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(Mis)managing data: How to get the results you want!

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(Mis)managing data: How to get the results you want!

Jim Rouse, director, Iowa Crop Improvement Association, Agronomy, Iowa State University

Selecting corn hybrids and soybean varieties is often cited as one of the most important factors in maximizing yield potential. Generally there is no shortage of performance data, all promising to help make your decisions easier, or even to make your decisions FOR you!

How then does one evaluate multiple sources of information? What criteria separate 'good' and 'bad' data? If various information sources provide different results, which do you rely on? Often finding the right answer depends on asking the right questions—but what are those questions?

A previous version of this talk focused on common mistakes in data collection and reporting, including misleading graphs, biased and unbalanced data, confounding, and various other examples of how field trials can become exercises in futility. This talk will move beyond those topics and explore more about utilizing data to make selection decisions.

No, this seminar will not help you mismanage data. Instead the discussion will involve methods, results, and interpretation of yield trial data. The talk is intended to help growers select the most useful sources of information for variety selection decisions. In addition, for those who perform comparison trials, suggestions will be given to improve the value of your results.

References

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