Utilization of GPS Based Technology in Row Crop Research and Bulk Production at the Davis Purdue Ag Center

The Davis Purdue Ag Center (DPAC) is one of 8 regional agriculture centers operated by Purdue University throughout the state of Indiana. There are 623 (450 tillable) acres at DPAC where corn, soybeans and wheat are grown. The focus of row crop research at DPAC has been in the area of Site Specific Agriculture for the last 10-15 years. While traditional small plot research is still part of the program at DPAC, a system of Field Scale Research has been developed in the last 10 years. Utilization of GPS Based Technology at DPAC began with a yield monitor on the combine back in 1995 and has progressed with the use of GPS based electronic controllers on planting and fertilizing equipment along with mapping equipment and grid soil sampling. The latest addition to the system has been an RTK Autosteer system which will substantially change the row crop research and bulk production methods. Well over $210,000 have been invested in developing the system with funds coming from commodity sales at DPAC, endowment funds, grants, faculty and industry. Many changes have taken place at DPAC in the last 15 years with the development of new equipment and changes will likely continue in the future.