

# Precision Agriculture

## Lesson 1, Part B

# Components of Precision Agriculture

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

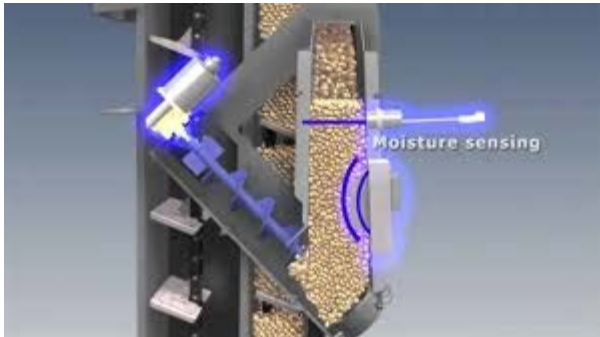
# GPS Receiver

- 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

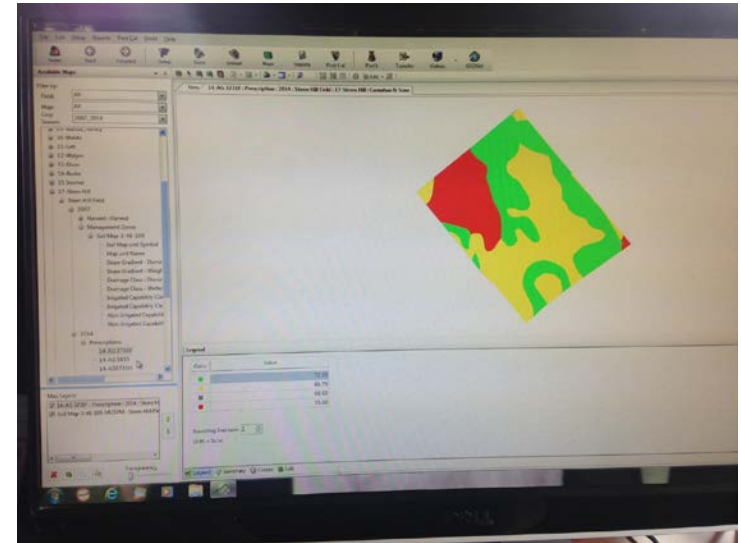
# Monitors

- 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.

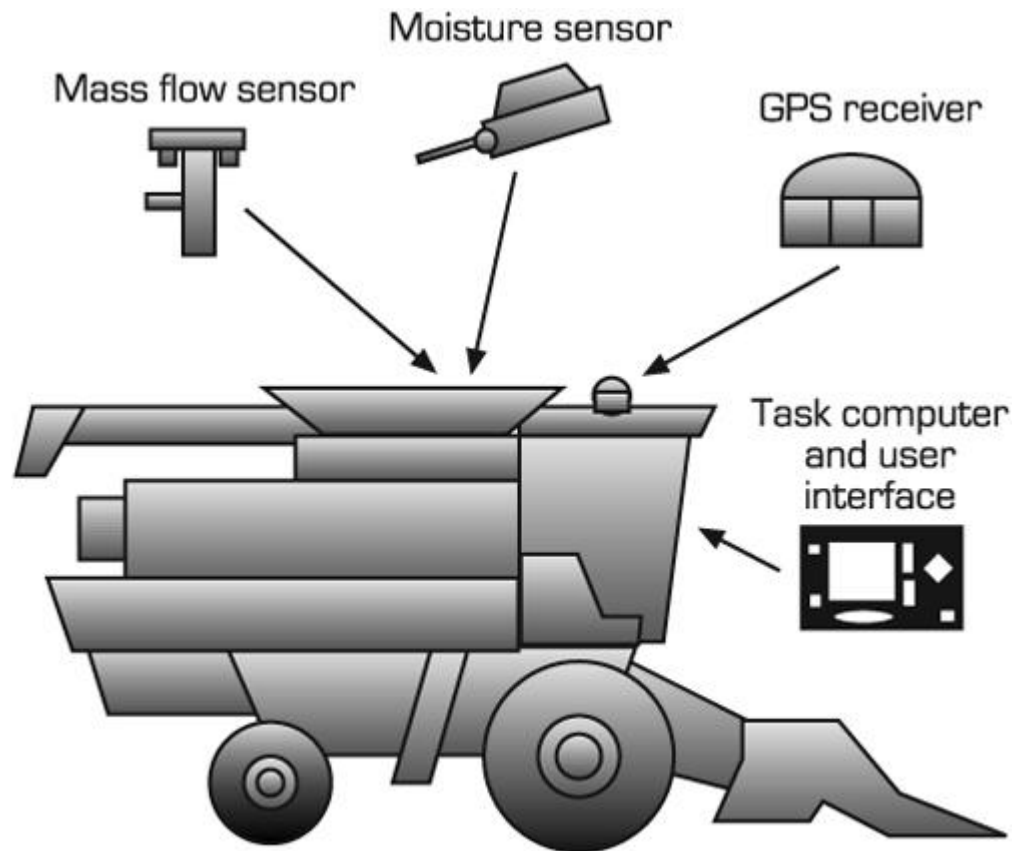


# Software

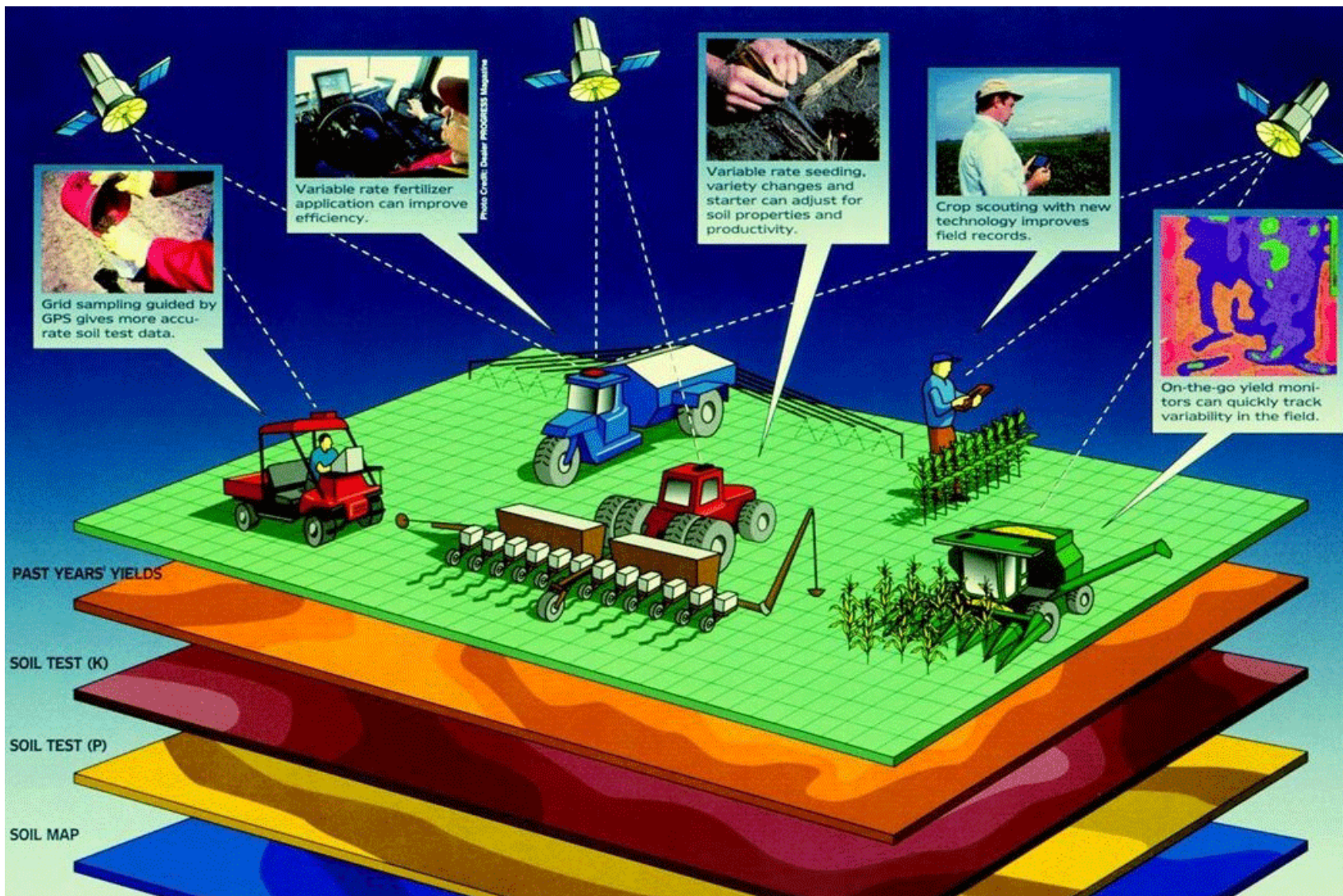
- Keeps track of information gathered.
  - Throughout the season
  - Across multiple years
- Allows operator to
  - Analyze data
  - Make informed decisions to improve production
    - “minimize” inputs to “maximize” outputs and profit



# 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%**.

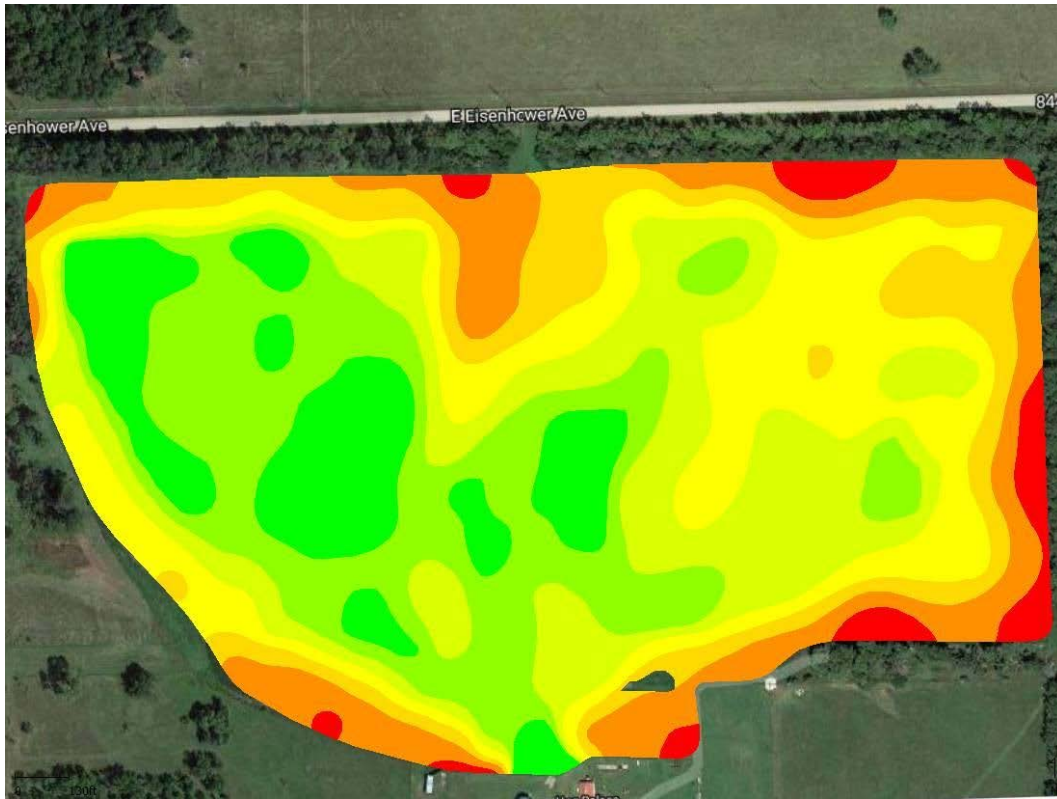


Source: American Farm Bureau Federation, 2015

# 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest

Light Green – 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest

Yellow – 4<sup>th</sup> Highest

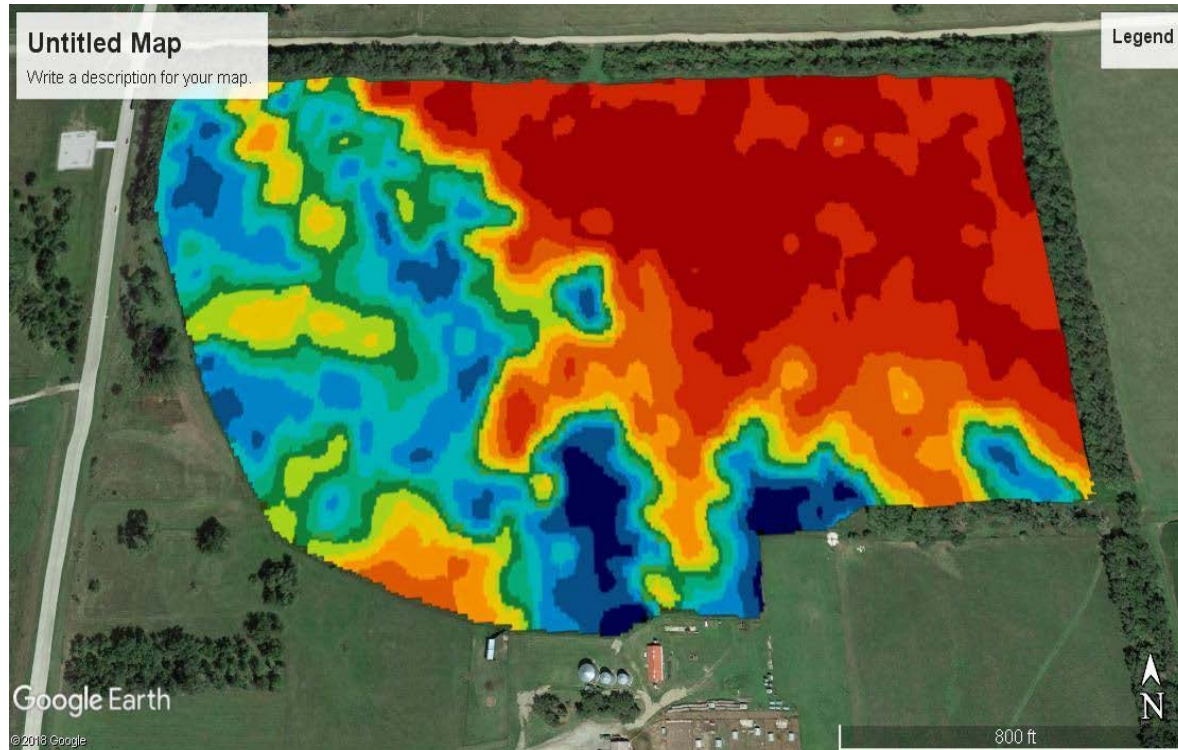
Gold – 5<sup>th</sup> Highest

Orange – 6<sup>th</sup> Highest

Red - Lowest



# Corresponding Soil Quality Map



Dark Blue – Best

Medium Blue – 2<sup>nd</sup> Best

Light Blue – 3<sup>rd</sup> Best

Dark Green – 4<sup>th</sup> Best

Med Green – 5<sup>th</sup> Best

Light Green – 6<sup>th</sup> Best

Yellow – 7<sup>th</sup> Best

Light Orange – 8<sup>th</sup> Best

Dark Orange – 9<sup>th</sup> 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**