

## Trial Objective

- Since 2016, the Bayer Learning Center in Huxley, Iowa has engaged the Iowa FFA community in a farming contest dubbed the Fantasy Farming Challenge. The program allows students to make key decisions for a plot of corn to produce the highest yield and/or the highest profit.
- The students select several real-life crop production management decisions, each with an associated cost. The Learning Center plants each FFA chapters' plot utilizing the selected management inputs. FFA Chapters are invited to the Learning Center to see their plot and learn about Bayer Crop Science and the many opportunities within agriculture.
- At the end of the 2018 season, each plot was harvested and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes were awarded for the highest yield and/or the highest profit.
- In 2018, 25 chapters participated in the program.

## Research Site Details

| Location   | Soil Type | Previous Crop | Tillage Type  | Planting Date | Harvest Date | Potential Yield (bu/acre) | Seeding Rate (seeds/acre) |
|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Huxley, IA | Clay loam | Soybean       | Strip tillage | Various       | 09/28/2018   | 225                       | Various                   |

- Each chapters' management decisions are shown in Table 1.
- Each plot was planted in 30-inch row spacing, 6 rows per chapter, and 375-ft long strips.
- Weed management was the same across all plots and consisted of a pre- and post-emergence program.

**Table 1. Management decisions of the 25 FFA chapters involved in the 2018 Fantasy Farming Challenge.**

| FFA Chapter      | Corn Brand Blend Products | Seeding Rate (seeds/acre) | Planting Date | Nitrogen (lb/acre) | Side Dress | Starter Fertilizer | Soil Insecticide | Foliar Fungicide | Total Cost (\$/acre) * | Yield Rank | Net Profit Rank |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Wilton           | DKC64-34RIB               | 37,500                    | Early         | 200                | No         | Yes                | No               | No               | \$712.83               | 1          | 1               |
| Diamond Trail    | DKC58-06RIB               | 34,000                    | Mid           | 240                | Yes        | No                 | No               | No               | \$700.47               | 2          | 2               |
| South Winneshiek | DKC61-86RIB               | 33,500                    | Mid           | 250                | No         | Yes                | No               | Yes              | \$750.69               | 3          | 8               |
| Davis County     | DKC64-34RIB               | 32,500                    | Early         | 185                | Yes        | Yes                | No               | Yes              | \$724.10               | 4          | 5               |
| Corydon-Wayne    | DKC64-34RIB               | 38,000                    | Mid           | 230                | Yes        | Yes                | Yes              | Yes              | \$808.15               | 5          | 15              |
| Gilbert          | DKC60-87RIB               | 36,000                    | Early         | 180                | Yes        | Yes                | No               | No               | \$692.06               | 6          | 4               |
| SE Polk          | DKC60-87RIB               | 33,000                    | Mid           | 200                | Yes        | Yes                | Yes              | No               | \$689.86               | 7          | 3               |
| Rock Valley      | DKC64-34RIB               | 34,000                    | Mid           | 165                | No         | Yes                | Yes              | No               | \$719.87               | 8          | 7               |
| Collins-Maxwell  | DKC63-21RIB               | 35,500                    | Mid           | 170                | Yes        | Yes                | No               | No               | \$712.01               | 9          | 6               |
| Westwood         | DKC63-21RIB               | 35,500                    | Mid           | 200                | No         | Yes                | No               | Yes              | \$747.96               | 10         | 10              |
| Newton           | DKC63-21RIB               | 34,000                    | Mid           | 170                | Yes        | No                 | No               | Yes              | \$725.50               | 11         | 9               |

# 2018 FFA Fantasy Farming Challenge in Iowa

| FFA Chapter              | Corn Brand Blend Products | Seeding Rate (seeds/acre) | Planting Date | Nitrogen (lb/acre) | Side Dress | Starter Fertilizer | Soil Insecticide | Foliar Fungicide | Total Cost (\$/acre) * | Yield Rank | Net Profit Rank |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| CAM                      | DKC54-38RIB               | 35,000                    | Early         | 240                | Yes        | Yes                | Yes              | Yes              | \$743.51               | 12         | 14              |
| Linn-Mar                 | DKC64-34RIB               | 35,200                    | Mid           | 181                | No         | No                 | No               | Yes              | \$728.13               | 13         | 13              |
| Shenandoah-Davis-Rodgers | DKC60-87RIB               | 31,000                    | Early         | 160                | Yes        | No                 | Yes              | No               | \$698.50               | 14         | 11              |
| Kingsley-Pierson         | DKC58-06RIB               | 34,000                    | Mid           | 180                | Yes        | No                 | No               | Yes              | \$694.88               | 15         | 12              |
| AC-GC                    | DKC64-34RIB               | 35,000                    | Mid           | 175                | Yes        | Yes                | No               | Yes              | \$743.96               | 16         | 19              |
| Albia                    | DKC64-34RIB               | 32,000                    | Late          | 165                | No         | Yes                | No               | No               | \$743.80               | 17         | 20              |
| Audubon                  | DKC60-87RIB               | 32500                     | Mid           | 155                | Yes        | Yes                | Yes              | Yes              | \$729.05               | 18         | 16              |
| Roland Story             | DKC64-34RIB               | 32500                     | Mid           | 160                | Yes        | Yes                | No               | Yes              | \$728.04               | 19         | 18              |
| ADM                      | DKC64-34RIB               | 33000                     | Mid           | 155                | Yes        | No                 | No               | Yes              | \$716.39               | 20         | 17              |
| Charles City             | DKC54-38RIB               | 34000                     | Mid           | 200                | Yes        | Yes                | No               | Yes              | \$713.47               | 21         | 21              |
| Missouri Valley          | DKC58-06RIB               | 35000                     | Mid           | 140                | No         | No                 | Yes              | Yes              | \$686.81               | 22         | 22              |
| Ballard                  | DKC54-38RIB               | 33000                     | Late          | 145                | Yes        | Yes                | Yes              | No               | \$697.97               | 23         | 23              |
| SE Warren                | DKC64-34RIB               | 38000                     | Mid           | 132                | Yes        | Yes                | Yes              | Yes              | \$709.07               | 24         | 24              |
| GMG                      | DKC54-38RIB               | 34000                     | Mid           | 90                 | Yes        | No                 | Yes              | No               | \$645.63               | 25         | 25              |

Early, mid, and late planting dates were on 4/28/2018, 5/10/2018, and 5/24/2018, respectively.

\*Chapters did not pay any cash amount to participate in the program. All costs associated with the program were paid by Bayer Crop Science.

## Understanding the Results

- Congratulations to our 2018 winners (Figure 1).
  - **Yield Winners**
  - **1st** Wilton (\$1,000.00)
  - **2nd** Diamond Trail (\$500.00)
  - **3rd** South Winneshiek (\$250.00)
  - **Net Profit Winners**
  - **1st** Wilton (\$1,000.00)
  - **2nd** Diamond Trail (\$500.00)
  - **3rd** S.E. Polk (\$250.00)
  - **3rd** Gilbert (\$250.00)
- We look forward to another exciting program in 2019.

# 2018 FFA Fantasy Farming Challenge in Iowa

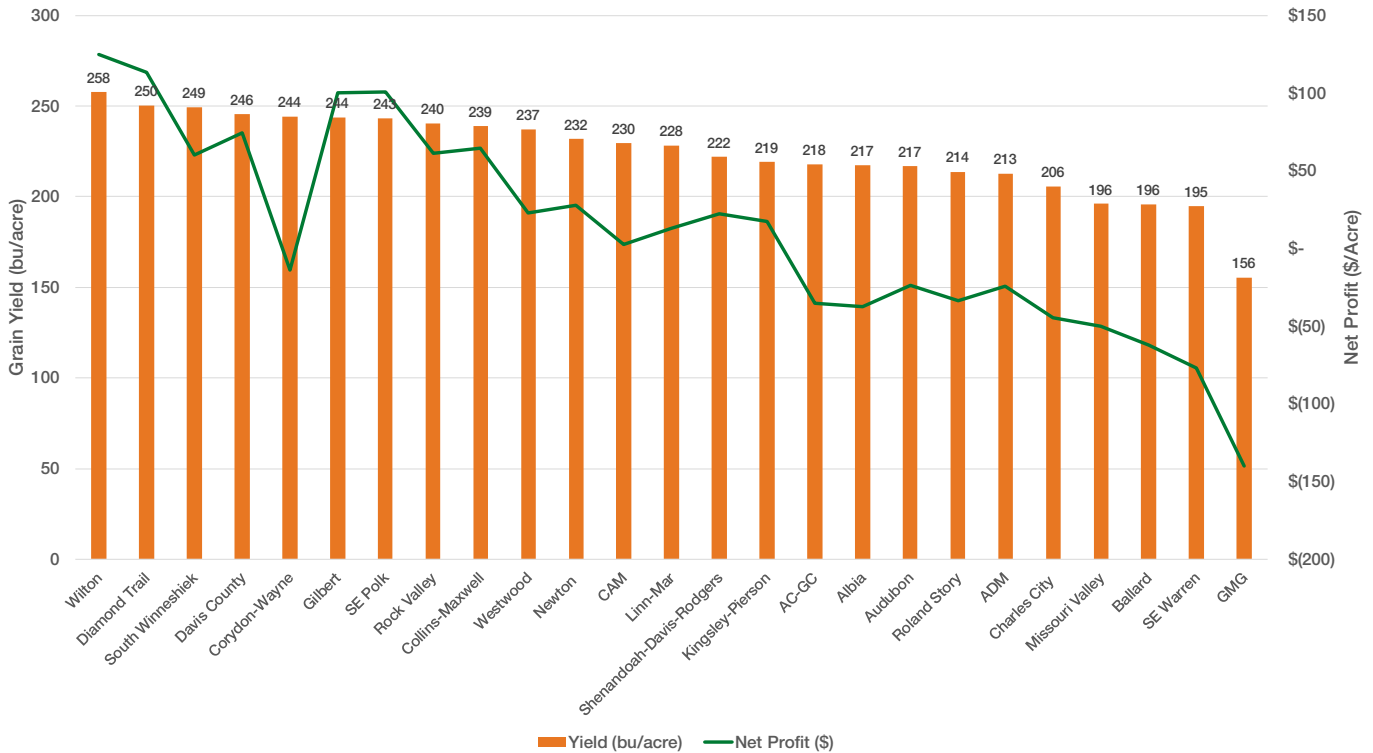


Figure 1. Yield and profit results of the 2018 FFA Fantasy Farming Challenge at the Bayer Learning Center at Huxley, IA.

## What Does This Mean For Your Farm?

- Each growing season presents its own unforeseen challenges that make some well-intended decisions fall short. We hope students appreciate the challenges our farmers face each year.

## Legal Statements

The information discussed in this report is from a single-site, replicated demonstration trial. This informational piece is designed to report the results of this demonstration and is not intended to infer any confirmed trends. Please use this information accordingly.

**Performance may vary**, from location to location and from year to year, as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible and should consider the impacts of these conditions on the grower's fields.

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