Precision Agriculture For Alabama Livestock Producers


In this Presentation

- What We did
- Why We did it
- Successes that occurred because of this project

Step 1 – Acquire money for travel and equipment

Step 2 – Purchase Equipment and learn to use it

Purchased 2 Trimble EZ Guide 250 Guidance Systems
Agent Training took place at research stations in Clanton and Brewton Alabama

Step 3 – Get the equipment on producers farms

Robbie Nichols – Poultry, Cattle, Certified Animal Waste Vendor
Chuck Madaris – Purebred and Commercial Cattle
Bill Huneycutt – Commercial Cattle

Step 4 – Assist producers and Collect data
Step 5 – Use available outlets to tell others

- 600 views
- Video used in numerous presentations

Step 6 – Take the message to the people

Regional Field Day Held at the Mid-State Stockyard in Letohatchee
- 3 Production meetings held in south and west Alabama
- Livestock and Forage track included in the Alabama Precision Ag Conference

Benefits of Precision Ag for Forage Producers

- Guidance systems allow more accurate applications of inputs to crops
- Reduction in application overlap with the use of GPS guidance systems has been estimated as much as 8.5% in row crops
- Financial and environmental advantages for producers

In 2008:
- Average per head cost for:
  - Soil Fertility $97.05
  - Pesticides $25.35
  - Seed $41.39
  - Machine hire/lease $36.21
  - Fuel and oil $109.96
  = Total $309.96
- 10% savings using precision agriculture = $31 per head

Benefits of Precision Ag for Extension

- Offers source of validity with producers
- Offers a chance for people within extension to work together
- Offers a chance to network between academia, production agriculture, and industry
  - Producers
  - Mid-State Stockyards
  - Mid-South Tractors
  - Trimble
  - Ag-Spray

Net Farm Income and Return Above Operating Expenses

- Year
- 2004 $54.46
- 2005 $47.77
- 2006 $47.35
- 2007 $41.69
- 2008 $39.05

- Net Farm Income
- Return Above Operating Expenses

- Total $132.83

10% savings using precision agriculture = $31 per head
Prospects for the future

- We have grant monies to do 2 more large regional meetings this fall
- Hopefully this leads to even more adoption of technology
- The 2008 Alabama State Agriculture Overview shows forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop to be 883,196 acres. Potential state savings using 10% average savings per acre (238.29 per acre – Alabama cow/calf budget for summer pasture and winter annuals) could be as much as $21,000,000. Assuming 15% adoption rates this could realistically mean as much as $3,000,000 savings for producers.

Thank you

Questions?

Ken Kelley