

A Down to Earth Look at UAVs in Agriculture

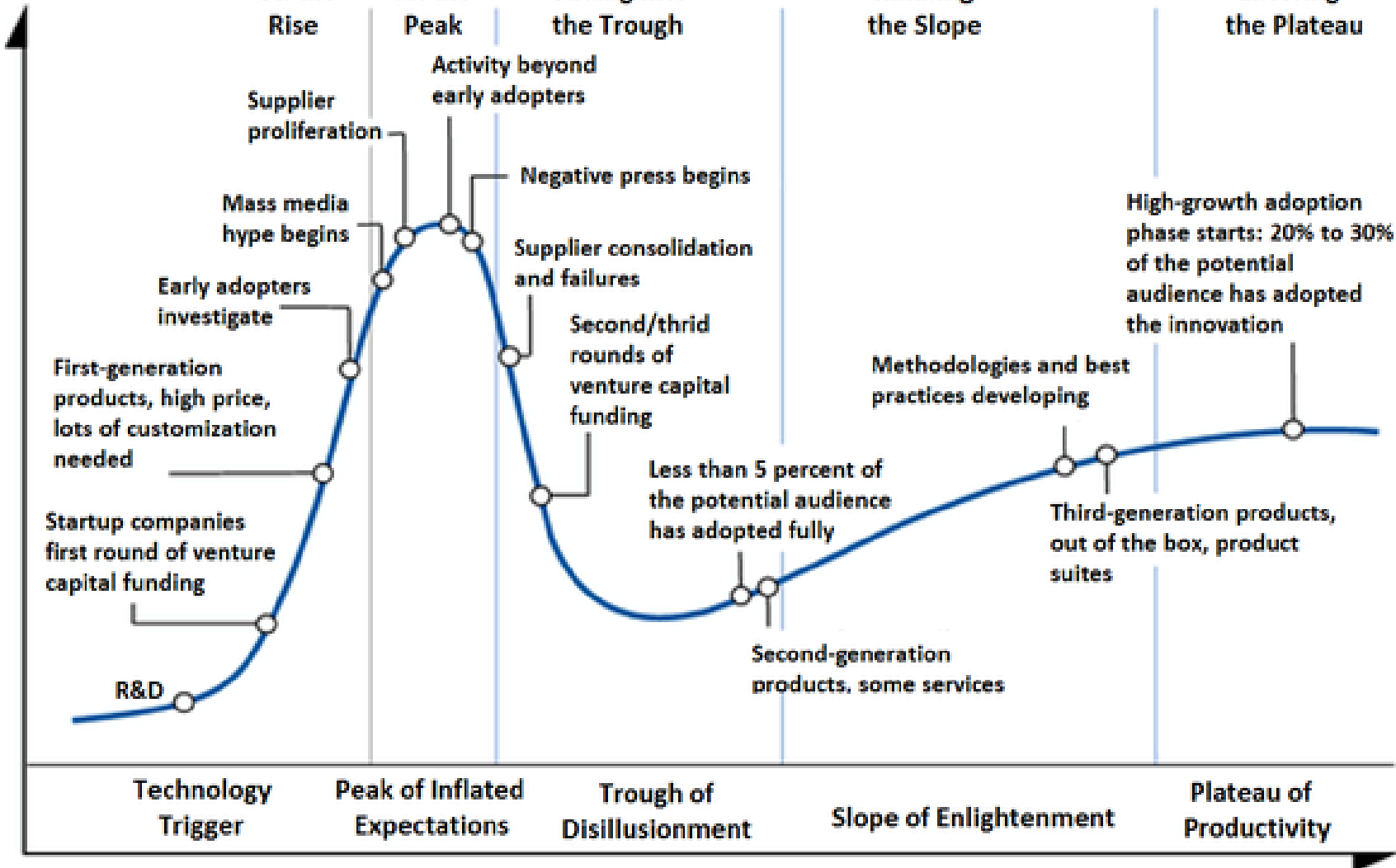
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Precision Nutrient Management
Oklahoma State University

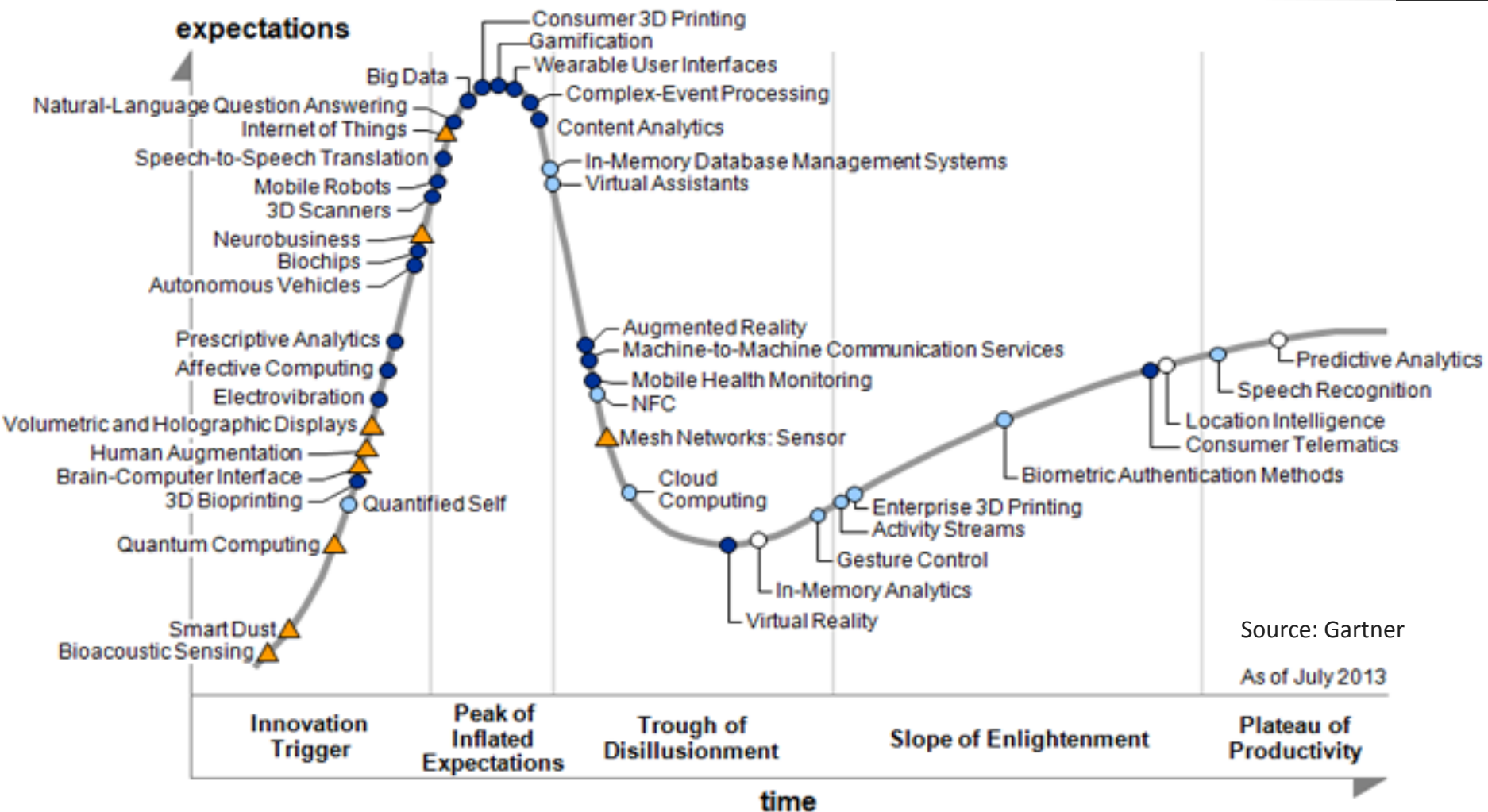
- Ok State has provided cease and desist.
- I have not flown one.
- I am very familiar with their data and use.
- UAV's and Teenagers
- Cow Art, Klingenberg Farms

- I want one.....

expectations



time



Source: Gartner

As of July 2013

Plateau will be reached in:

- less than 2 years
- 2 to 5 years
- 5 to 10 years
- ▲ more than 10 years
- ⊗ obsolete before plateau

FAA

- http://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/
- **Press Release Results**
- 12/10/2014 [FAA Grants Five More Commercial UAS Exemptions](#)
- 11/18/2014 [FAA Statement on NTSB Decision in Huerta v. Pirker](#)
- 10/08/2014 [FAA Statement on MITRE's Independent Assessment and Recommendations for NextGen](#)
- 9/25/2014 [U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces FAA Exemptions for Commercial UAS Movie and TV Production](#)
- 9/10/2014 [FAA Statement](#)
- 8/13/2014 [FAA Announces Virginia Tech UAS Test Site Now Operational](#)
- 8/07/2014 [FAA Announces New York UAS Test Site Now Operational](#)



Agricultural pilots have a number of low-level obstacles to contend with that have cost ag aviators their lives. According to NAAA's statistics, between 2004 and 2013 there have been 39 fatalities as a result of ag aircraft collisions with obstructions, over 57 percent of all ag aircraft fatalities during that time period. This shows that unmarked, unlighted, low-level obstacles present a mortal hazard to ag aviators, and these obstacles are stationary. UAVs present similar risks but are highly mobile, thereby increasing, we believe, the likelihood of an incident. Fortunately, there are two clear technological solutions to mitigate the hazards presented by UAVs in the National Airspace utilizing technology that already exists for manned aircraft.

NAAA urges the FAA to require that UAVs be equipped with strobes so they are clearly visible both in the daytime and at night to low-level pilots. UAVs should also be equipped with technology similar to ADS-B Out technology, allowing nearby aircraft with the proper reading equipment to identify their exact location. This requirement, one which the FAA is going to require for all manned aircraft operating under Air Traffic Control in 2020, is feasible and cost-effective utilizing current technology. Furthermore, we believe the selection of the six test sites, especially, but not limited to,

Drone Sightings

- <http://graphics.wsj.com/faa-drones/>
- Published 11/26/14; records 2/22-11/11
 - Significant amount 1000-7000 ft.
- **Oklahoma City, Okla.**
- Oct. 12, 2014 CORRECTED INFO FROM FAA OPS: TINKER AFB, OK/UAS INCIDENT/1424C/OKLAHOMA CITY ATCT REPORTED AN ACFT REPORTED **TAKING EVASIVE ACTION TO AVOID A SMALL UAS AT 4,800 FEET, 2 FEET WIDE BLACK IN COLOR WITH A CAMERA ATTACHED ON THE BOTTOM.** PILOT REPORTED UAS CAME WITHIN 10 - 20 FEET OF ACFT 10 N TINKER. LEOS NOTIFIED
 - Not ag, but.

UAS/UAV/The D Word in Ag





dji.com

DJI soon to have NO FLY ZONE Capability



<http://agmapsonline.com/>





Hints on Platform

- They will crash. Period.
 - Easier to get a replace pieces the better.
- Copters, Hover and stable
- Planes / Fixed Wing, Covers ground

Consulting



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh7KKO12Mj8>



www.manitobacooperator.ca

Moving Beyond the GoPro

- We can collect data, and potentially a lot of it.
- To Get Quality

AREA COVERAGE TABLE

Height	GSD	Coverage/flight [km ²] (1)			Coverage/day [km ²] (2)		
		70%	80%	90%	70%	80%	90%
75 m (246 ft)	2.4 cm (0.94 in)	1.1 km ² (0.43 mi ²)	0.8 km ² (0.31 mi ²)	0.4 km ² (0.15 mi ²)	6.85 km ² (2.63 mi ²)	4.5 km ² (7.74 mi ²)	2.3 km ² (0.88 mi ²)
100 m (328 ft)	3.2 cm (1.26 in)	1.8 km ² (0.7 mi ²)	1.2 km ² (0.64 mi ²)	0.6 km ² (0.23 mi ²)	10.8 km ² (4.17 mi ²)	7.2 km ² (2.78 mi ²)	3.6 km ² (1.39 mi ²)
150 m (492 ft)	4.8 cm (1.89 in)	3.1 km ² (1.2 mi ²)	2.1 km ² (0.81 mi ²)	1.0 km ² (0.39 mi ²)	18.7 km ² (7.22 mi ²)	12.5 km ² (4.83 mi ²)	6.2 km ² (2.39 mi ²)
200 m (656 ft)	6.4 cm (2.52 in)	4.4 km ² (1.7 mi ²)	3.0 km ² (1.16 mi ²)	1.5 km ² (0.58 mi ²)	26.6 km ² (10.27 mi ²)	17.8 km ² (6.87 mi ²)	8.9 km ² (3.44 mi ²)
250 m (820 ft)	8 cm (3.15 in)	5.8 km ² (2.24 mi ²)	3.8 km ² (1.47 mi ²)	1.9 km ² (0.73 mi ²)	34.6 km ² (13.36 mi ²)	23.1 km ² (8.92 mi ²)	11.5 km ² (4.44 mi ²)
300 m	9.6 cm	7.1 km ²	4.7 km ²	2.4 km ² (0.93 mi ²)	42.5 km ² (16.41 mi ²)	28.3 km ² (10.93 mi ²)	14.2 km ² (5.48 mi ²)

100 m (328 ft)	3.2 cm (1.26 in)	1.8 km ² (0.7 mi ²)	1.2 km ² (0.64 mi ²)	0.6 km ² (0.23 mi ²)	3.2 km ² (1.24 mi ²)	58.0 km ² (22.40 mi ²)	38.7 km ² (14.94 mi ²)	19.3 km ² (7.45 mi ²)
150 m (492 ft)	4.8 cm (1.89 in)	3.1 km ² (1.2 mi ²)	2.1 km ² (0.81 mi ²)	1.0 km ² (0.39 mi ²)	4.1 km ² (1.58 mi ²)	74.2 km ² (28.65 mi ²)	49.5 km ² (19.11 mi ²)	24.7 km ² (9.54 mi ²)
					6.3 km ² (2.43 mi ²)	113.9 km ² (43.98 mi ²)	75.9 km ² (29.31 mi ²)	38.0 km ² (14.67 mi ²)

(1) For a 2:1 aspect ratio, which is a flight block with length equal to 2 times the width. This is a good approximation of the average flight block.

(2) Assuming on average 5 minutes pre-flight and 5 minutes post-flight setup and recovery time and operation between 10 am and 4 pm.

Imagery Stitching

- OrthoRectification
 - <http://www.satimagingcorp.com/services/orthorectification/>
 - open sources available
 - <http://conservationdrones.org/post-processing/>

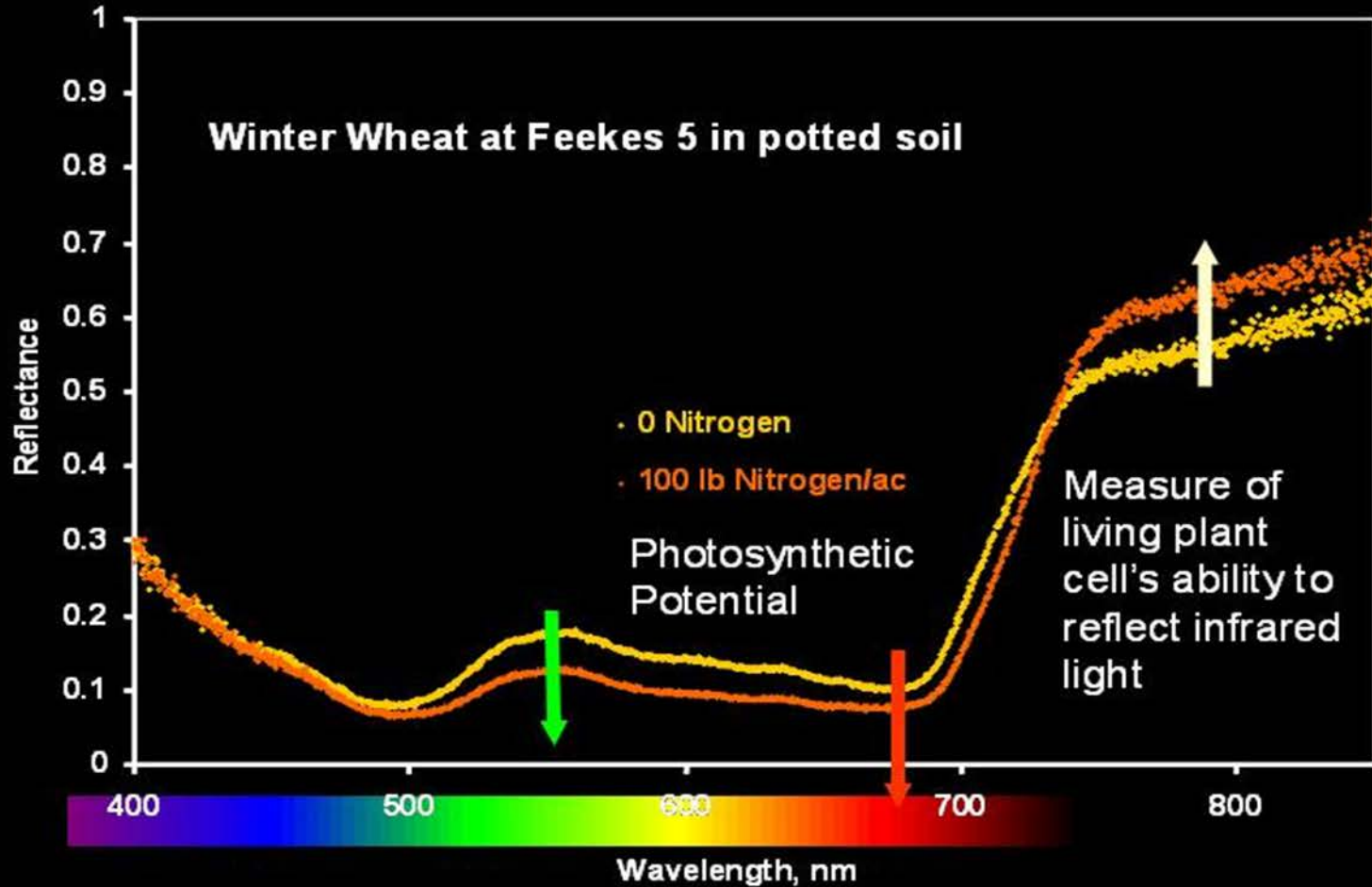


Challenges

- Small footprint
- Image distortion
- Locating ground control points
- Relatively large errors in exterior orientation parameters (X, Y, Z, roll, pitch, heading)
 - Wind comes sweeping down the plains.....

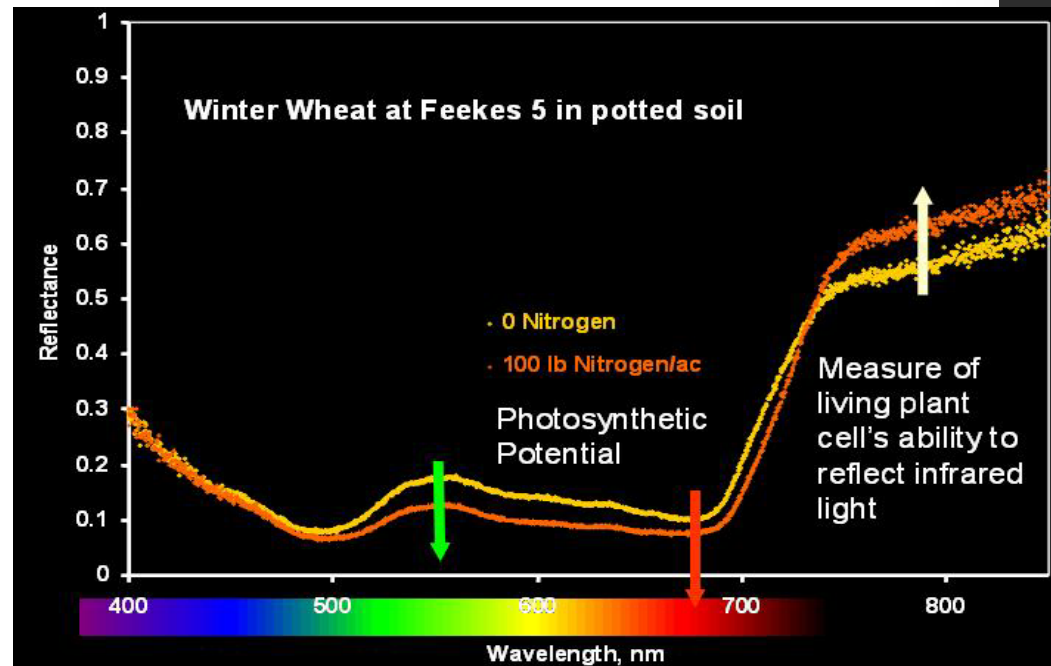


Reflectance



Wavelengths & Indices

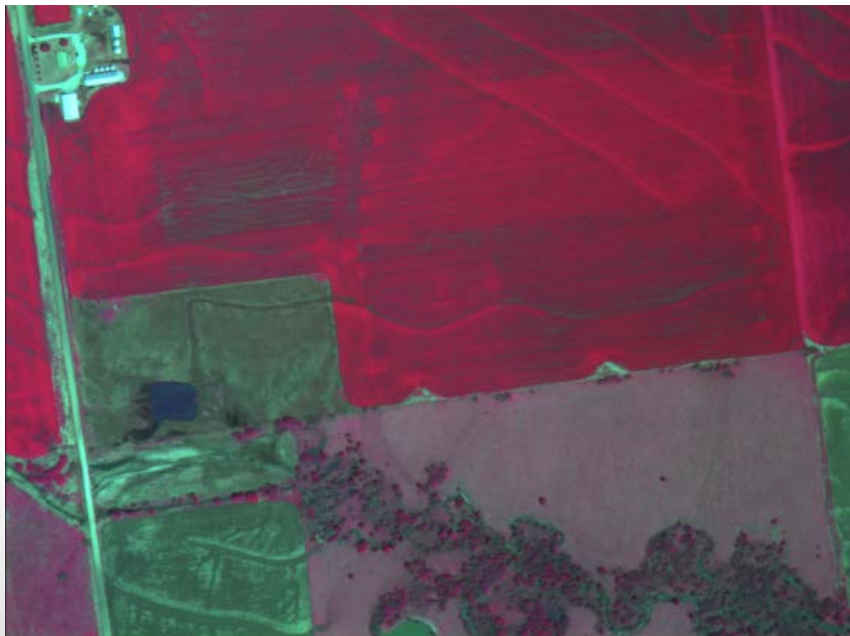
- NDVI and Simple Ratio
 - **Biomass:** Red and NIR (650, 780)
 - Green or Amber instead of Red (550, 590)
 - Growth Stage for Amber v Red
 - Red Edge 680
- Chlorophyll
 - SPAD (650 – 940)
- Protein
 - 710 , 810
(Kelly et al 04)



Reflectance Data

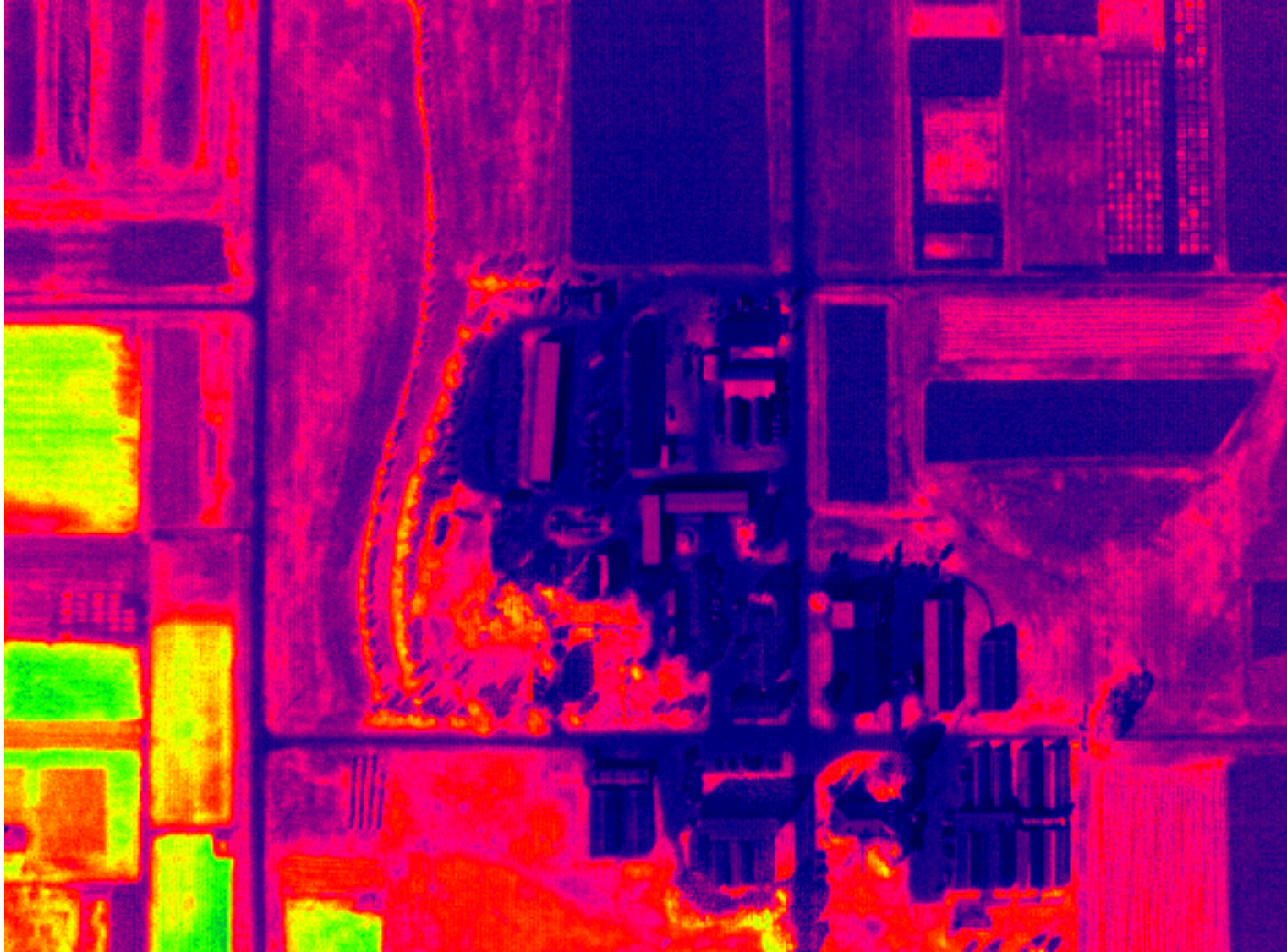
- Historically satellite and aerial imagery widely used.
- Ok State in the mid 90's started investigating VRT N work.
 - Evaluated Aerial and Satellite.

Precision Ag Research at OSU



NDVI of OSU Experiment Station

1m Resolution



False Color (green, red, NIR) Image < 1 m Resolution - Raw Radiometric Data (Courtesy F. Schiebe, SST Software)



Passive vs Active

- Active Sensor emits light, typically via LED.
- Passive Sensor records reflectance of natural light.
 - Sun Angle, impacted by time of day and time of year.
 - Clouds
 - Atmospheric interference.

Use of relative values

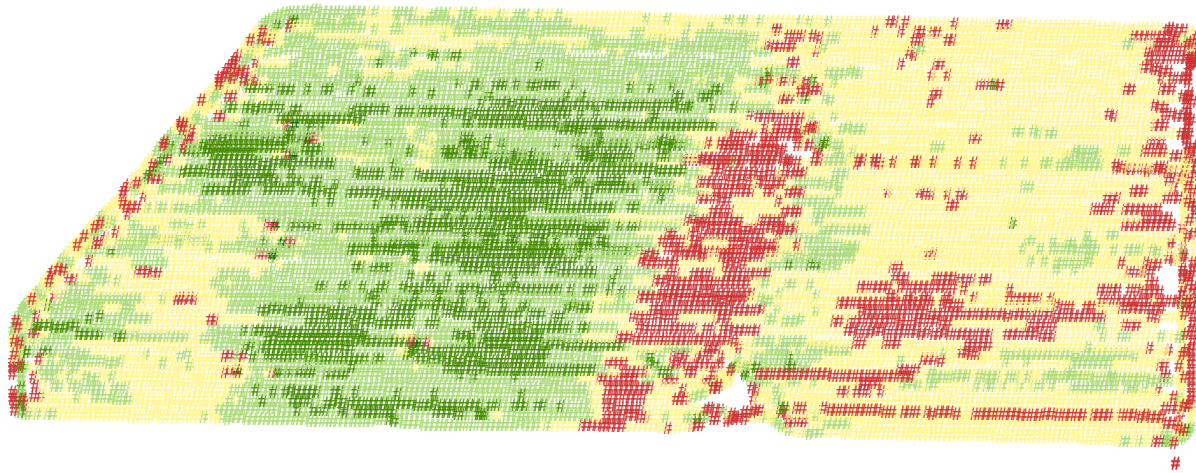
*From Auto Copter

- Map segmented into NDVI values
 - Fertilizer into 150lb, 130lb, 110lb, 90lb, and 70lb
 - 150lb for the lowest NDVI value
 - 130lb for the middle-lowest NDVI value
 - 110lb for the middle NDVI value
 - 90lb for the middle-highest NDVI value
 - 70lb for the highest NDVI value

	NDVI	Target Rate(Mass) (lb/ac)
	0.56 - 1.00	150.0 (0.11 ac)
	0.08 - 0.56	130.0 (0.11 ac)
	-0.02 - 0.08	110.0 (0.11 ac)
	-0.10 - -0.02	90.0 (0.11 ac)
	-1.00 - -0.10	70.0 (2.95 ac)

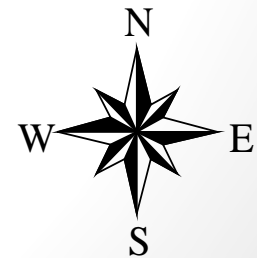
Aerial Imagery values w/o Cal

- Yield Monitor



Rendel 2010 Harvest

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles

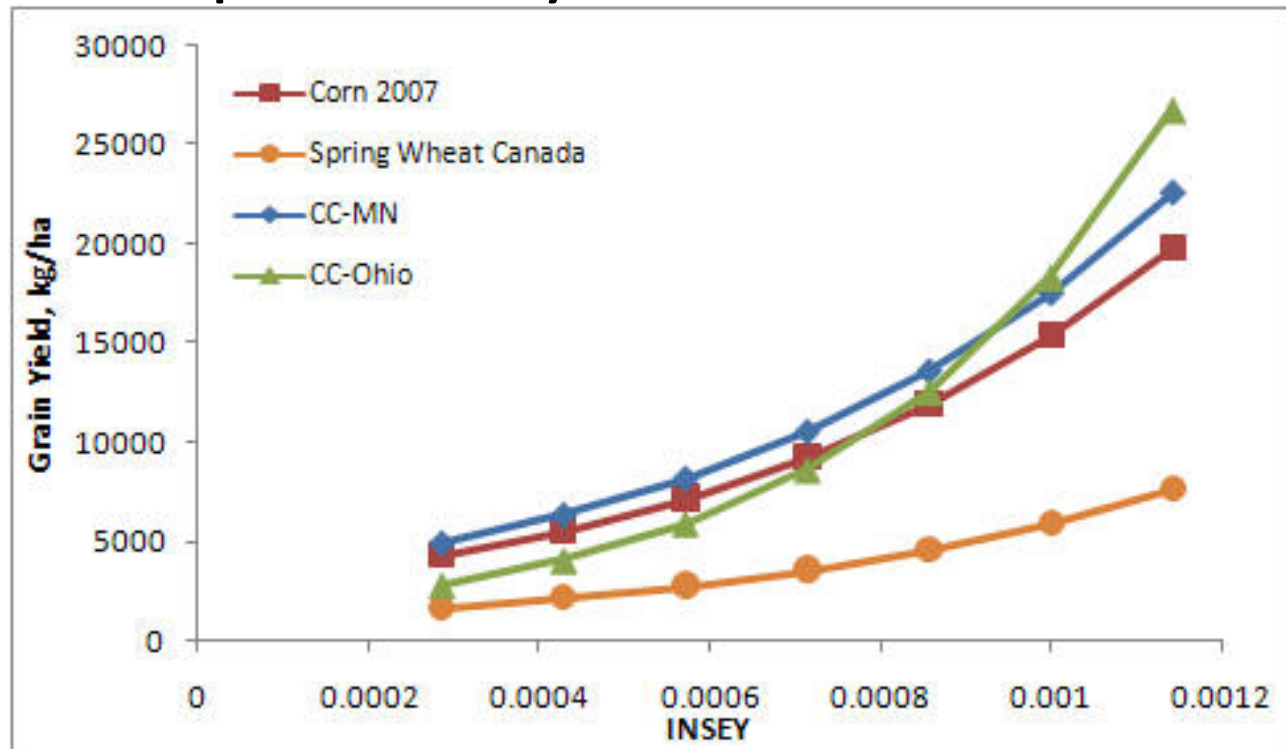


To Calibrate

- With Spectrometer, use white plate.
- NUE Wheat project with 330+ plots.
 - 10 to 2
 - White plate
 - Incoming and reflectance
 - Reverse order

Replicated values

- OSU's use of active sensors
- Relate Specific values.
- Must have repeatability



Beyond reflectance

- Stand Count
 - Quite easy
- Canopy Temp
- Soil Moisture
- Soil OM
- DOCUMENTATION



Resolution



Satellites

- **June 10-2014** Google Tuesday agreed to buy satellite startup **Skybox Imaging Inc.** for \$500 million in cash, the latest in a number of moves by the world's largest Internet search provider to collect and provide data from the sky. **Skybox has designed small, relatively cheap satellites that can collect daily photos and video of the Earth. Skybox satellites weigh roughly 260 pounds,** making them much cheaper to build and launch than traditional satellites that can weigh tons. Skybox planned to launch 24 such satellites that could shoot pictures of the Earth more often.
- **Feb 3 2015** **Wilbur-Ellis Co. has reached an agreement with Planet Labs** to bring satellite imagery to the AgVerdict software platform, Wilbur-Ellis' technology in agricultural data usage. This enhancement will significantly improve the delivery of satellite imagery to a grower, making the data available in a matter of minutes rather than days. This new feature will benefit **Wilbur-Ellis** customers by providing imagery using **“ultra-compact” satellites that will soon scan the planet every twenty-four hours.**

How many times are you on a field?



Today

- Consultants can be more efficient and make more money.
 - With low end UAV's
- Platforms available for high end imagery.
- Companies scrambling to find
 - Increase ease of data processing
 - Create decision aid tools.

Nothing

- I mean NOTHING takes the place of Scouting and good Agronomy.
- NOTHING..
- Get dirty walk the field, take samples.
- But there is always a degree of WRONG We are dealing with a living system. More so we are dealing with a Weather Dependent system.

- Have a Plan, Have a goal

Thank you!!!



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