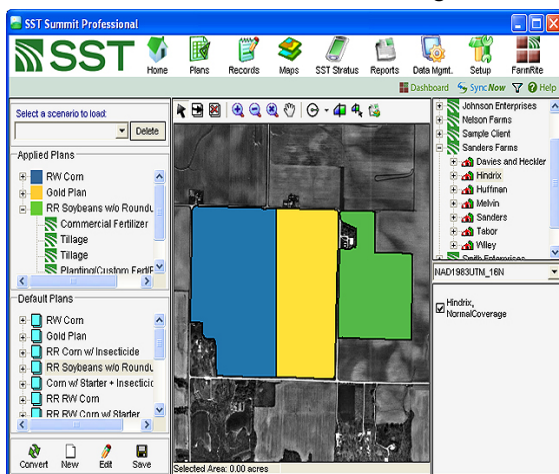


Precision Ag News

Crop Planning

Creating a **crop plan** is the best way to get a jump start on the next agricultural season. Crop plans allow growers to identify crop input requirements, and costs of production, which in turn can help them create a marketing or business plan for the upcoming year(s).

Knowing what a grower wants to do during the upcoming season on a field specific basis, can help to eliminate stress and confusion during the heart of the season.



Things to Consider when Creating a Crop Plan

- **Rotation:** This includes factors such as crops, varieties, planting populations, tillage practices, etc. Knowing what was in each field last season, along with the planting plan for the upcoming 2 to 3 seasons can help guide fertilizer and chemical requirements.

- **Fertilizer:** Important things to consider when creating a fertilizer plan include: field fertility history, soil analysis records, application timing, and equipment available (owned vs. rentals). Soil nutrient levels and input costs will dictate whether fertilizer application is done at crop removal rates, or if it is beneficial to incorporate a build factor into the recommendation.

- **Pesticides:** When creating a pesticide plan it is important to know what was used previously in the field, so that chemicals with different modes of action can be incorporated to help reduce the risk of developing resistant pests. Looking back at crop scouting records will help identify past insect or weed problems, which may guide product selection. It is also important to look closely at crop rotation projections when deciding what pesticides to use, to accommodate product restrictions regarding future crops.
- **Cost of Production:** Identifying cost of production and calculating crop budgets is an important part of the crop planning process. After calculating the cost of production, you may decide to go back and create other input scenarios, to maximize the profit potential for each farm.
- **Marketing:** Once you have the cost of production, the breakeven price can be calculated, which can guide marketing decisions for each commodity.
- **Contingency Plan:** You never know what weather events, or pest / disease problems are going to develop in-season, so it is important to leave contingency options in the crop plan. Pest or disease problems may require a rescue treatment. Planting an alternative crop may be necessary if weather conditions make it too late to plant; there is poor stand; or the contract for the original crop is lost.

Crop Input Summary				
Client:	Sanders Farms	Scenario:	Crop Plan 1	
Cost Group:	Primary Costs	Total Input Cost:	\$219,961.63	
Acres:	2,729.95	Cost/Acre:	\$80.57	
Farm Count:	7	Field Count:	25	
Farm: Davies and Hecker (\$42,639.84)		Acres: 598.58 (\$47.77/ac)		
Seed or Plant Cost Total: \$23,708.29 (\$39.61/ac)				
Product	Units	Cost/Unit	Applied Acres	Total Cost
Gen. MYCOGEN 2088	13.20 Bag	\$443.00	35.43	\$5,882.10
Gen. PIONEER 16-09ED	44.69 Bag	\$145.00	119.16	\$6,479.42
Gen. PIONEER 16-09ED	36.30 Bag	\$105.00	96.79	\$3,813.99
Seedlings, ASGROW	189.79 Bag	\$26.00	163.86	\$4,922.42
Seedlings, STINE	238.43 Bag	\$20.00	193.32	\$3,866.40
Fertilizers Total: \$11,732.96 (\$19.60/ac)				
Product	Units	Cost/Unit	Applied Acres	Total Cost
0-0-0	26.04 U.S. ton	\$40.00	347.20	\$10,488.00
15-38-0 Sol	1,256.90 gal @ 0.55	\$1.32	251.38	\$3,369.11
18-46-0 CAP	12.87 U.S. ton	\$226.00	261.36	\$2,908.02
Anhydrous Ammonia	12.87 U.S. ton	\$245.00	261.36	\$3,153.40
Herbicides Total: \$15,311.30 (\$25.56/ac)				
Product	Units	Cost/Unit	Applied Acres	Total Cost
Hercules Xtra	136.20 gal @ 0.95 gal	\$26.00	261.36	\$3,594.72
Primo 3.0 EC	175.40 gal @ 0.95 gal	\$23.00	261.36	\$4,021.80
Pronto Plus EC	108.00 gal @ 0.95 gal	\$40.00	347.20	\$4,281.60
Roamer	10.80 gal @ 0.95 gal	\$420.00	347.20	\$4,718.40
Insecticides Total: \$1,787.43 (\$2.98/ac)				

Crop planning helps you achieve goals, reduce risks, and determine opportunities. A detailed crop plan is an important part of a successful farm operation.