



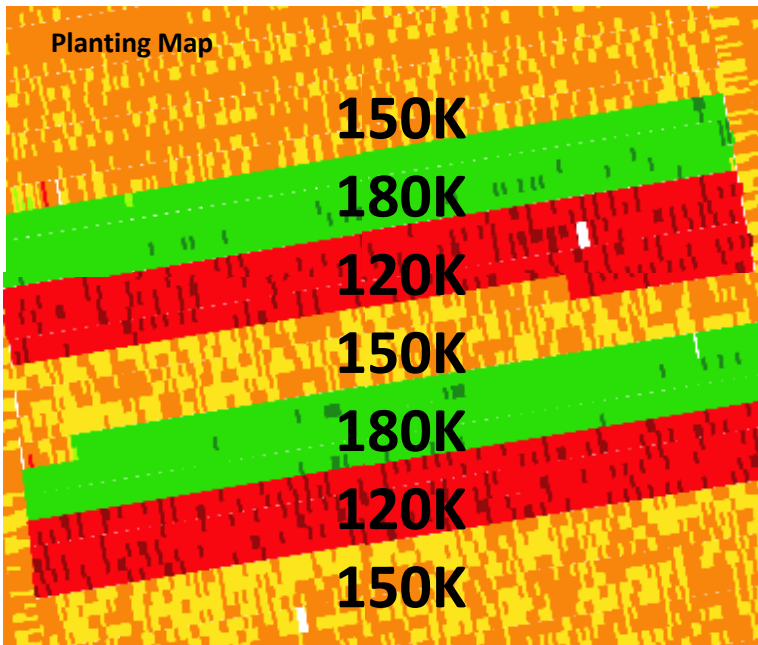
ON THE FARM EXPERIENCE
IN THE FIELD RESULTS

Soybean Population Trial 2017

There are many different opinions on soybean populations throughout the seed industry and across the country. When drills were more popular and seed cost was less, populations often exceeded 200K. As we have adopted more precision planting methods and different row widths we have lessened our populations. I tried to put together a fair trial to compare different populations. Each population is replicated in 3 acre blocks at least twice.

Population	Avg Yield	Gross Rev	Seed Cost	Rev- Seed	Rank
180K	84.5	784.16	86.14	698.01	3
150K	85.6	794.37	71.79	722.58	2
120K	84.5	784.16	57.43	726.73	1

The range in yield difference between the different populations was very minimum as shown in the table above. If you figure in the savings in seed cost the lowest population is the most profitable. I picked a plant type that is medium bushy to try and be fair to all populations. If attempting to reduce populations make sure pick a plant suited for your needs. Some soybean plants are skinnier and work better in higher population narrow row situations. Most new releases in the past 5 years have moved more towards medium bushy plants that adapt well to lower populations and wider rows. This study is most relevant to full season soybeans. I'm still a fan of high populations in double crop beans for weed control and height advantage. As we strive to become more efficient I think looking at reducing high soybean populations in full season situations is an easy and safe move. I have also done similar trials in dry years with almost identical results so I feel soybeans populations vs yield are consistent.



Population	120K	150K	180K
Average Yield	84.5	85.6	84.5

Plant Date: 5/4/2017
Harvest Date: 9/28/17
Avg Moisture: 13.7%
Variety: AG36X6