



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[Barriers to adopting BMP's, the risk associated with scaling point data to the field scale](#)

Author: David Clay

Coauthor(s): S. Seelan S.A. Clay C.G. Carlson C. Reese

The perception of risk is an important factor limiting the adoption of BMP's. To many producers leaving weeds or not applying fertilizer just does not seem right. Many crop consultants are not willing to make do-not-treat recommendations because their profession livelihood and reputations depend on near-zero failure rates. A recommendation to treat is much less likely to result in an obvious unfavorable result than no-treat advice. The objective of this paper is to discuss findings from producer participatory research showing real risks associated with adopting BMP's. Research has been conducted in collaboration with producer collaborators in North and South Dakota. In participatory studies extensive remote sensing, weed scouting, soil sampling was conducted. Findings from this work show that remote sensing, and targeted scouting and soil sampling can be used to reduce the real risk associated with adopting BMP's. Real risk results from changes in the climate can rapidly change the severity of the problem and errors resulting incorrect scaling.