

Nvision:

**Remote sensing to visualize
AND CORRECT nitrogen (N)
deficiency in corn**



**Peter Scharf
University of Missouri**

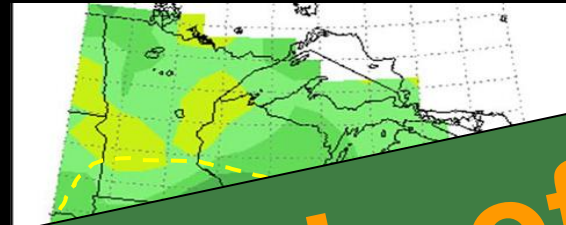
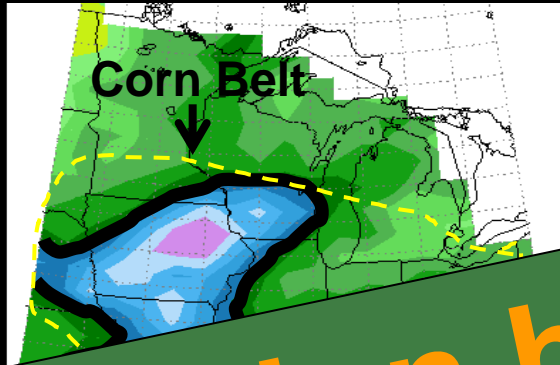
Corn

A single ear of yellow corn is the central focus of the image. The husk is partially removed, revealing the rows of bright yellow kernels. The corn is positioned horizontally, with the stem on the left and the tip on the right. The background is plain white.

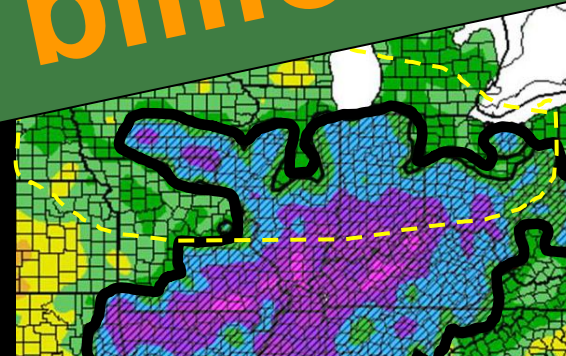
- **\$65 billion/year**
- **Yield is highly dependent on nitrogen (N) fertilizer**
- **Nitrogen is lost in wet weather**

2008-2011: wet springs across the Corn Belt

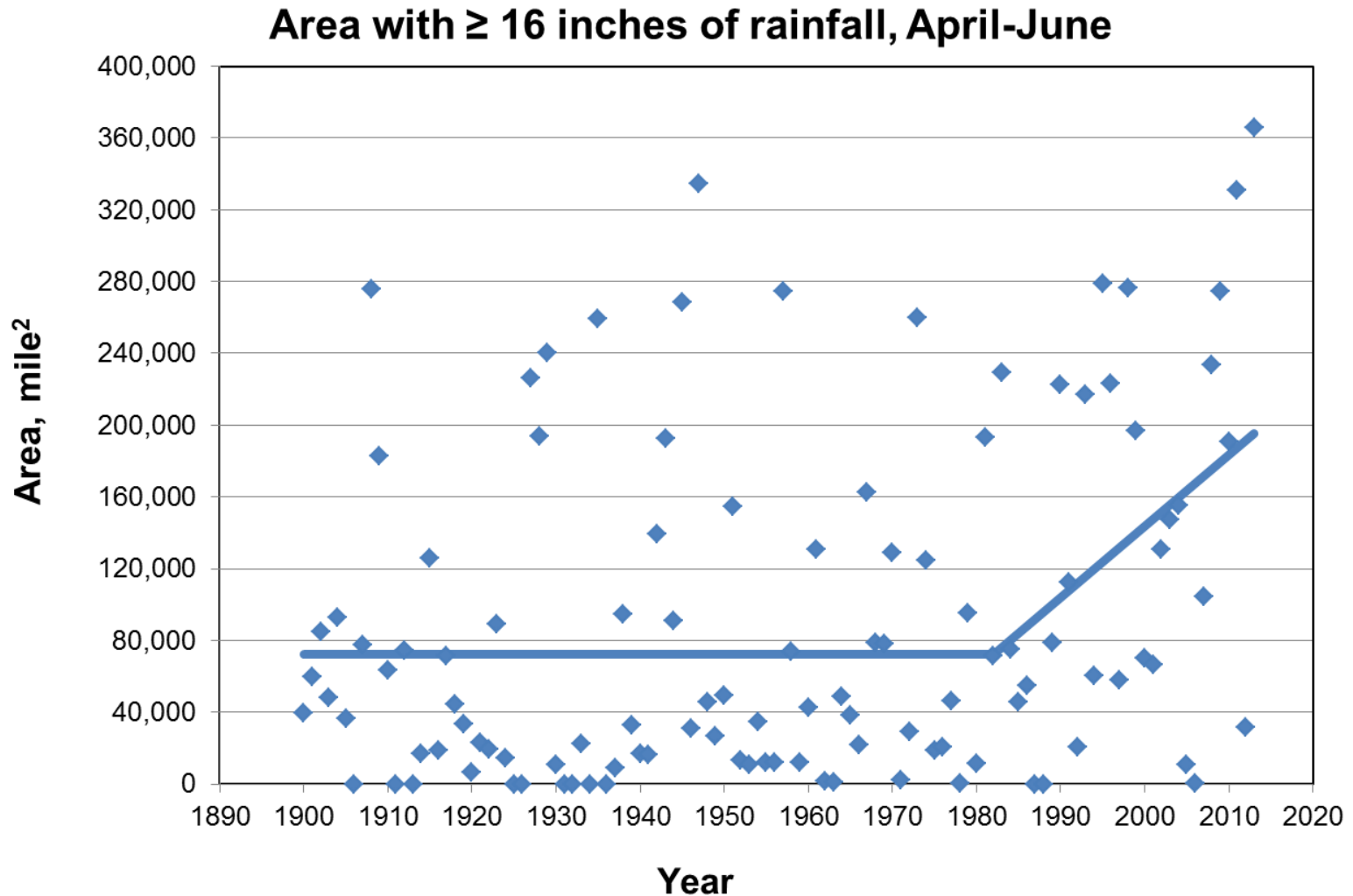
Outlined areas > 16 inches rain April-June
2008 2009



2 billion bushels of
lost yield potential
= \$10 billion



...and the wet area (i.e. the market) is expanding



This problem can be corrected
by applying more N fertilizer

But less than 10% of farmers
have done so

WHY NOT?

Lack of decision support



Product: Decision Support

- Which fields have problems? Which are OK?
- How much yield am I losing?
- How much more fertilizer do I need?

Platform: Remote Sensing

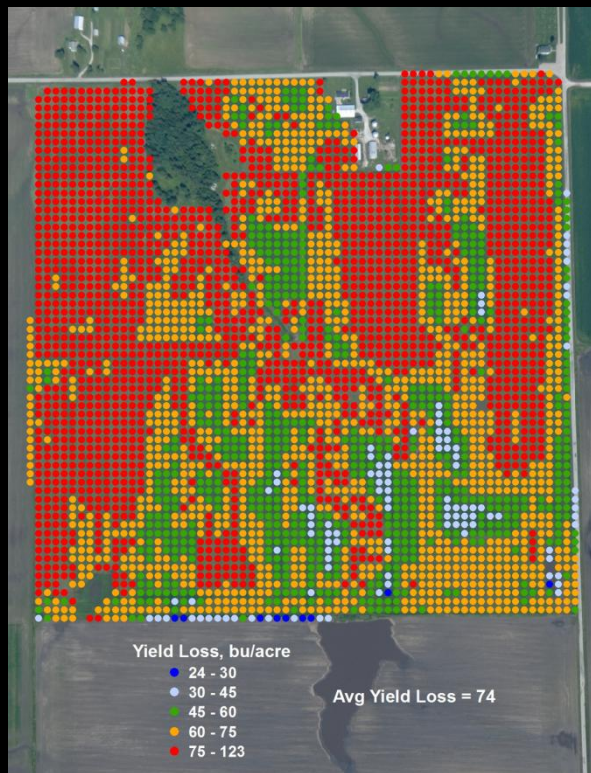
- Healthy corn is dark green
- N-deficient corn is light green
- You can see it from the air
- Can survey LARGE areas quickly

NVision:

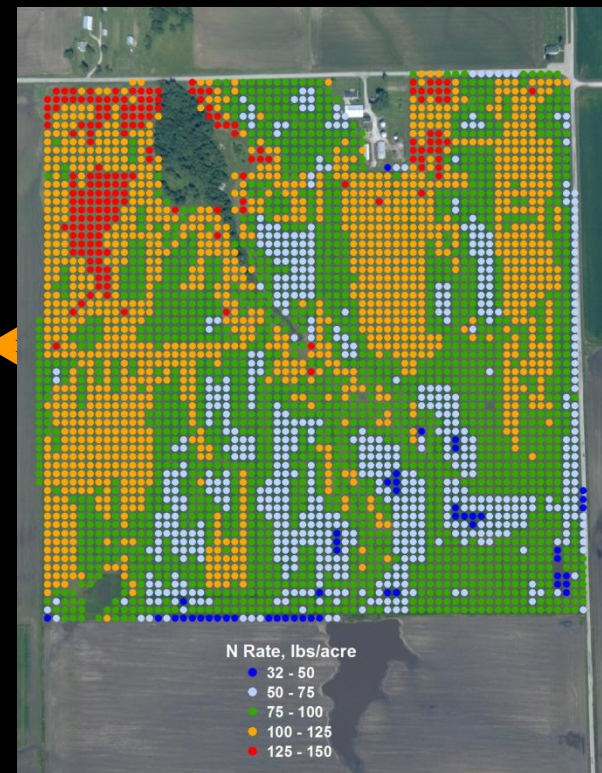
quantitative decision support



aerial photo



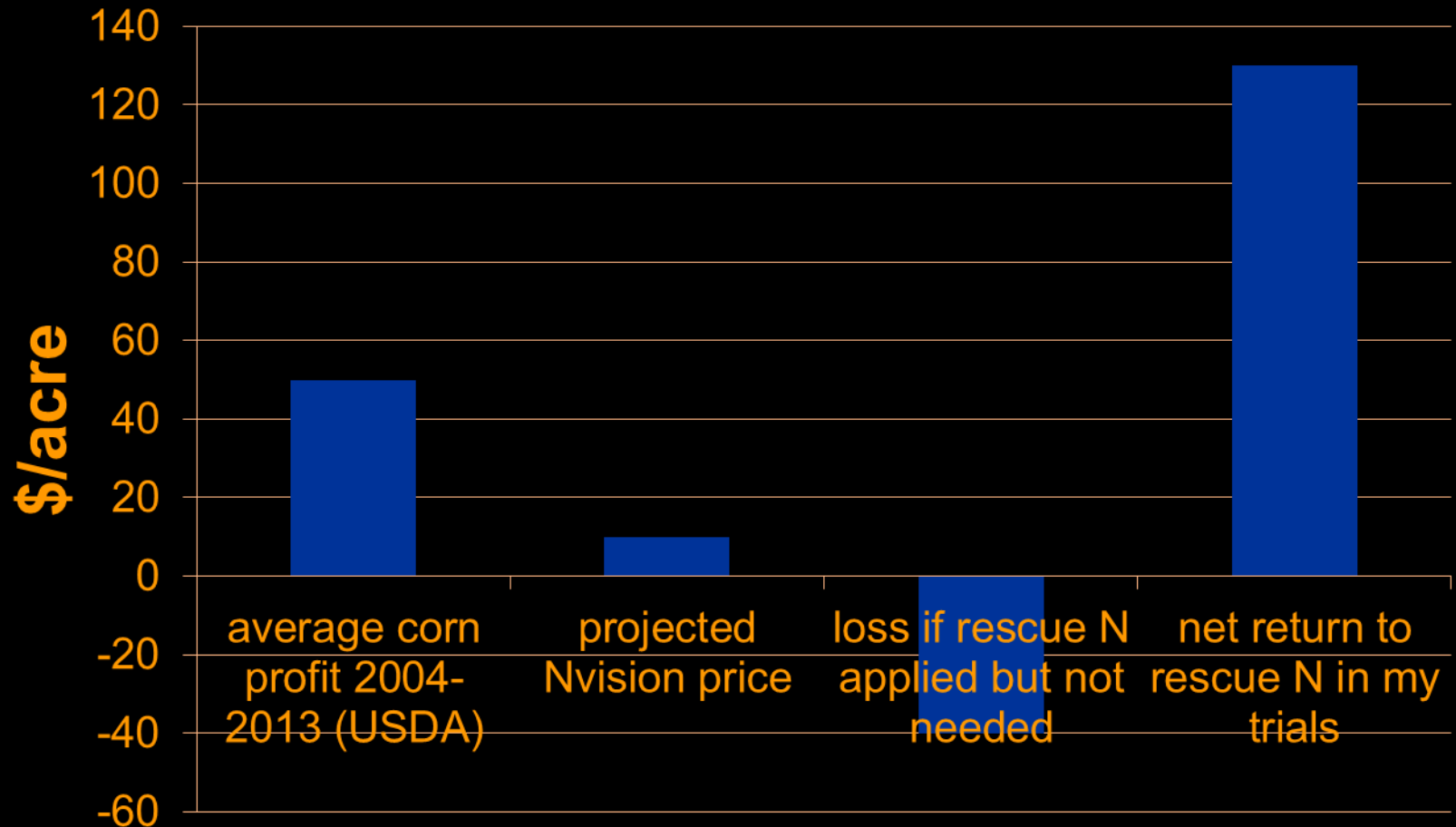
yield loss map
(ave 74)



N rate map:
fix the problem

Where's the money?

cost vs benefit



NVision in the market

- **Patents issued June 2012, Aug 2013**
- **Main competing product is crop canopy sensors**
 - Mounted on ground rigs
 - Can do a good job in individual fields, but can't tell you which fields to go to
- Simulation models are a new entry in the market—could compete, could complement

Market Strategy

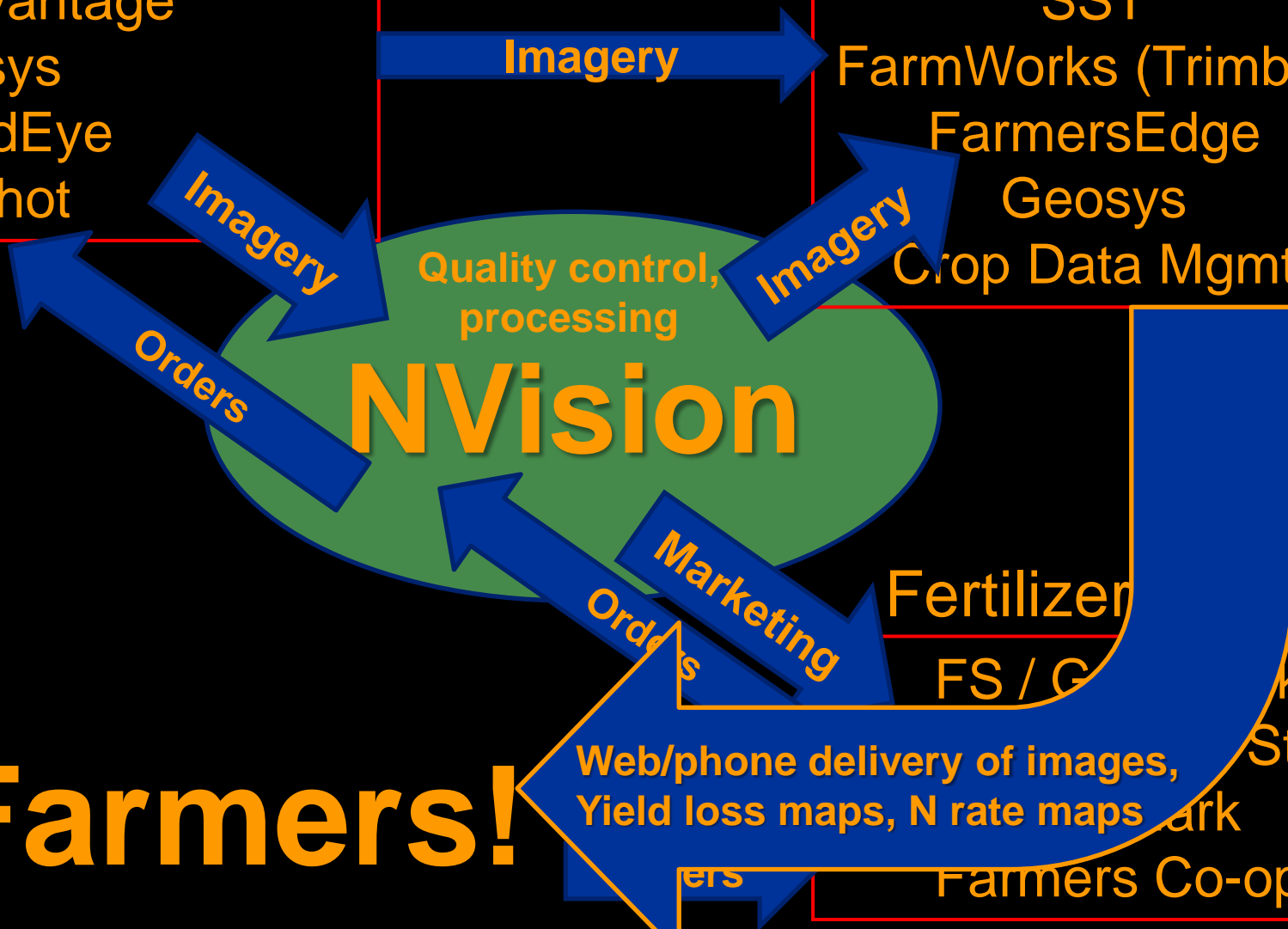
- **Approach customers (farmers) via fertilizer sellers**
- **Seek agreements with corporate offices**
 - **But also market at individual locations**
- **Distribute product via agricultural cloud / software providers already used by fertilizer sellers**

Remote sensing providers

- Geovantage
- Geosys
- RapidEye
- SatShot

Ag software / cloud providers

- SST
- FarmWorks (Trimble)
- FarmersEdge
- Geosys
- Crop Data Mgmt



Farmers!

- Fertilizer
- FS / G
- States
- mark
- Farmers Co-op

Development Milestones: Remote Sensing

- 1. Test satellite imagery to validate**
 - Only imagery obtained from airplanes is validated**
- 2. Develop strategy: optimal use of satellites, airplanes, drones**
- 3. Negotiate prices and other terms with remote sensing providers**
 - Contracts if appropriate**
 - Redundancy to guarantee service**
 - Include airplanes for weather flexibility**

Development Milestones: Information Processing

- 1. Develop channels for information flow to agricultural cloud / software providers**
- 2. Develop automated processing systems**
 - a. Interface with or operate within systems of ag cloud providers**
- 3. Develop customer (farmer, fertilizer seller) interface and supporting software**

Development Milestones:

Marketing

1. Marketing campaign to educate major fertilizer sellers

- Corporate offices first, then key sales locations

2. ROI campaign

- Average cost \$50/acre, average return \$170/acre in 11 on-farm trials with rescue N fertilizer after excess rain
- Based on 4-year average prices for corn and N fertilizer
- High ROI for farmer means excellent opportunities for Nvision (marketing & coordination), fertilizer sellers, ag cloud providers, & remote sensing providers

Nvision: Summary

- Nitrogen is lost in wet weather, corn yield is lost (\$10 billion 2008-2011)
- Remote sensing can visualize nitrogen deficiency
- Patented process converts remote sensing to quantitative decision support tools
 - Applying more fertilizer rescues corn yields

Nvision: Summary

- Existing capacity can be harnessed to support this product
 - Remote sensing
 - Agricultural cloud / software
 - Fertilizer sellers
- Someone has to market the product and coordinate the above players
- **Propose a new entity: NVision**