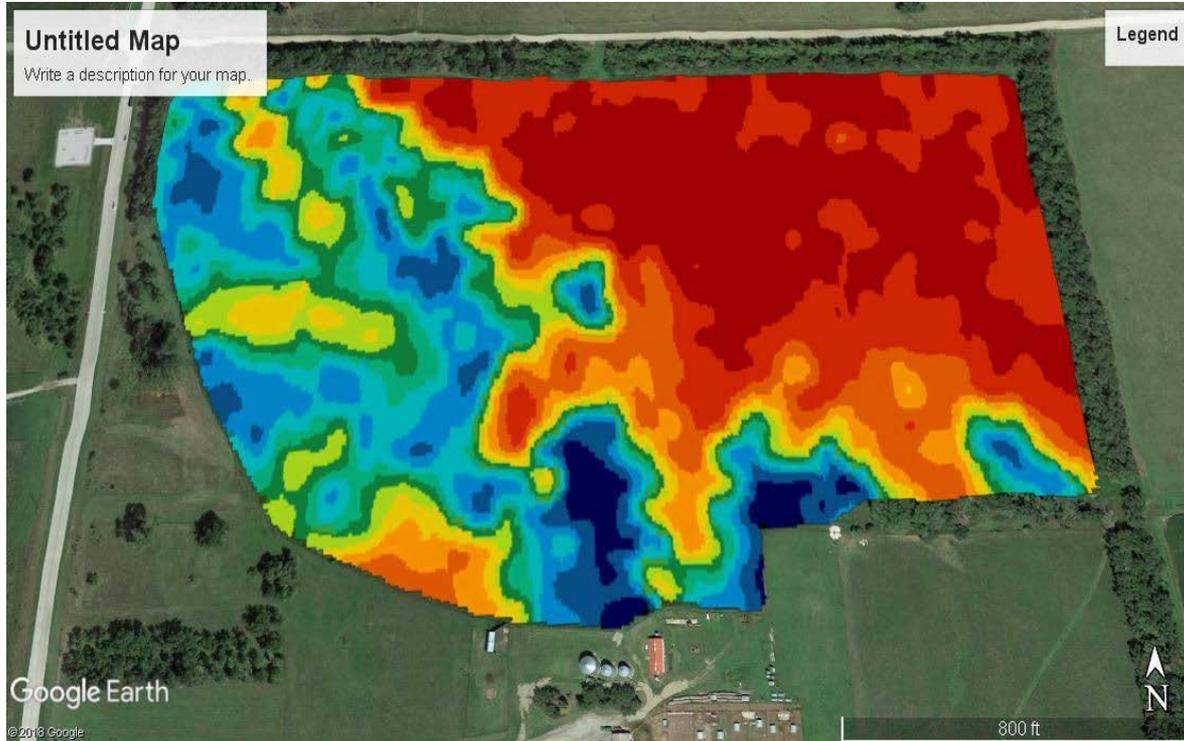
Yellow – 4th Highest

Gold – 5th Highest

Orange – 6th Highest

Red - Lowest

Corresponding Soil Quality Map



- Dark Blue – Best
- Medium Blue – 2nd Best
- Light Blue – 3rd Best
- Dark Green – 4th Best
- Med Green – 5th Best
- Light Green – 6th Best
- Yellow – 7th Best
- Light Orange – 8th Best
- Dark Orange – 9th Best
- Red - Poorest

Analyze the Maps (Mingle/Pair/Share)

- Compare the Soil Quality and Yield Maps
 - What similarities are there?
 - What could account for the similarities?
 - What differences are there?
 - What could account for the differences?

Why is Precision Ag and Management Used?

- Resource Management!
 - Management on a **granular** scale.
 - Look at small portions of a field
 - Manage its unique characteristics
 - Place inputs accordingly for that portion
 - Saves money on seed, chemicals, water, time, etc.
 - Add the right inputs at the right time, in the right place at the right rate!
 - Can increase profitability.
 - Put less inputs where the field is less productive no matter what you do.
 - Apply the most and best product to the most productive areas.
 - Be more precise with input placement.
 - Example: **Singulation**