Remote Sensing for Monitoring USA Crop Production: What is the State of the Technology

Monitoring Food Security Threats from Space - A CELC Seminar Centurion, SA 21 April 2016





David M. Johnson Geographer United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service



National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

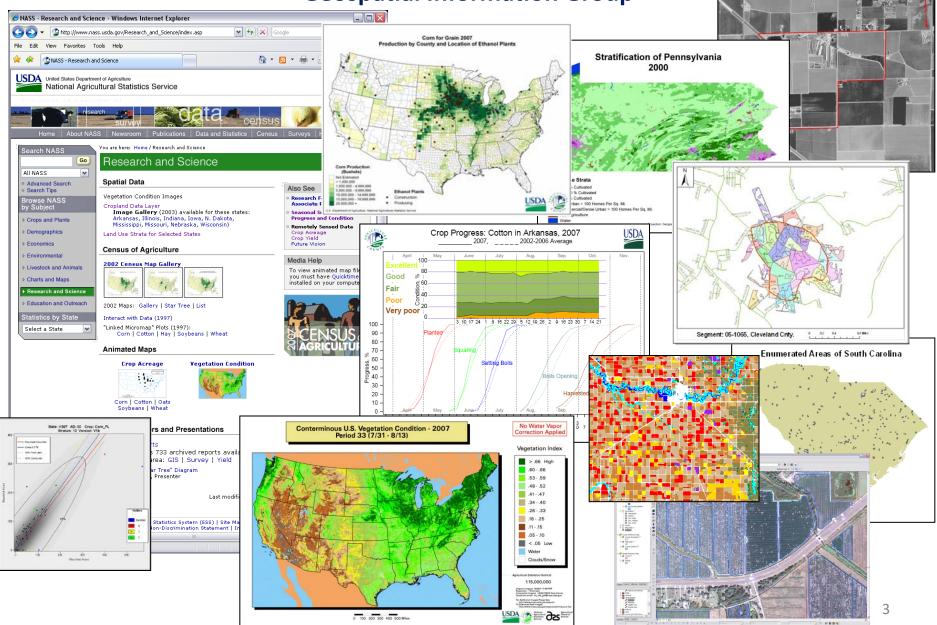
Provider of timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture



www.nass.usda.gov

NASS Research and Development Division

Geospatial Information Group



Most popular crop reports from NASS

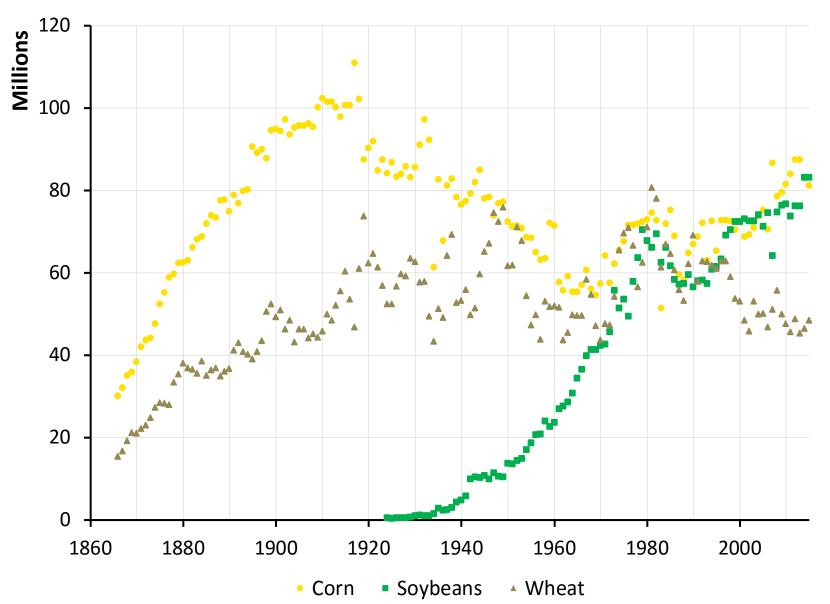
		1						
USDA	Acreage							
ISSN: 1949-1522		1						
Released June 28, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, Uni Agriculture (USDA).	USDA		Crop F	Production				
Corn Planted Acreage Up Slightly from 2012 Soybean Acreage Up 1 Percent All Wheat Acreage Up 1 Percent All Cotton Acreage Down 17 Percent	ISBN: 1936-3737 Released May 9, 2014, b Agriculture (USDA).	y the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultura	al Statistics Board, Unit	ted States Department of				
Corn planted area for all purposes in 2013 is estimated at 97.4 million acres, up slightly from last y the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1936 when an estimated 102 million acres w expect to harvest 89.1 million acres for grain, up 2 percent from last year.	Orange Productio	duction Down 9 Percent from 2013 n Up Slightly from April Forecast		USDA			Crop	Progress
Soybean planted area for 2013 is estimated at a record high 77.7 million acres, up 1 percent from 1 harvest, at 76.9 million acres, is up 1 percent from 2012 and will be a record high, if realized. Reco is universed in New Xeek Dependencies and South Deletert		ction is forecast at 1.40 billion bushels, down 9 percent f 8.1 bushels per acre, down 4.3 bushels from last year.	rom 2013. As of 1	ISSN: 1948-3007				
is estimated in New York, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. All wheat planted area for 2013 is estimated at 56.5 million acres, up 1 percent from 2012. The 20 planted area, at 42.7 million acres, is 3 percent above last year and up 2 percent from the previous s about 29.4 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 9.96 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.38 million Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2013 is estimated at 12.3 million acres, up slightly f	White Winter production, 10.9 million bushels are Hard White and 198 million bushels are Sof				ional Agricultural Statistics	Service (NASS), Agricult	ural Statistics Board, Unit	ed States Department of
		Il orange forecast for the 2013-2014 season is 7.21 millio percent from the 2012-2013 final utilization. The Florida		Corn Planted - Selected S These 18 States planted 91% of the				
about 11.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The estimated Durum wheat planted area for 1.54 million acres, down 28 percent from the previous year.	(4.96 million tons), is	s up slightly from the previous forecast but down 17 perc d Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 53.3 million by	ent from last seas	State	May 11, 2013	Week ending May 4, 2014	May 11, 2014	2009-2013 Average
All cotton planted area for 2013 is estimated at 10.3 million acres, 17 percent below last year. Upla 10.0 million acres, down 17 percent from 2012. American Pima area is estimated at 226,000 acres, 2012.	the previous forecast (2.57 million tons), is California and Texas	but down 21 percent from last season. The Florida Valer sunchanged from the previous forecast but down 14 perc production forecasts are carried forward from April.	ncia orange foreca tent from last seas	Colorado Illinois Indiana	(percent) 29	(percent) 35	(percent) 64 61 70	(percent) 58 45 70
	42.0 degrees Brix, do 1.59 gallons per box. yield of 1.51 gallons	entrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 201 wm 1 percent from the April forecast and down 1 percent The early-mideason portion is projected at 1.52 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.64 gallon tions of yield assume the processing relationships this se	t from last season s per box, up 1 per s per box, down 3	Kansas Kantucky Michigan Minnesola Missouri Nebraska North Carolina North Carolina North Dakota		52 30 8 83 44 75	20 31 88 777 90	41
				Ohio Pennsylvania South Dakota Tennessee Texas Wisconsin 18 States	16 	25	87 80 20	46 41 43 78 85 41 58
				- Represents zero. Corn Emerged - Selected These 18 States planted 91% of the			•	
				State	May 11, 2013	Week ending May 4, 2014	May 11, 2014	2009-2013 Average
Annually – end of June				Colorado	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
				Illinois . Indiana		8 2 1 19 15	38 14 9 35 32	32 28 29 30 45 10
				Minnesca Missouri Nebraska North Caroline North Dakota	14 2	20 7 55	18	10 18 40 21 84 6 21
	Monthl	y - noon ~ 10 th day	y	North Dasoba Ohio Pennsylvania South Dakota Ternessee Texas Wisconsin	8 	1 36 58	3 7 4 53 65	0 21 12 9 62 69 82
				NO Official				6

Represents zero.

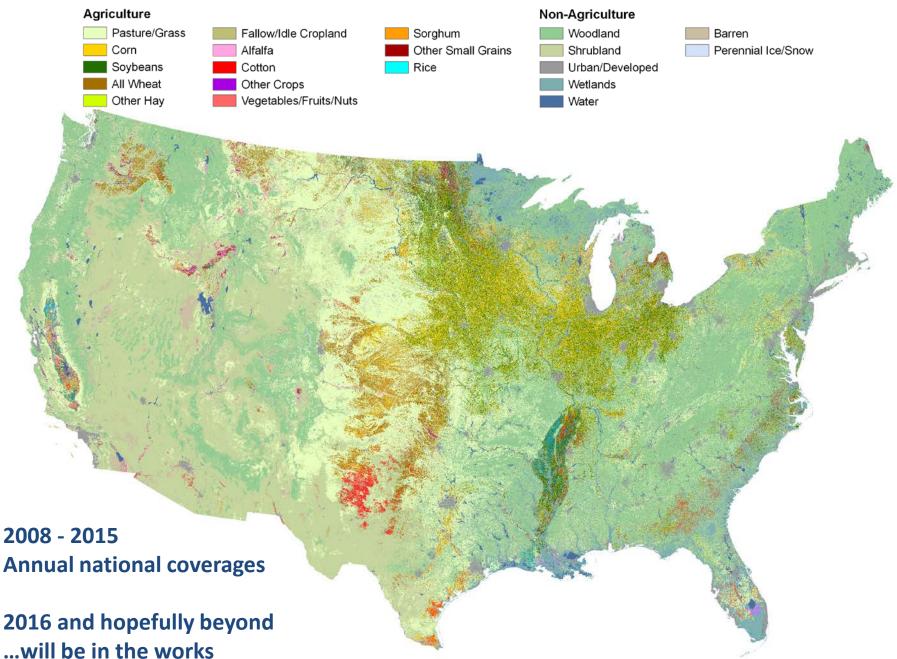
Weekly – 4PM Mondays

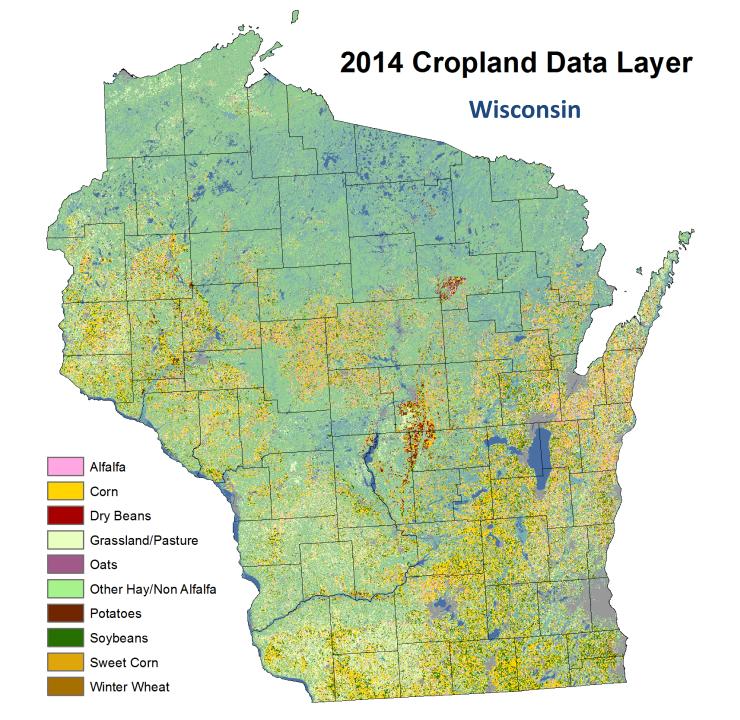
Area trends of the top three US crops

United States Harvested Area (acres)

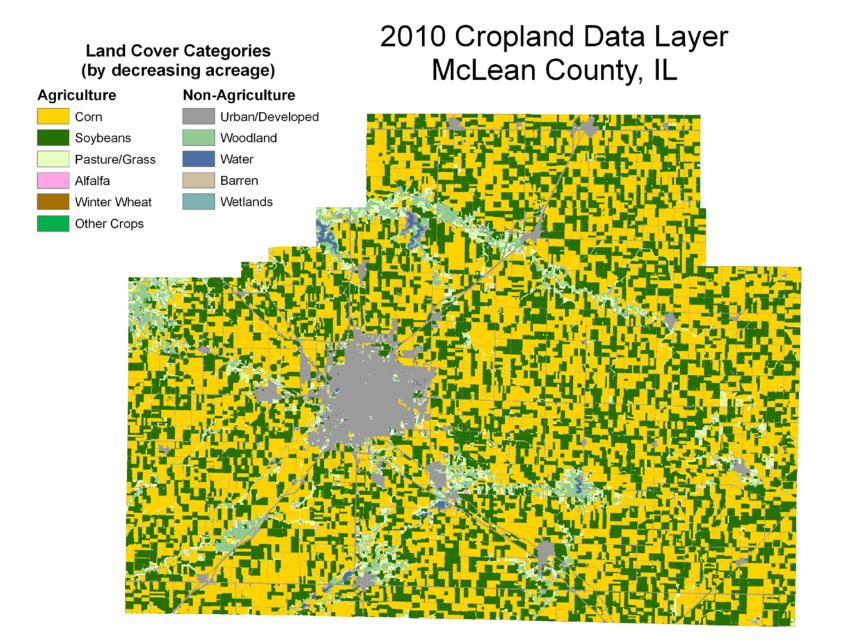


Annual land cover classification - Cropland Data Layer (CDL)





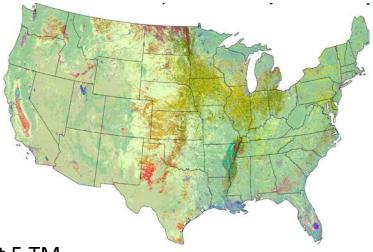
County-level example



CDL overview

Annual land cover classification identifying *circa* summer cultivated crops Used internally by NASS to refine published planted acreage estimates

- Encompasses conterminous USA
 - fully since 2008
 - many states have longer history
- 56m or 30m resolution
 - year dependent
 - since 2010 30m
- Built with a "supervised boosted classification
 - Implemented with Rulequest See 5.0
- Utilizes ground/training data from
 - USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) data
 - National Land Cover Database (NLCD)
- Derived primarily from
 - Landsat-8 OLI and TIRS
 - DMC Deimos-1 and UK-2
 - In past used Resourcesat-1 AWIFS and Landsat 5 TM
- Highly robust for dominant crop types
 - corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, cotton, etc.
- Useful for a variety of field-level analyses



Landsat 8 Optical Land Imager

A new era

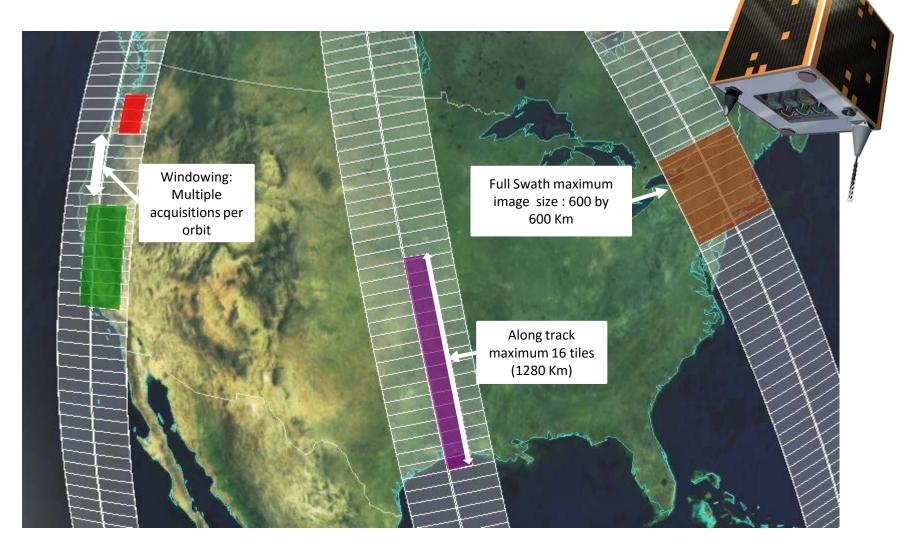


- Launched February 11, 2013
- Imagery FREE to anyone
- 30 meter spatial resolution
- 10 multispectral bands
- 16-day revisit rate
- Long history (40 years) of continuity

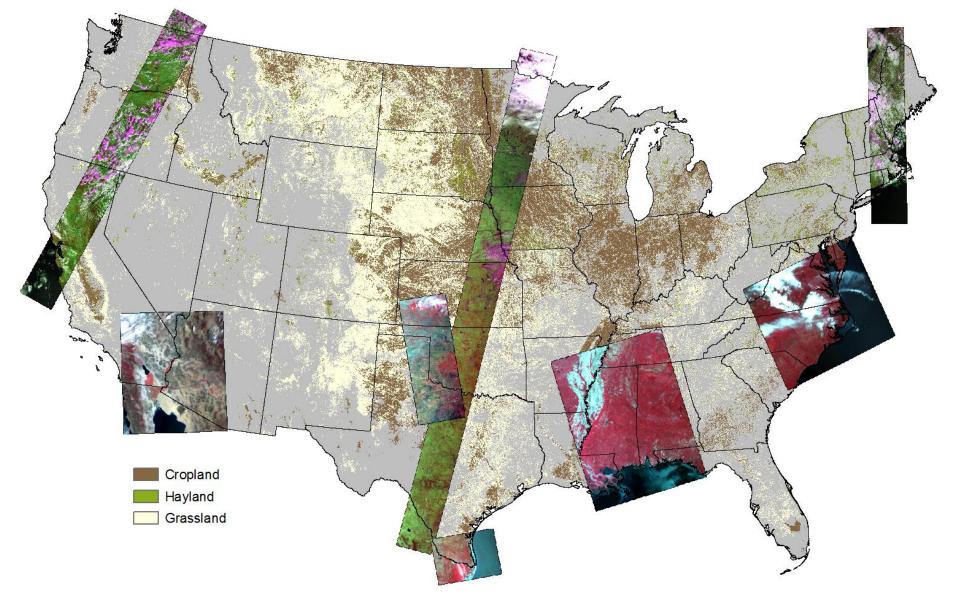


Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC) satellites Deimos-1 and UK2

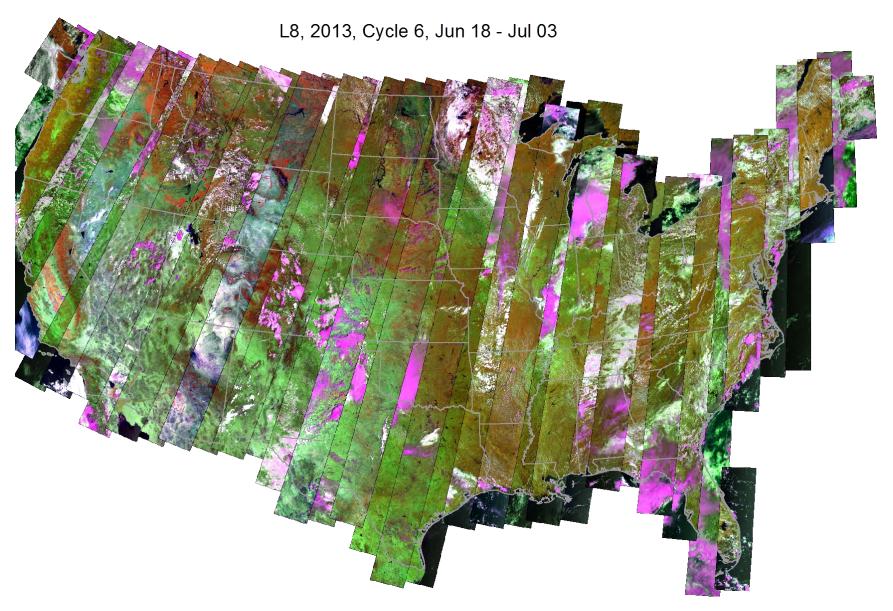
Low cost "smallsat" with color-infrared 22m resolution



Single day of collects, 5 May 2014

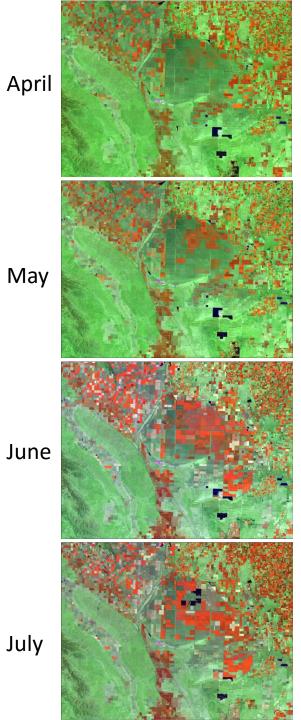


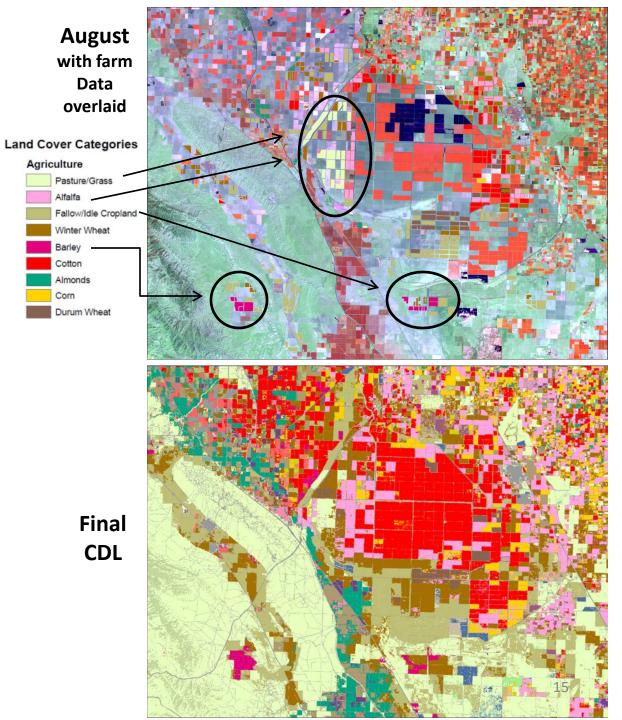
Landsat 8 collections



Example DMC Deimos-1 and UK2 collections







Regression Estimation of Area

Comparing classification area to that enumerated

	O - CROPS	SAND LA	ND USE	ON TR	АСТ		1	1				
How manγ acres are inside this blue tract bou								-				
Now I would like to ask about each field inside				-				4		~ 그는 말을 가장 같은 것을 했다.		
FIELD NUMBER	01 828	828	828	03	04 828	828	05	4		- 1 A.		
1. Total acresin field		•				•		-		والمتهيل والمسار		
2. Croporlanduse.[Specały]									(
 Occupied farmstead or dwelling 	843	-										
 Waste, unoccupied dwellings, buildings and structures, roads, ditches, etc. 								1				
structures, roads, ditches, etc.	831	831	. 831	•	831	. 831	•	-				
Woodland		•	•			•	•	-	and the second second	- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1		
Permanent (not in croprotation)	842	842 •	• 842	-	842	842	•		and the second se			
Cropland (used only for pasture)	856	856	856	•	856	. 856		-	and the second se			
	857	857	. 857	-	857	- 857		1				
 Idle gropping - Idle all during 2000 Two crocs planted in this field or two uses of the sam 		• D ⊡Yes	•	s ⊡No	DYes D	-	ıYes ⊡No	4				
orop.				S LINO								
[Specify second crop or use	844	844	844		844	844		4		 A second sec second second sec		
Acre	s	•	•			•	•					
0. Acres left to be planted	610	- 610 -	e 610	•	610	- 610	•	-				
 Acrestingated and to be imigated [If double cropped, include acreage of each crop inigated.] 	620	620	620		620	620		1				
include acteage of each crop intgated.	540	• 540	• 540	•	540	• 540		4				
6. Winter Wheat Planted		•	•	•		•	<u> </u>	1				
(<i>include cover crop</i>) 7. For grain or seed	541	541	• 541		541	541						
8. Ryve Planted	547	547	547		547	547						
(include cover croc)	548	548	548	-	548	- 548	-		V			
9. For grain or seed		•	•	•		•	•					
							-					
REGRESSION					1			Dependent	Independent			
	К	legk	(E221	ΟN				ependent	macpenaent			
VARIABLES:								V	V			
VARIADLES.								Ý	λ			
						_				-		
							_	-				
							– Fi	numerated	CDL Classified			
								Tumerateu				
								• •				
							ΙΔ	S Segments	Acres			
							JA	Julia				
						d 1			1			
		$- \varsigma_{\prime}$	oybe	ar				227	273			
			Jybe	-ai	13				2/3			

337

Wheat

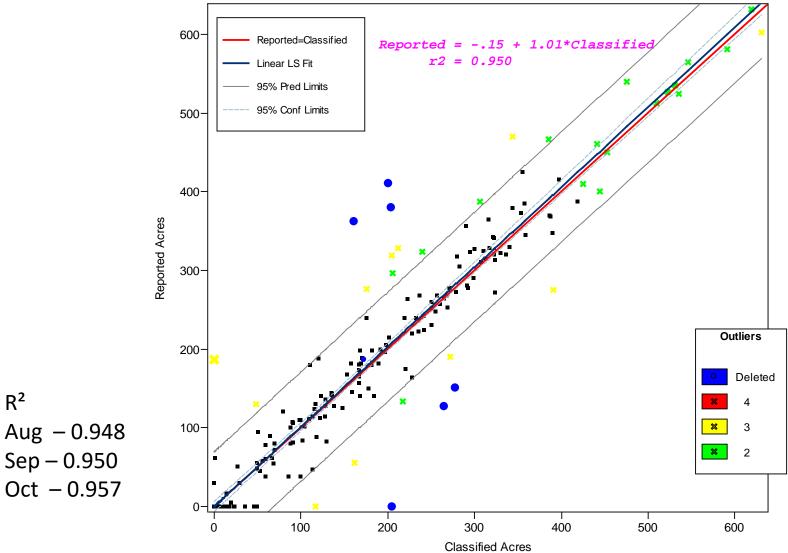
541

Relationship between reported and classified areas

Used to counteract areal bias in classification

Arkansas Rice - September

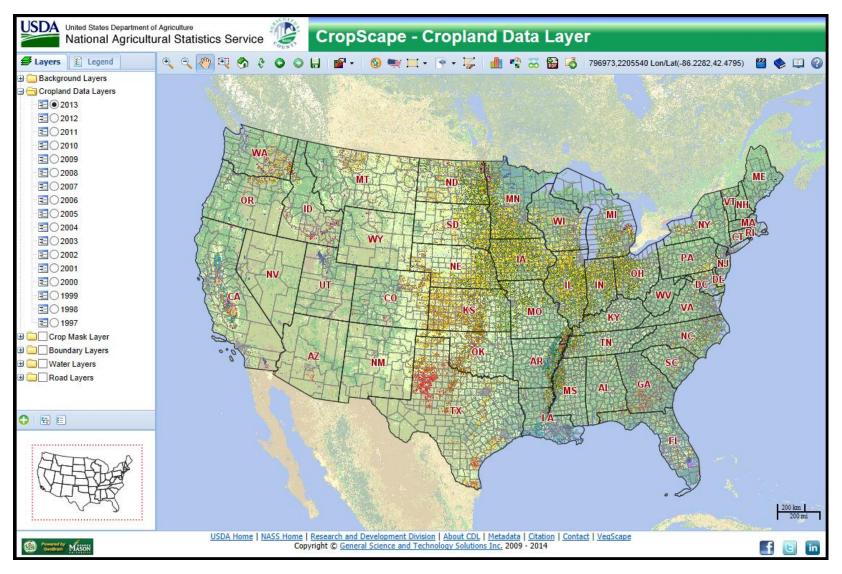
Stratum: 11 Version: v2a



R²

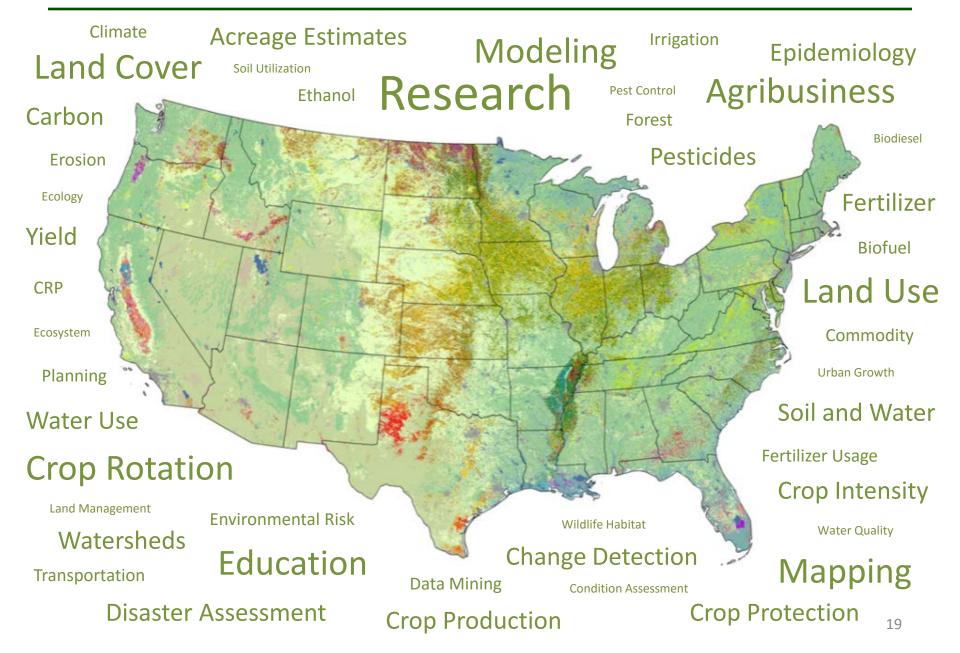
Public access to CDL data

Made available online a few months after growing season complete



nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape

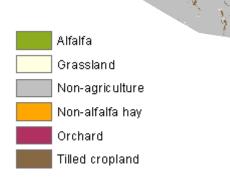
NASS Cropland Data Layer known applications



High quality crop "mask"

Emphasizing cropland, hay, and grassland areas

2010 – 2014 CDL recode and majority vote

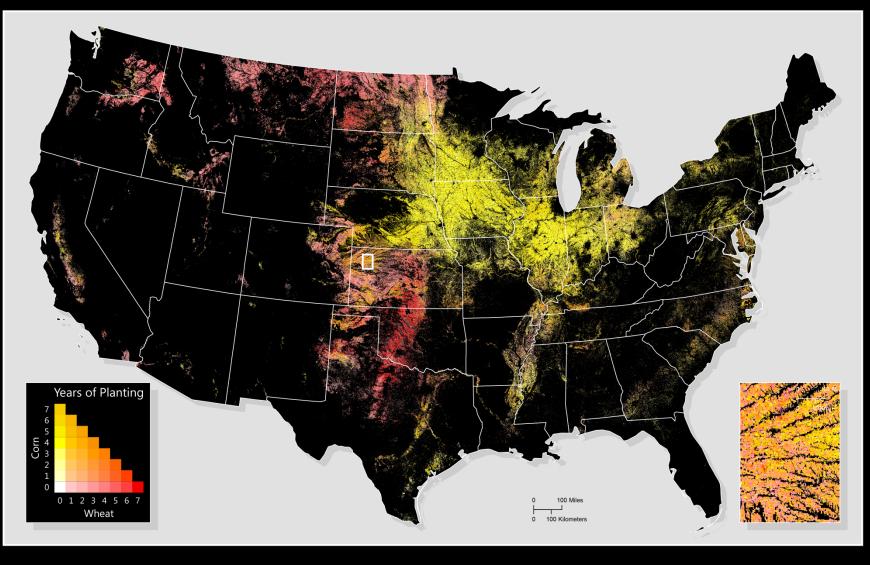


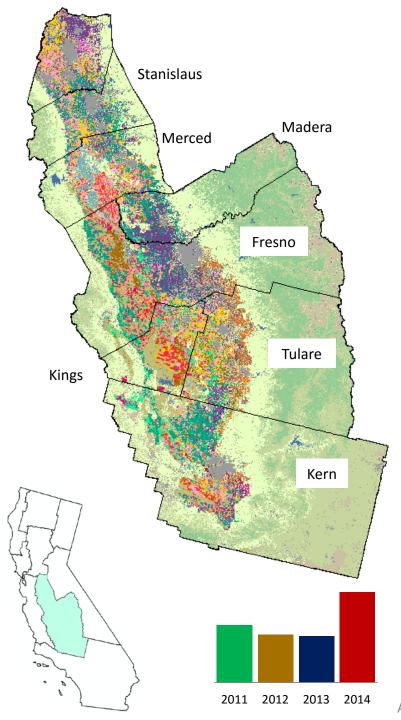
2010 – 2014 CDLs, time series analysis



Corn & Wheat Planting Frequency Data Layers 2008 - 2014





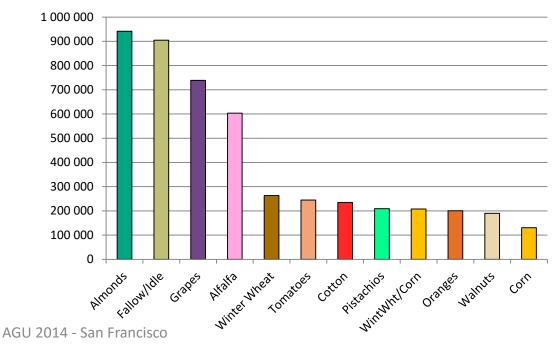


California Drought Issues San Joaquin Valley

8 Counties with large amounts of agricultural

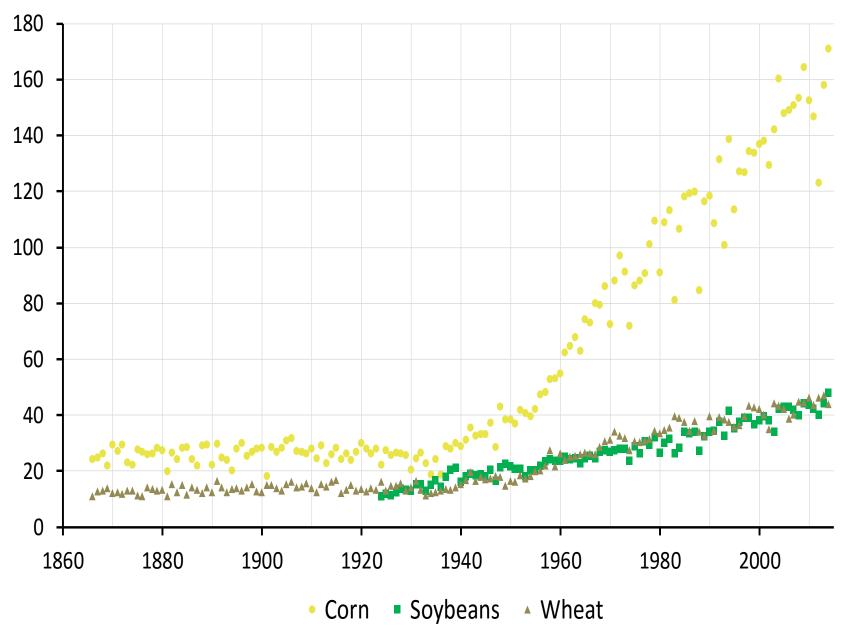
Investigate how the Fallow/Idle acres in each county have been changing over the last 4 years

Crop Type by Acres in CDL





United States Yield (bushel/acre) Trends



Yields results primarily derived from two surveys

Agricultural Yield

- Farmer reported survey data of expected crop yields.
- Data obtained throughout the growing season.
- Conducted in all states except Alaska and Hawaii.
- Sample size in the 1000s per state.
- Farm operator contacts are selected from the March Crops/Stocks survey (small grains) and the June Crops/Stocks survey (late season crops and tobacco).
- Primarily telephone based.



Objective yield

- Corn, Cotton, Soybeans, Wheat, Potatoes.
- Only done in states where the commodities are primarily found.
- Samples selected from areas found in June Area Survey ("Acreage").
- Performed at 100s of sample sites per state.
- Biophysical plant/seed measurements obtained.
- Each plot revisited a few times per season.



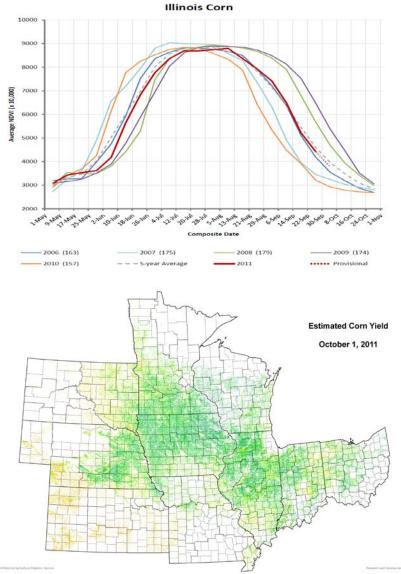
Yield Estimation from Remote Sensing Goals

For the major commodities...

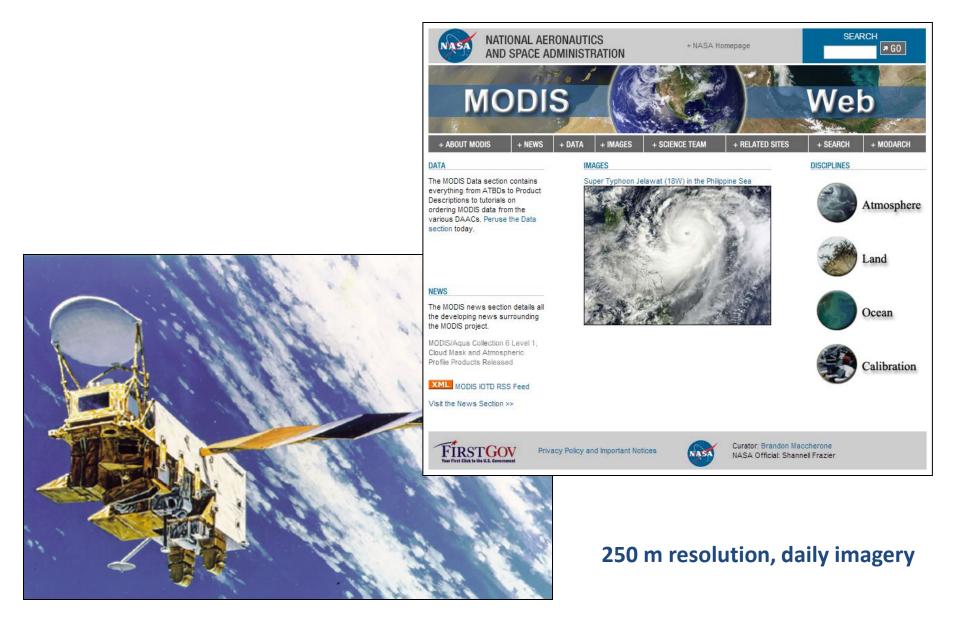
- Produce August 1 national and state-level yield indications for inclusion into NASS decision making
 - Followed by September 1st, October 1st, and November 1st.
- Be independent of current years' OY and AY surveys
- Follow in January with county-level estimates
 Undertake with marginal budget
- i.e. free data, cheap or existing software, mainstream computer

Remote sensing of crop yields overview

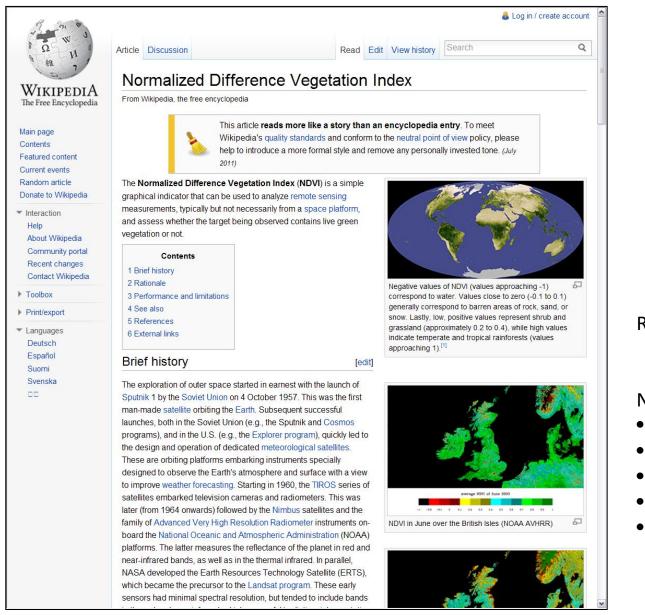
- Premise (though others' research and my own)
 - Positive relationship between crop yield and biomass – plant vigor - "greenness" - NDVI
 - Negative relationship between crop yield and land surface temperature
- Utilize time-series MODIS satellite data to obtain biomass and temperature estimates throughout the growing season
 - Then use them in an empirically-based prediction model
 - CDL data used to isolate known crop areas
- Run model at National, State, ASD, and County levels
 - Corn and Soybeans operational currently
 - Potential for several other crops too
- Must be timely in addition to being accurate
 - Collect current information and assess within a day or two



Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)



Calculation from surface reflectance and use of NDVI



 $NDVI = \frac{(NIR - VIS)}{(NIR + VIS)}$

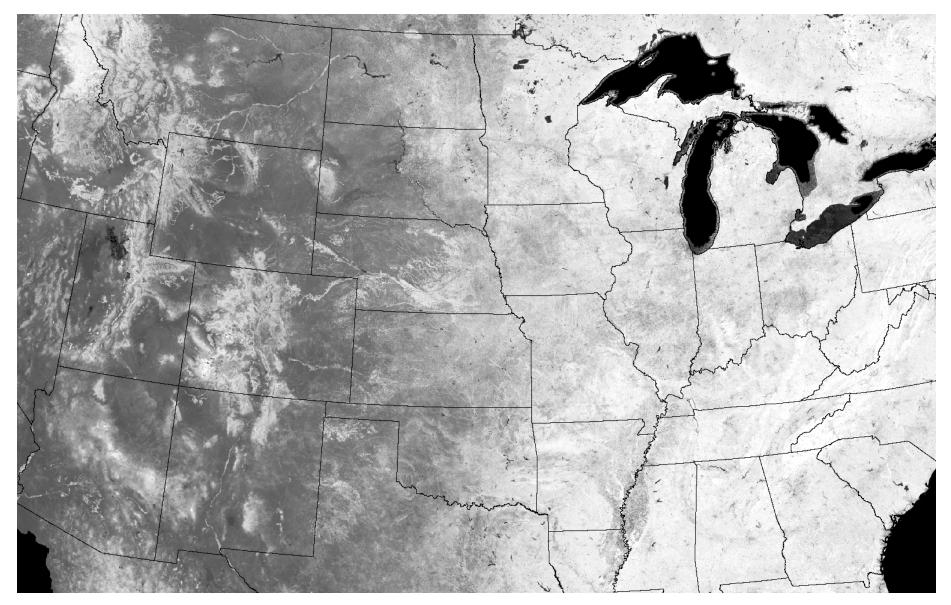
NIR = near-infrared VIS = visible

Ranges from -1.0 to 1.0

NDVI is a related to

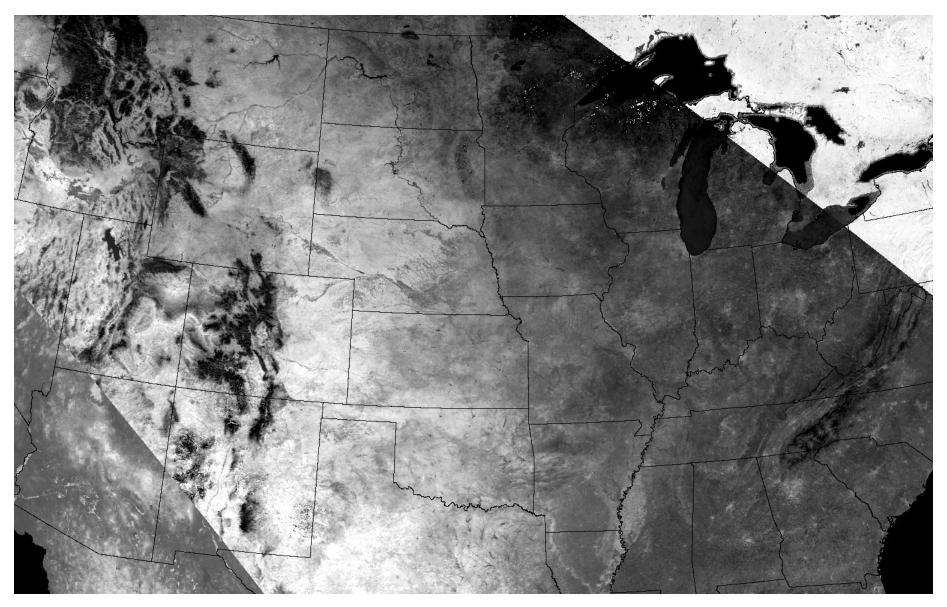
- Plant health
- Chlorophyll content
- "Greenness"
- Biomass
- Vegetation vigor

MODIS NDVI 8-day composite example



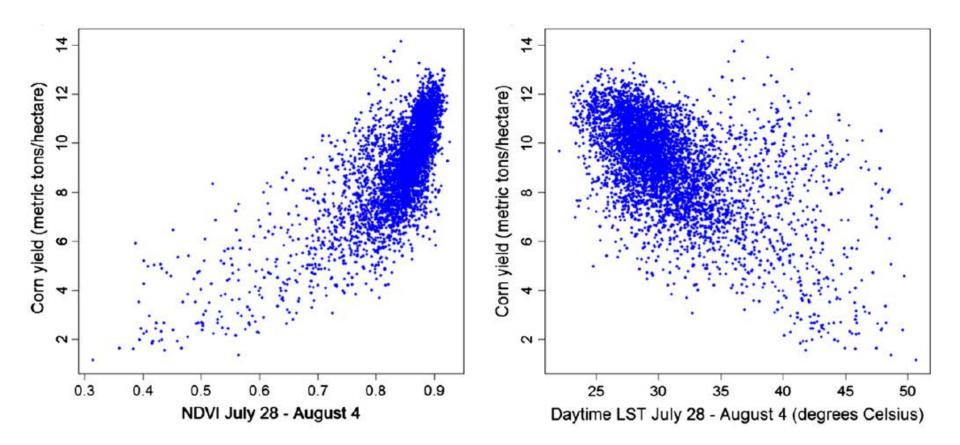
Lighter shades, greater NDVI

MODIS surface temperature 8-day composite example

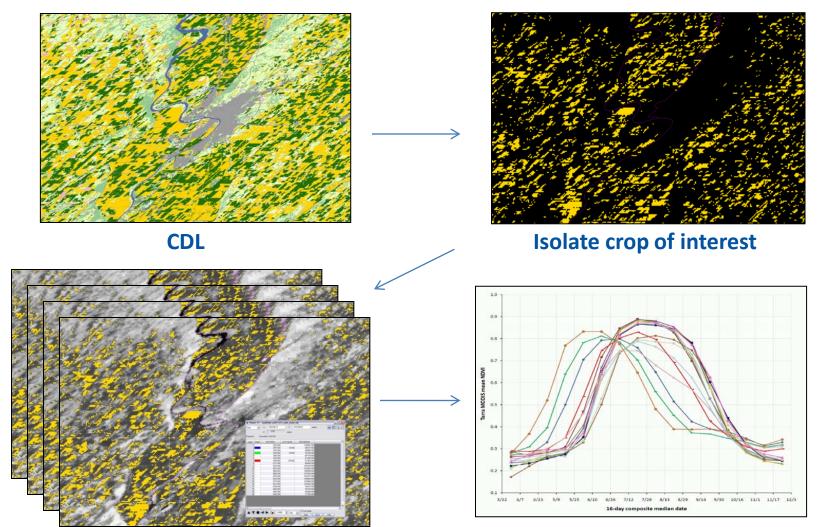


Lighter shades, greater land surface temperature

The relationships (mid summer) to corn yields

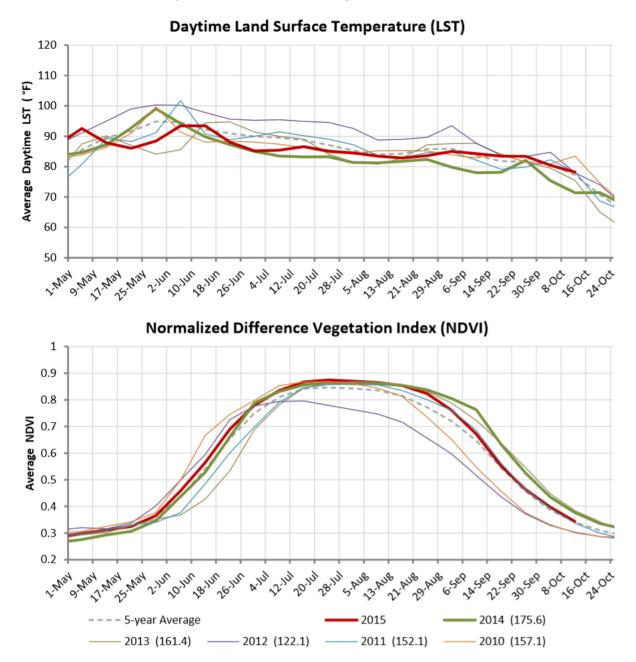


Intersecting of crop "mask" with time-series of MODIS data

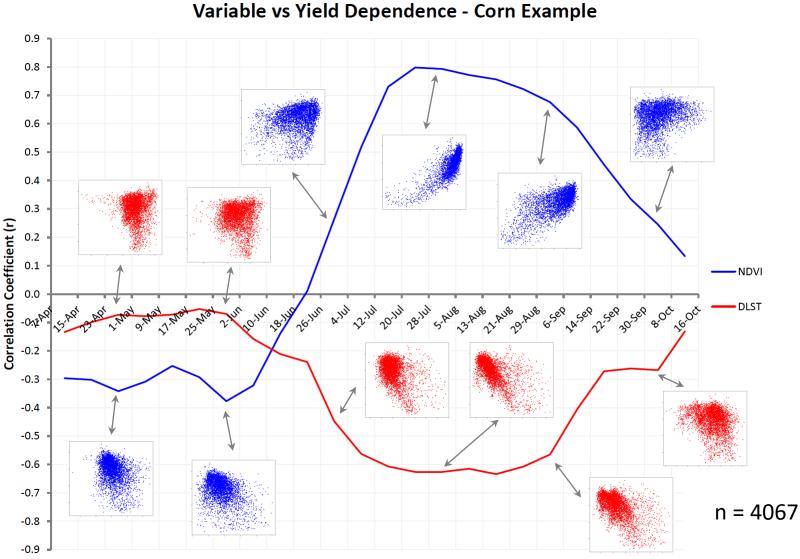


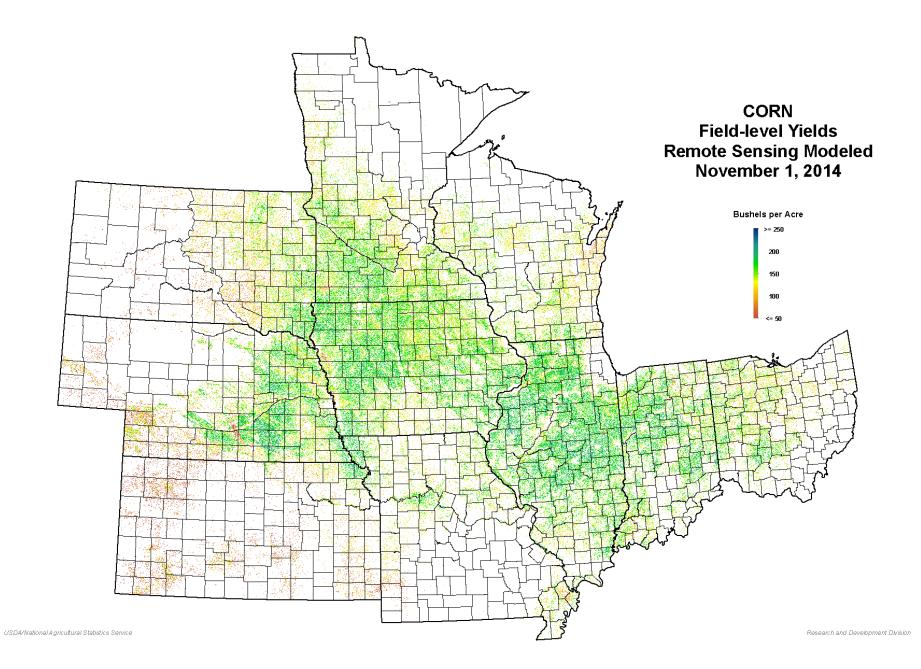
Intersect crop mask with MODIS time series and then spatially average those pixels

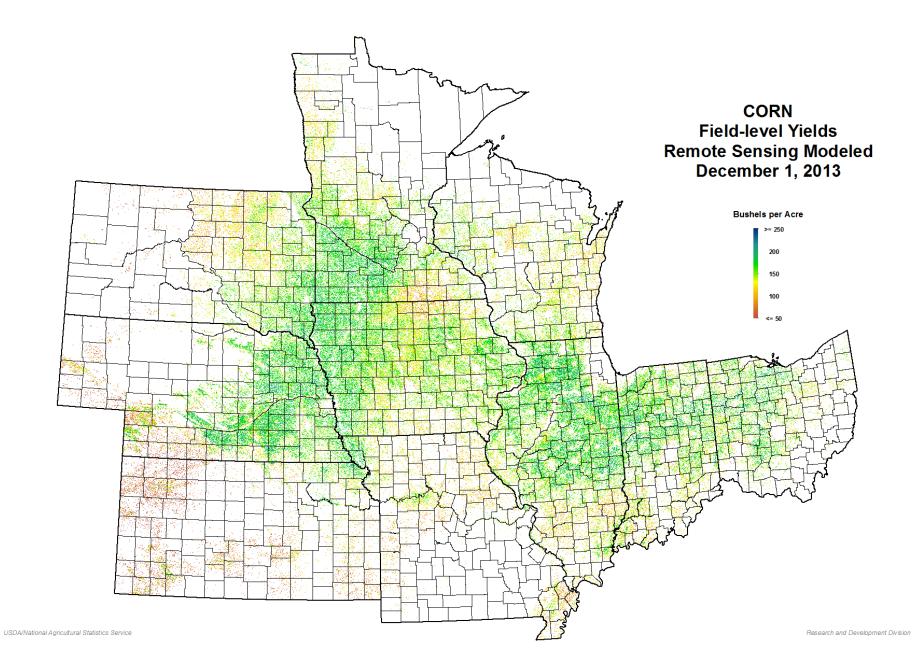
Speculative Region - Corn

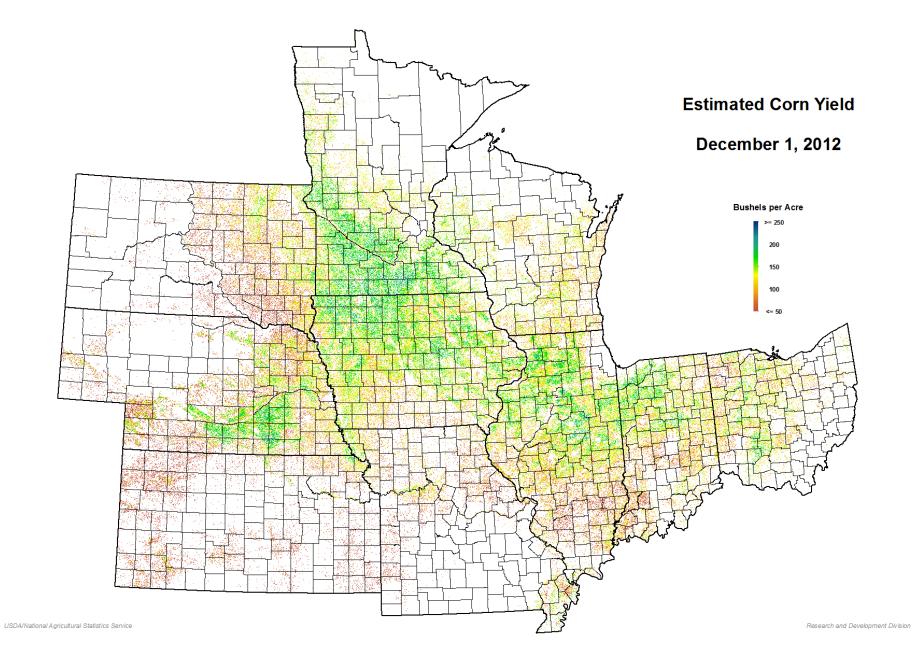


NDVI and DLST time-series correlations (r)



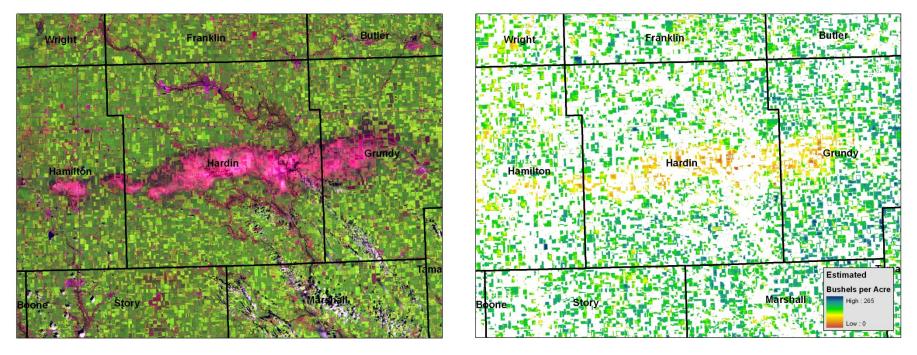






Localized example of yield map variability

Scene of a large hailstorm



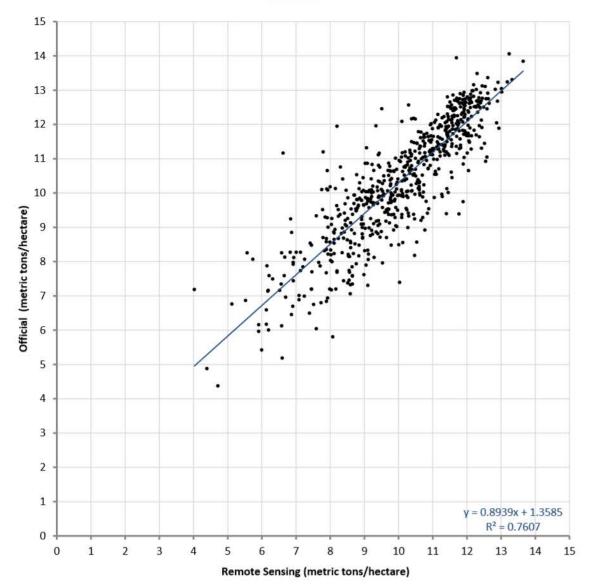
Landsat image

Modeled yields from MODIS

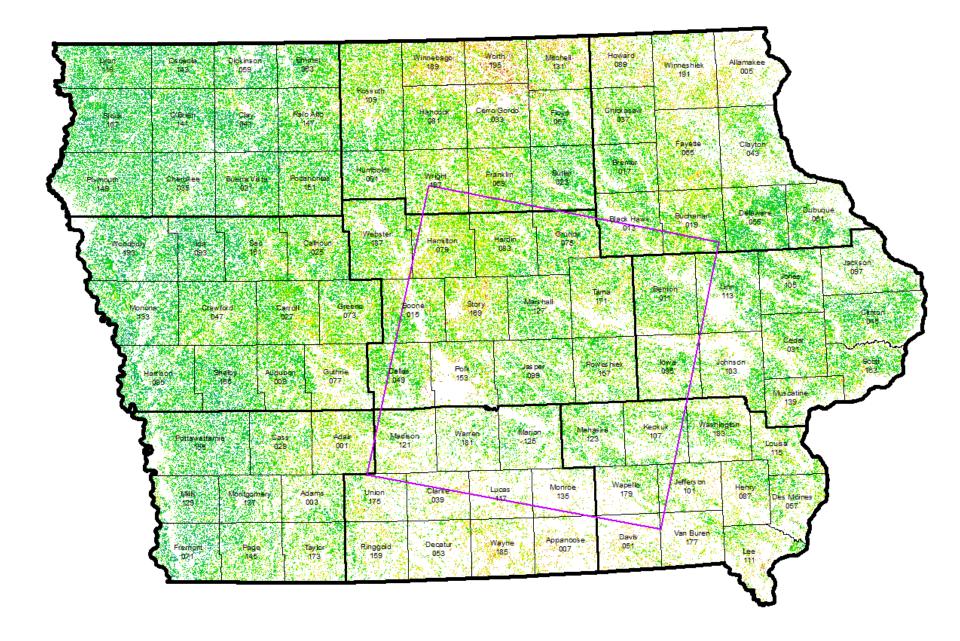
CORN

Speculative Region County-level Yield Results

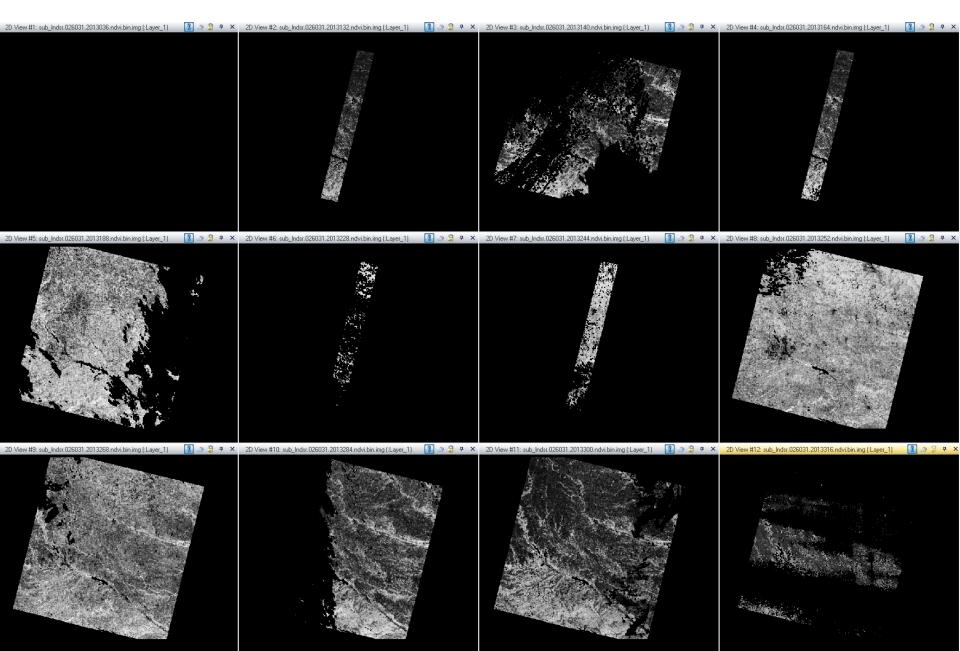
2015

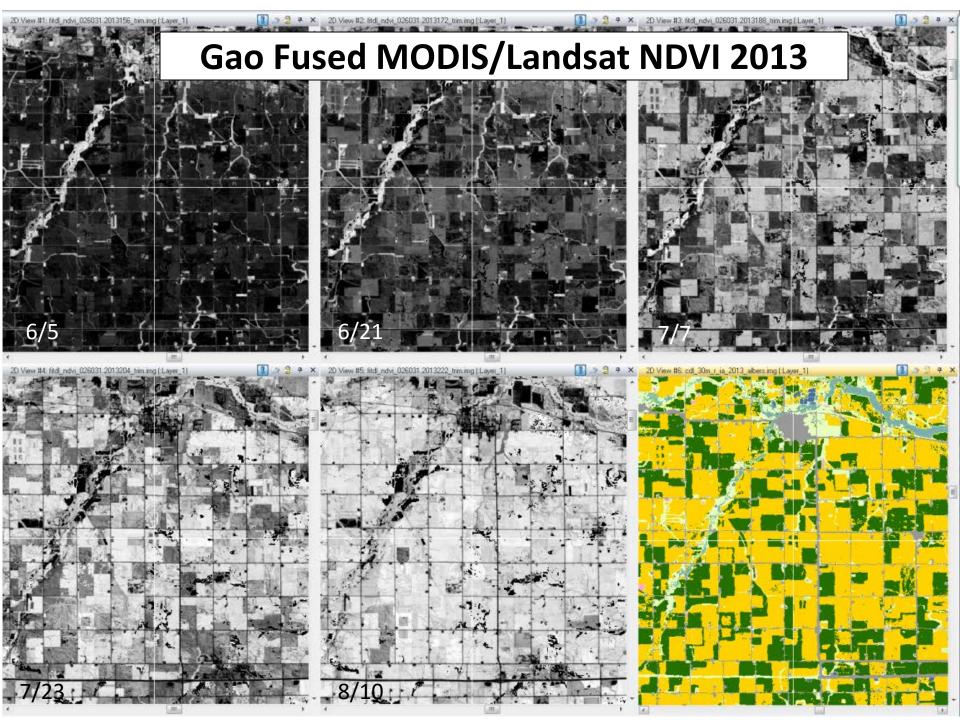


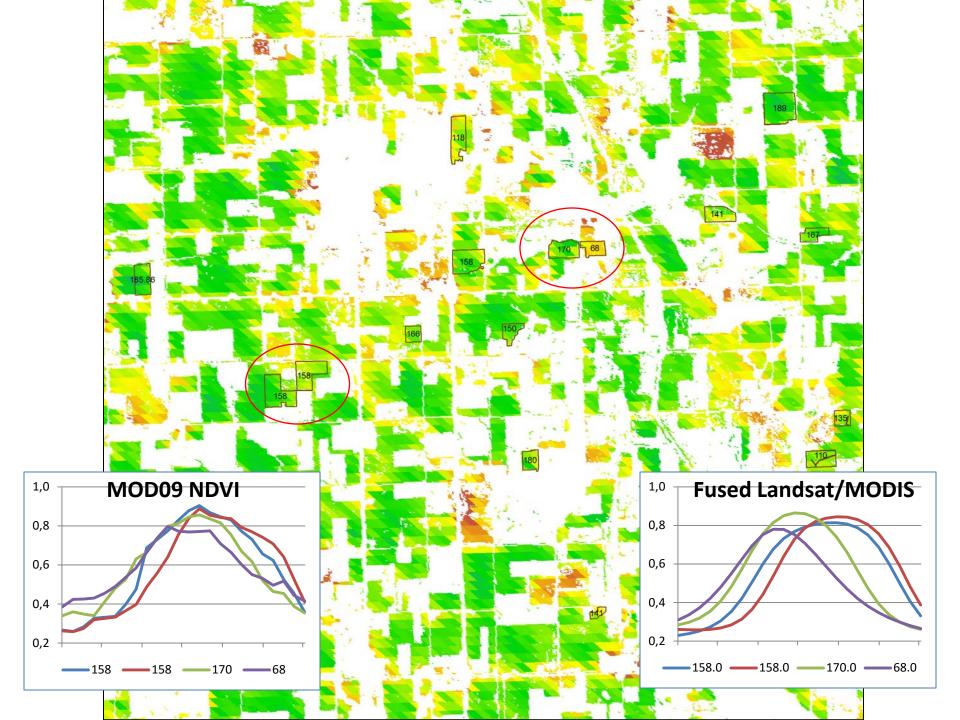
Integrating Landsat with MODIS site, p26 r31



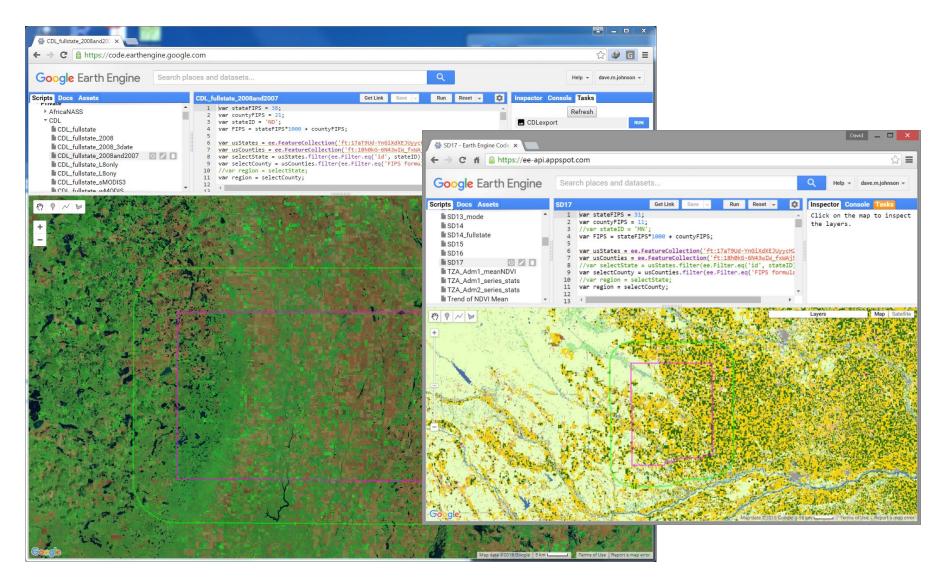
Landsat 7 and 8 p26 r31 NDVI 2013 growing season







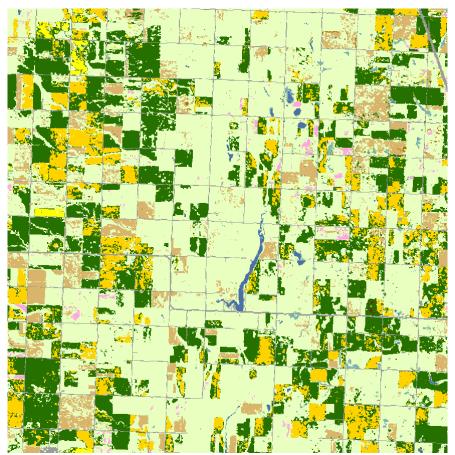
"Cloud" Computing – Google Earth Engine



The whole Landsat and MODIS archive staged in GEE for analysis

GEE: Use to produce future and retrospect CDLs?



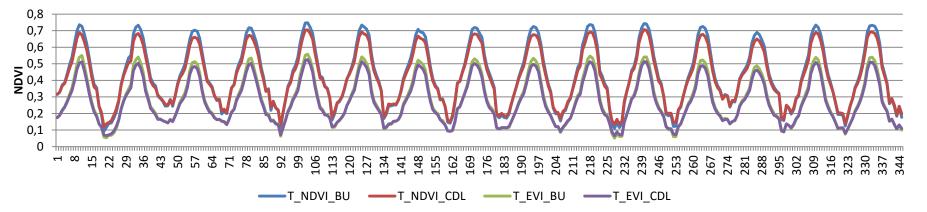


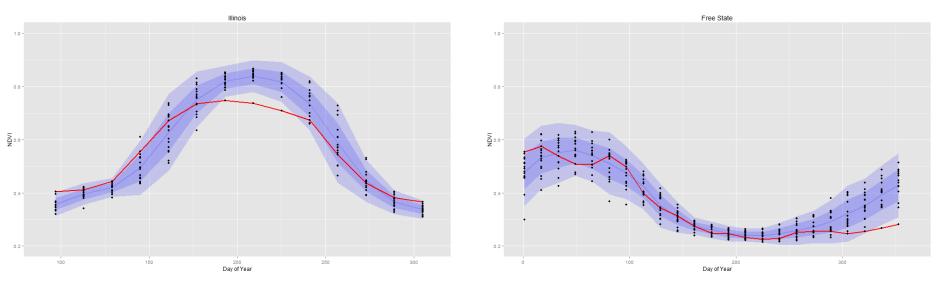
2007 (non existent currently)

2008 CDL



GEE time series analysis





Illinois, USA crop areas

Free State, South Africa crop areas

Thanks



David M. Johnson Geographer United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service



19563