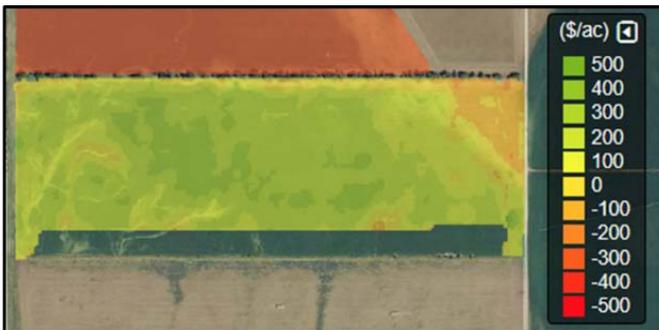


Precision Ag With Pheasants Forever



Over the last year, Pheasants Forever has been working with producers in Southeast North Dakota to help identify acres with low to negative profitability and develop alternatives that are practical and profitable for their operation. Using Profit Zone Manager as a farm management tool, Pheasants Forever can analyze planting, application, and harvest data alongside input budgets to identify what acres are profitable, and what acres are not getting the best return on investment. This financial analysis of the farm operation can help put dollars and cents to the land management decisions that have been implemented, while also opening the opportunity to evaluate profitability of alternative practices on negative revenue acres.

In the last year, six operations within the southeast have applied 680.5 acres of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on low producing acres. Across all fields with BMPs applied, input costs decreased by an average of \$5,405.89, profitability increased by an average of \$1,915.37, and ROI increased by an average of 5%. Below is an example from a field in LaMoure county where this producer implemented forage production on 2.6 acres.



Before: 2016 Yellow Peas

Average Yield: 62.6 bushels/acre
 Profit: \$147.98/acre
 ROI: 58.2%



After: 2018 + Forage Production

Average Yield: 65.1 bushels/acre
 Profit: \$153.50/acre
 ROI: 64.6%

By changing the land management of low producing acres within a field to more profitable practices, this can swing field profitability, return on investment, and average yield for the producer and farm operation. Turning red acres green has not only shown to be a financially beneficial decision for producers, but also biologically beneficial for the soil health, the water quality, and the wildlife that may utilize those acres.



Average Yield: + 2.5 bu/ac
Profit: + \$5.52/ac
ROI: + 6.4%

This program is currently available in LaMoure, Dickey, Ransom and Sargent counties. Thanks to our great partnership with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department and your local Soil Conservation District, farmers that go through this program have access to 75% cost-share on selected conservation practices and/or 10-year contracts with incentive payments. These funds are limited, so availability is on a first come, first serve basis. The one-year software subscription through our program is offered at a discounted price of \$399. Whether or not you have precision technology, we can help analyze your acres for profitability.

If you are interested in learning more or have questions about habitat or precision with Pheasants Forever, contact your local Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist, Melissa Shockman at mshockman@pheasantsforever.org or 701.709.0963.