

# Drones and Data in Agriculture

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**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
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# Nationwide AgTech Innovation Hub



**CFAES**

Sep 20, 2022

## **Nationwide, Ohio State University “green” light AgTech Innovation Hub**

**Nationwide to provide \$2 million in funding to new collaboration designed to tackle climate change challenges**



# Drones and Data in Agriculture



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<https://youtu.be/fffvGPNOyyo?si=AiXPjF6-5YQ8YY4J>

slido



**What technology are you most optimistic about for improving your farming operation?**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

# Drones and Data in Agriculture



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Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS)

## **Battle for the Belt**

Plot Design / Field Layout  
Weekly agronomy field visits  
Harvest measurements

Food, Ag, and Biological Engineering (FABE)  
Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

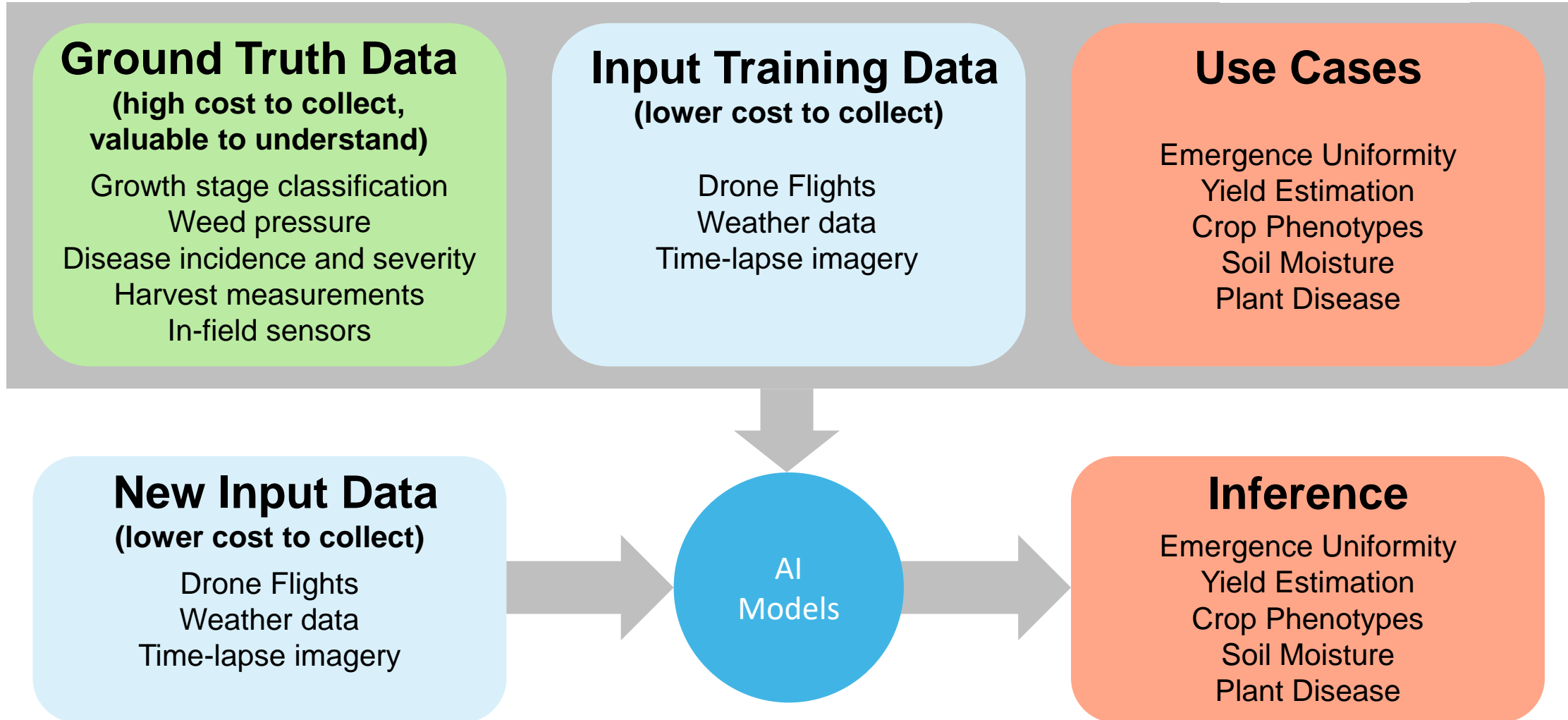
## **Drones and Data in Agriculture**

Drone Flights (85 total)  
In-field sensing  
Data processing  
AI models

# AI Applications in Agriculture



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# Drones and Data in Agriculture



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## Research question

How can we use data from drones and in-field sensors combined with artificial intelligence that would benefit farmers?

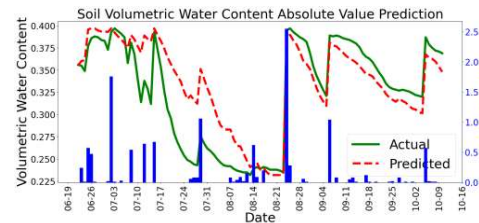
Emergence



Phenotyping



Soil Moisture



Kernel Weight



# Emergence



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Emergence

Phenotyping

Soil Moisture

Kernel Weight



The "Flag" Test (field visits every 12 hours)



An early predictor of yield potential!

**What if we could measure emergence with time-lapse cameras?**



# Emergence



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Emergence

Phenotyping

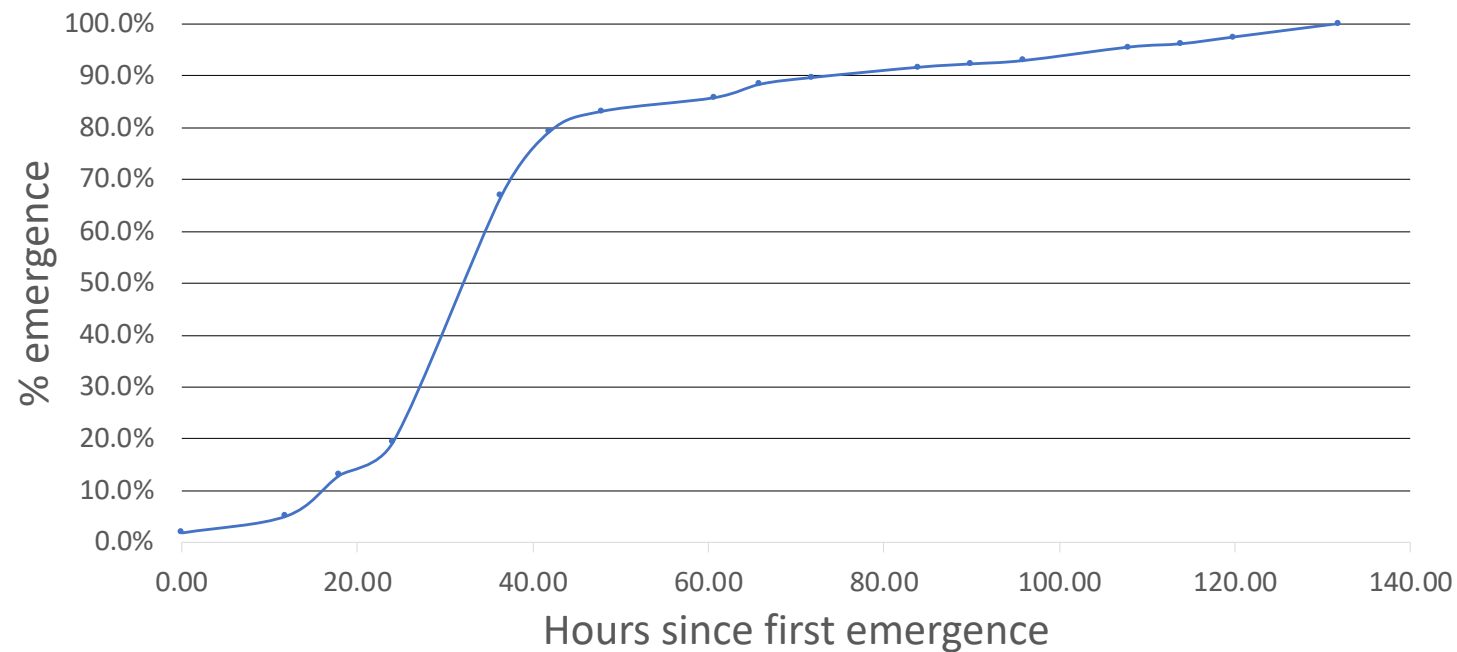
Soil Moisture

Kernel Weight



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### Western 106 Corn Emergence Plot



# Phenotyping



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Emergence

Phenotyping

Soil Moisture

Kernel Weight



# Phenotyping



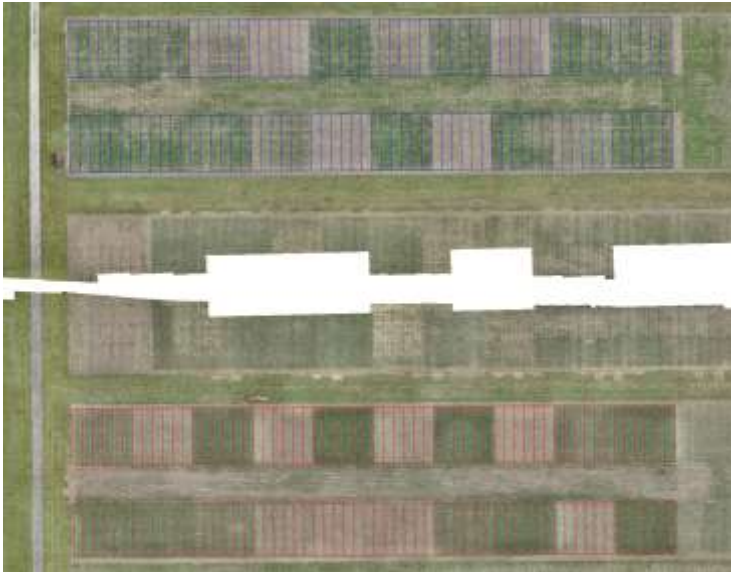
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Emergence

Phenotyping

Soil Moisture

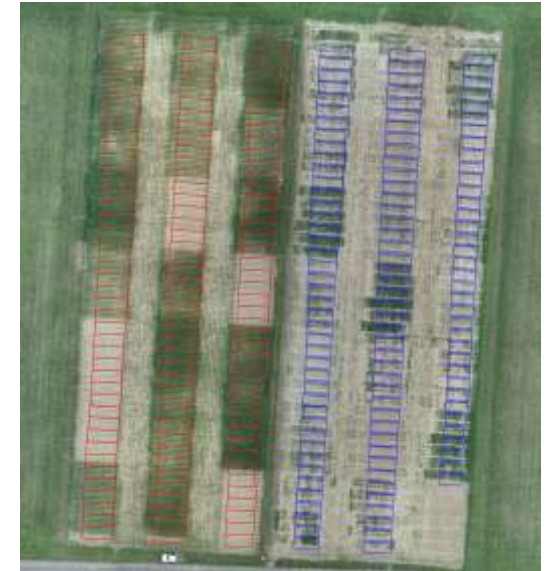
Kernel Weight



Northwest Agricultural  
Research Station



Western Agricultural  
Research Station



Wooster  
Snyder Farm

# Phenotyping



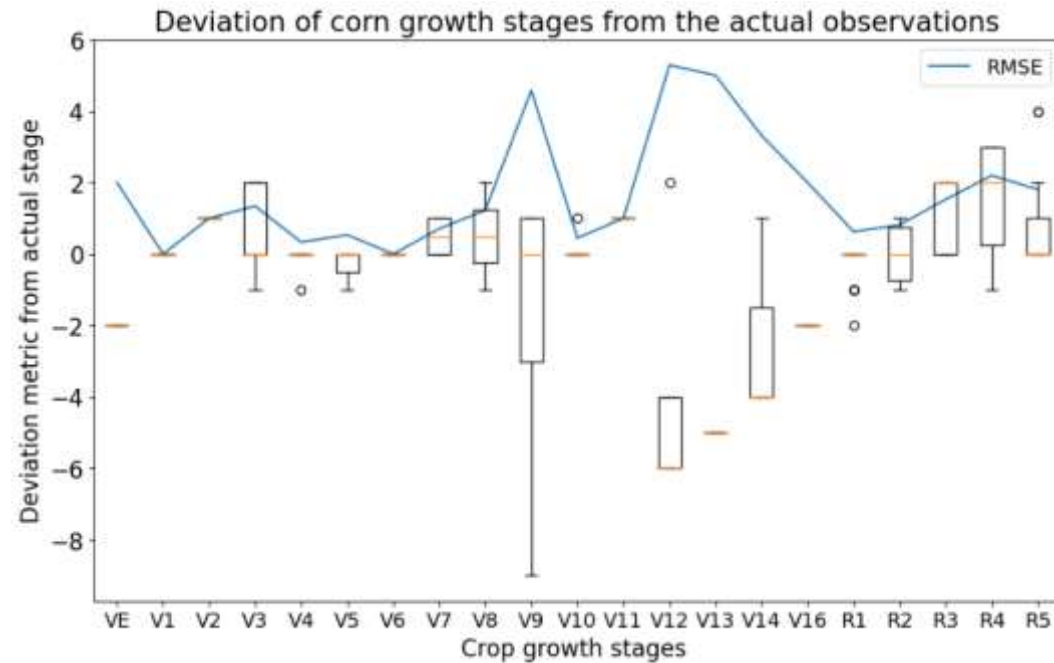
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Emergence

Phenotyping

Soil Moisture

Kernel Weight



Raccoon damage

# Soil Moisture



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Emergence

Phenotyping

Soil Moisture

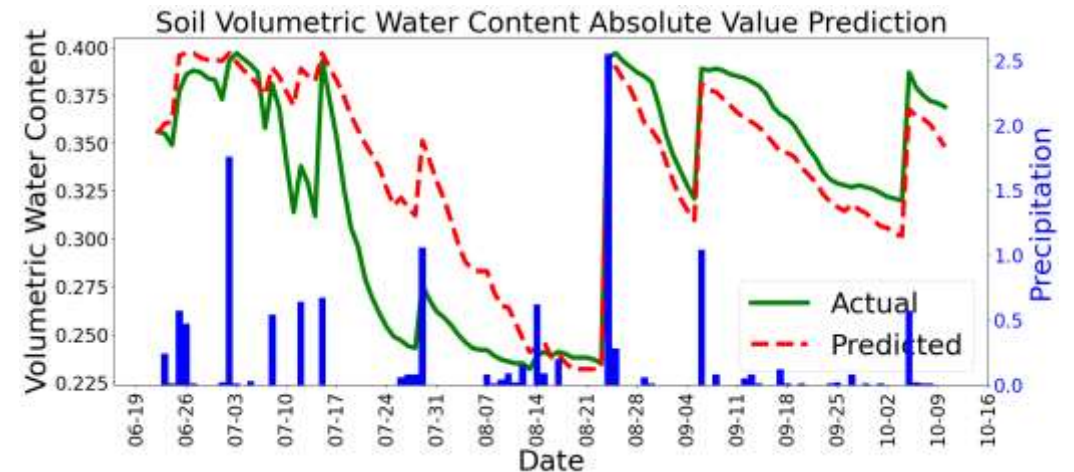
Kernel Weight

## Our question

From rainfall and temperature data, could we predict soil moisture?  
How might it vary across different soil textures and organic matters?  
Could this be useful for understanding nitrogen mineralization?



Meter Teros 12 Soil Volumetric Water Sensor (Ground Truth)



# Kernel Weight



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Emergence

Phenotyping

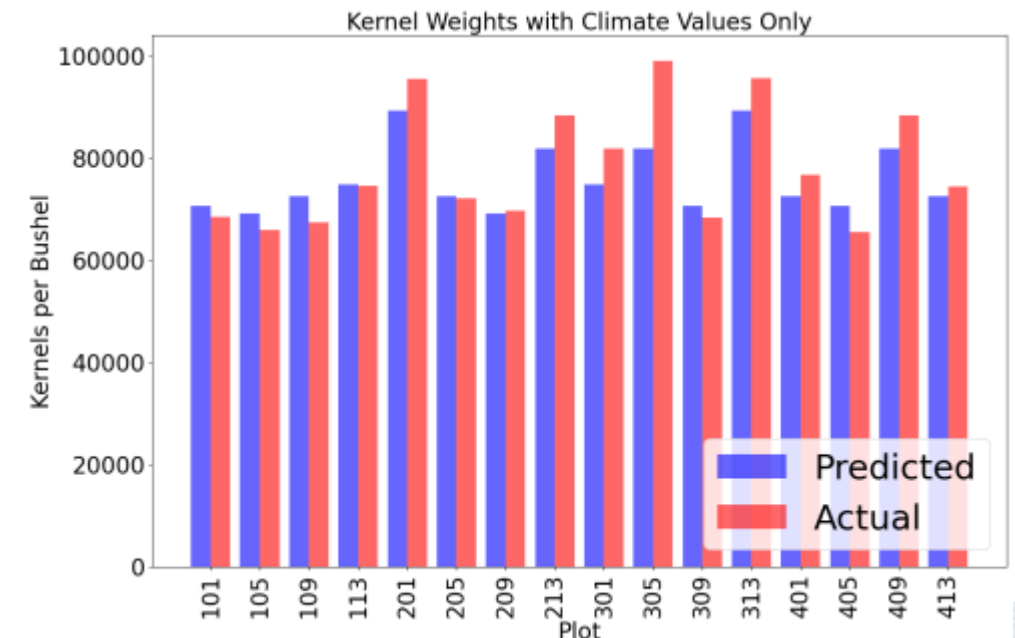
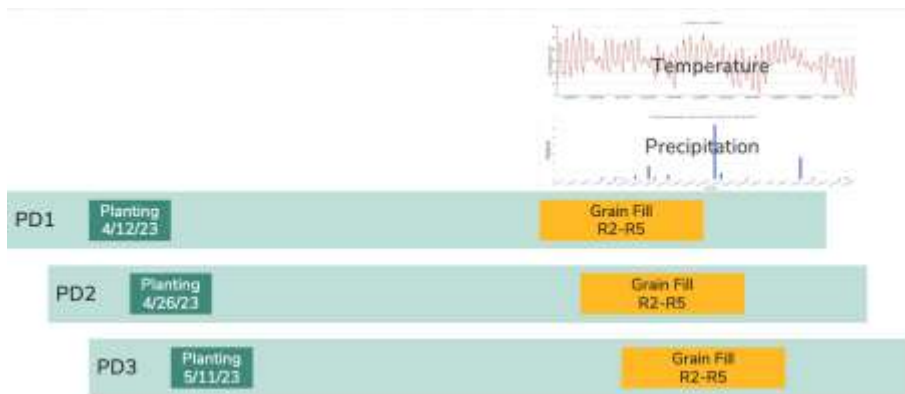
Soil Moisture

Kernel Weight

## Research question

Could we use weather data to predict kernel weight of corn?

At Northwest the kernels per bushel ranged from 70,000 to 90,000 kernels per bushel, equivalent to about 50 bushels/acre difference!

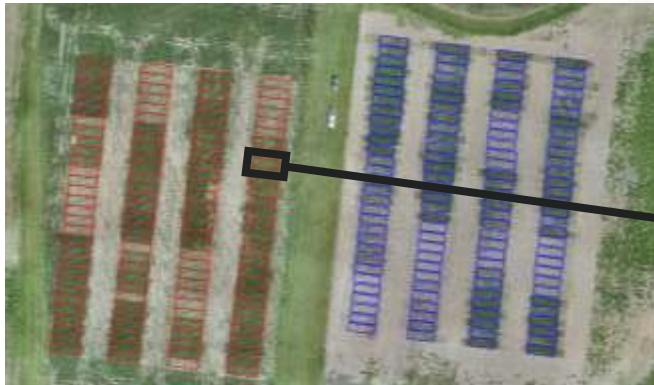


# Data visualization concepts



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## Crop Health Dashboard Concept



### Plot 115



#### Plot Statistics

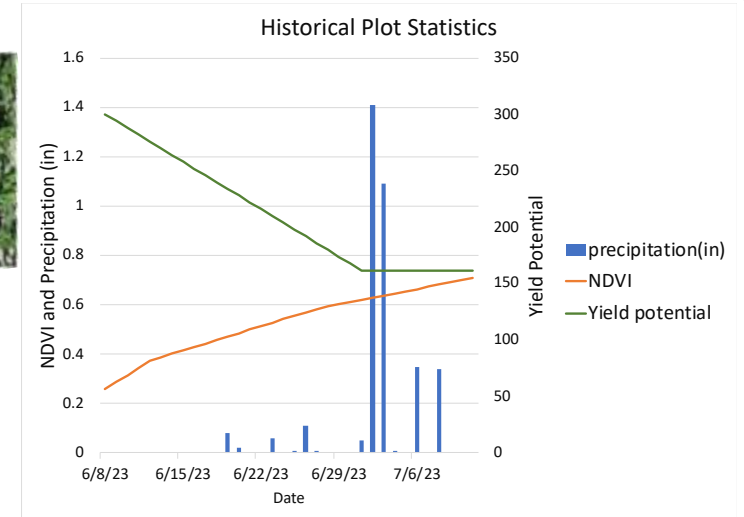
Soil vol water content: .37

Growth Stage: V10

Normalized Diff Veg Index: .87

Weed Pressure: Low

Disease: None detected



We are exploring ways to visualize the various types of data from the project.

# Conclusion



1. We think our work from 2023 in growth stage, soil moisture, and yield estimation could be applied towards improved nitrogen recommendations.
2. Your feedback would be extremely valuable to us:
  - We will be putting out a survey in the next few months regarding innovation and technology in agriculture. Consider responding to it.
  - I would welcome your comments on anything you saw in this presentation.
  - If you are interested in improving your nitrogen use efficiency, I'd be very interested in discussing with you.



# Contact Info



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