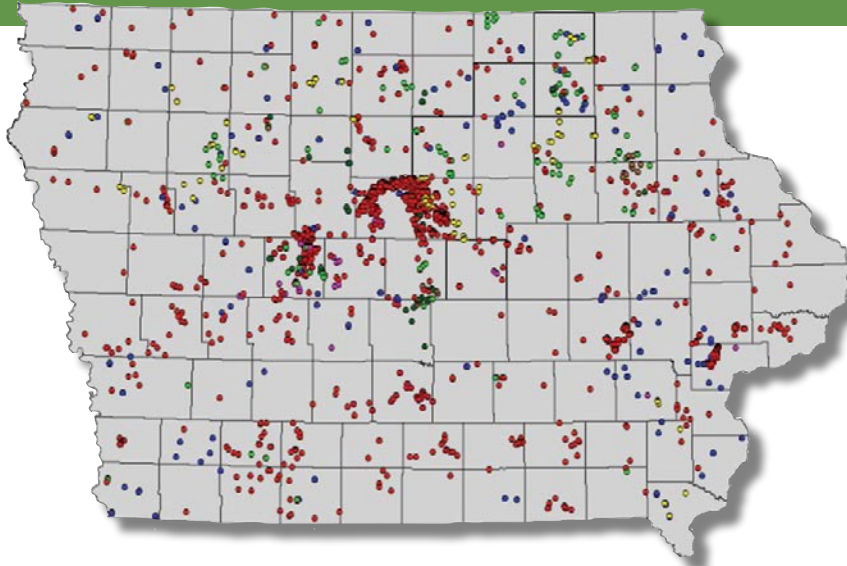


The On-Farm Network™ worked in every county in the state during 2005.

#### Trial Type

- Base EMS
- Farm Net
- Crop Scouting
- Fungicides
- Miscellaneous
- Nitrogen
- Seed Treatment
- Tillage
- Iowa Counties



## There's still time to sign up for 2006 trials

Working with the Iowa Soybean Association On-Farm Network™, more than 200 growers conducted close to 500 strip trials in 2005. Corn stalk samples for nitrate analysis were gathered on at least one farm in every one of Iowa's 99 counties. Total number of samples processed was nearly 2500, from more than 500 farms. (See map.)

This service is provided free of charge to growers by the Iowa Soybean Association and its partners, which include the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Integrated Farm and Livestock Management program, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Funding from these agencies comes from both state and federal legislatively earmarked and agency granted funds.

Participating in On-Farm Network strip trials is not only free, it may actually put some money in your pocket – besides what you learn from the trials that benefit you in future years. In 2005, some Iowa counties took advantage of an NRCS program that allowed On-Farm Network practices – strip trials, soil nitrate testing and stalk nitrate analysis – to be cost shared through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). We anticipate these cost-share programs to be offered in most of the state this year.

Cutting nitrogen rates, even when fertilizer prices are high, can look like a risky proposition. For this reason, growers who participate in our '-50 lb.' nitrogen trials using our protocols (which you'll find posted on the Internet at our website ([www.isafarmnet.com](http://www.isafarmnet.com))) are also offered

payment for any yield loss on the low-rate strips.

Because On-Farm Network studies are designed to be as simple as possible, we ask that growers use GPS to mark strips in fields, record yields using a combine yield monitor, and submit this data to us for analysis immediately following harvest. For ease of harvest and better reliability of data, strips should be at least as wide as the combine header that will be harvesting them.

Other benefits from participating in the network include free aerial imagery of fields enrolled in strip trials, free stalk nitrate analysis for nitrogen and manure management studies, and analysis of yield data after the season for all trials.

The main focus of the On-Farm Network has been nitrogen and manure management for corn production, but growers working with us have studied the yield impact of deep ripping, soybean and corn seed inoculants, routine fungicide and foliar fertilizer use on soybeans, the impact of pH and lime application on yields, cover crops, and more. This year, a number of growers will be looking at the practice of firming soils using a field roller after planting.

While planting season is upon us, we're still looking for growers to participate in nitrogen, fungicide and inoculant studies. If you're interested in comparing yields between rootworm Bt and non-Bt hybrids in first year corn, please contact us.

To let us know of your interest in or intent to participate in 2006 trials, please complete the form on the facing page and mail it back to Christine Borton at the address on the form. ■