

GIS in Site-Specific Agriculture – New Booklet Now Available

A new color booklet titled *GIS in Site-Specific Agriculture* introduces producers, agribusinesses, and students to the application of geographic information systems (GIS) technologies in the future management of the farm. Sample data representing a Midwest corn and soybean farm are used to explore simple spatial transformations and analyses using commercial off-the-shelf GIS software. Although corn and soybean data are used, the booklet provides an excellent general introduction to the role of GIS in site-specific agriculture.

The goal of site-specific farming is to treat small plots of land uniquely to realize the profit-yielding potential based on each plot's combination of soil, topography, nutrient, and moisture-regime characteristics. The application of site-specific farming is rapidly expand-



ing. All components of production agriculture are expanding their capacity to support and apply site-specific agriculture techniques. *GIS in Site-Specific Agriculture* introduces managers to these new principles and the techniques used to successfully apply them.

Authors of the booklet are Dr. James D. Westervelt of the University of Illinois and Dr.

Harold F. Reetz, Jr. of PPI. *GIS in Site-Specific Agriculture* contains 64 pages, presented as a 7 x 10-inch softbound publication (ISBN 0-8134-3193-X). It is available at an introductory price of \$10.00 each (plus shipping/handling). Contact Interstate Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 50, Danville, IL 61834-0050. Phone (217) 446-0500 or (800) 843-4774; fax (217) 446-9706; e-mail: info-ipp@IPPINC.com. **BC**



Missouri: *On-Farm Starter Fertilizer Response in No-Till Corn*

This three-year, on-farm study placed at six locations compared corn yield with no starter to three different starter treatments, each placed 2 inches beside and 2 inches below the seed. Starter categories included:

- Low nitrogen (N)/high phosphorus (P)...traditional...starter
- Medium N/medium P starter
- N-only starter

Starter fertilizer gave significant yield increases at all six locations. Responses ranged from 9 to 26 bu/A, with an average

increase of 13 bu/A. There were no differences in yield among the starter categories when averaged across all six experiments. The N-only starter was the most profitable because it had the lowest material cost. However, at the two locations where soil test P was low, P-containing starter was slightly more profitable than the N-only starter. **BC**

Source: Scharf, P.C. 1999. *On-Farm Starter Fertilizer Response in No-Till Corn*. *J. Prod. Agri.* 12(4):692-695.