Implementing Technology at the Purdue Ag Centers and ACRE

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Purdue Ag Research Programs In Partnership with Trimble Precision Agriculture

- Accomplishments
- Changes to operations and expectations
  - Shifting investments, funds, time
  - Equipment versus staffing increases
  - Client expectations
  - Data, data, data
- Can we operate without this technology?

Are There Improvements in Efficiency??? Has an efficient system been developed???

- No Plot Flags
- No Measuring
- Communication with Faculty via email
- Contractor used his GPS system
- No Small Plot Equipment Used
- Scouting & Sampling Crews used Nomad Computer
- Yield Data Collected with Yield Monitor and emailed to faculty

Training

Subsurface Irrigation & RTK

- No flagging required for plot/row centers
- Allows for better use of labor
- Changing spacing across the field is simple
- Did I mention no flagging

Labor

- How has the labor / effort been shifted?
- Off season?
- When does all of this desk time need to take place?

Trust

- Administrators remote from the daily activities rely on staff to provide vision –
  - What next?
  - Justification
  - Effects on operation
- Clients are more removed from the daily operations in some cases.

What does the client expects?

- Plot layout
- Precise control
- Rapid data turnaround
- Data

Data

- Responsibility for collecting and transmitting data
- Some grants require a data management plan

- Raw data –Servers at each location
- Modified data

Data

- Archiving data
  Computers + Servers at each location
  Servers are backed-up nightly to campus
    Not searchable
- Searchable data base
- Publishing data

Areas that are ripe for ideas

- Forage harvesting – large scale
- Biomass management
- Hand harvesting operations
- Animal research
- Irrigation
- Other ideas

Is RTK/GPS headed towards your future?