

UNDERSTANDING THE SCIENCE OF MANAGING SPATIAL VARIABILITY

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Spatial variation in soil properties exists within fields, farms and across landscapes. Although spatial variation in agricultural fields has received considerable attention recently, its importance and impact on crop management has been discussed for over a century. Many approaches have been proposed over the last two decades for quantifying and managing spatial variation in crop production fields to implement site-specific crop management. However, most or all of these approaches utilize complex geo-statistical techniques which often prove to be challenging for practicing crop advisors to implement such techniques in field conditions. This is primarily because of lack of understanding and accessibility to “simple to understand” educational materials on such complex techniques and topics. This presentation will simplify the concept of spatial variability and how to understand the science of managing spatial variability in an easy to comprehend educational material.