

For Event Purposes Only—2019 FFA Agronomy Team Event

Team Event Questions and Suggested Answers for Judges

Besides the cost savings from using variable rate fertilization on this field, what other possible benefits can you see to employing that practice?

- Since this field frequently has episodes of flooding and has a ditch along one side, there is a risk that the excess fertilizer applied to some zones in the field if a single application rate were applied based on the composite soil sample will be either leached into the ground water or will move with any eroded soil into the river causing pollution downstream.
- The potential for better yields from the highest yielding zone exists since you will be fertilizing that zone based on the need of the crop for either K or P fertilizer.

Besides the dollars and cents, what other factors might you as a farmer consider when deciding to accept a contract for specialty soybeans?

- Do the cultivars of the specialty soybeans have the same genetic potential of commercially sold soybean cultivars with respect to yield potential?
- If you prefer using soybeans with certain characteristics such as Roundup® Ready or Liberty Link technology or perhaps a specific maturity group, do the specialty soybean cultivars offer the same options?
- In this field, the frequent flooding might wipe out a large area of the field resulting in you coming up short of the quantity of beans or maybe the quality of beans contracted.
- If the alternative soybean genetics yields more, this may deplete the soil fertility levels faster resulting in higher fertility costs long term.
- Could wet soil conditions result in late planting which might cause more equal yield potential for specialty beans and conventional beans or allow one to have an advantage.

How important do you consider knowing the history of a field when trying to determine what pesticides might be needed? With what should this history knowledge be combined.

- Having detailed knowledge of a field is essential in understanding the risks for that field with respect to weeds and even insects and diseases.
- A properly conducted scouting program by a knowledgeable individual will ensure that pest surprises do not occur that can cause serious economic losses.