

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STATE AGENCY WINS A FARMING COMPETITION?

MARTY LINK

WATER QUALITY DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR
NEBRASKA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

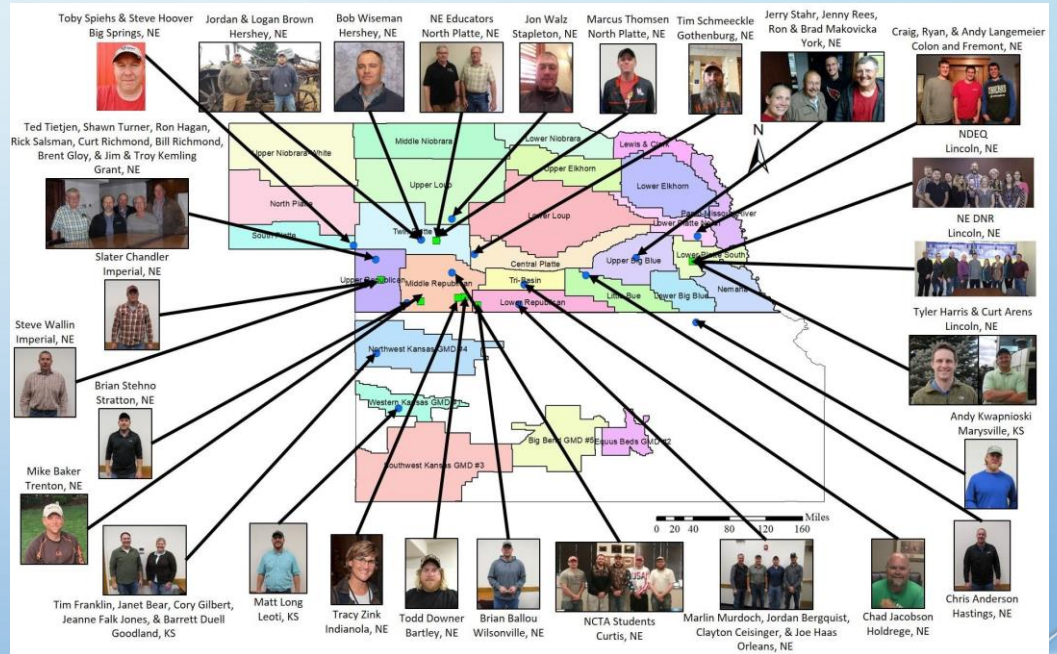
UNL TESTING AG PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS (TAPS)



FARMING COMPETITION WHERE PARTICIPANTS MAKE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS TO RAISE CENTER PIVOT IRRIGATED CORN AND SORGHUM.

PRIZES:

- 1ST MOST PROFITABLE
- 2ND HIGHEST INPUT USE EFFICIENCY
- 3RD GREATEST GREEN YIELD (% OF MOST PROFITABLE)



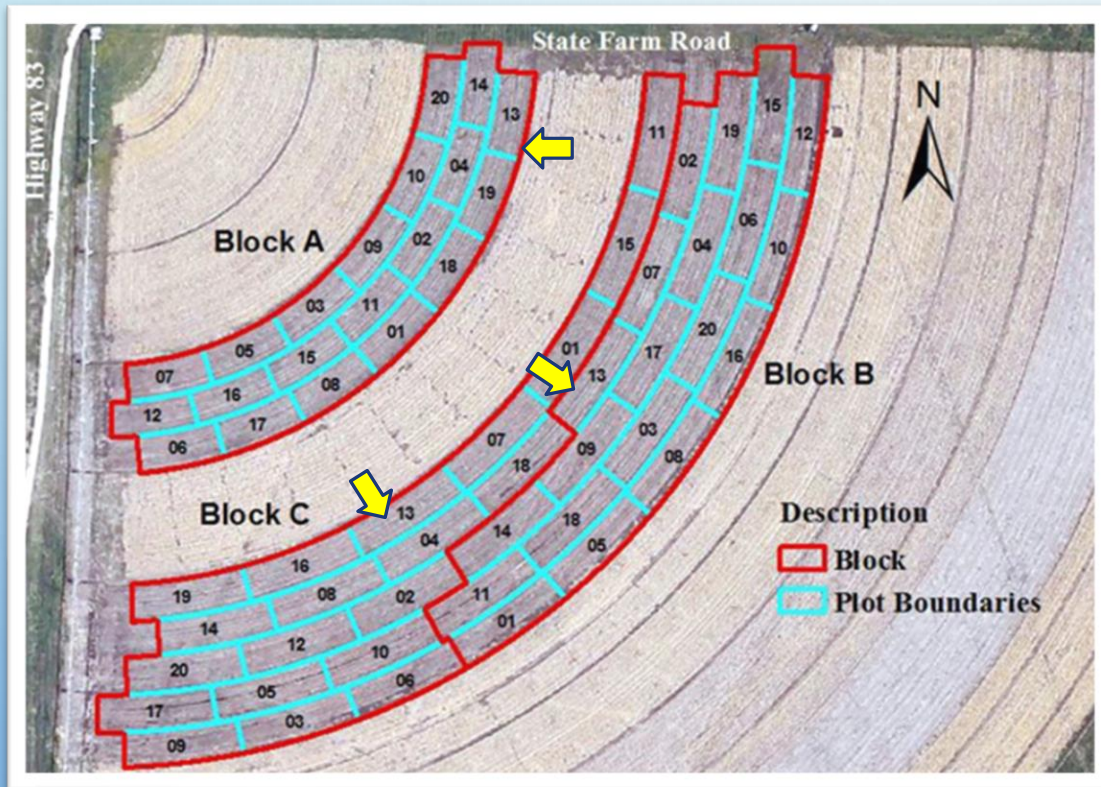
Source: 2018 UNL Taps Banquet Report

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS NDEE DOING IN A FARMING COMPETITION?



LEARNING FROM THE EXPERTS!

ON FARM DECISIONS



Source: 2018 UNL Taps Banquet Report



WHERE WE STARTED...



Soil and Yield Information

Soil Texture	Cozad Silt Loam
Soil Organic Matter	1.4
Soil Test Nitrate – N	40 lb
Previous Crop	Beans
APH	225 bu/ac

Source: 2018 UNL Taps
Banquet Report

CROP INSURANCE

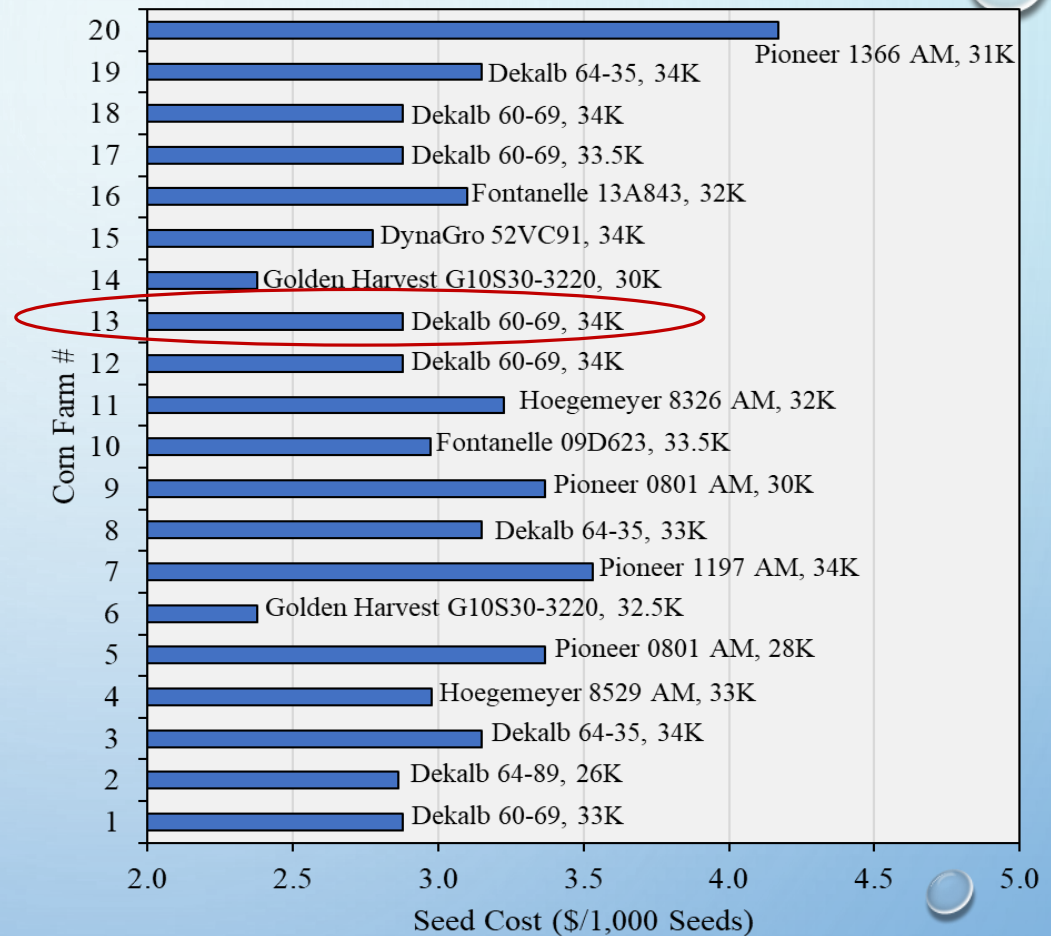
Insurance Selection

Coverage	RP - OU
Level	65%
Hail Protection	2/10
Hail Coverage Amount	\$150
Wind Endorsement	N/A



SEED HYBRID AND PLANTING DENSITY

Dekalb DK60-69	
Planting Date	May 1 st
Seed Selection	110 day corn, 34K Pop./ac
Cost	\$230.17 per bag (\$97.92/acre)



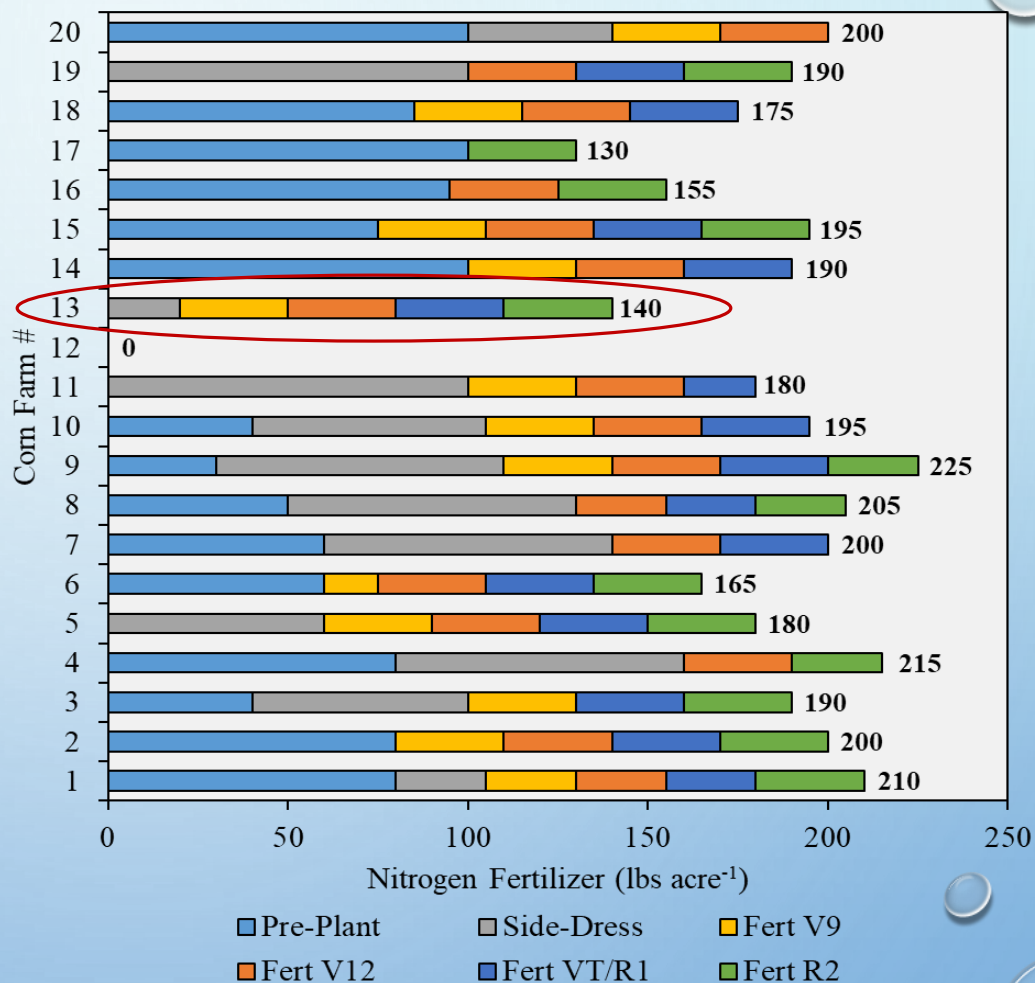
Source: 2018 UNL Taps Banquet Report



NITROGEN APPLICATION

Nitrogen Decisions		
Pre-Plant	0	26-Apr-18
Sidedress	20	31-May-18
Fertigation at V9	30	22-Jun-18
Fertigation at V12	30	28-Jun-18
Fertigation at VT/R1	30	12-Jul-18
Fertigation at R2	30	26-Jul-18

Total N applied was 140# which was less than the UNL recommended 175#



IRRIGATION DECISION TOOLS

Weather Forecast:

- DTN Progressive Farmer

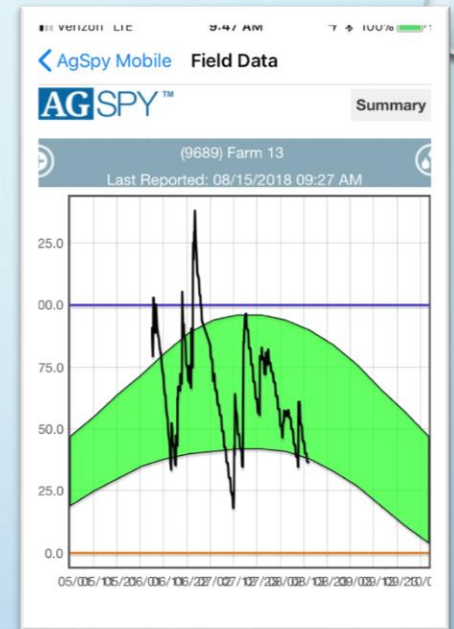
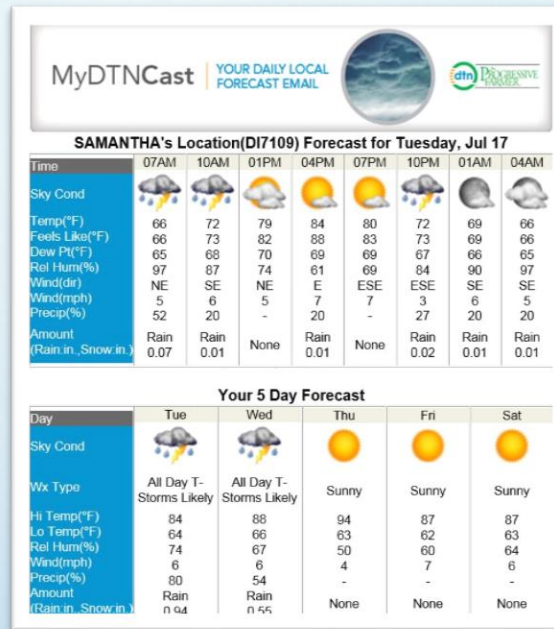
Aqua spy:

- Soil Moisture Measurements

PHYTECH:

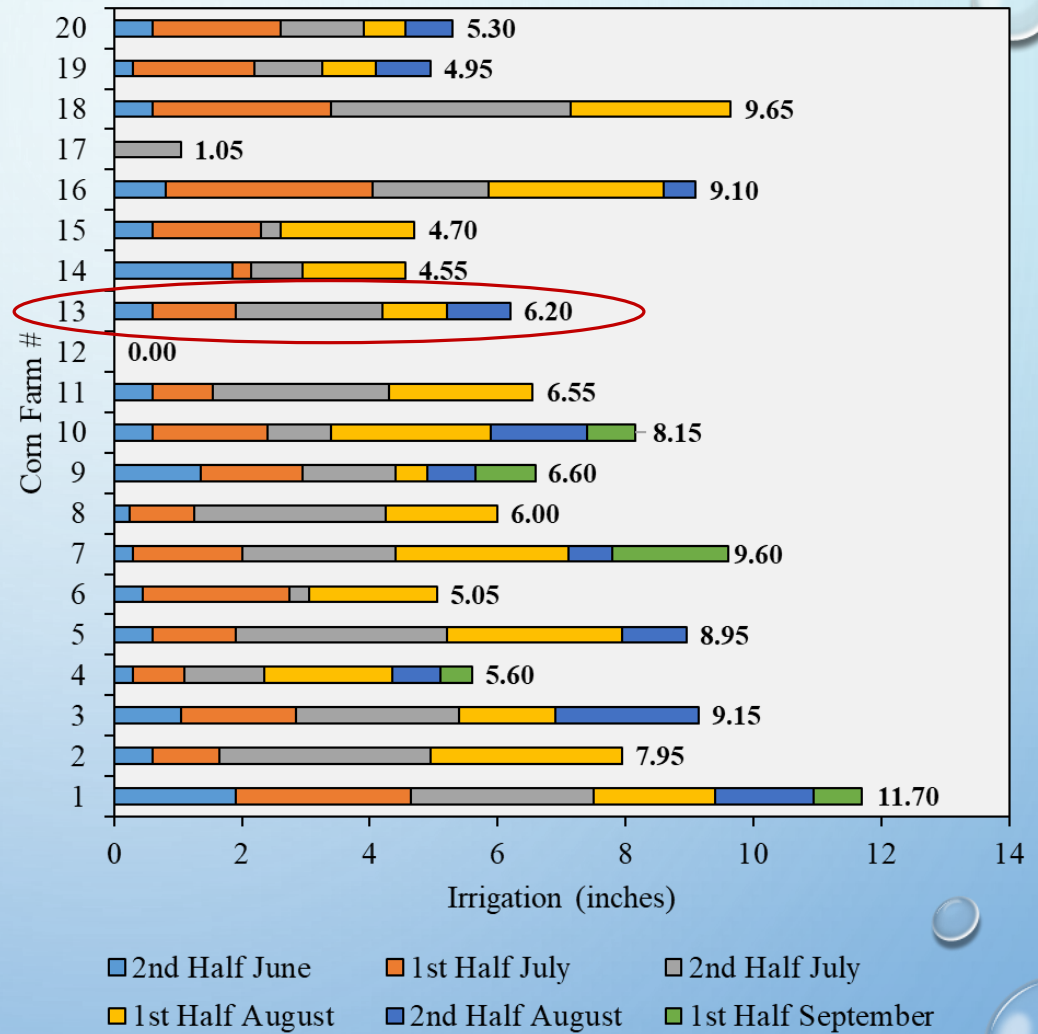
- PLANT STRESS MEASUREMENTS

WE USED TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS
EASY TO LEARN ON THE FLY....



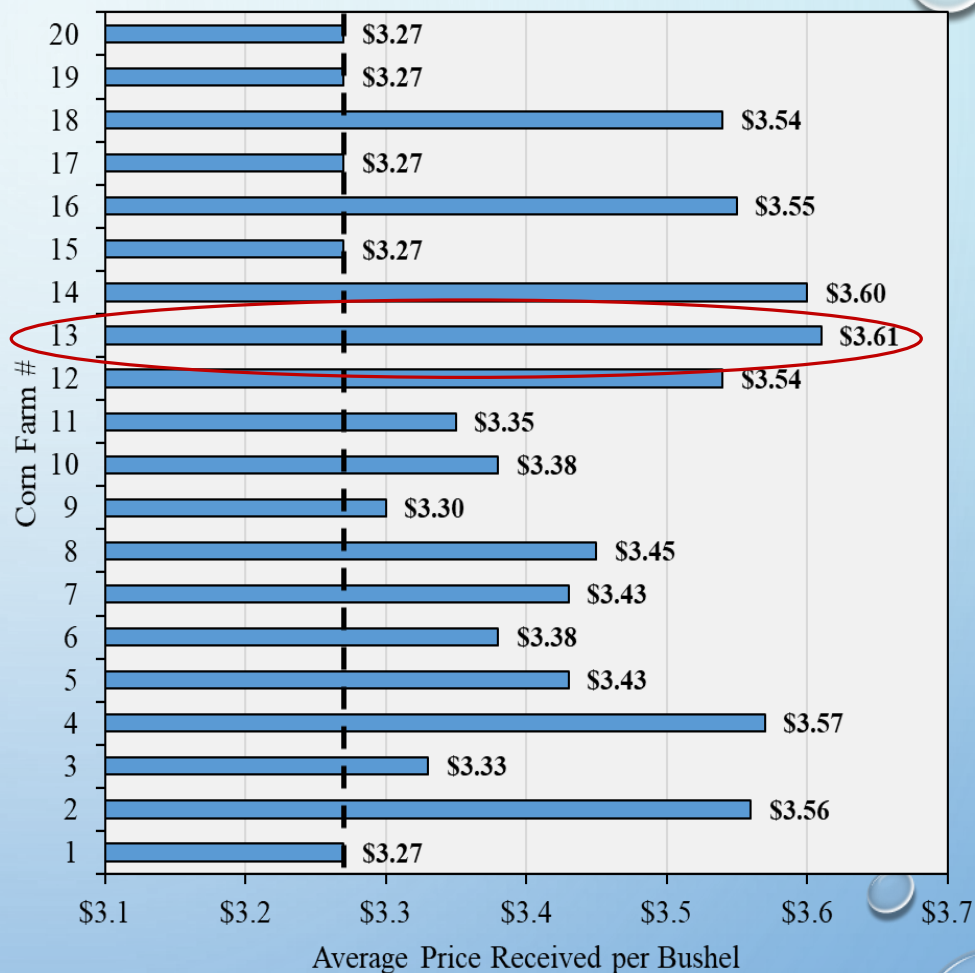
IRRIGATION

Date	Inches	Type
6/22	0.30	Fertigation
6/28	0.30	Fertigation
7/12	0.30	Fertigation
7/13	1.00	Irrigation
7/16	1.00	Irrigation
7/23	1.00	Irrigation
7/26	0.30	Fertigation
8/9	1.00	Irrigation
8/23	1.00	Irrigation



MARKETING DECISIONS

Date	Price	Quantity
March 29	\$3.91	202,500
May 3	\$3.96	101,250
July 31	\$3.685	101,250
August 15	3.685	33,750
November 1	\$3.26	334,350



UNL FIELD DAY



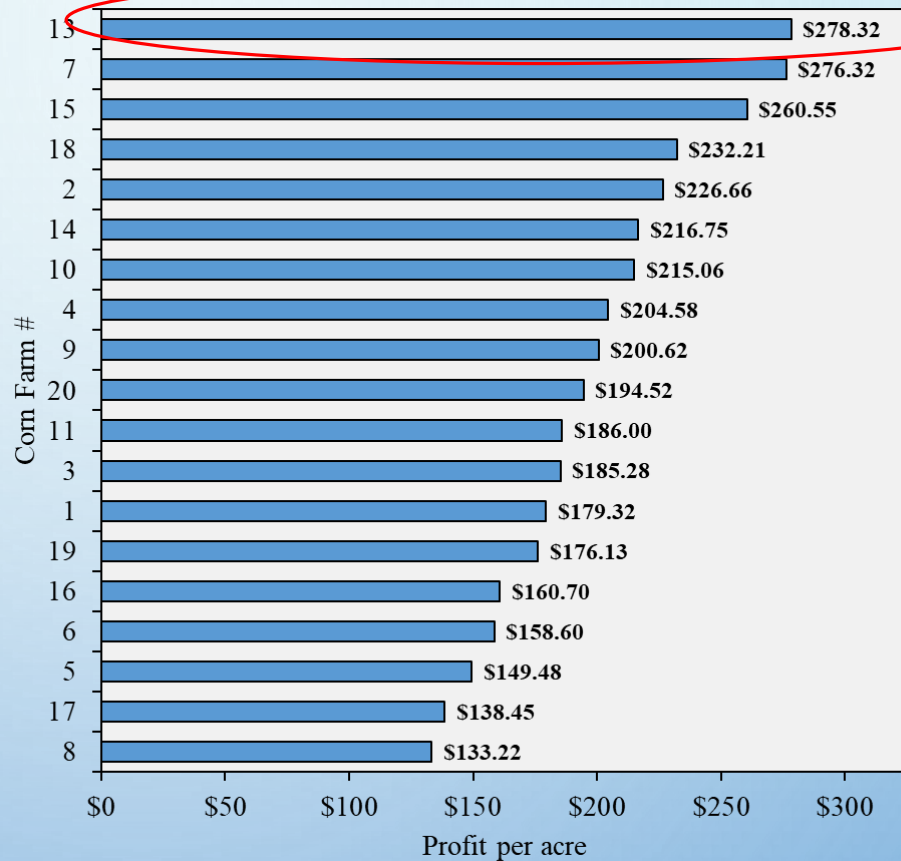
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AND THE WINNER IS...



MOST PROFITABLE & 2ND IN EFFICIENCY

- PRODUCTION COST \$649.40 (PER ACRE)
- YIELD = 257.7 BU/ACRE (137.6 TO 288.5)
- FARM #15 WON MOST EFFICIENT & 2ND HIGHEST YIELD
- FARM #7 WON HIGHEST YIELD AND 2ND IN PROFITABILITY & 6TH IN EFFICIENCY



TAKE AWAY

- **LEARNED FROM THOSE WHO DO IT BEST**

- WE LISTENED AND DID RESEARCH

- **EFFICIENCY ALONE DOESN'T LEAD TO PROFITABILITY**

- ITS COMPLICATED
- HAVE TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE PICTURE
- NEED TO FOCUS ON MORE THAN JUST NITRATE AND WATER USE



- **AS WATER PROFESSIONALS, WE CAN HELP CREATE CHANGE**

- EDUCATION FOR PRODUCERS AND WATER PROFESSIONALS
- INCENTIVIZING NEW TECHNOLOGY USE
- WORKSHOPS BUILT INTO PROJECTS



Oklahoma State University

2019 TAPS

(OSU-TAPS)

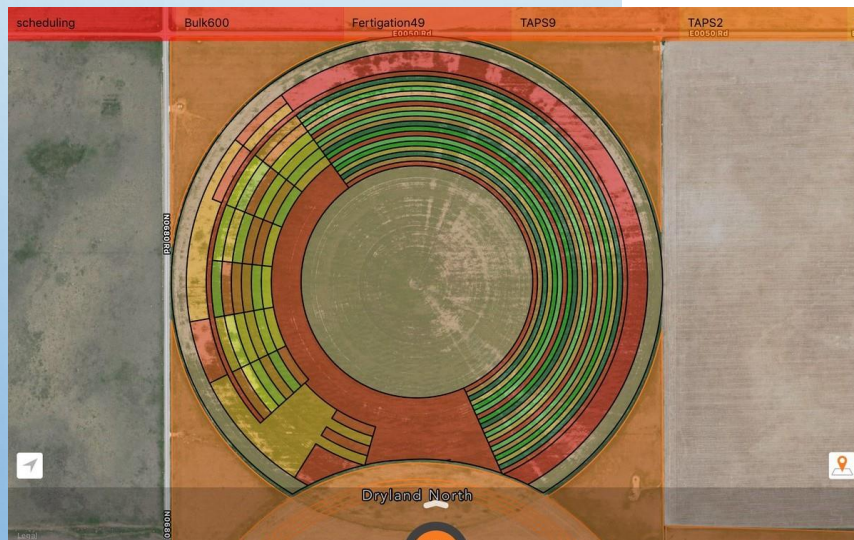


6 farmer led teams

3 OSU led teams

-near Eva OK, in Panhandle

Similar program as UNL



<https://taps.unl.edu/2019-oklahoma-state-university-corn-competition>

QUESTIONS?

