

PRECISION PLACEMENT OF P AND K

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ABSTRACT

During the last two years, prices for nutrients have fluctuated to a much greater extent than in the past. When prices were at their highest, producers reacted by turning their focus to nitrogen and reducing or omitting phosphorus or potassium. In several cases, producers also reduced nitrogen rates. Often these decisions were made for entire fields or farms, rather than for smaller management areas. To address these issues, this presentation provides a thought process for identifying areas within a field that should receive a higher priority for fully recommended rates of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Where rates need to be reduced to meet budgetary restrictions, a method will be described that accounts for the interactions of two nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus or nitrogen and potassium) to determine the economically optimum combination of both. The thought process shared is intended to improve the quality of information going into decisions of where limited nutrient resources are allocated within fields.