



**PERSISTENCE**  
**DATA MINING**

## **SCALABLE & EFFICIENT AGRICULTURE TESTING SOLUTIONS**

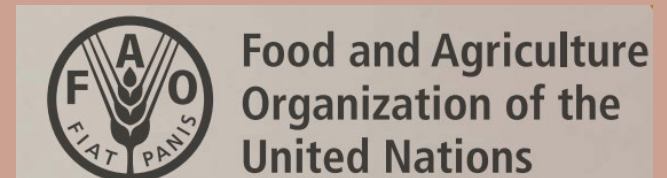
ALTA Presentation  
JULY 2022



# OUR MISSION

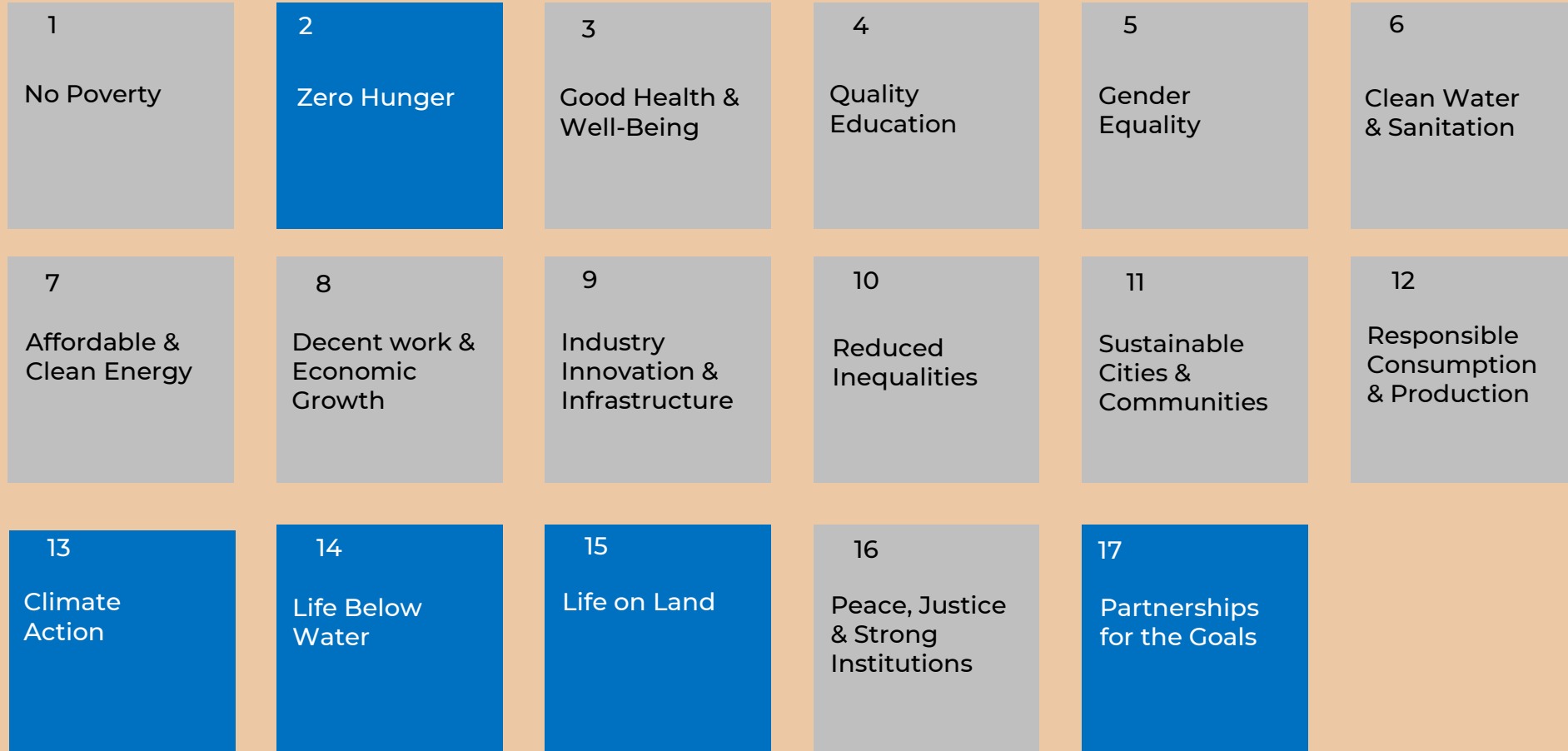
**Cost-Efficient, Automated, and Scalable  
Agriculture Testing That Improves Farm  
Productivity, Reduces Waste, and Enhances  
Soil Fertility**

“Visible and near-infrared (vis-NIR) and mid-infrared (MIR) reflectance spectroscopy has emerged and developed as an important method for quantitative soil analysis, with a potential to become an alternative to the conventional lab-based, wet-chemistry analysis for several soil properties.”



# UNITED NATIONS' 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DEDICATED TO GOALS HIGHLIGHTED BELOW



# Chemical Processing is Expensive and Labor Intensive

	OM
Revenue	\$6.50
Cost	\$5.00
ROI	\$1.50
Accuracy	Moderate

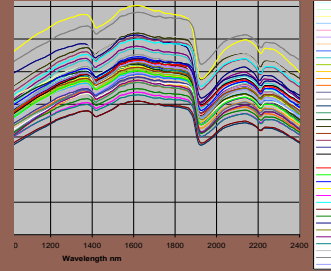
# HOW SOILYTICS WORKS



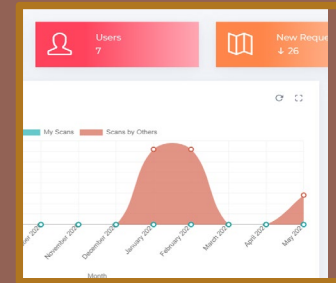
Fast Scanning In Seconds



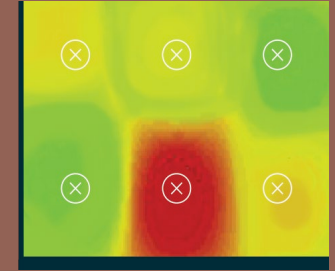
Upload Results To Cloud



Analyze Image Scans For Nutrient Contents

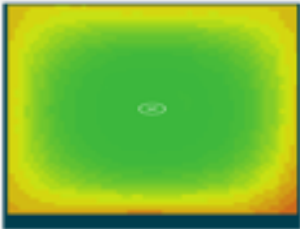



Display Results And Manage Farming Portfolio



Provide Actionable Data for Precision Agriculture (i.e. Fertilization Prescription Maps)

# METHOD COMPARISON

	CHEMICAL LABS	SOILYTICS
<b>PROCESS</b>	Intensive, Manual Samples Sent To Labs	Automated On-Site Testing
<b>SPEED</b>	Slow 1-2 Weeks	Fast Near Real-Time
<b>ACCURACY</b>	Inherently Inaccurate Due To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chemical Changes During Handling/Transit</li><li>• High Probability of Human Error</li></ul>	High Accuracy Machine learning algorithms
<b>EXPENSE</b>	\$8-12 Basic Soil Test \$25-\$125 For Additional Tests ( <u>i.e.</u> Nitrogen)	\$3-5 (Comprehensive Nutrient Test)
<b>PRECISION</b>	 Less Granular (Every 2.5 - 4 acres)	 More granular (Every Acre for Same Cost)

# COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

## BEST HYPERSPECTRAL SCANNING SOLUTION IN THE INDUSTRY


✓ Highly Accurate

✓ Fast, Actionable Data

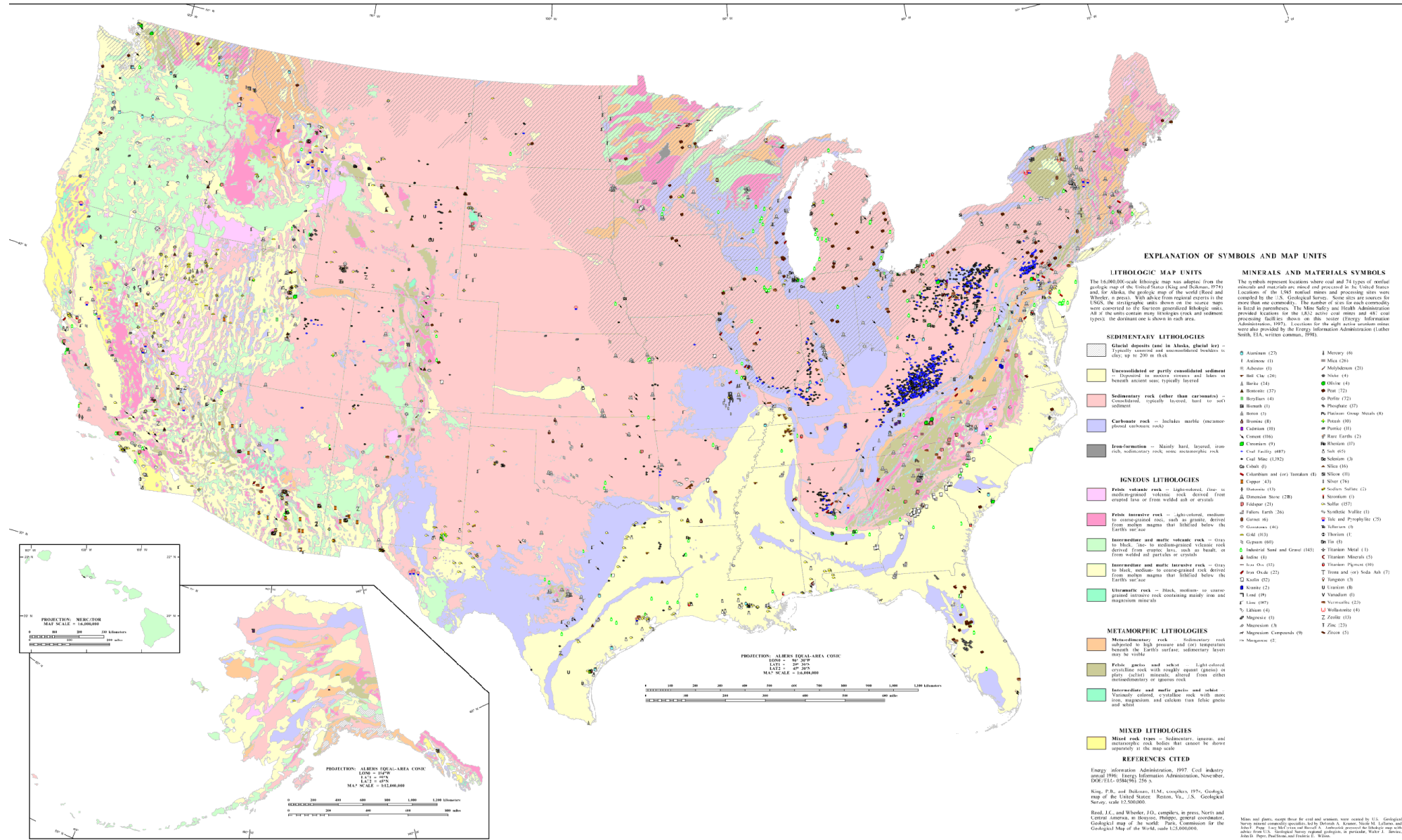
✓ Scalable

Other Technologies: Current Aerial & Satellite Systems Do Not Test At Surface Level And Do Not Provide Actionable Data

- High Resolution Scanning Bandwidth (350 - 2500 nm)
- Ongoing Data Integrity
- Comparison Of Authoritative Data Sources
- Continually Improving Algorithms Based on Machine Learning

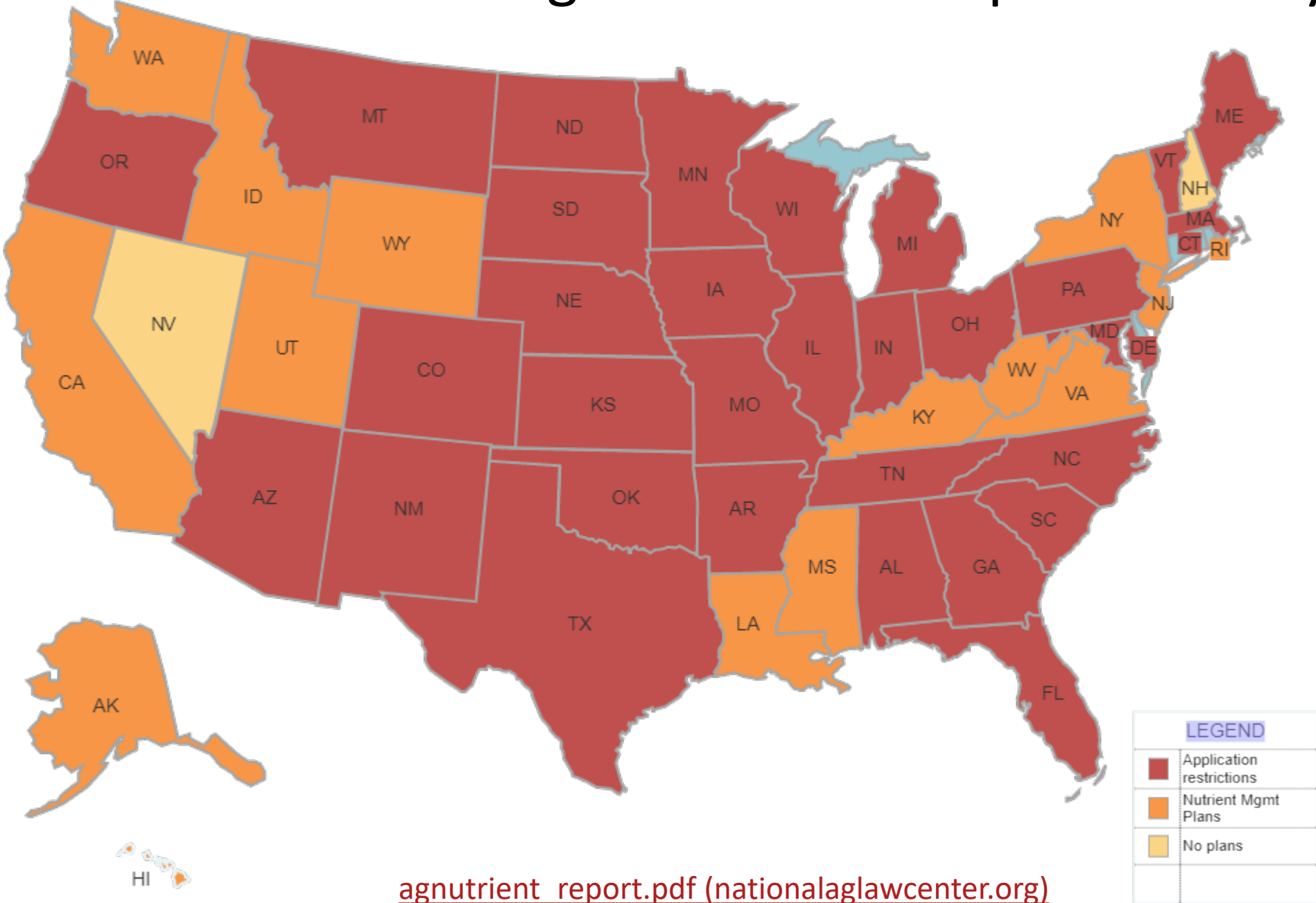
	 <b>SOILYTICS</b>	<b>Soiloptix</b>	<b>SoilCares</b>
Subsurface Testing	✓	✓	✓
Actionable Data	✓	✓	✓
Methodology	Hyperspectral (IR, NIR, SWIR) 350-2500 nm	Gamma Rays	Hyperspectral (Near IR) 1300 – 2550 nm
Resolution	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>
Accuracy	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>

# USGS MINERALOGY MAP OF USA



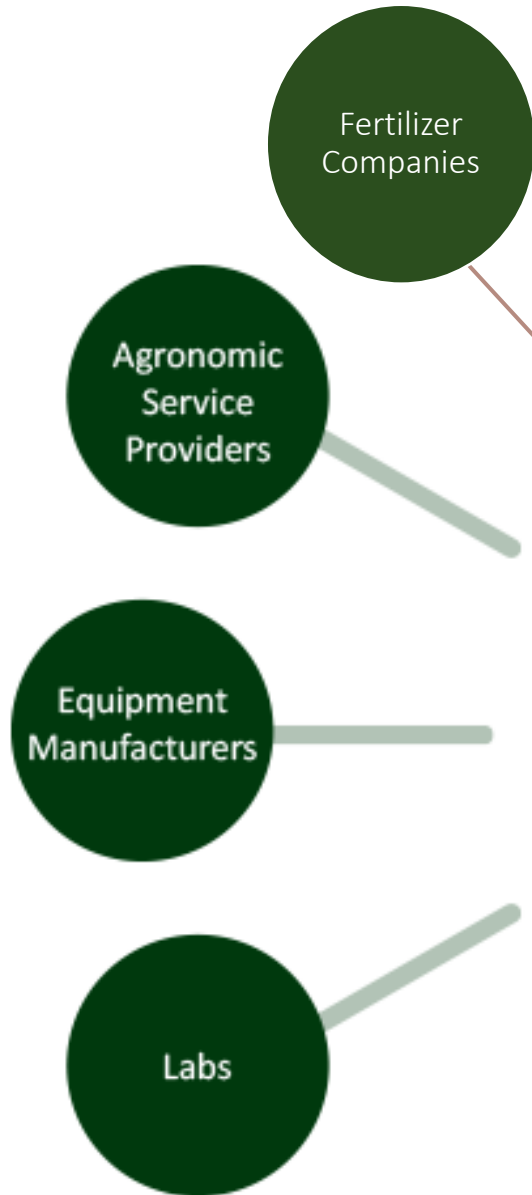


# Nutrient Management Plan Requirement by States



[agnutrient\\_report.pdf \(nationalaglawcenter.org\)](http://nationalaglawcenter.org)

# OUR STRATEGY



We are currently working with a number of large Equipment Manufacturers, Labs and Agronomic Service Providers to test and deploy services. We will provide better data to the users, more quickly.



Our method makes it easier, faster, and less expensive for labs to process samples while increasing granularity for higher profits for the Farmer,

# MILESTONES: Case Study History

2015 November- Acquired FAR 333 to fly sUAS commercially

2015 June-Registered ARMDs as an aircraft

2016 August- Wrote the standard for commercial flight of sUAS at night

2016 May- Spectral Lab results with promising accuracy from Illinois field

2017 July- In field analysis at 1 foot height discovered sUAS would not work

2017 May Infield work using 400-1700 NM spectrometer in South

2018 March India samples

2018 June USDA ARS Collaboration

2018 June Solum

2018 Dec Montana

2019 May Oklahoma multiple lab comparison

2019 June Full season hemp study

2019 Sept In lab collaboration

2020 March continued in lab collaboration

2020 Sept Multiple state multiple lab study

2021 Jan- USDA NRCS data share

2021 November completed 4-year study in Montana with cost and yield analysis

# MILESTONES: Technology Buildout

- 2016 Built ARMDS for remote
- 2017 February Version 1 of acquisition software was built for 1<sup>st</sup> sensor
- 2018 December SoilHawk integration began
- 2019 January Version 2 of acquisition software was built for high performance sensor
- 2020 January Version 1 of Portal was built
- 2021 February Backend processor and database integration
- 2021 March version 2 of portal was programmed
- 2021 June Version 3 of acquisition software started
- 2022 February proprietary sensor buildout started



# QUIT TREATING YOUR SOIL LIKE DIRT!!

Improving soil health through  
hyperspectral soil analysis

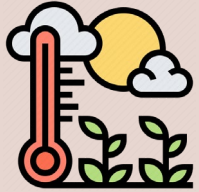


“If you can’t measure, you can’t manage it.”

Reliable data is essential to manage performance and identify areas of improvement.

How good are your metrics?

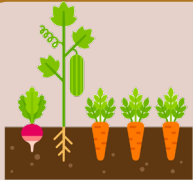
# BENEFITS OF IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH



ENVIRONMENT &  
CLIMATE



ECONOMIC  
SECURITY



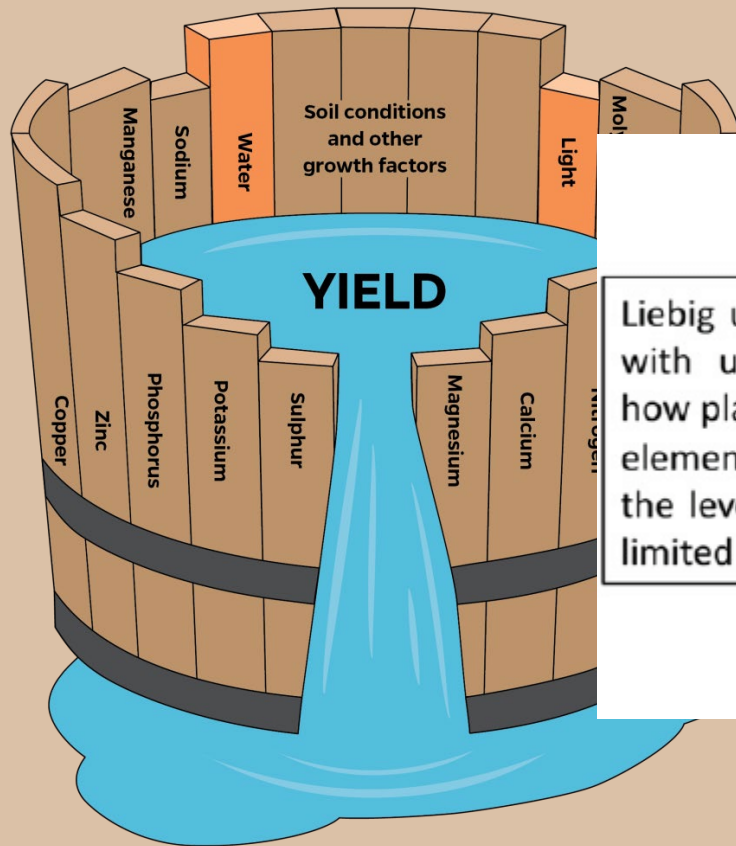
NUTRITIOUS  
FOOD



WATER  
SUSTAINABILITY

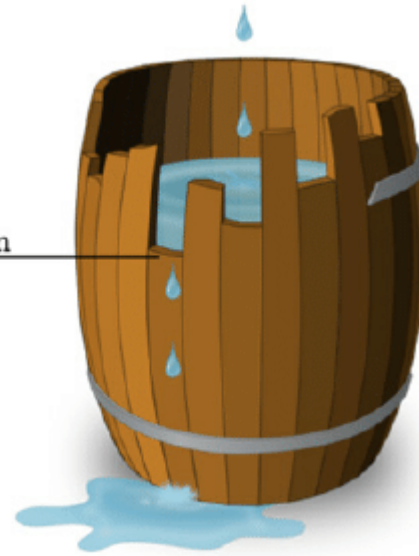
Actionable and accurate soil testing is essential to address soil nutrient deficiencies and help restore soil fertility.

# Liebig's Law of the Minimum



Liebig used the image of a barrel with unequal staves to explain how plant growth is limited by the element in shortest supply, just as the level of water in the barrel is limited by the shortest stave.

Minimum



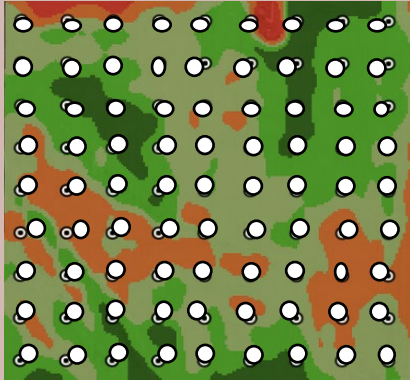


# PILOTS

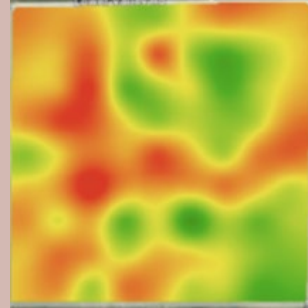
## Marshall Field - Hay Crop in Montana (160 acres)

### Soilytics

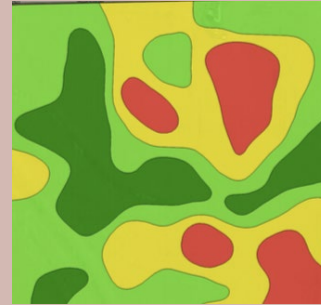
81 samples across field  
Cost: \$207



Zoned mapping results for 81 pts  
(pH Results)

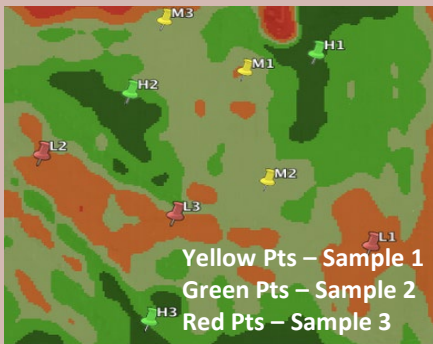


Prescription Map for  
Sulfur (to treat pH)



### Chemical Lab

3 samples from 9 data points  
Cost: \$150



No zone mapping from test  
Average Value Assigned to Each Location

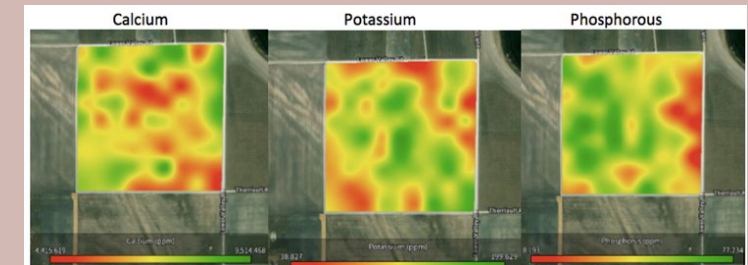


### Results

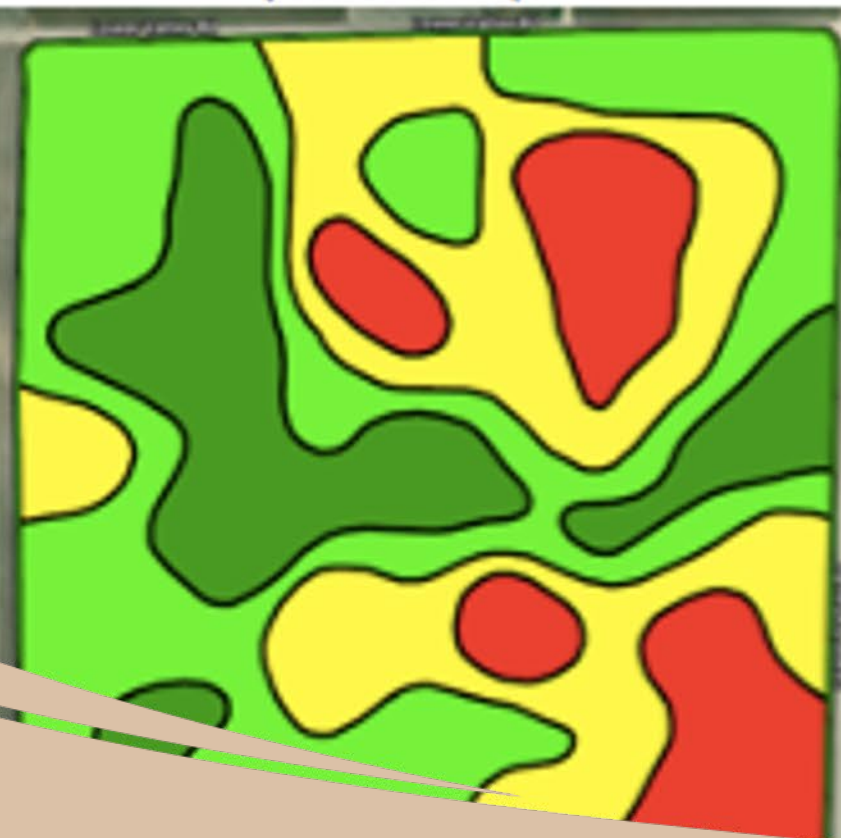
- 27x data points @ similar cost
- Enabled variable rate fertilizer for field
- Saved \$ 1,310 in input costs and decreased 3.7 tons in fertilizer volume

### Noteworthy

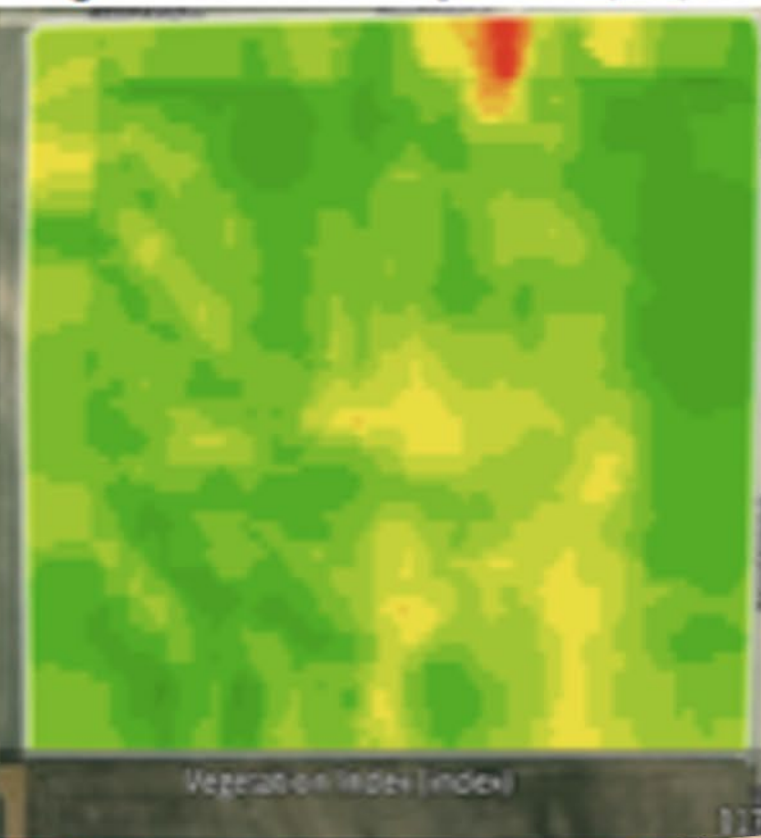
- Zone maps vary significantly for each nutrient



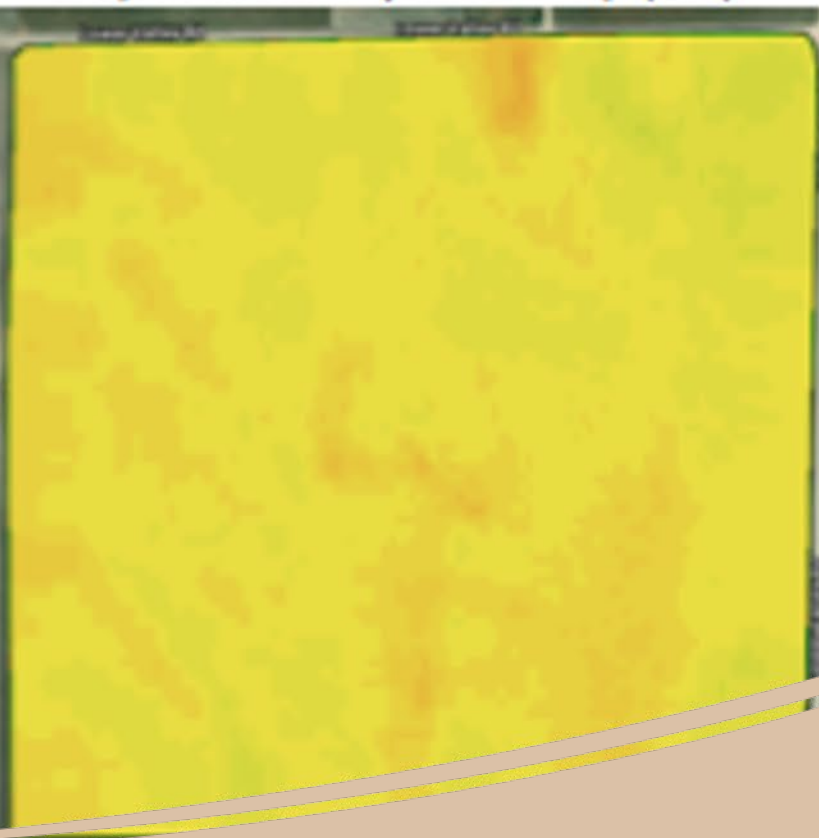
pH Zone map



Vegetative Index Map from 7/22/20



Crop Productivity Index map (CPI)



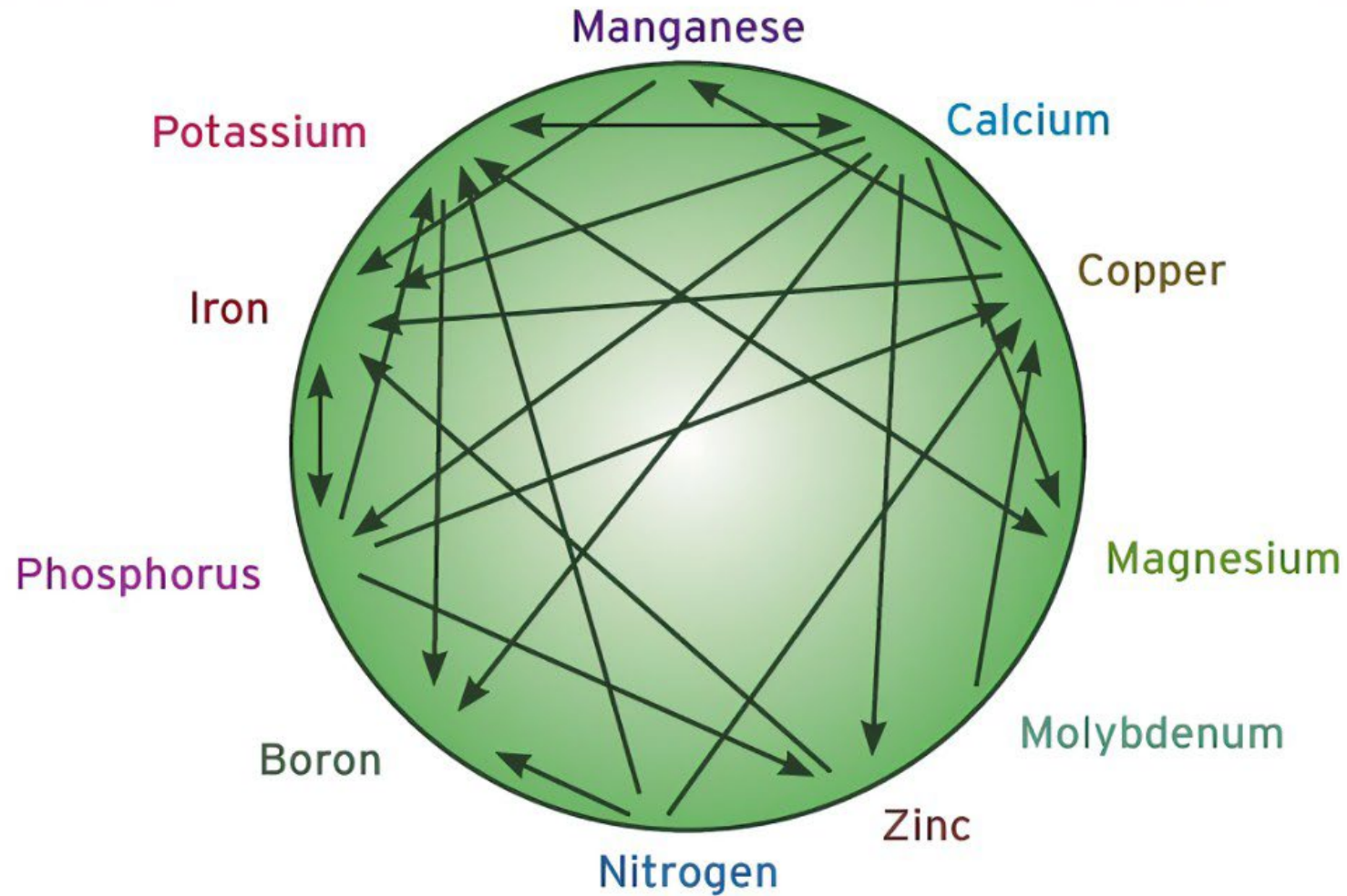
Zone set created for VR  
Elemental Sulfur  
Application

- Variable rate application vs. applying flat-rate saved the grower \$13.06/ac

**Antagonism** →  
The decreased availability of the plant nutrient due to the action of another nutrient.

## Mulder's Chart

← **Synergism**  
Increased availability of a nutrient to the plant due to the increase in the level of another nutrient.



# What's the big deal with Acidity?

Newly Acquired Field

Creston Silt Loam "Prime Farmland"

Pivot Installed with VR capabilities

Goal – High quality, high yielding Alfalfa

Powerzones Ordered, Ground Truthing

Soil sampled by zone

Every zone came back in the 5 pH range

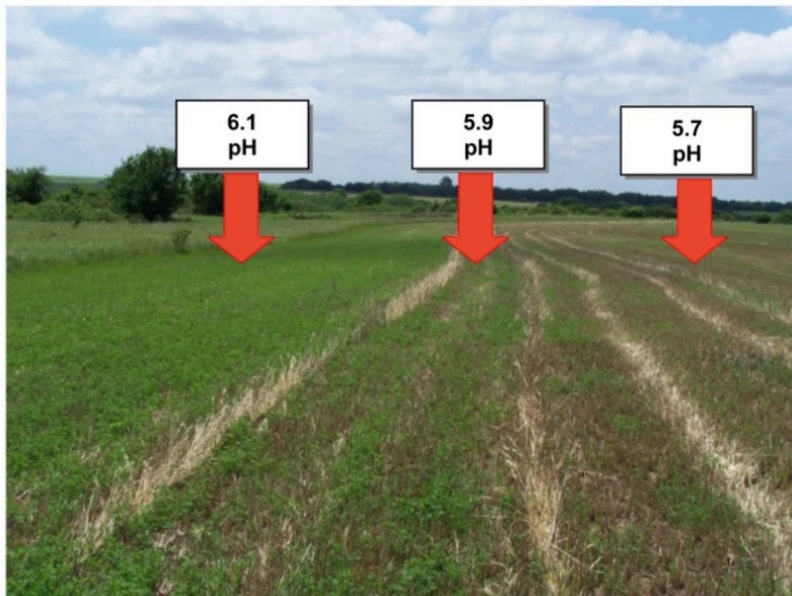


# pH Matters

## Yield Loss Due To Low pH

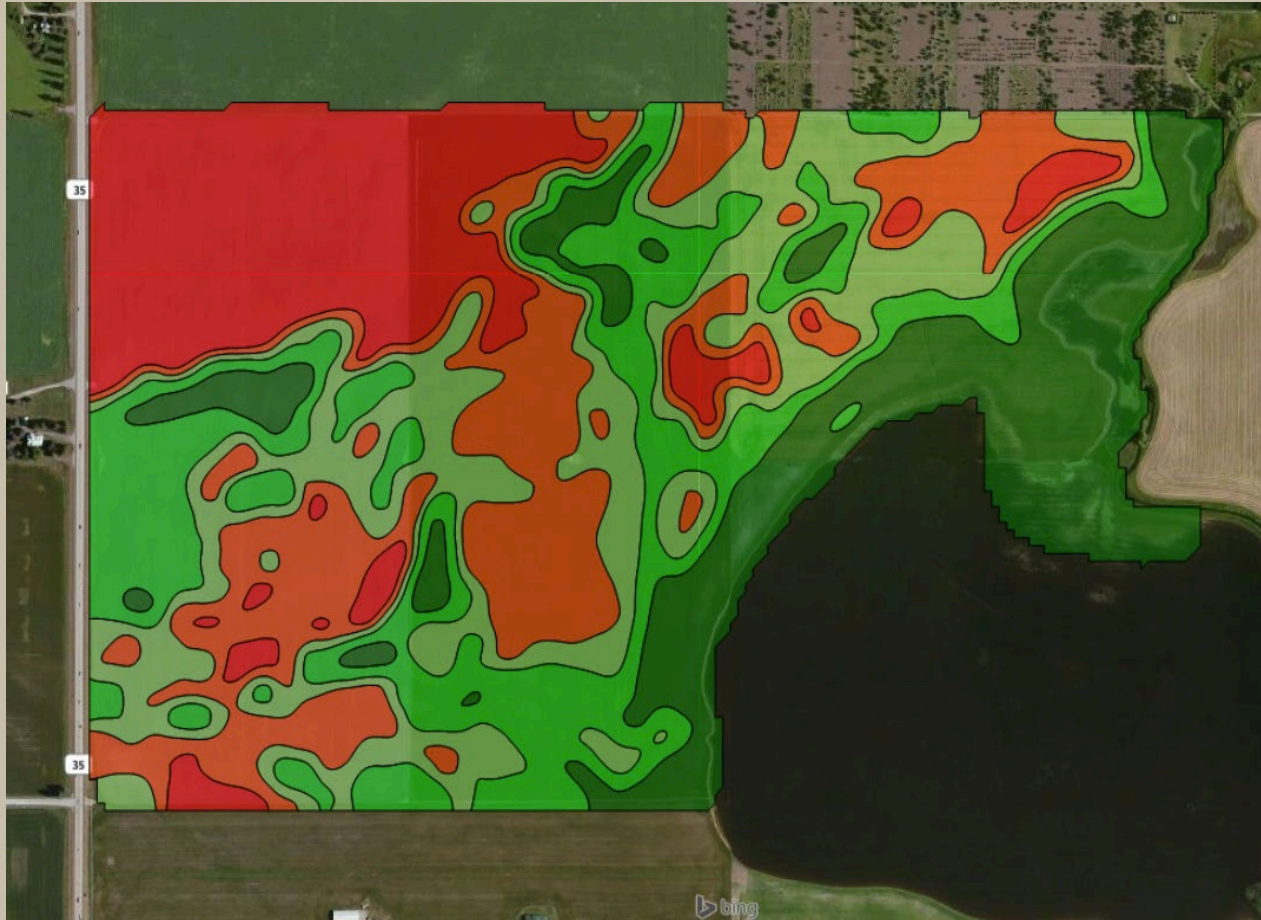
Crop	pH 4.7	pH 5.0	pH 5.7	pH 6.8
Corn	66%	27%	17%	0%
Soybeans	35%	21%	20%	0%
Wheat	32%	24%	11%	0%
Alfalfa	98%	91%	58%	0%

\* Adapted from Smith & Doran 1996



Soil pH	% Fertilizer Efficiency			% Fertilizer Wasted
	N	P	K	
5.0	53	34	52	54
5.5	77	48	77	33
6.0	89	52	100	20
7.0	100	100	100	0

Figure 2. Differences in establishment of alfalfa based on differences in soil pH measured with a hand-held pH meter.



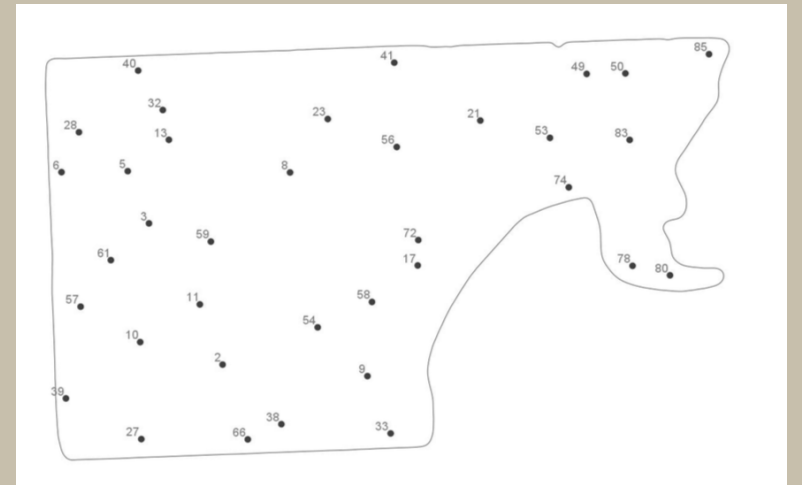
+ ph_SURF		
Zone ID	Zone Name	Acres
5.5000	5.5000	43.04
5.9500	5.9500	44.98
6.2000	6.2000	45.93
6.6000	6.6000	44.9
7.2500	7.2500	43.52

## Bulk Lime Rate

~1 - 2Tn/Ac to move pH to 6.8  
applied by zone

Lime Cost: \$230/Tn

Total Cost 134Ac Field: \$51,060



Trimble SIS



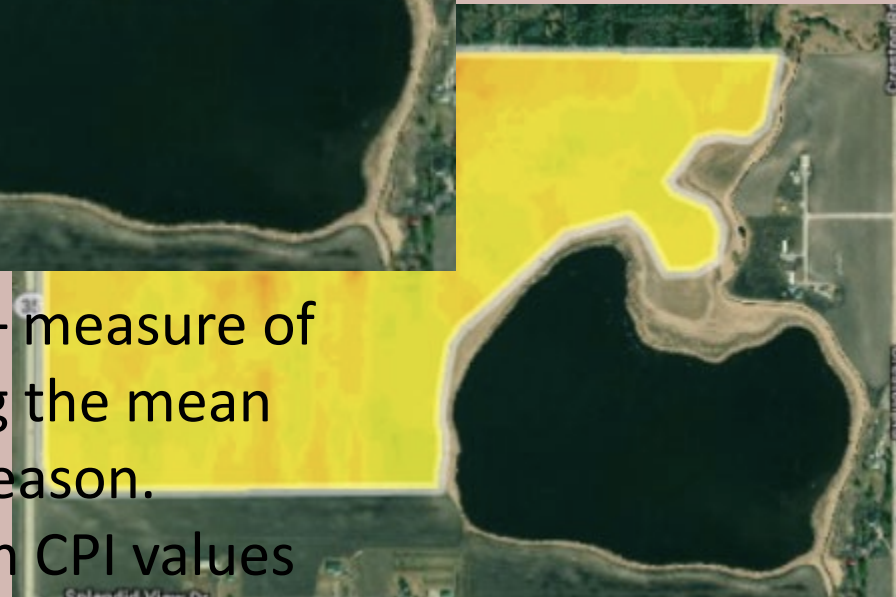
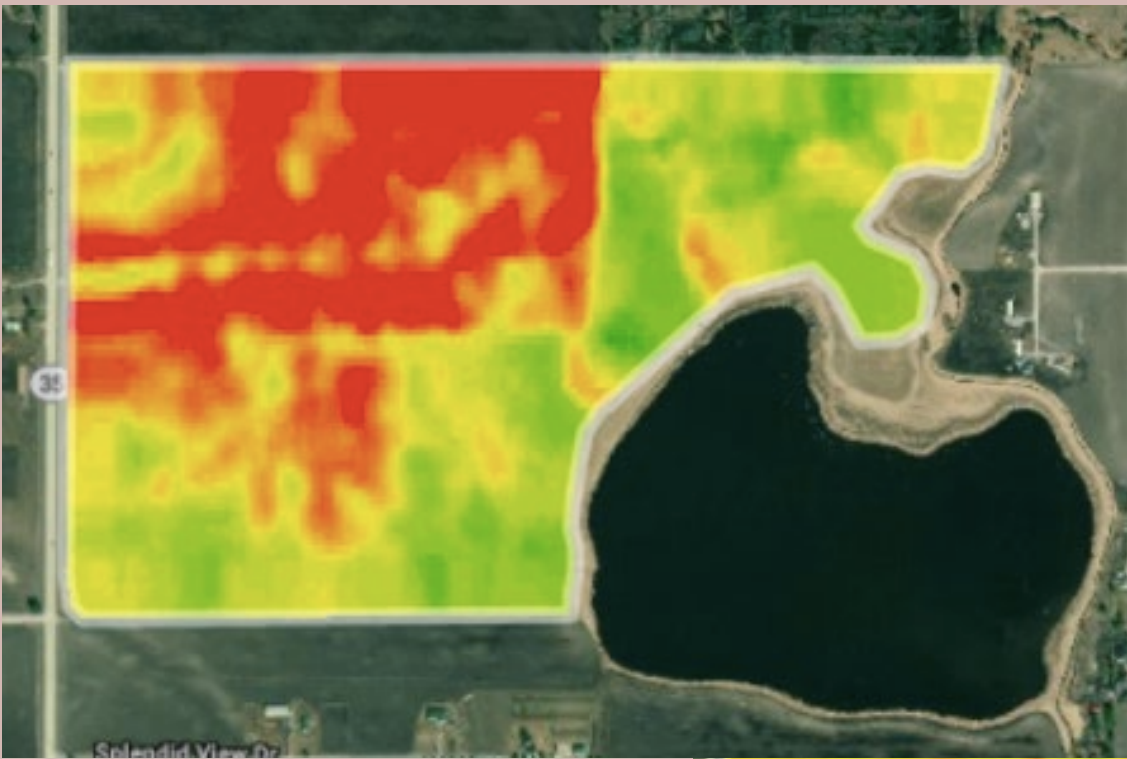


## 2nd VR Lime App



- Applied on 107 acres vs 220
- Sourced lime for \$100/tn less
- Savings by using HSA data = \$21,879
- Saved \$1739.75 in lab savings.
- Received 69 sample pts rather than 37

# Reducing Variability



Crop Productivity Index – measure of variability with 100 being the mean value for that cropping season.

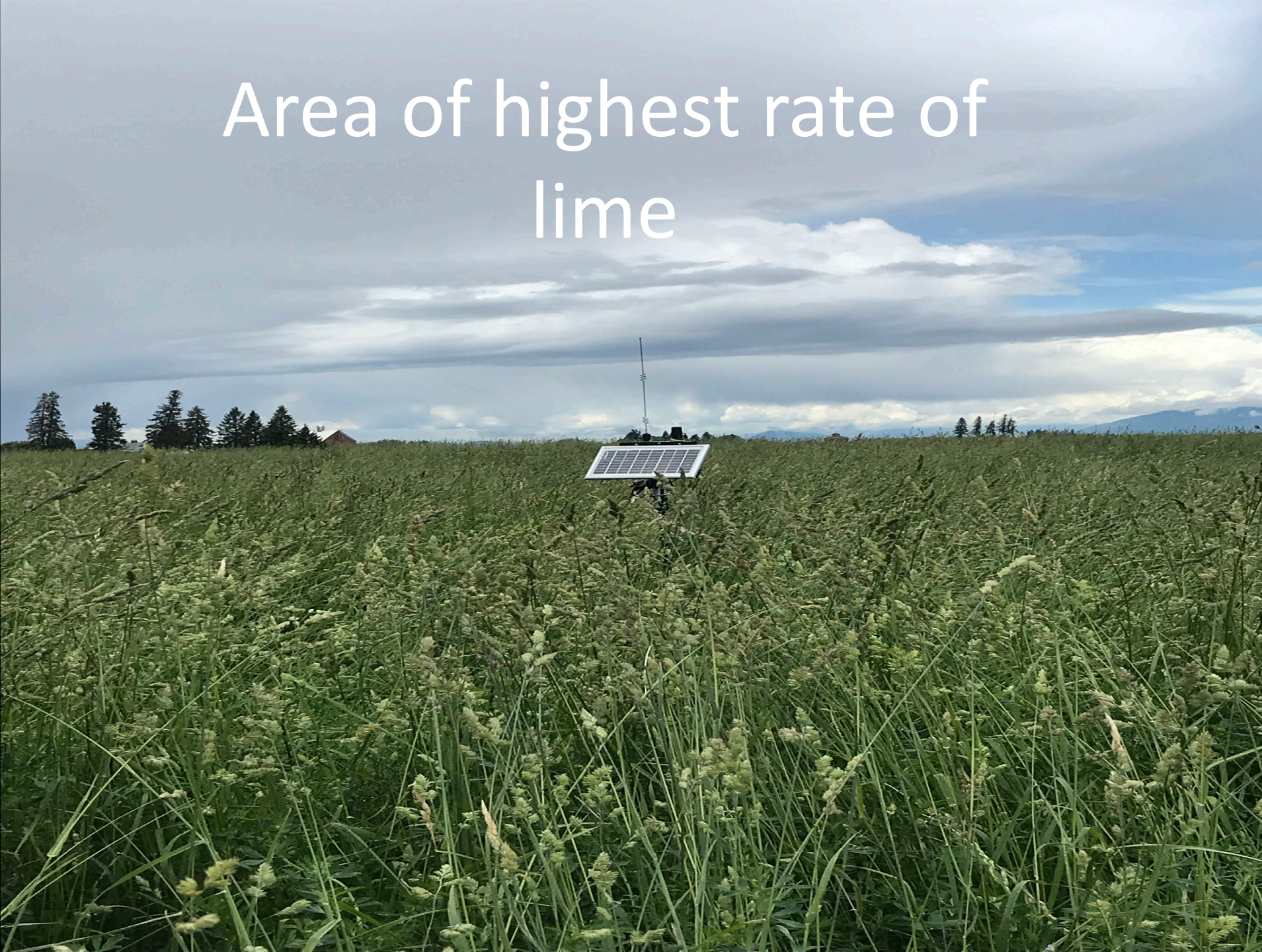
2018 – 24 pt difference in CPI values

2021 – 4 pt difference in CPI values

Went from over 47% of the field with below optimal pH in 2016 to 1.6% of the field below optimal this season.



# Area of highest rate of lime



We have improved fertilizer efficiency by over 34% by improving our pH levels. This is an anticipated savings of \$9,080.72 this last season.

We have increased alfalfa yields by over 40%. This amounts to over \$88,000 on this one field last season.

# CASE STUDIES

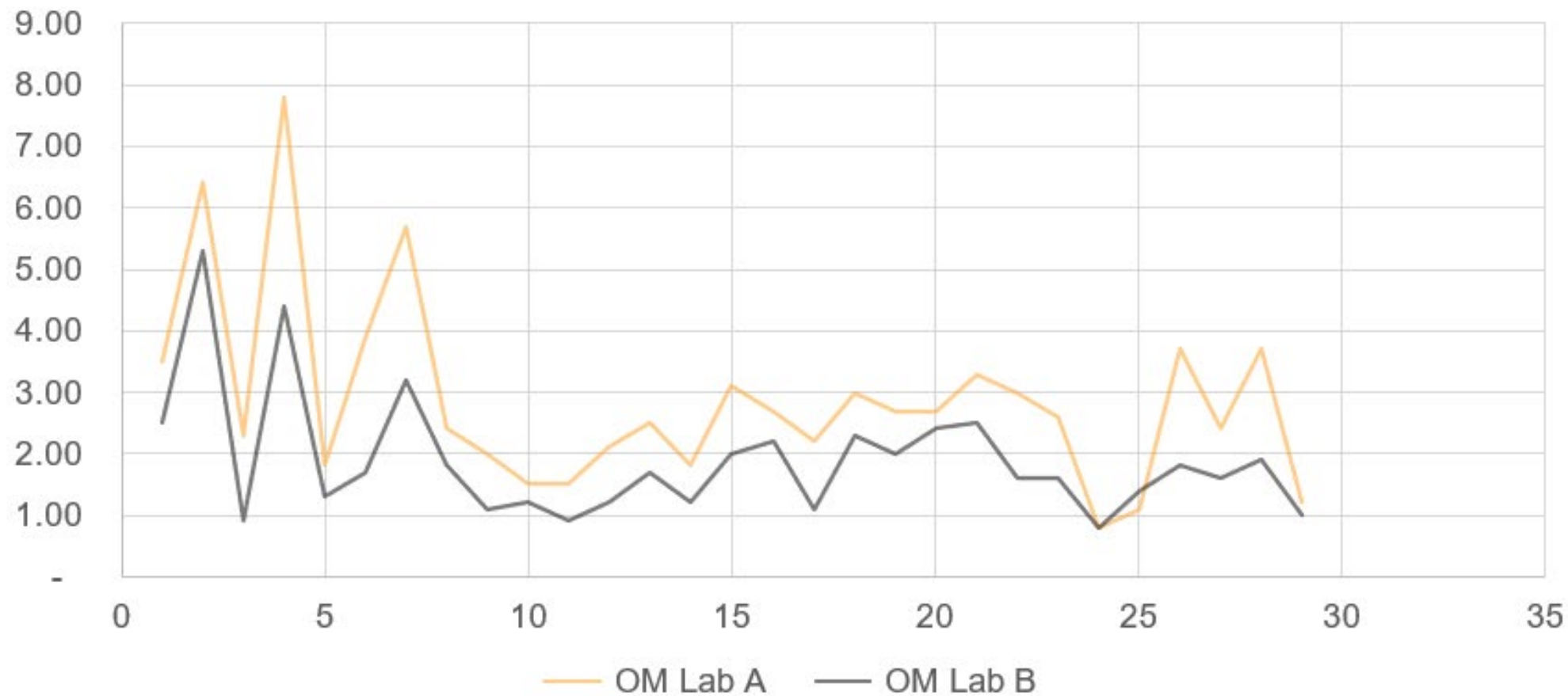
## *Soilytics™ Solution*



	<i>Traditional</i>	 <b>SOILYTICS</b>	<i>Cost Difference</i>	<i>Savings</i>
<i>Field A</i>	\$5,635.50	\$5,441.97	\$193.53	3%
<i>Field B</i>	\$3,628.34	\$2,573.59	\$1,054.75	29%
<i>Field C</i>	\$17,804.75	\$10,967.91	\$6,836.84	38%
<i>Field D</i>	\$11,498.96	\$11,330.60	\$168.36	1%
<i>Field E</i>	\$6,800.98	\$6,233.16	\$567.82	8%
<i>Field F</i>	\$10,100.04	\$8,992.49	\$1,107.55	11%
<i>Field G</i>	\$62,411.98	\$51,233.48	\$11,178.50	18%



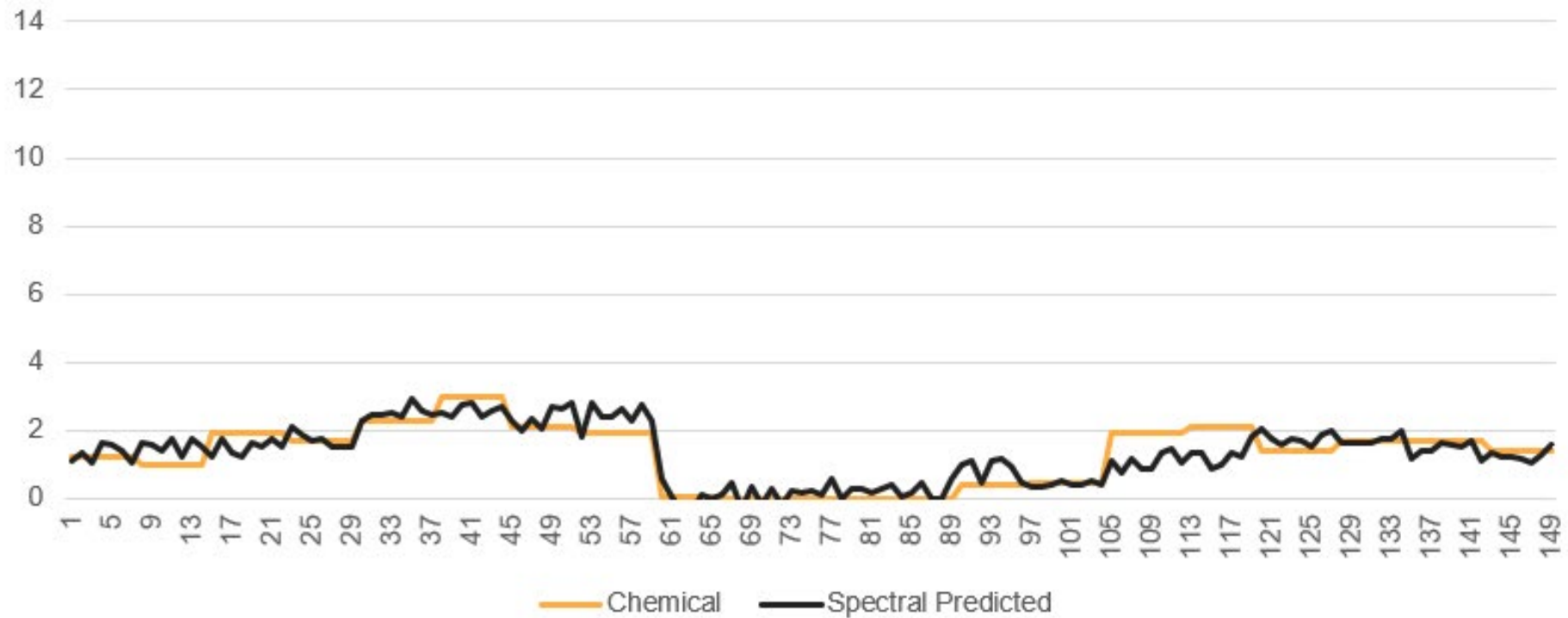
## Comparison of Lab A and Lab B



# COMPARISON OF LAB TO SPECTRAL RESULTS



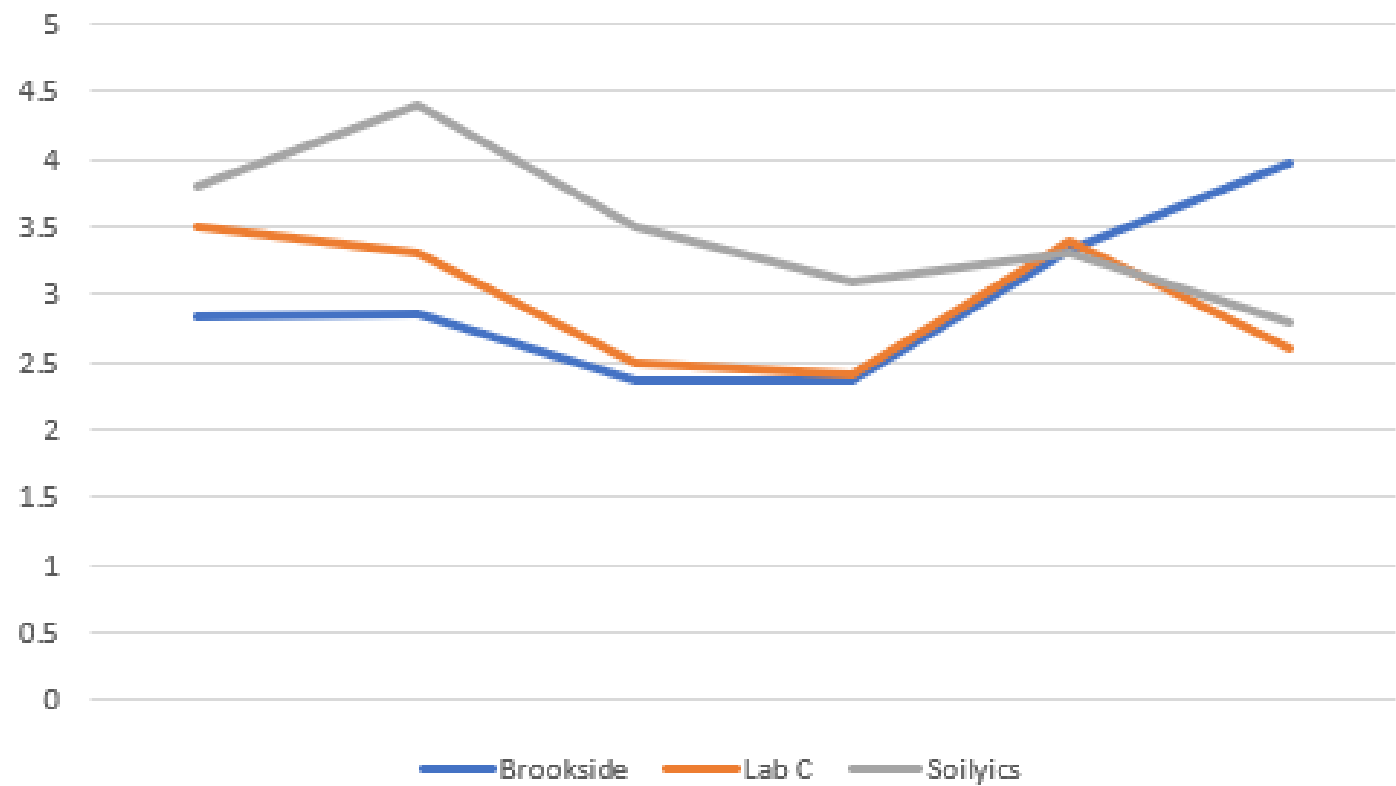
Comparison of Spectral to LOI  
Lab B  
(up to 36 inch depth in 6 inch increments)



# 3 METHOD COMPARISON-OM



OM Comparison



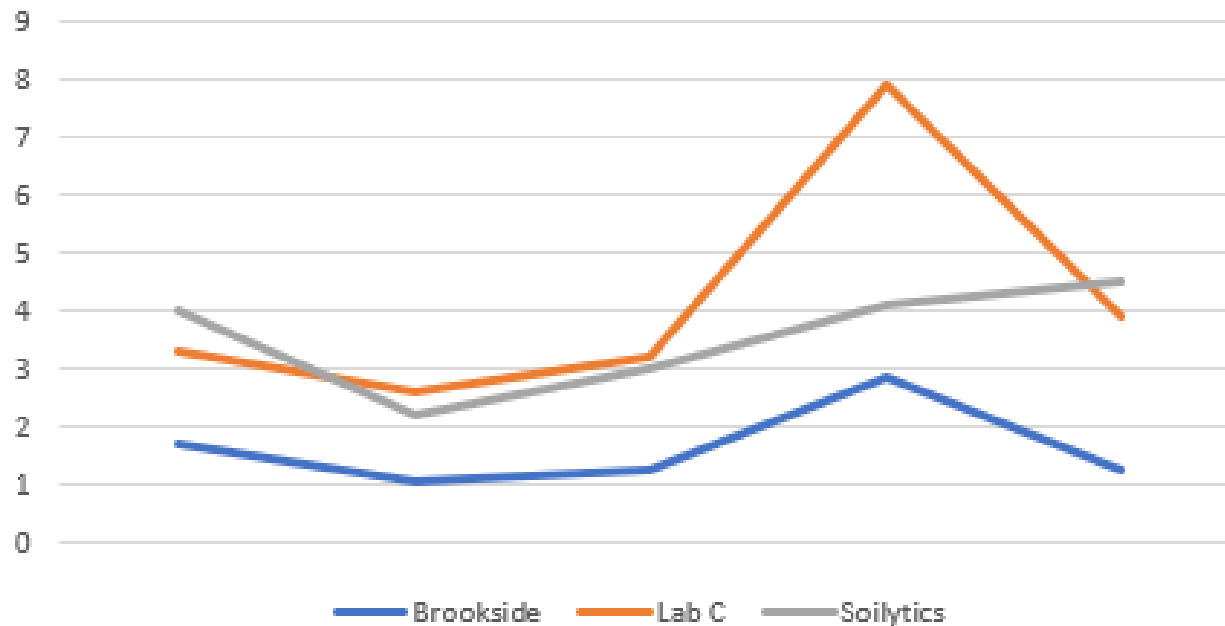
OM	Lab D	Lab C	SOILYTICS
0162-1	2.83	3.5	3.8
0163-1	2.86	3.3	4.4
0260-1	2.37	2.5	3.5
0261-1	2.37	2.4	3.1
0502-1	3.33	3.4	3.3
1907-1	3.96	2.6	2.8

South Dakota sample presented largest trend variation

# 3 METHOD COMPARISON-Zn



Zn-3 Method Comparison



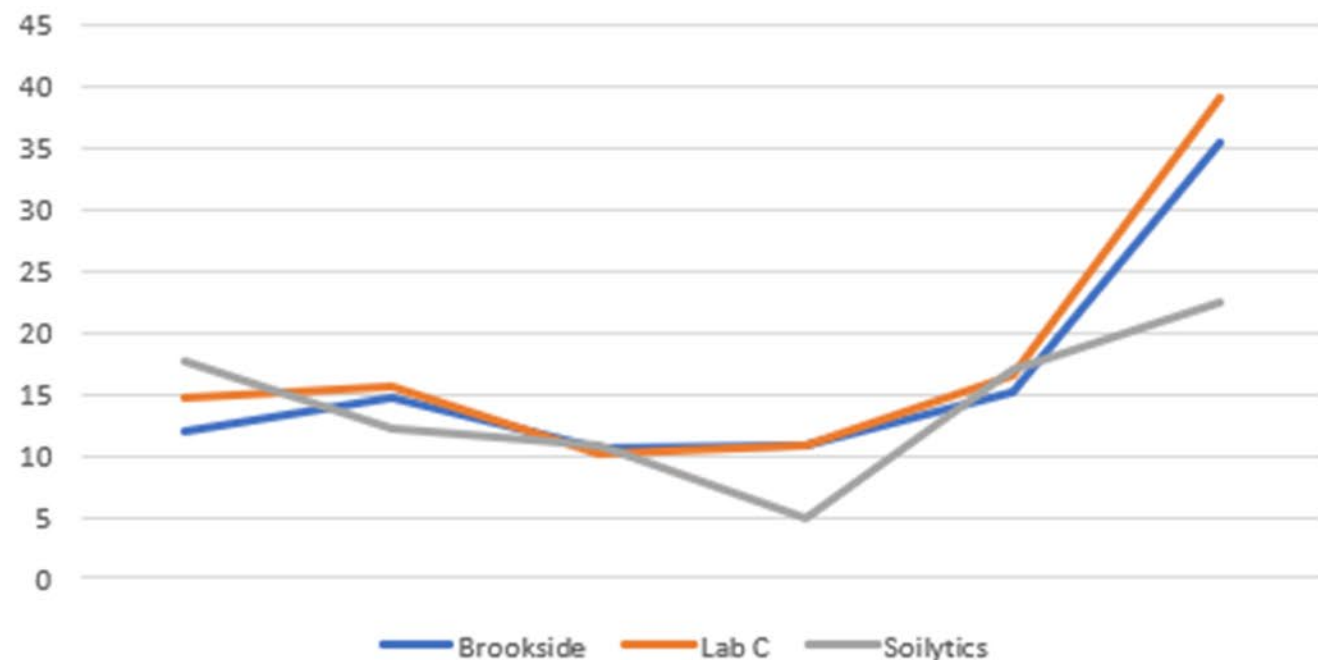
Lab D	Lab C	SOILYTICS
1.71	3.3	4
1.03	2.6	2.2
1.22	3.2	3
2.83	7.9	4.1
1.21	3.9	4.5

South Dakota sample presented largest trend variation

# 3 METHOD COMPARISON-CEC



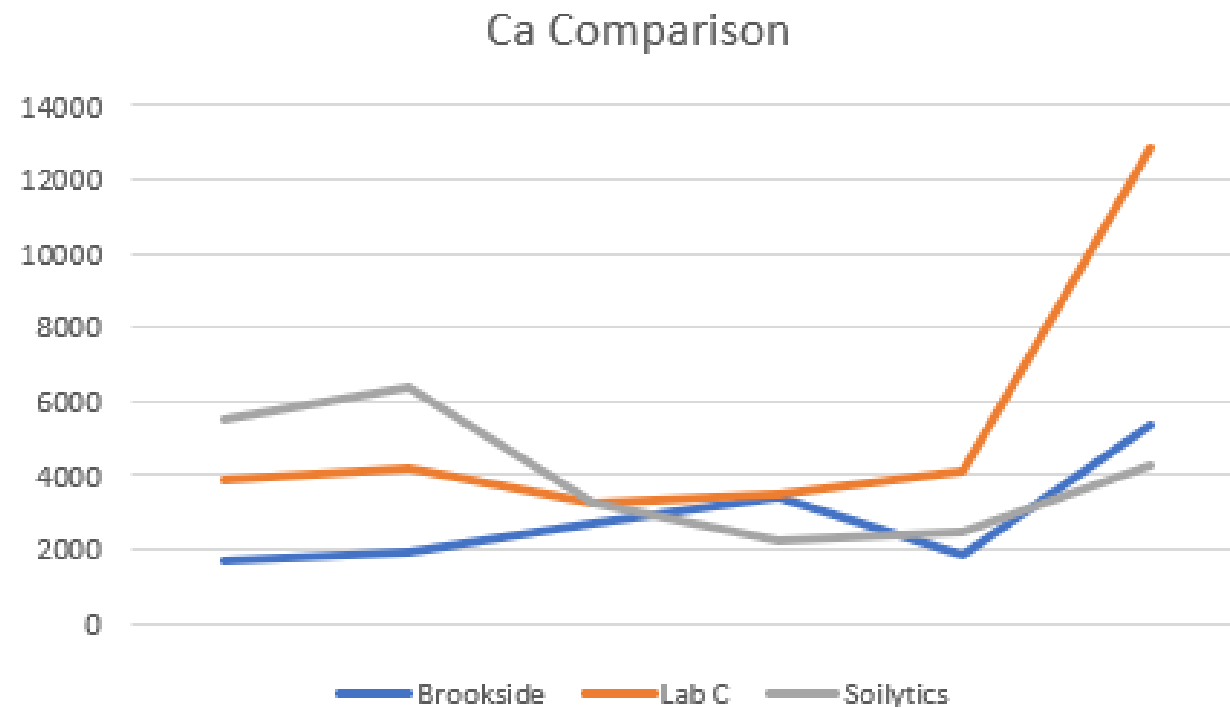
CEC COMPARISON



Lab D	Lab C	SOILYTICS
11.98	14.8	17.7
14.62	15.6	12.2
10.67	10.2	10.8
10.76	10.8	5
15.18	16.5	16.9
35.37	39.2	22.4

South Dakota sample presented largest trend variation

# 3 METHOD COMPARISON- Ca

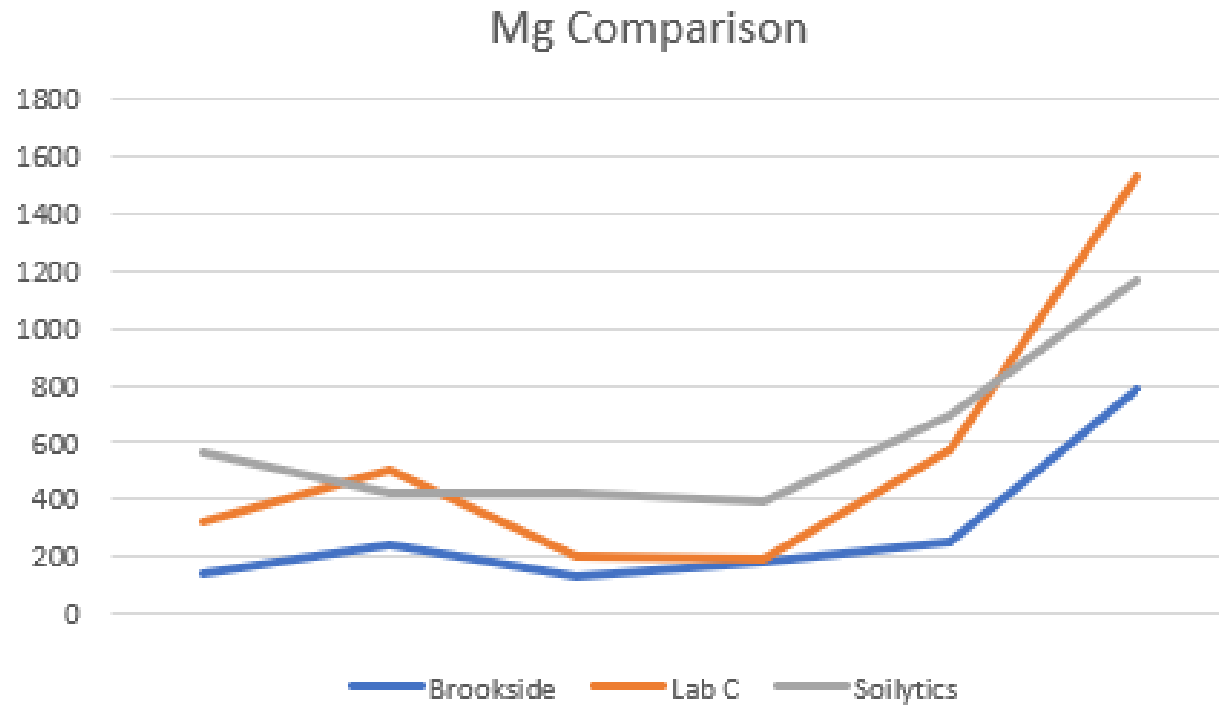


Lab D	Lab C	SOILYTICS
1710	3891	5525.7
1966	4189	6385.6
2736	3237	3233
3384	3487	2211.2
1836	4148	2456.6
5342	12864	4307.6

South Dakota sample presented largest trend variation



# 3 METHOD COMPARISON-Mg



Lab D	Lab C	SOILYTICS
139	326	560.2
242	500	421.2
130	204	420
184	191	395.7
251	573	690.5
781	1525	1170.6



## Conclusion

Receiving 20+ times the data for same analytical cost.

More granular data than ever before, thus more precise management than ever before.

Better able to place the right nutrients, in the right place, at the right time, at the right rate.

Increasing yields and decreasing input costs.

Growing more profitable bushels!

# PARTNERSHIPS

## HARDWARE



## STANDARDIZATION



## STRATEGICS



## DATA INTEGRITY



## ASSOCIATIONS / ACADEMIA



## SOFTWARE INTEGRATION



A white mailbox with a red number '7' is mounted on a wooden post in a field. The background shows a sunrise over a field with trees in the distance.

# CONTACT US

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Penny@persistencedata.com  
[www.persistencedata.com](http://www.persistencedata.com)

Nutrient (PPM except where noted)	LOD	LOQ
Nitrogen	1	2
Phosphorous	1	1.5
Potassium	1	20
Zinc	1	6
Iron	0.1	2
Manganese	0.1	0.25
Copper	0.1	0.05
Boron	0.1	0.125
Magnesium	1	5
Calcium	1	50
Sulfur	1	4.5
Chloride	1	7.5
pH (scale of 0 to 14)	0.1	0.25
CEC (meq/100 g)	1	2
OM (%)	0.5	1
Carbon	0.2	0.5

Element	Low Wavelength [nm]	High Wavelength [nm]	RMSE <u>good</u>
OM	350	2500	<u>&lt;1 or 0.5</u>
CEC	350	2500	<u>&lt;3</u>
pHw	350	2500	<u>&lt;1 or 0.4</u>
Potassium	350	2500	<u>&lt;1 or 0.4</u>
Copper	350	2500	<u>&lt;1 or 0.9</u>
Boron	350	2500	<u>&lt;1 or 0.4</u>
Sulfur	350	2500	<u>&lt;1 or 0.9</u>
Zinc	350	2500	<u>&lt;2</u>