Section 3 Outreach Material

Precision Farming

New Era of Fertilization

Conventional Method

- Several Core Samples Are Pulled In One Field
- Core Samples Are Mixed Into One Sample
- One Sample Represents The Whole Field
- Field Is Spread From Recommendation Of One Analyzed Soil Sample

Precision Method

- Acreage Is Determined Using GPS
- Points Are Marked In The Field Using GPS
- Soil Samples Are Pulled At Each Point
- Each Sample Is Analyzed Separately, Representing Each Point In The Field
- Each Point Is Spread To The Exact Nutrient Need

Positive Effects

- Increased Fertility
- Increased Production
- Decreased Nutrient Runoff
- Increased Knowledge of Certain Areas Within a Field
- Pretty Maps
- Cost Savings???

Negative Effects

• Cost Savings???

Conventional Method Cost Analysis Comparison & Nutrient Requirements

- Pasture 1 & 2
 41.77 Acres
 0 lbs. of Lime
 0 lbs. of Lime
 83 lbs./Ac. P205
 93 lbs.
 143 lbs./Ac. K20
 90 lbs.
 - Pasture 3 & 4
 33.69 Acres
 0 lbs. of Lime
 93 lbs./Ac. P205
 90 lbs./Ac. K20

Expenses Pasture 1 & 2 Conventional Method

0 tons lime@ \$25.00 / ton \$0.00
Spreading Fee \$5.50 / ton (41.77 acres) \$229.74
3.76 ton 18-46-0 @ \$305.00 / ton \$1,146.80
5.01 ton 18-0-60 @ \$220.00 / ton \$1,102.80
Sampling Fee @ \$3.00 / Acre on 41.77 acres \$ 125.31
Total Spreading, Sampling & Nutrient Application on Pasture 1 & 2 \$ \$2,604.65

Expenses Pastures 3 & 4 Conventional Method

•	0 tons lime@ \$25.00 / ton		\$ 0.00
•	Spreading Fee \$5.50 / ton (33.69 ac	res	3)
		\$	185.30
•	3.42 ton 0-46-0 @ \$305.00 / ton	\$1	,043.10
•	2.5 ton 0-0-60 @ \$220.00 / ton	\$	550.00
•	Sampling Fee @ \$3.00/ Acre on 33.69	acı	res
		\$	101.07
•	Total Spreading, Sampling & Nutrient	-	
	Application on Pasture 3 & 4	\$1	,879.47

Conventional Method Total Expenses on Pastures 1 - 4

- Pasture 1 & 2 Expenses
- Pasture 3 & 4 Expenses Total

\$ 2,604.65 <u>\$ 1,879.47</u> \$ 4,484.12

Precision Method

- 47 sample points were analyzed
- Points were chosen on topography, not grid sampling
- Each sample point had 5 core samples (N, S, E, W and Center of point.
- The core samples are then mixed to represent that particular sample point.

Projection : Universal Transverse Mercator Datum : WGS Datum (1984) Zone Number : 17 Hemisphere : North

Scale 1:8337 1000 ft KeeHill Campbell Place Field 1 Year2004





04/14/05

Our Soil - Our Strengt

Pasture Precision Method Cost Analysis

•	0 Tons of Lime Spread Due to Small Amount		
	Needed	\$ 00.00	
•	7.31 ton 18-46-0 @ \$305.00 / ton	\$ 2,226.50	
•	4.81 ton 0-0-60 @ \$220.00 / ton	\$ 1,058.20	
•	Sampling Fee 68.32 acres @ \$8.00 /Ac.	\$ 546.56	
•	Fertilizer Spreading 68.32 Ac. @ \$9.00	/ac	
		\$612.00	
•	Total Cost of Precision Method	\$4,443.26	







Conventional VS. Precision Cost Analysis

- Conventional Method Total Cost \$ 4,484.12
- Precision Method Total Cost \$4,443.26
- Precision Method Saved Producer \$40.86

Precision Ag Equipment



Precision Ag Equipment



Not Precision Ag Equipment



Precision Ag Equipment



Not Precision Ag Equipment



Precision Ag Equipment



Precision Agriculture

Precision agriculture has been widely used in the Midwest on large crop fields. In West Virginia our crop fields are much smaller and have less fertility variation than crop fields of the Midwest. West Virginia's pastures however show a promising future for the use of precision agriculture technology, due to our rolling hills and steep slopes, increased variations in soil fertility are common.



0-0-60 Application Map



Variable Rate Spreader Truck

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Kee Hill Farms

A New Era in Fertilization

Precision Agriculture Technology Usage on Pasture Land in Monroe County, WV



Tel: 304-772-3361

Precision Agriculture: A New Era in Fertilization

With the end of the cold war, satellite-based technology that was only available to the armed forces has now been released for civilian use. The use of satellites for georeferenced data collection, computers to convert the data to soil fertility maps, and machines for the site-specific application of nutrients have resulted in the development of a new farming system called precision farming. This process includes a process of data collection through soil sampling, conversion of data to knowledge and application of the knowledge to site-specific management of spreading fertilizer and lime within a field.

This new technology is very fascinating. For nutrient management this technology is based on collecting soil samples in a systematic fashion, and using soil sample results to produce soil fertility maps. The soil fertility maps are then used to apply variable rate nutrients or lime to a field.

Through the use of this new technology producers are able to:

- Increase production on areas that are generally, less productive than the rest of the field
- Decrease excess nutrient runoff by only providing nutrients needed by the plant
- Increase knowledge of fertility levels within a field

Soil Sampling



Soil sampling is the first step when using precision agriculture technology. On crop fields samples are generally taken on a grid system, where by the boundaries of the field are

marked, then a computer designates the sample points in the field. On pasture with wide variations in topography, samples are best taken to where the topography differs in the field.



75 acre pasture field, depicting 47 sample points

Data Analysis & Nutrient Application

Once the sample data is returned from the lab, results are entered into a database to build the soil fertility and application maps.



0-46-0 Application Map

When applying nutrients, the variable rate spreader truck travels in the field as if it was spreading conventionally, but by using GPS, when the truck passes over a different recommended rate, the rate is changed automatically to deliver the specific nutrients to that specific area.

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