

SUSTAINABILITY: WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER......

**LIKE IT OR NOT!** 

NGFA Country Elevator Meeting, Dec 10, 2013 St. Louis, MO

Fred Luckey Chairman/President

Field to Market

The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture



### Sustainability Backdrop

- Every day the planet wakes up with 200,000 more people to feed
- Every second we lose an area the size of a football field to soil erosion and urbanization.....while adding two more people to the population
- Nature takes 500 years to replace 25 millimeters of lost soil
- Farming uses 70% of the worlds fresh water withdrawal
- The UN estimates that by 2030 the world will need 30% more fresh water and 50% more energy....and 70% more food.
- Rural migration to cities, deforestation, biodiversity, water quality.....and the list goes on of challenges.

### **Bottom Line**

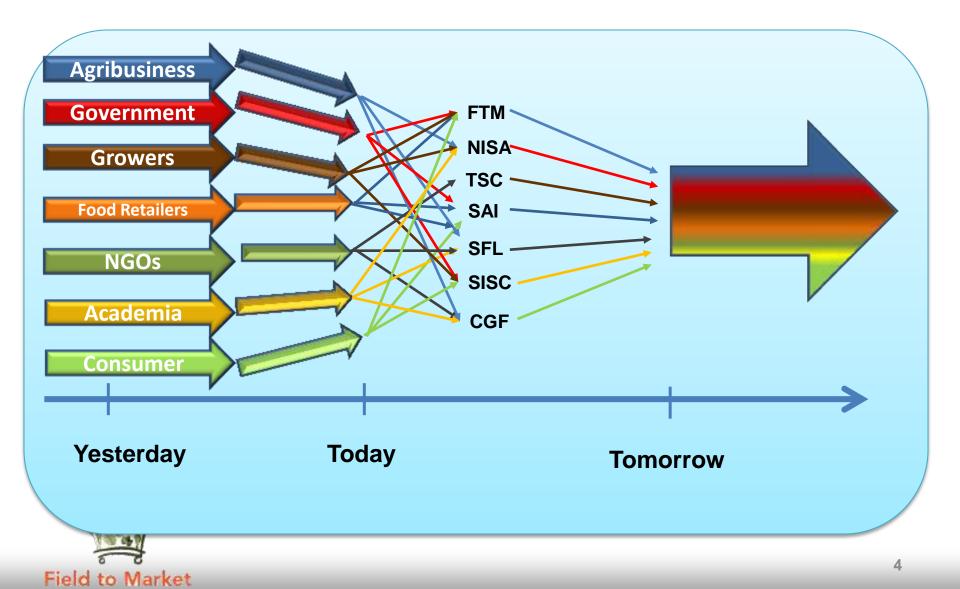
 We need to produce more food in the next 50 years than we have in the past 10,000.

 We only have one planet, and we are using its resources 50% faster than it can take

 WHAT WE ARE ASKING IT TO PROVIDE IS SIMPLY NOT SUSTAINABLE.....!



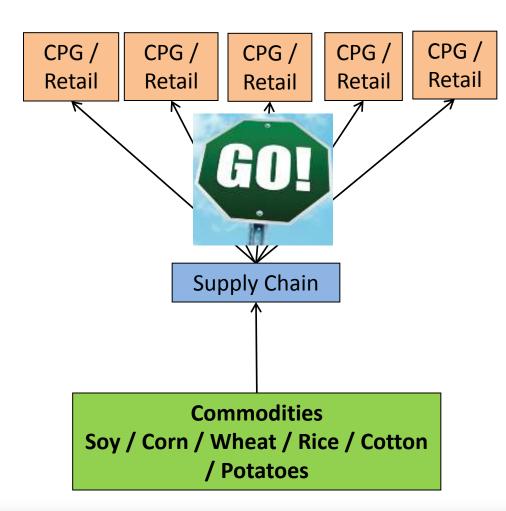
## The Journey Gets Complicated....



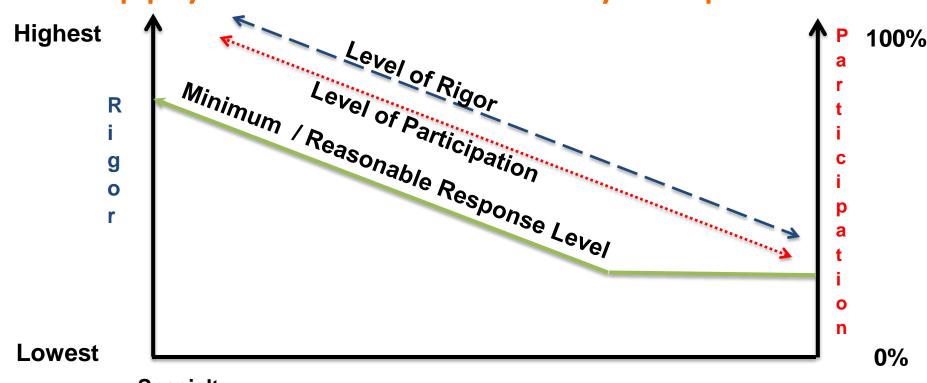
### **Traditional Approach**

# Specialty Commodity STOP **Supply Chain** Logistics Operation Consumer Packaged Goods(CPG) / Retail

### **Field to Market Approach**



# Supply Chain Sustainability Response



Specialty
Identity Preserved
Contract Grown
Differentiated
Narrow Application
Traceable
Low Volume

**Higher Value** 

**Supply Chain Scope** 

Commodity
Open Market
Sourced
Broad Application
Non-Specific
Generic
Non-Traceable
High Volume

**Lower Value** 



Field to Market

### From Big Ideas.. Field to Market Emerges

- Focus on commodities crops
  - Unique supply chains and traceability issues
- Develop science- and outcomes-based measures
- Engage the full supply chain
  - Include producers
  - Identify the key indicators for sustainability
  - Measure broad-scale trends and field-scale outcomes
- Scale and implement metrics for sustainability programs
- Correlate actual field level metrics to practices



### What is Field to Market?

- A collaborative stakeholder group
  - Producers, agribusinesses, food and retail companies, conservation associations, universities, and NRCS
- Identifying supply chain strategies to define, measure, and promote continuous improvement for agriculture
  - Addressing the challenge of increasing demand and limited resources
- Developing and piloting outcomes-based, science-based metrics and tools
  - Fieldprint Calculator, a free, online tool to help growers analyze their operations and help the supply chain explain how food is produced
  - National Report on environmental and socioeconomic trends over time for U.S. commodity crops
- www.fieldtomarket.org



### WHO IS FIELD TO MARKET?

- Farmers and groups of farmers wanting to benchmark their performance
- Supply chain companies wanting to engage farmers in supply chain initiatives and continuous improvement
- Conservation groups partnering with farmers to address watershed or regional opportunities





## Deliverables: What We Are Doing



Grower Fieldprints:
Individual
opportunities for
continuous
improvement



Supply chain projects:

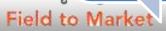
Direct engagement in continuous improvement

Public data and models
Collaboratively developed
Outcomes based



National indicators report:

Documentation of overall trends



#### www.fieldtomarket.org

# Field to Market Fieldprint Calculator



Home | Fieldprint Calculator | Fieldprint Projects | National Report | Resources | News | Blog





## The Fieldprint Calculator:

Measuring Field Level Outcomes and Identifying Opportunities for Improvement



### What is the Fieldprint Calculator?

- An online education tool for row crop farmers that indexes their agronomics and practices to a fieldprint
- Helps growers evaluate their farming decisions and compare their sustainability performance

### — In the areas of:

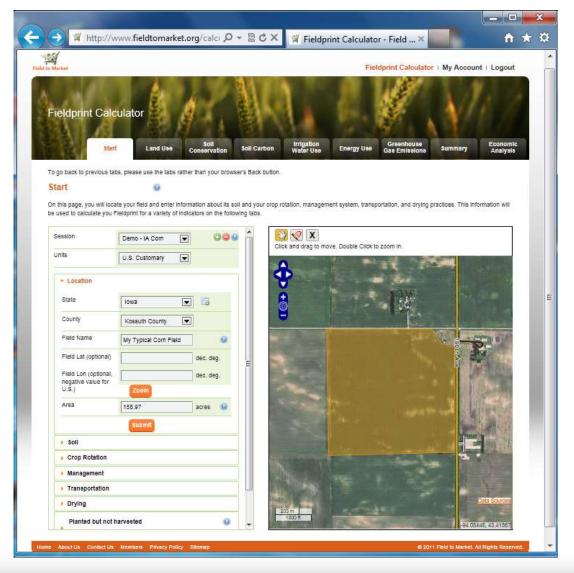
- Land use
- Soil conservation
- Soil carbon
- Water use
- Energy use
- Greenhouse gas emissions

# Water Quality Biodiversity in development

### – Against:

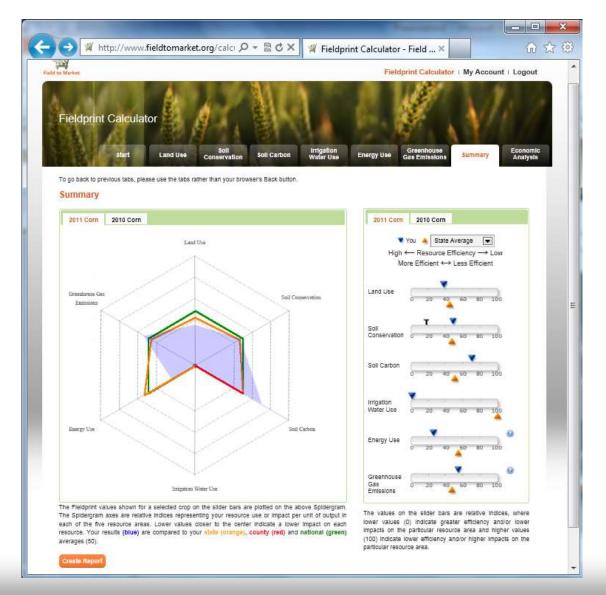
- Their own fields
- Their own performance over time
- County, state and national averages

# Fieldprint Calculator Start Page



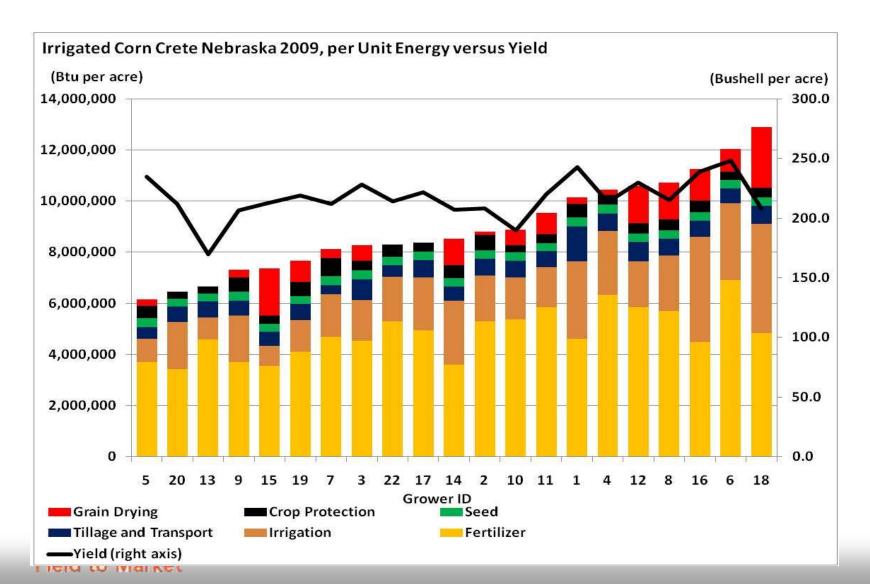


## Fieldprint Calculator Summary Page

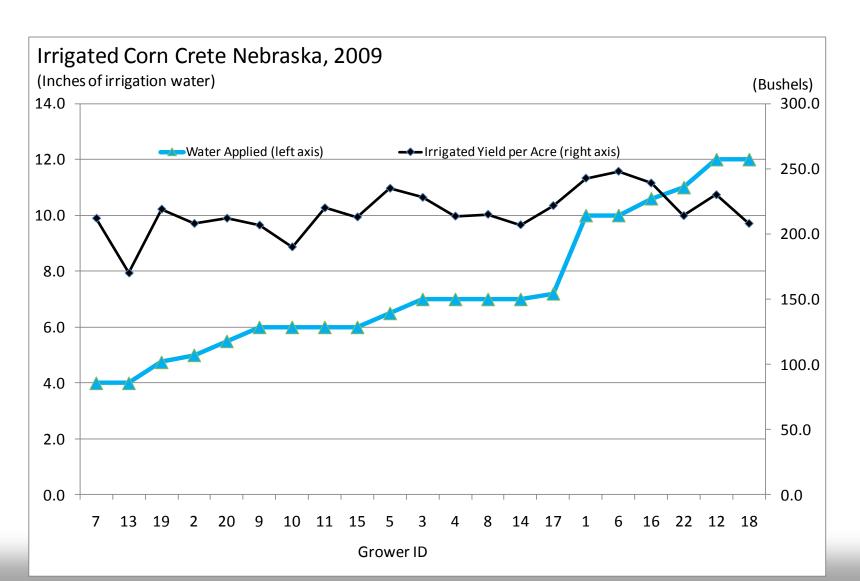




## **Energy Use Efficiency**



## Irrigation Water Use Efficiency





# **Environmental Indicators Report:**

The Sustainability Story of U.S. Agriculture

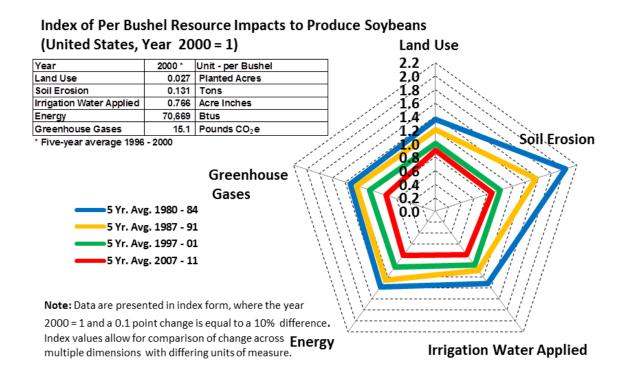


### Report Objectives

- Analyze trends over time for environmental and socioeconomic sustainability indicators
- Establish a baseline against which to measure future improvements
- Create enabling conditions for an informed, multistakeholder discussion of sustainability
- Advance an outcomes-based, science-based approach
- > Provide broad-scale context for more local efforts



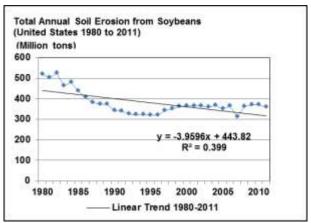
# 2012 Soybean Results Resources per bushel

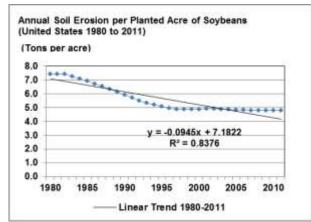


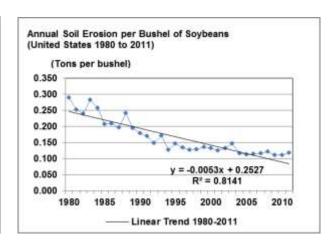


## A Closer Look

### Soybean Results: Soil Erosion





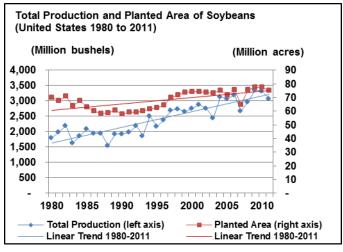


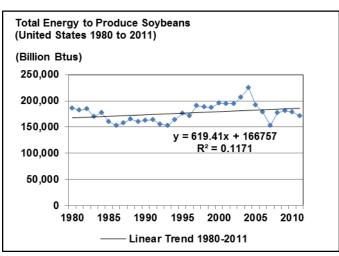
TOTAL PER ACRE PER BUSHEL

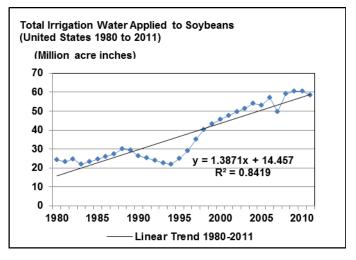
- Total soil erosion decreased over most of the study period, but has increased more recently (similar for corn)
- Per acre soil erosion decreased during first half of study period, then leveled off (similar for corn, cotton, and wheat)

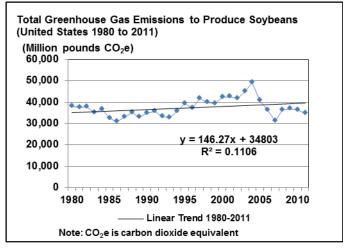


# Soybeans: Additional Total Use Trends











### Why participate with FTM?

- Demand for our crops is growing while the supply of resources is not, ie. Land, water, energy, etc.
- Past successes do not guarantee future successes.
- Evidence exists that there are opportunities for continuous improvement.....if unearthed!
- Downstream food processors and retailers are concerned about the sustainability of their supply chains and have made commitments to consumers and stakeholders
- Given the challenges ahead, status quo responses are not acceptable
- But, responses are dependent on many factors and 'one size does not fit all."



### **Path Forward**



- Acknowledge preferences
- Respect differences
- Listen
- Learn
- Exert leadership
- Move ahead together

