

## The On-Farm Network

The On-Farm Network is a collection of growers who work together to increase farm profitability. The objective of the program is to organize growers to conduct meaningful on-farm evaluation.

Methods used by the On-Farm Network are scientifically sound. Participants make comparisons using replicated strips between two practices and measuring the grain yield. Combines equipped with GPS and yield monitors ensure accuracy and reliability of the data generated.

The focus on two treatments and the spatial yield data permits growers to evaluate not only the field average, but also differences within the field such as by soil map unit. This is important for many management factors such as tillage.

To help individual growers determine the value of deep ripping on their farms, the Iowa Soybean Association, in cooperation with John Deere, Iowa Soybean Promotion Board, Iowa State University and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship through the Integrated Farm and Livestock Management program, set up a series of on-farm strip tests from central to northeast Iowa.

John Deere AMS provided the tractor, ripper, GPS and some funding support to help assist growers in evaluating their current management practices. These tests were all established with a John Deere 2100 minimum till ripper set at a depth of 16 in.

Continually evaluating actual performance and implementing improvements is a concept that works well for grower management. This concept has been applied to other management practices which can be found on the Iowa Soybean Association website at <http://www.iasoybeans.com>. Overall, we believe that on-farm evaluations can and are improving grower profitability.



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## On-Farm Network Partners

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- AgVantage F.S.
- Iowa Soybean Promotion Board
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Iowa State University
- Geovantage
- John Deere, AMS
- Heart of Iowa Coop
- West Central Cooperative

