



Boots on the Ground...Bringing the yield gap analysis back to the farm

Soybean Research Protocol: Two Planting Dates

Yield Gap Project: Analysis of producer survey data performed during our previous 3-year NCSRP-funded benchmarking project revealed: (1) an average yield gap of 20-30% between current farmer yield and potential yield as determined by climate, soil, and genetics, and (2) a number of agronomic practices that, for a given soil-climate context, can be fine-tuned to close the gap and improve soybean producer profit.

The goal is to compare the yield and profit for earlier planting dates. Earlier planting dates have been shown higher yields than later planted soybean.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

- Plant soybeans at two planting dates similar to plot layout shown below

Planting dates:

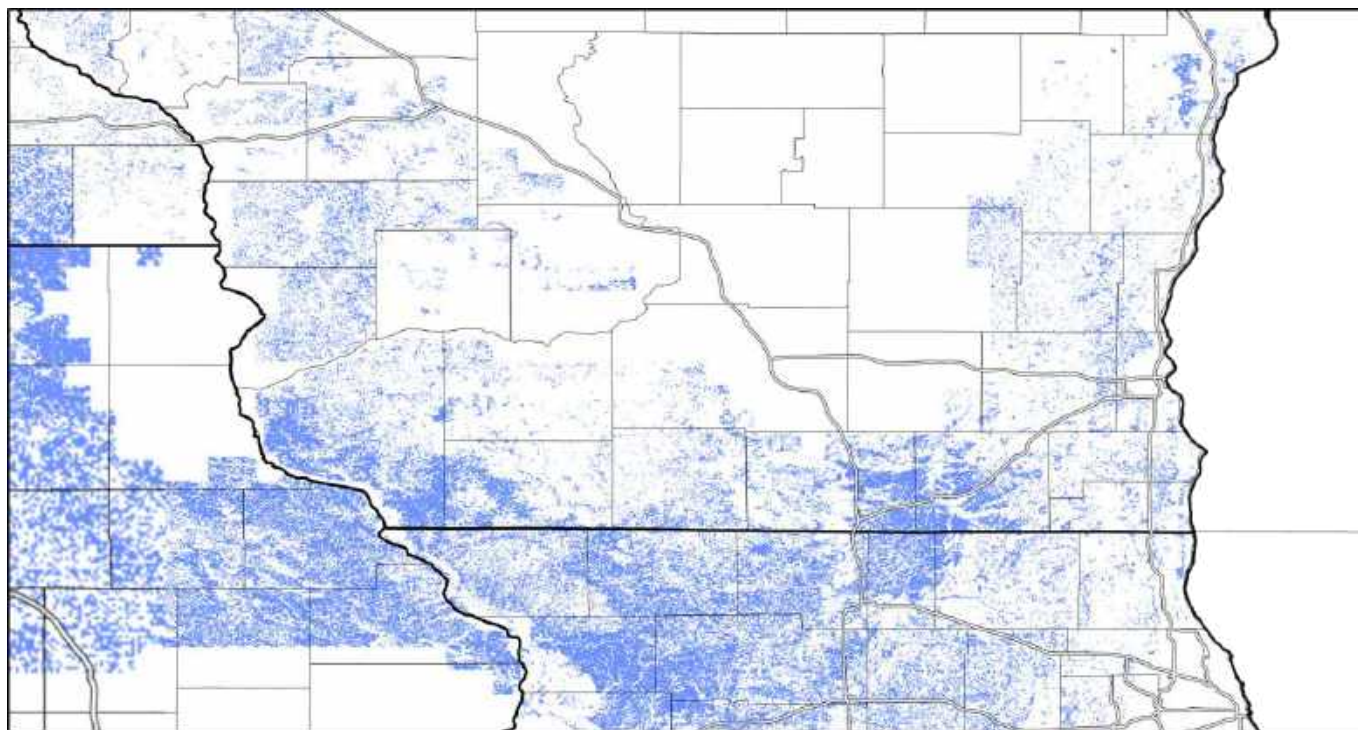
Last week of April or as soon as conditions allow

Two to three weeks later

- Harvest the plot using a well calibrated yield monitor
- Provide the data and management information to us

AREA OF INTEREST

- We are looking specifically for fields shown in the shaded areas below.
- These fields can be in WI, IL, IA or MN



WHAT WE WILL DO FOR YOU:

- Protect the confidentiality of your yield data
- Detailed analysis of the data from your farm
- Engage participating farmers in a farmer-to-farmer network to share ideas on soybean BMP's

SUGGESTED PLOT LAYOUT

The following is an example treatment design for a two planting date comparison. A total of 3 pairs (replicates) need to be harvested for this trial (4 is preferred). The same variety and management practices should be used across the entire study area.

NOTE: Yield from the full header width needs to be obtained for each treatment strip shown below.

Replication 1	Planting date 1	Yield from header width:
	Planting date 2	Yield from header width:
Replication 2	Planting date 2	Yield from header width:
	Planting date 1	Yield from header width:
Replication 3	Planting date 1	Yield from header width:
	Planting date 2	Yield from header width:
Replication 4	Planting date 2	Yield from header width:
	Planting date 1	Yield from header width:

To get involved with this research, please contact us

Shawn P. Conley
Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist
608-800-7056
spconley@wisc.edu

John M. Gaska
Senior Research Agronomist
608-220-2693
jmgaska@wisc.edu