



Indiana CCSI Mentoring Program

Hans Kok

Dan Towery

January 12, 2013

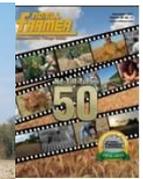


The Indiana CCSI

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

Assist the 92 Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts to achieve:

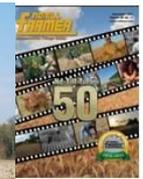
- Improved soil health
- Improved water quality
- Increased profitability on Indiana cropland



The Indiana CCSI

We focus on four components applied as a system:

- Continuous no-till
- Cover crops
- Precision technologies
- Nutrient and pest management



1. Continuous no-till / strip till



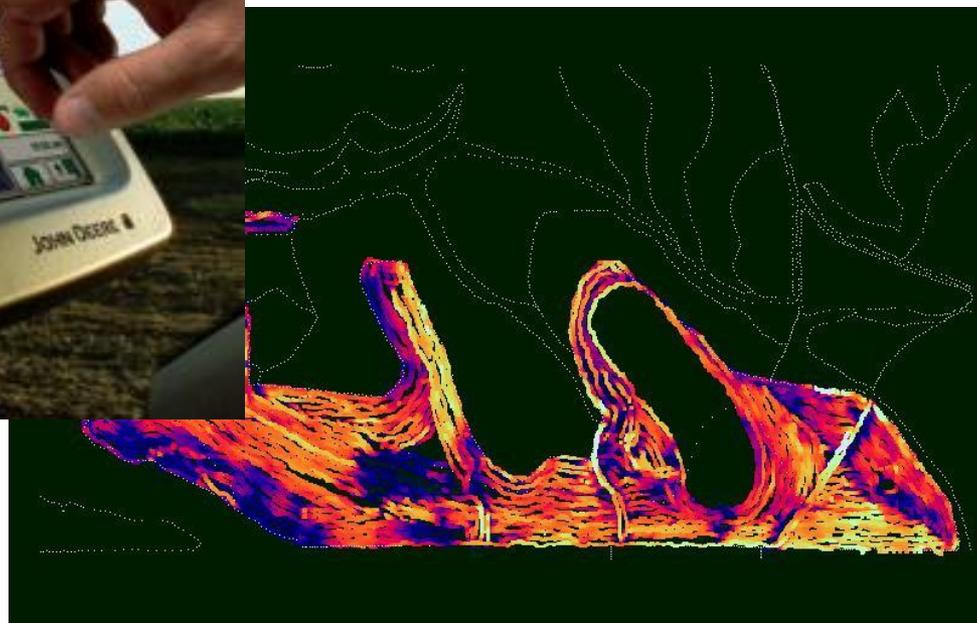
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2. Cover crops



3. Precision farming



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4. Nutrient and plant management



The Indiana CCSI Program

- Funding and oversight by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP):



The Indiana CCSI

Barry Fisher

Dan Towery Hans Kok



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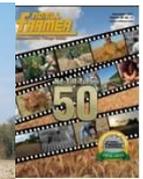


What is the CCSI Mentoring Program?

Use Mentors to help Farmers make the transition to
Conservation Cropping Systems

Mentors can be:

- Experienced no-till farmers
- Independent CCA crop consultants
- Private industry agronomists



Goals for the CCSI Mentoring Program

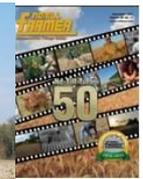
- Provide training for Mentors
- Sign up 16 Mentors
- Have 60 Farmers receive mentoring



Mentors

Mentors ranked their comfort/skill level with:

- No-till Equipment
- Cover Crop Management
- No-till Nutrient Management
- No-till and Cover Crop Pest Management
- Precision Farming
- Crop Rotations and Systems
- Soil and Water Conservation



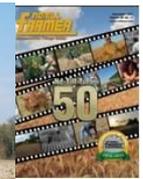
Mentors

- We kept a web-based mentoring data base, so we knew what mentoring skills were in the mentor pool
- If a mentor needed help with a specific topic, we could suggest another mentor to help



Mentors

- Brought in their own farmers to mentor, or were provided potential farmer names
- Completed a check list for all the CCS topics they covered with their farmer(s)
- After the mentoring, developed a “CCS Conservation Plan” with the farmer and the local NRCS office
- This “Plan” basically stated what fields the farmer would try the CCS practices on
- After the farmer and the local DC signed this plan, the mentors were paid \$1,400 for each farmer they mentored



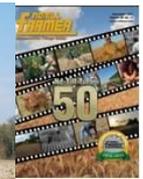
Farmers

Farmers who wanted to receive mentoring were pre-approved by the local NRCS office



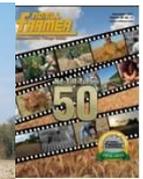
Mentoring Program Results

- Administered by IASWCD
- 17 mentors were signed up (out of 16)
- 9 mentors actually worked with farmers
- 36 farmers were mentored (out of 60) and signed the “CCS Conservation Plan”
- Several more farmers received mentoring but did not complete all the requirements (yet)
- We had a nice distribution of mentors and farmers across the state of Indiana



Future of the CCSI Mentoring Program

- In 2012, we received a 3-year USDA-Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)
- Funding for:
 - 8 additional mentors
 - Mentor training
 - 142 additional farmers to be mentored
- Grant pays for half the cost of the mentor
- Farmer pays the other half
- We were able to hire an assistant; Lisa Holscher



PNW Direct Seed Mentoring Project

Kate Painter, Dennis Roe,
Ty Meyer, & Hans Kok
January 12, 2013



PNW Direct Seed Mentoring



Collaborative process between the SCCD,
WSU/U of I Extension and the Pacific
Northwest Direct Seed Association

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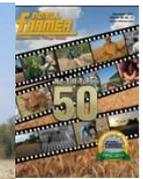




Expected Results:

- Solid economic data from each operation
 - Reduce the DS learning curve
- Exposure to producers that may be “on the fence”

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Innovative, Grass Roots Approach



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21st Annual National No-Tillage Conference

Indianapolis, Indiana * Jan. 9-12, 2013



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Powering Up Your No-Till System



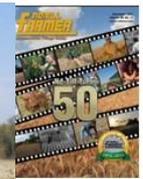
**Farmers helping Farmers!
Making opportunities for farmers to
network.**





Program paid:

- \$30/Acre up to 100 acres
- Consulting Fees (Mentor and Producer)
- Mileage Reimbursement for Equipment Hauling

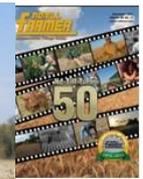




Enterprise budgets were created for 8 direct seed (DS) mentors and 9 conventional tillage (CT) grower participants

Mentor group:

- 4 located in low/moderate rainfall zone
- 4 located in high rainfall/annual cropping zone
- Grower participant group:
 - 5 located in low/moderate rainfall zone
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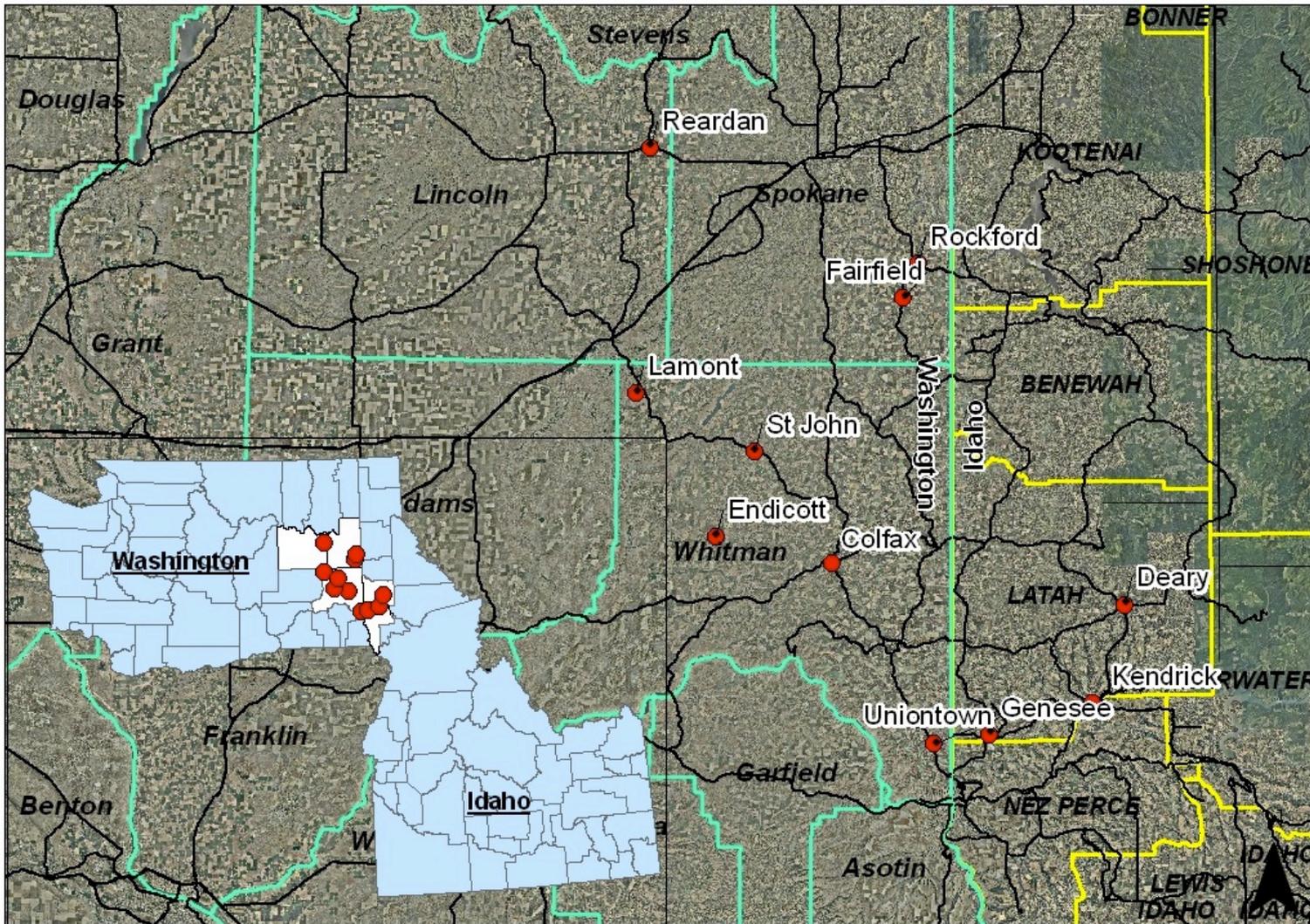
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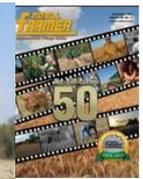
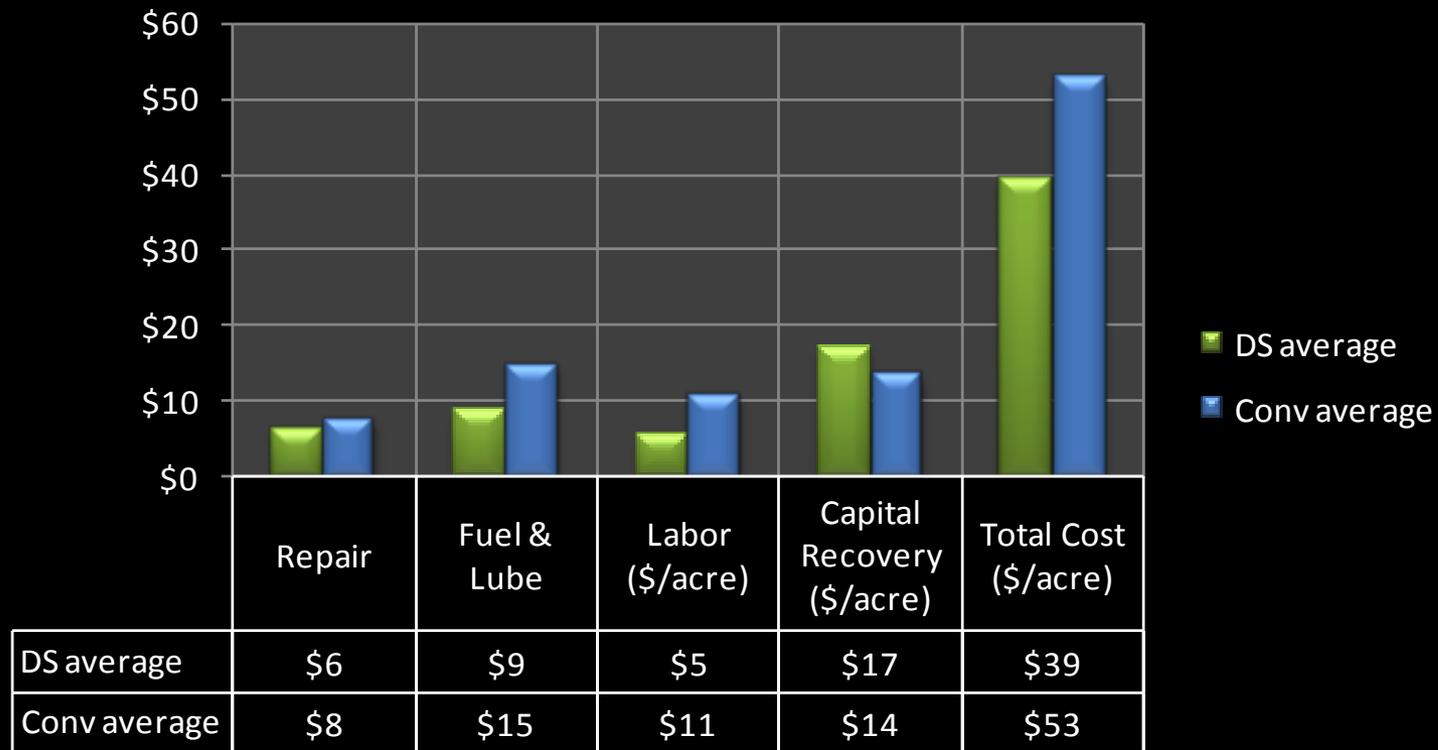


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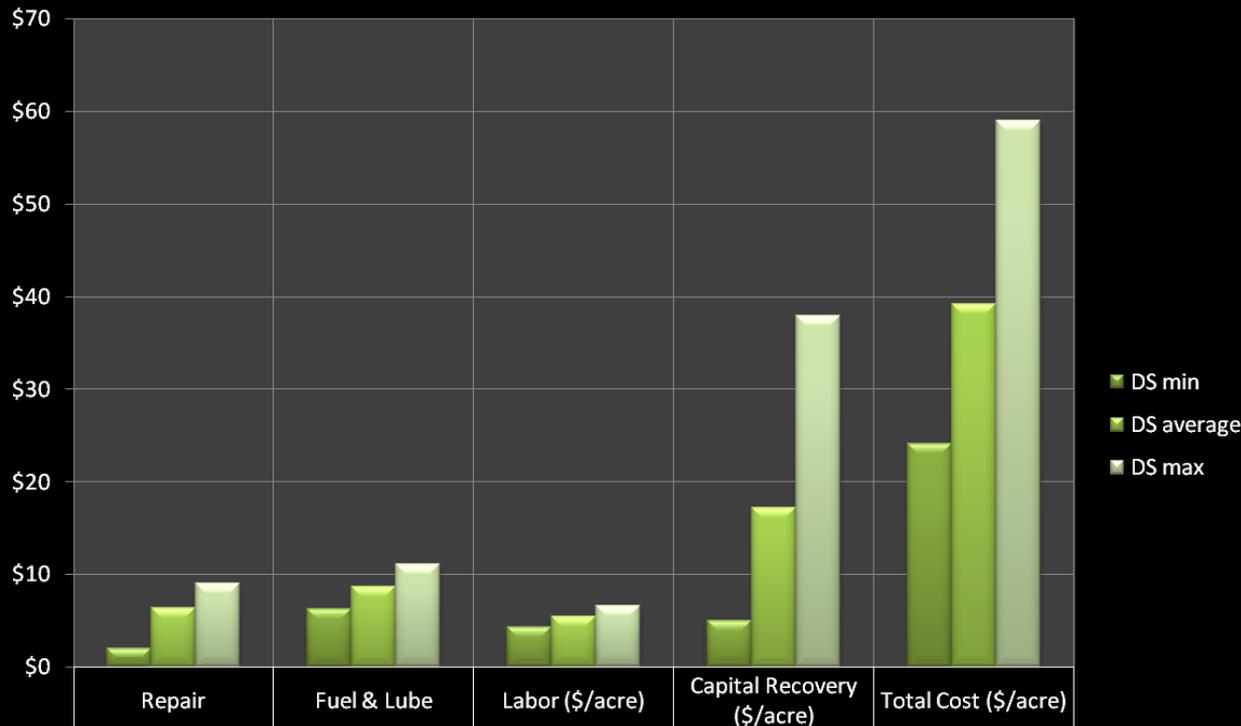


Machinery Costs Comparison, Spring Grain





Machinery Costs for DS Growers



DS min	\$2	\$6	\$4	\$5	\$24
DS average	\$6	\$9	\$5	\$17	\$39
DS max	\$9	\$11	\$7	\$38	\$59





Machinery Costs for Conventional Growers



Labor Reduction under DS

- **50% reduction in labor requirements for a DS spring grain crop**
- **Saves about \$5.50 per acre in machinery labor costs, assuming a \$20 per hour labor cost**



Savings in Repair Costs

- About a **20%** reduction in machine repair costs
 - Includes parts and labor
- Fewer trips across the fields and fewer total hours of machinery usage

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Fuel Cost Savings

- Fuel and lubrication costs are about 42% less under the DS system for a spring grain crop
- Per acre savings averaged \$7.74, assuming \$2.50 per gallon fuel cost

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Increased Capital Recovery Costs

DS system averaged 25% increase
in capital recovery costs -- about
\$3.50 per acre higher for a DS
system

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Increased Capital Recovery Costs

- Capital recovery includes both depreciation and interest on your machinery investment

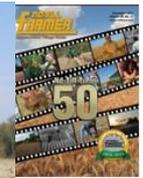


Total Machinery Cost Savings

Total machinery costs include both variable (fuel, labor, repairs) and fixed machinery costs, such as depreciation and interest



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Total Machinery Cost Savings

Overall, machinery costs for DS growers averaged 26% lower than for conventional
Cost savings averaged \$13.50 per acre for a spring grain crop

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Whole-farm savings would add up...

- 3,000-acre farm would save \$40,500
per year

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Direct-Seeding Gains

- Improvements in soil quality
- Near immediate decrease in erosion
- Yields are comparable with many showing vast improvements over prior yields

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Direct-Seeding Gains

- Time savings are significant
- Provides room for efficiency gains where other systems struggle to do so.

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Contact Information:

Ty Meyer
Spokane Conservation District
210 N. Havana
Spokane , WA. 99202
www.sccd.org
(509) 535-7274



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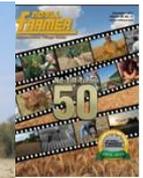
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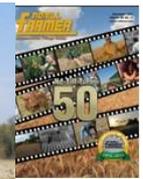




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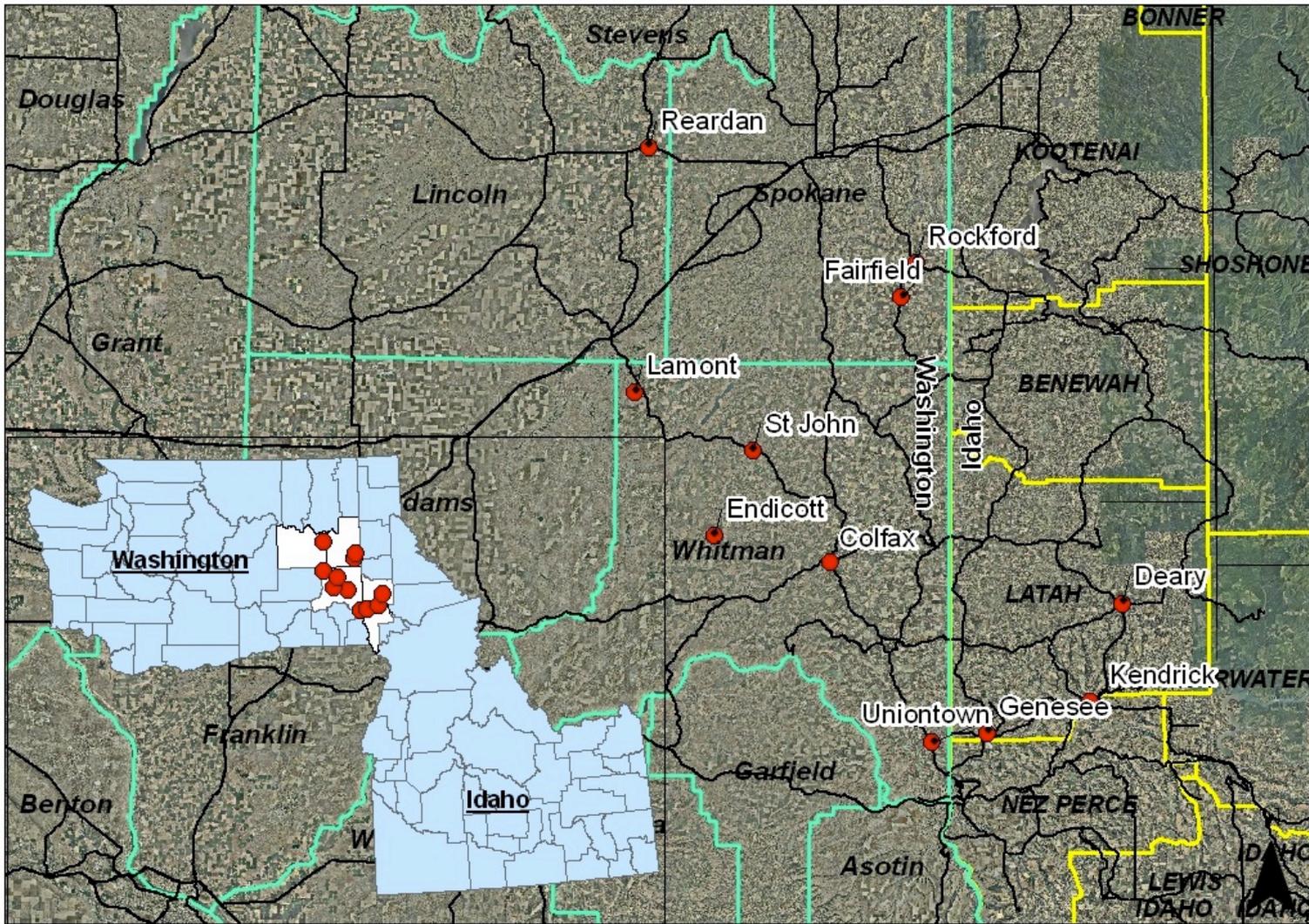
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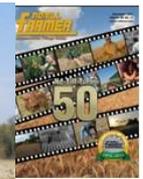


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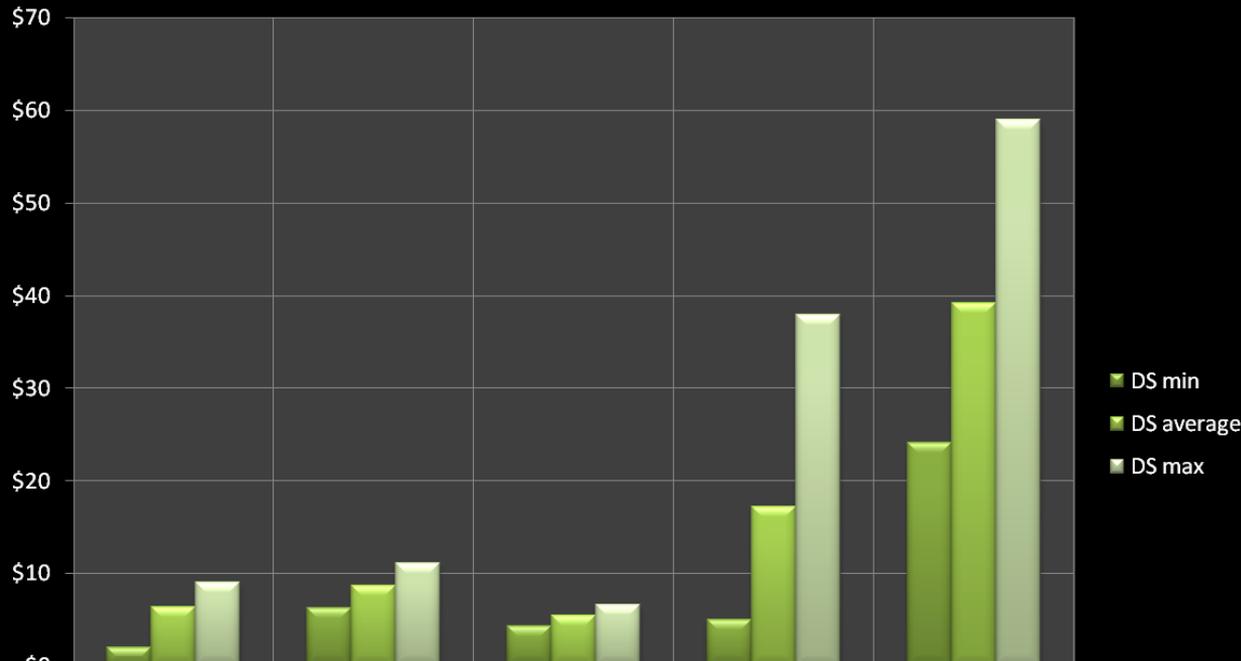


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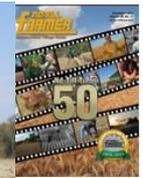
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