



Welcome to 2023 Kernza Con!

JUNE 22 – 23, 2023

Photo Credit: Prabin Bajgain

Introduction to Interactive Equity Activity

KERNZA® CONFERENCE 2023: EQUITY ACTIVITY



Inequities & work toward equity

- **Inequities:** Disadvantages and exclusion for some groups, and at the same time, advantages for other groups. Inequities are created and sustained through practices, policies, and systems over time.
- **Equity work:** Process of identifying how to reduce, correct for, and repair these imbalances in access - and making the changes to do so - with aims to achieve greater fairness and flourishing for everyone.

Racial equity focus

- Systemic racism and settler colonialism have deeply shaped who has access to land, capital, farming, agricultural institutions, and the economy in the US.
 - Example of racial inequity: acres of Black-owned farmland declined from ~14-16 million in 1920 to 2 million in 2000 (Penniman 2018; Shostak 2021)
- All forms of social difference - such as gender and sexual orientation, nationality, age, ability, geography, and economic and educational background - also shape grain agriculture, R&D, and supply chains.
- We encourage you to think in broad and intersecting ways about inequities and equity.

Last year's conference attendees generated responses to these three prompts... let's build upon that.

Within Kernza work, an exclusion or inequity I've observed is...

A concrete action I can do to increase equity in my work is....

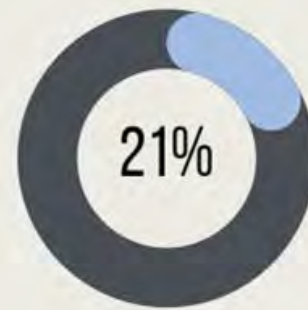
A concrete action the Kernza network can pursue collectively to increase equity is....

PROMPT 3: A CONCRETE ACTION THE KERNZA NETWORK CAN PURSUE COLLECTIVELY TO ADVANCE EQUITY IS...

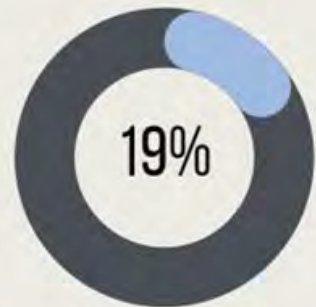
Responses fit into four main categories:



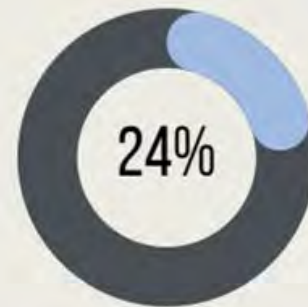
Redistributing material resources and de-risking supply chains



Changing internal and reflexive practices within the network



Changing who enters into the network



Relationship-building & Co-creation of priorities, grants, and supply chains



Equity activity 2023:

Prompt 1, reflect & submit response anonymously

Have you taken an action to help make the network more equitable since last year? [see Prompt 3 printout]

- **If yes**, write down the type of action. What worked well? What challenges did you face?
- **If no**, what specifically makes you hesitate? If you thought about an action or tried, can you identify something specific that got in the way?

Equity activity 2023: Prompt 2, share on board

Now is the time to prepare for the next big investments in Kernza.

- **How would you approach or design future Kernza projects and/or funding opportunities with equity and inclusion in mind?**

Equity activity recap: Tasks for today

1. **Submit your reflection for Prompt 1 anonymously in the folder**

There are index cards and pens next to the folder

1. **Write your ideas for Prompt 2 on the paper for the group to interact with**

Do both before the final breakout session at 4:00. This activity is open for everyone!

Join the breakout session at 4:00 pm if you'd like to reflect more on these prompts.

Lightning Talks #1

Conventional Selection



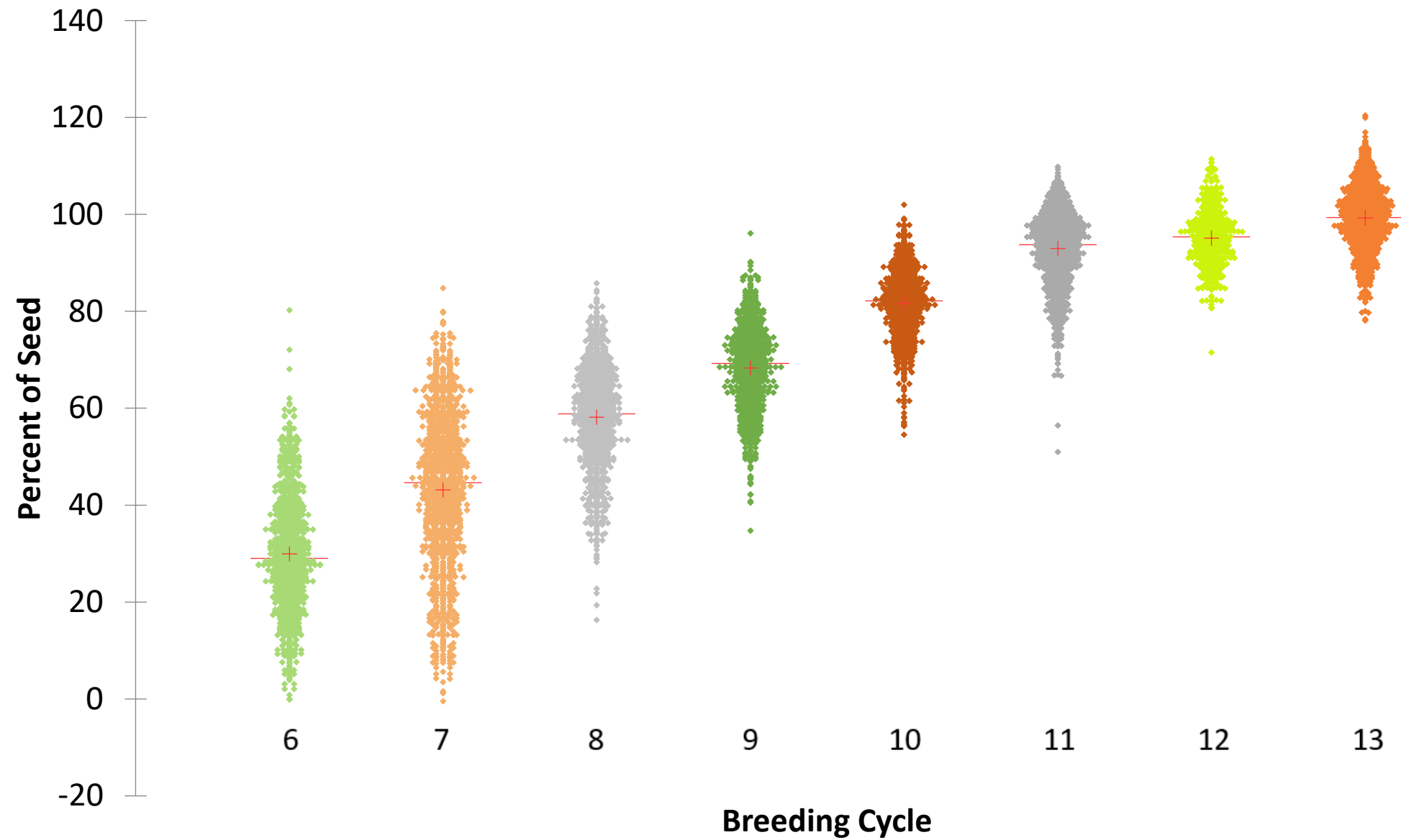
Kernza
Breeding

Lee DeHaan

Genomic Selection

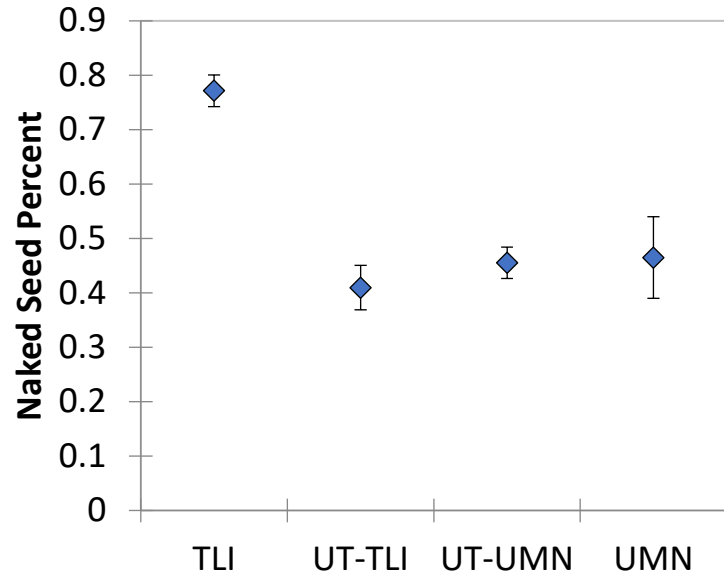


Genomic Breeding Values of Free Threshing Percent

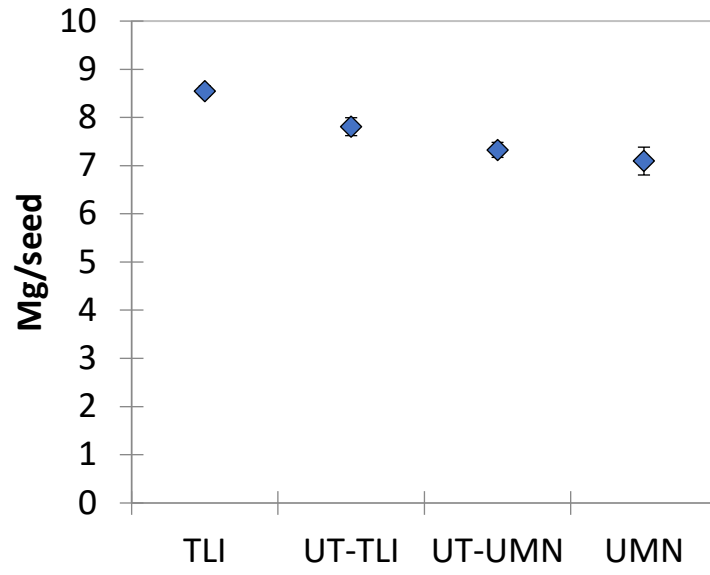


Mild Year (2021)

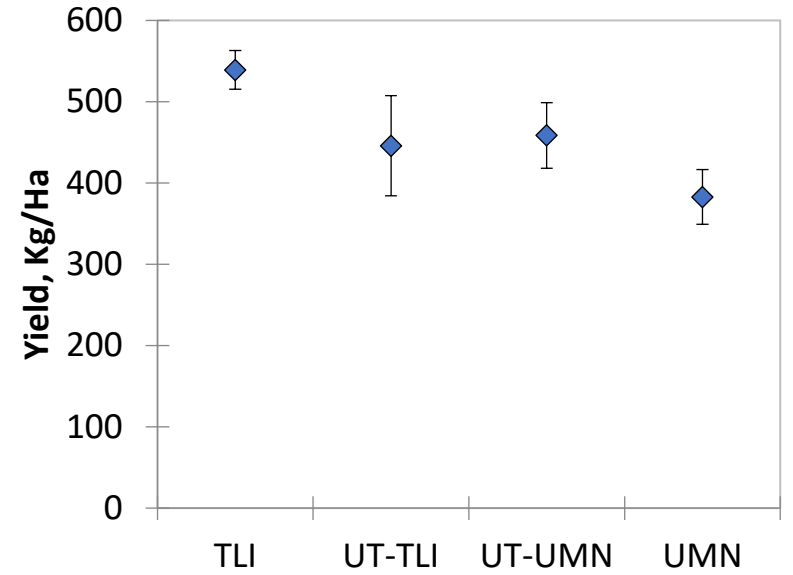
Free Threshing



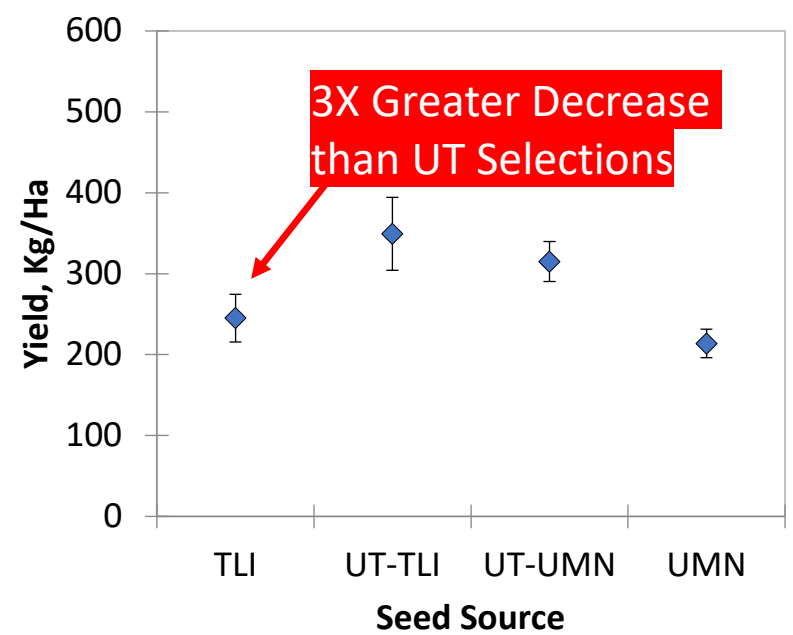
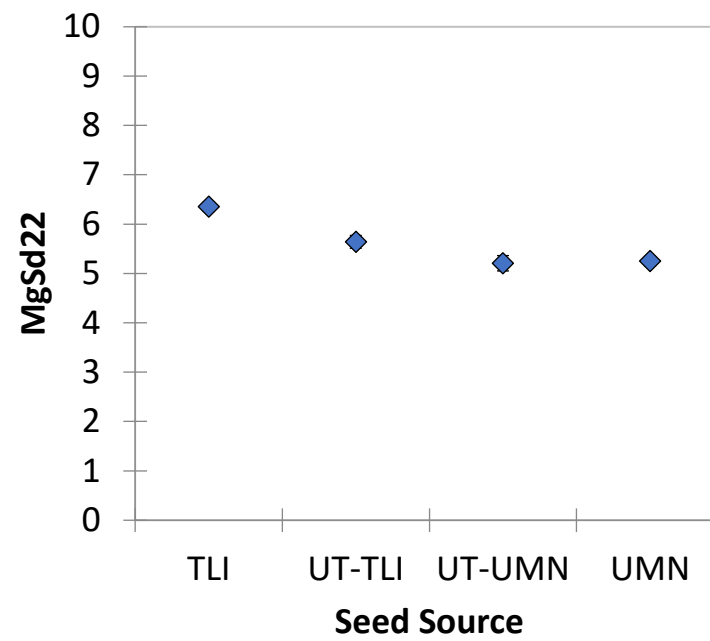
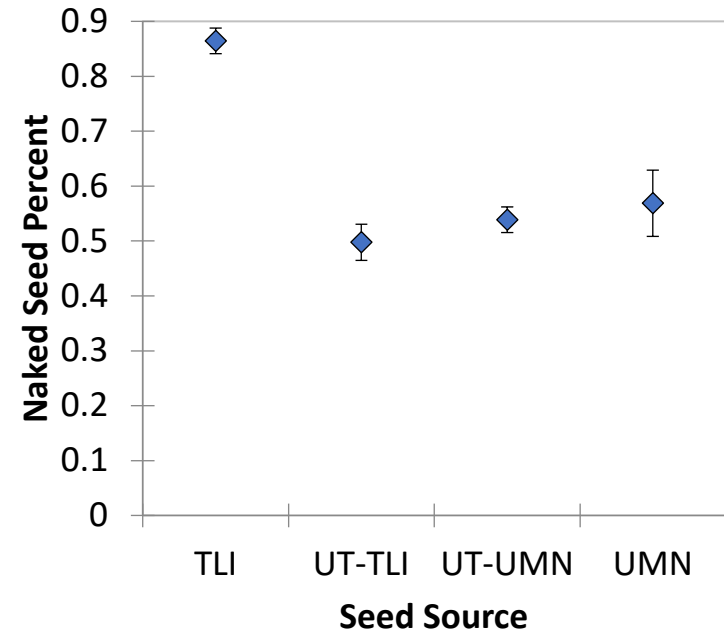
Seed Mass



Grain Yield



Drought Year (2022)







Conclusions

- We need multiple breeding programs targeting diverse environments
- Sharing germplasm between programs can have mutual benefit
- Genomic selection allows a rapid pivot toward new breeding goals
- We aim to have varieties with greatly improved drought tolerance within three to five years

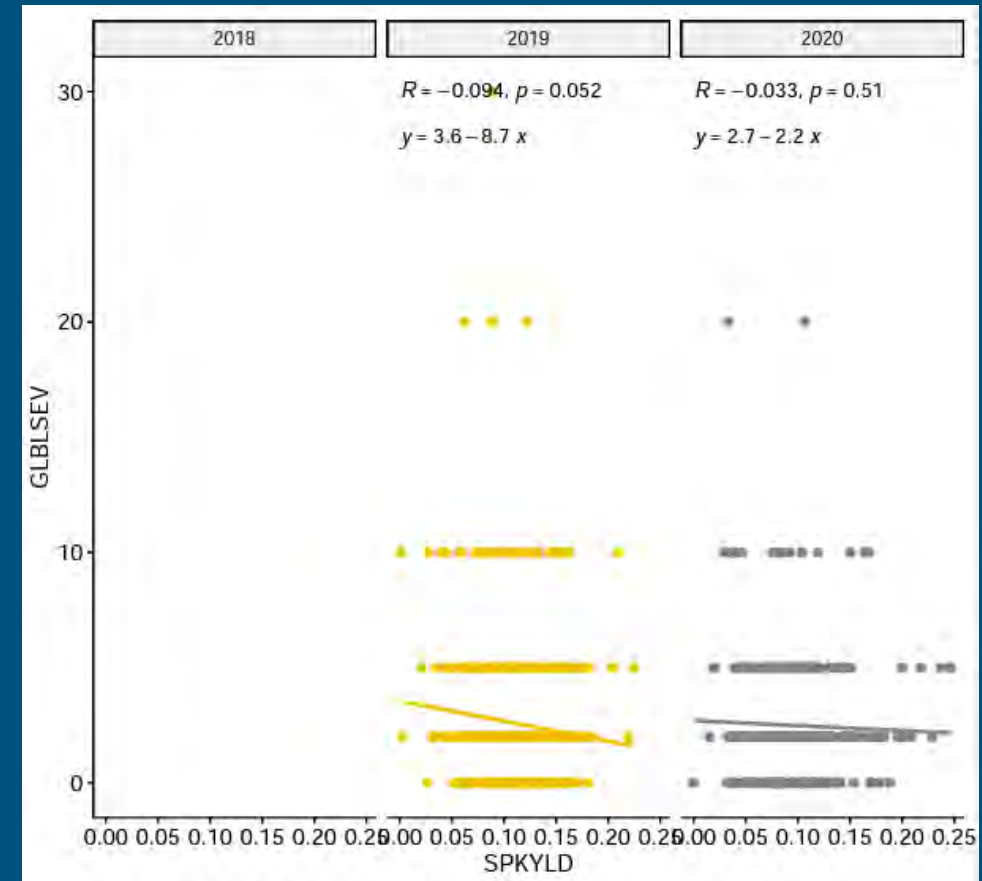
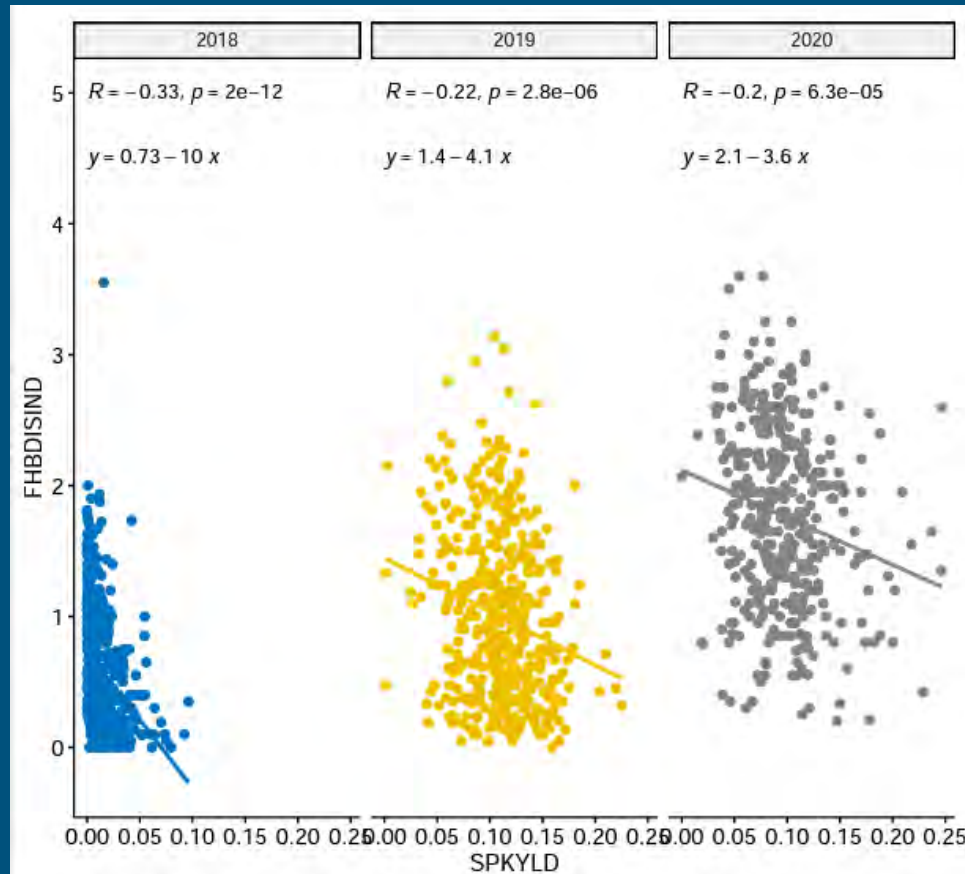


Update on diseases of intermediate wheatgrass

Kathryn Turner, Yvonne Thompson, Leah Treffer, Anusha Dahal[†], Angela Brekalo

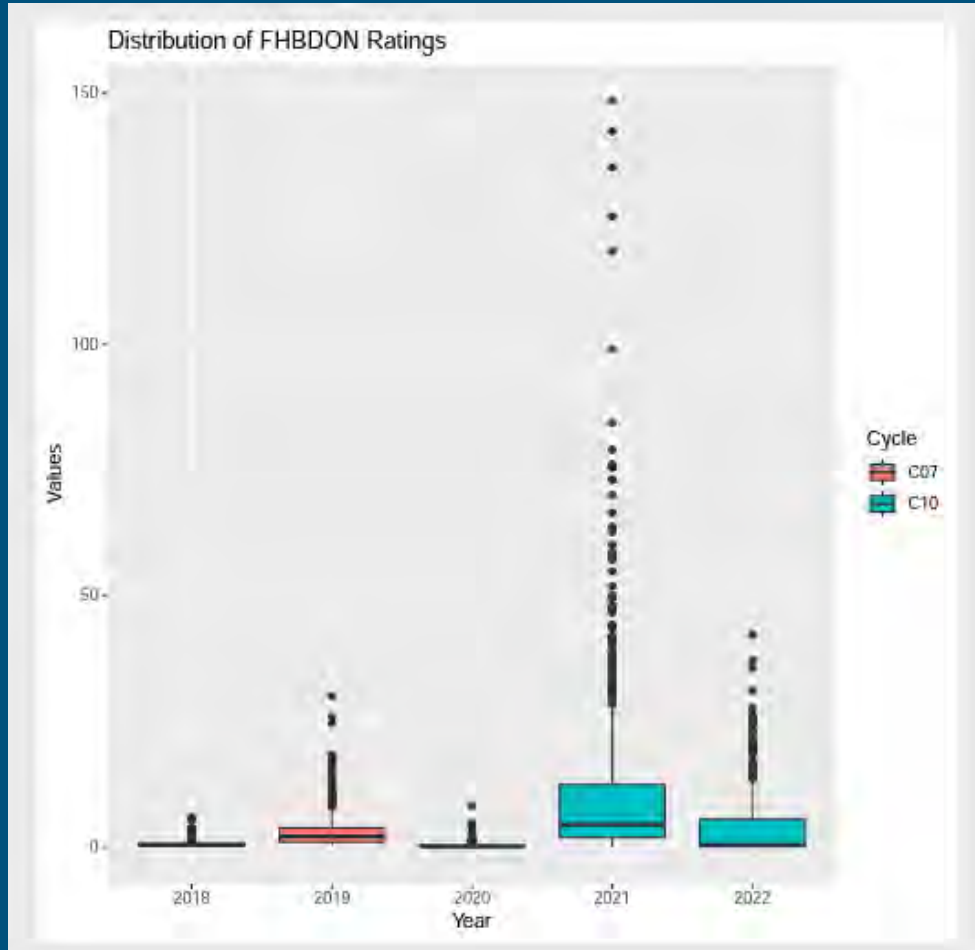
The Land Institute Crop Protection Genetics,
[†]Dep. Plant Pathology, Kansas State University,

Grain yield related to head diseases

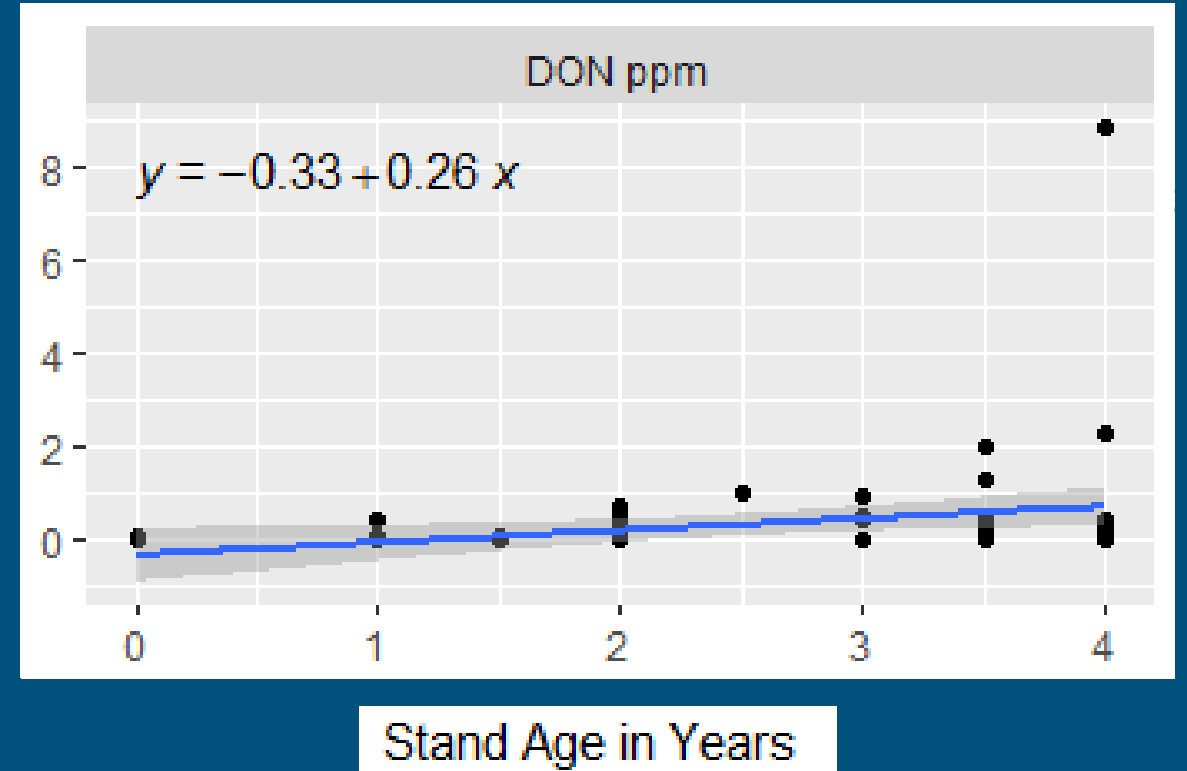


- Yield related to Fhb and slightly to Glume blotch (bacterial)
- Still do not observe yield penalties due to leaf diseases

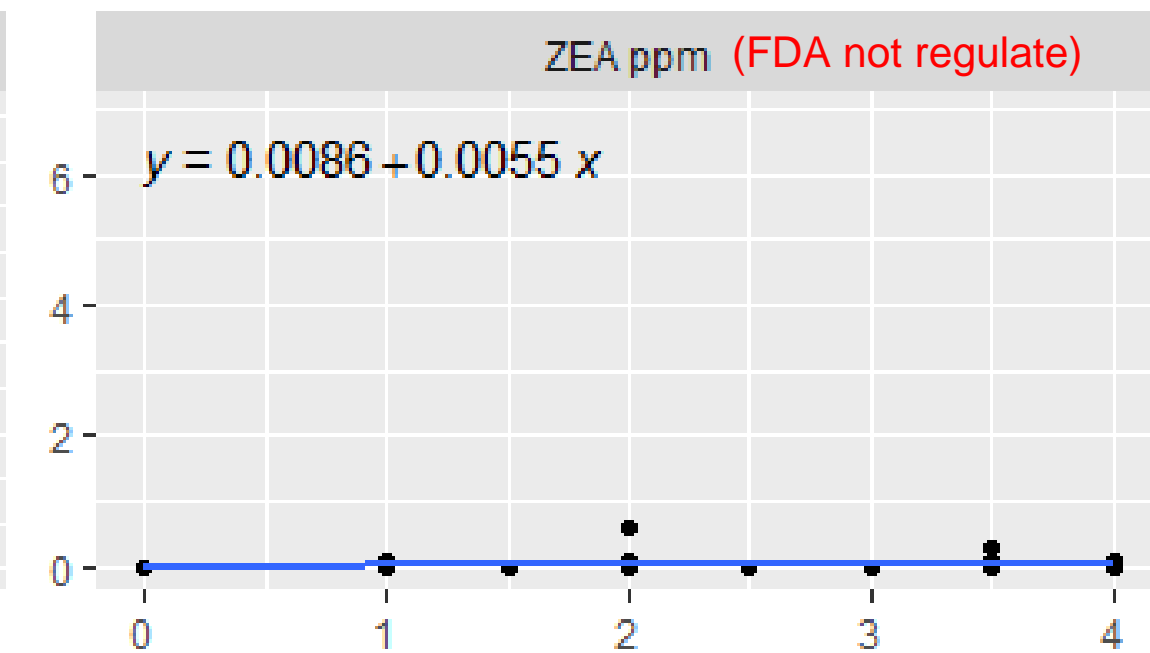
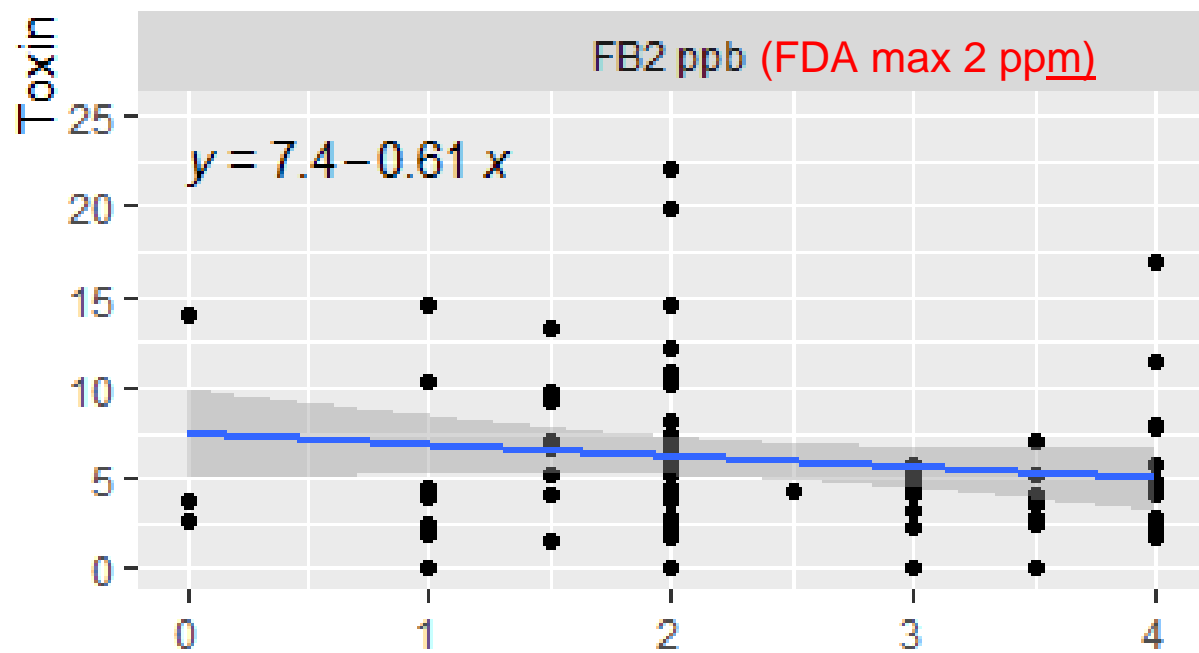
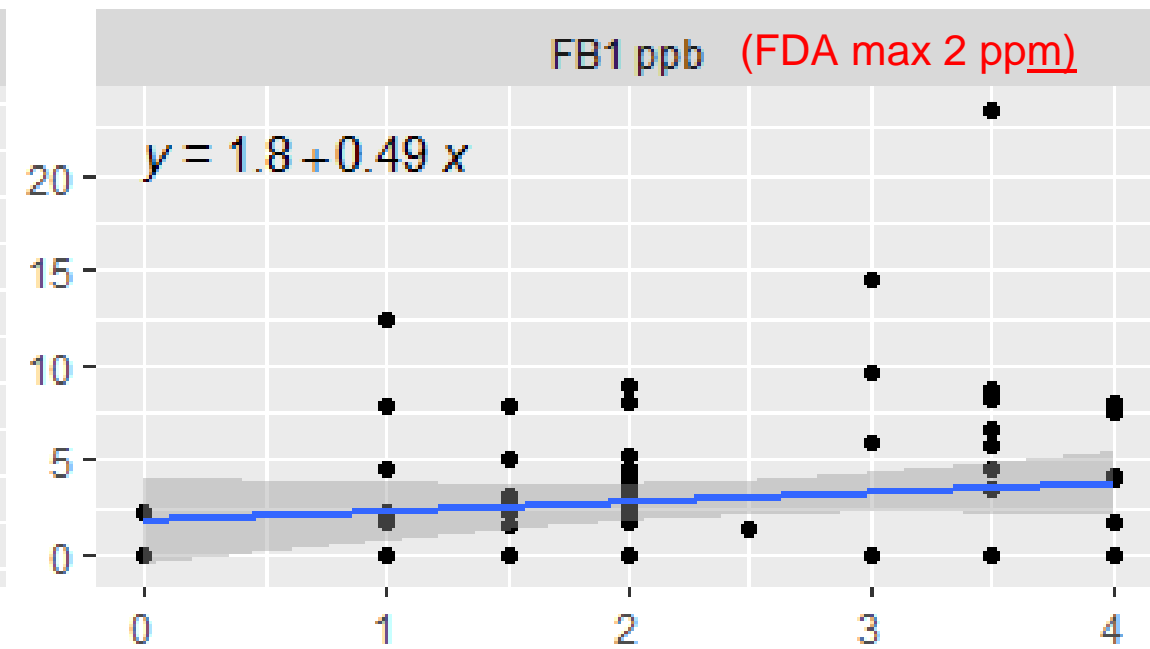
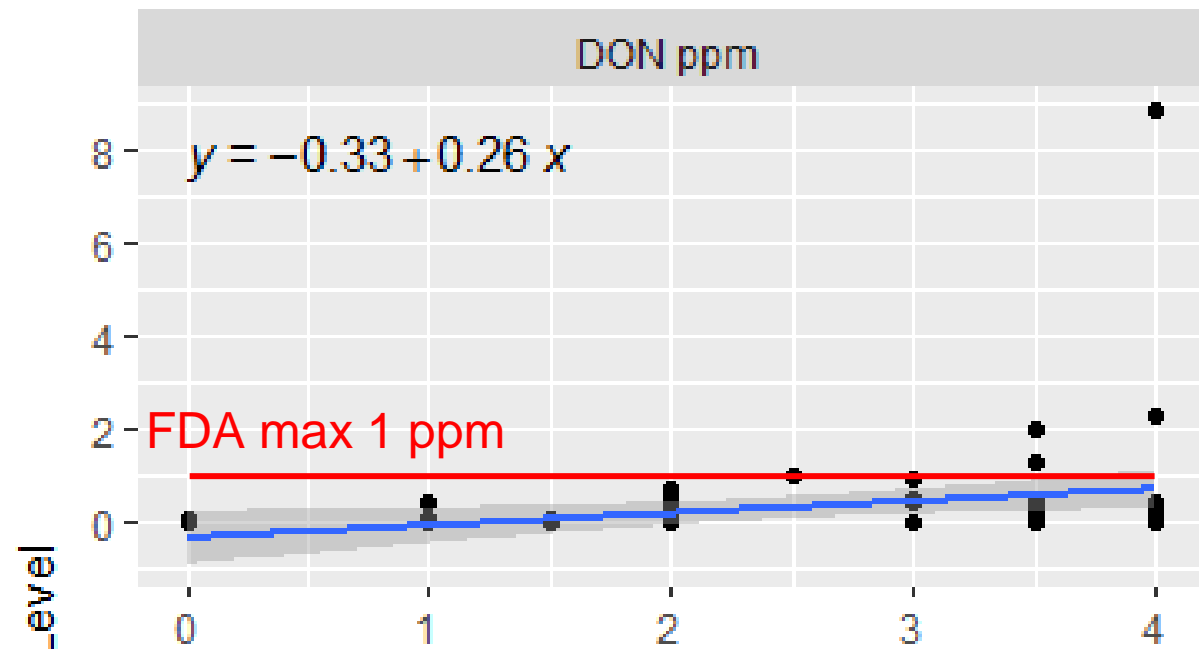
SARE Grower questions – increase time?



Toxin Level

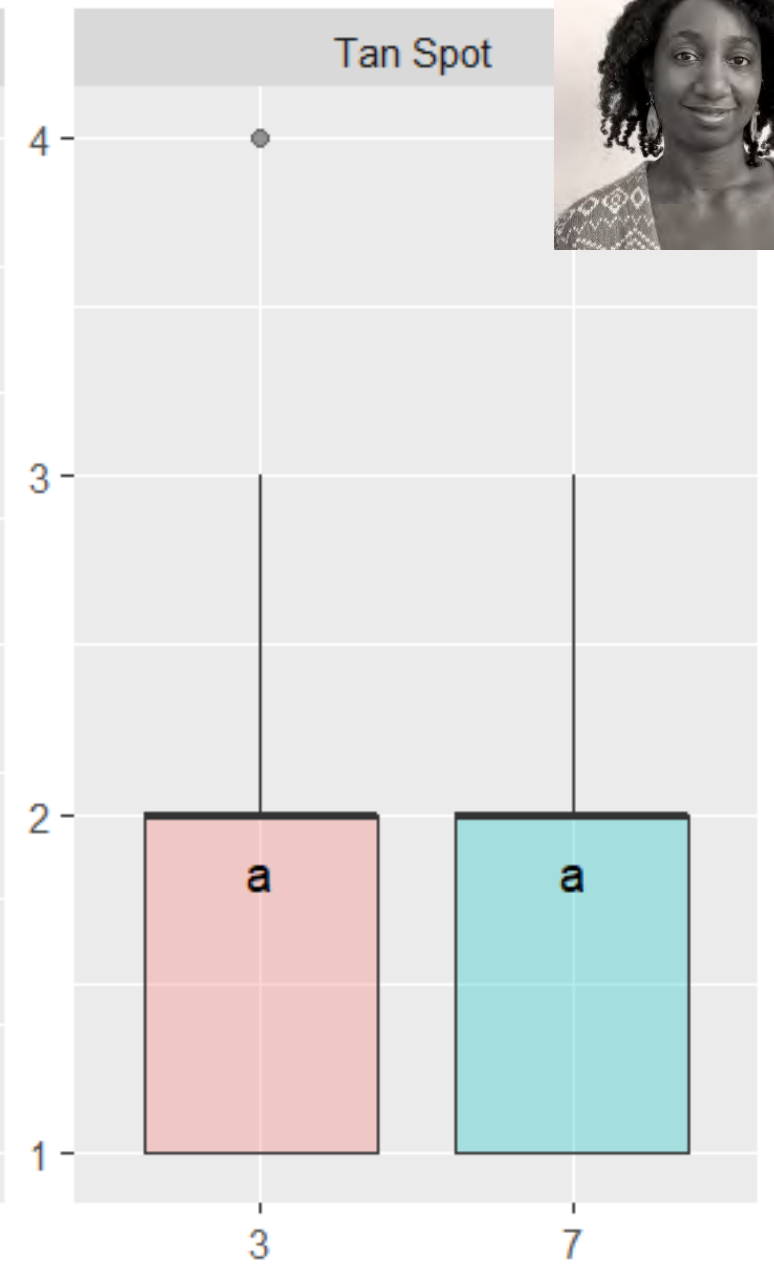
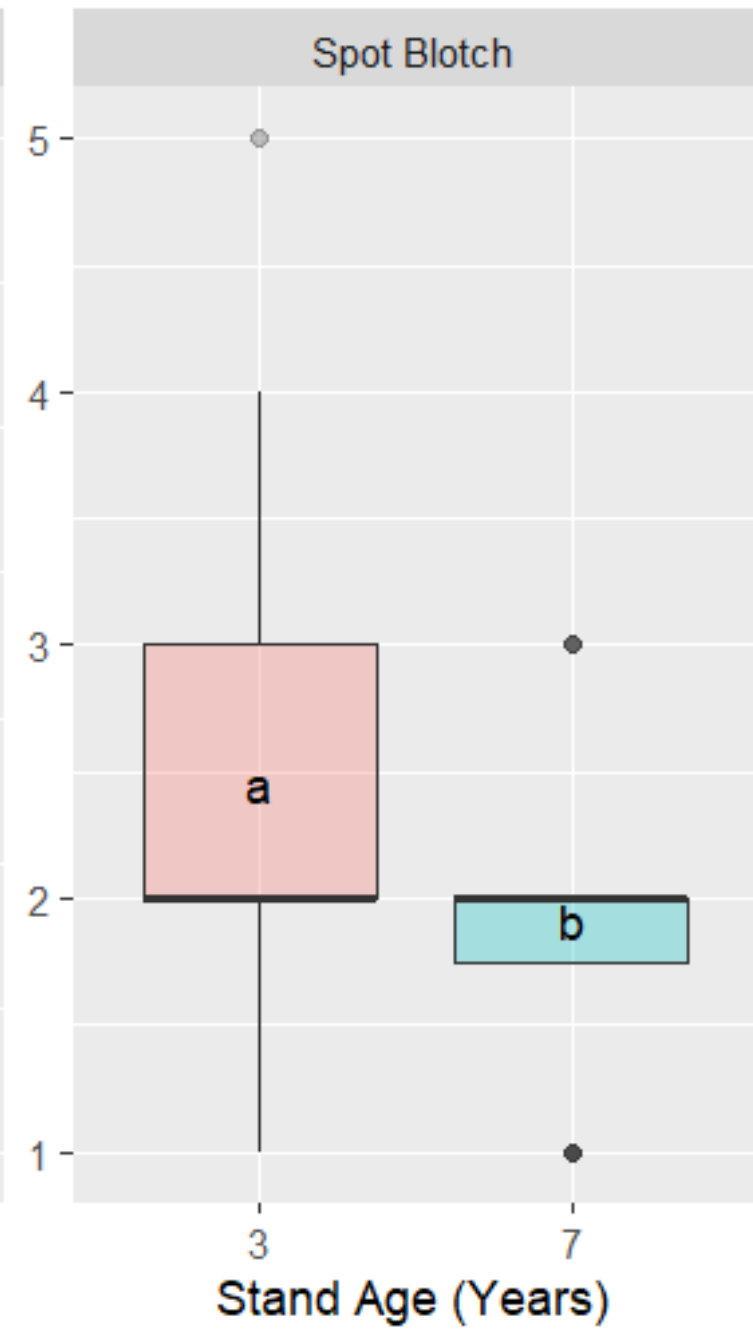
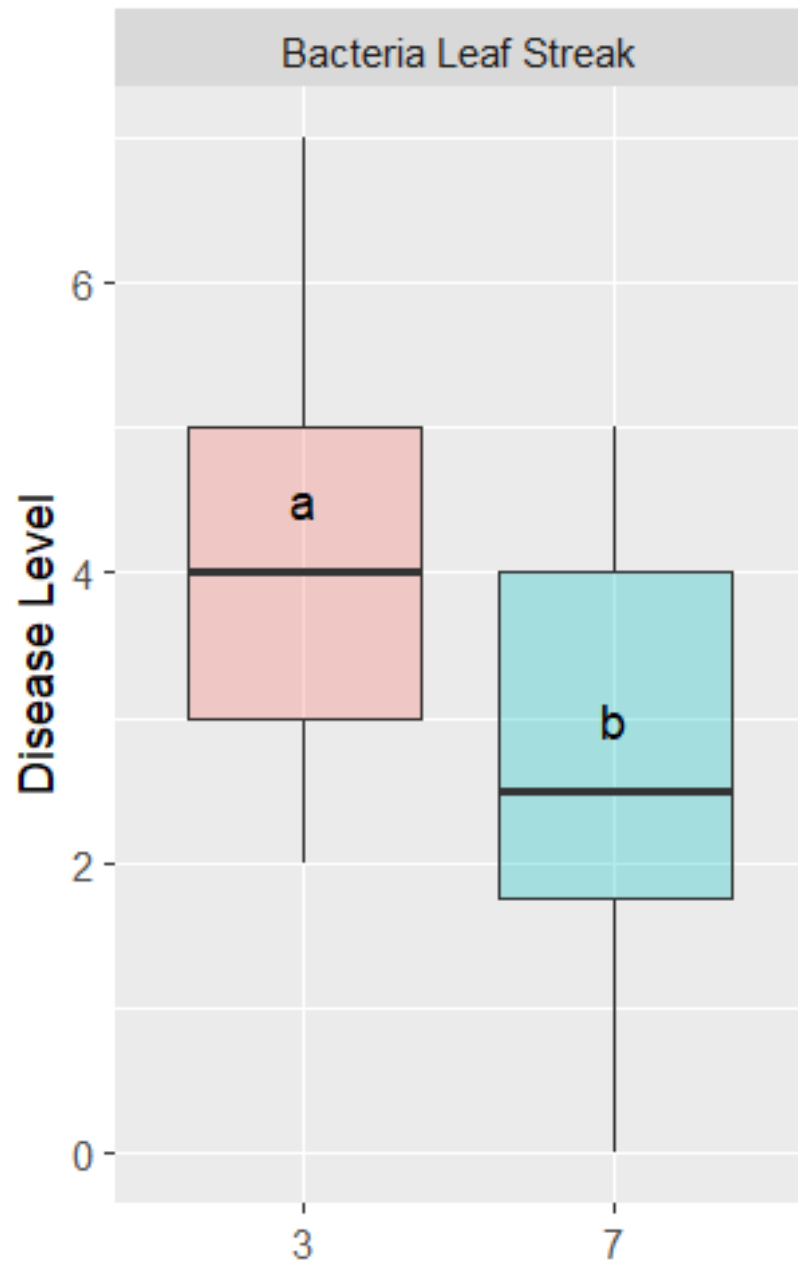
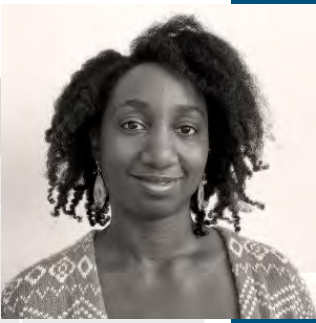


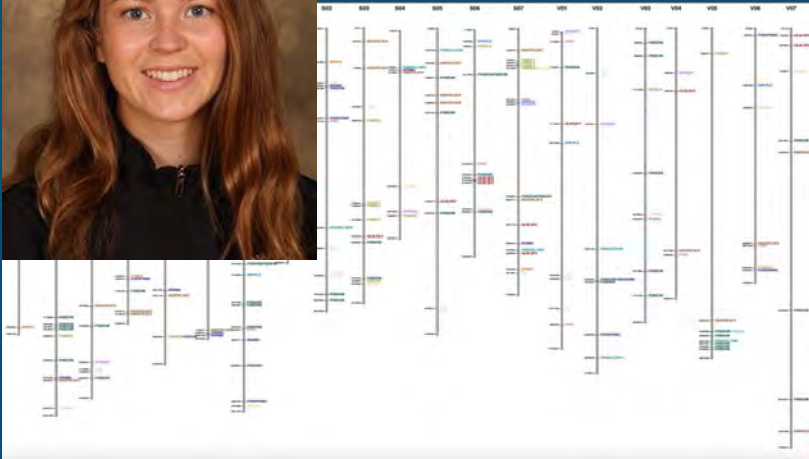
- Increase in disease but not toxin over time in our nurseries



Stand Age in Years

2022 Data set





Building tools

GWAS loci involved in disease resistance

Trait (IWG gene)	Blast description
DON/ZON	Involved in pathogen

Loci in Fhb1 region

Trait	NCBI Blast description
FHBDON S03	Sumai 3 Fhb 1 region – Zinc finger

NUTRIENT DEFICIENCY IN INTERMEDIATE WHEATGRASS



PREPARED BY ANGELO BREKALO,
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF STACY
HOLT JR. AND ANGELO BREKALO



Kernza® grower disease guide
The Land Institute
Kansas State University



PC: The Land Institute 2021

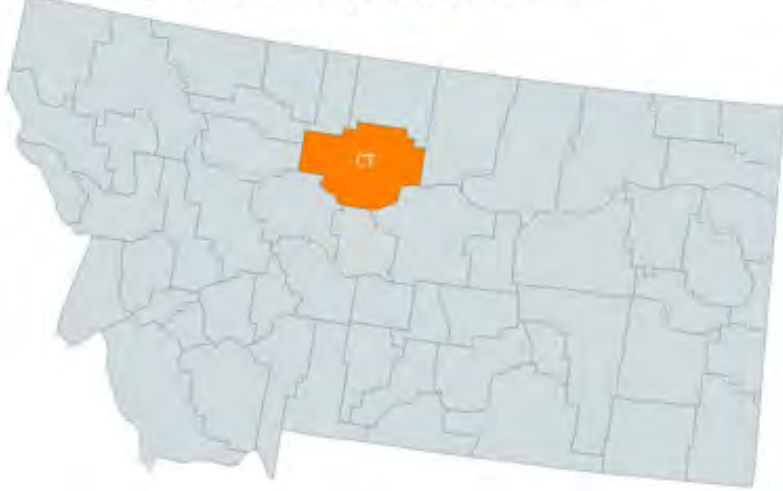


By: Anusha Dahal, Leah Treffer, Kathryn Turner,
Myron Bruce, and Jess Rupp

Print date: 6/15/2023



Head Samples collected from growers field in Montana



Counties Abbreviation
CT Chouteau

Head Samples collected from growers field in North Dakota



Counties Abbreviation
WL Williams
CS Cass

Head Samples collected from growers field in Minnesota



Counties Abbreviation
RS Roseau
LQP Lac qui Parle
OS Olmsted

Request your help

- Sampling grain for toxins
- Building research networks and extension

Head samples collected from growers field in Kansas



Counties Abbreviation
OT Ottawa
SL Saline
MCP McPherson
HV Harvey
EW Ellsworth
CK Cherokee

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (USDA-OREI)



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Organic Dual-Use Perennial Grain Crops: Pathways to Profitability and Soil Health

Leonardo Deiss

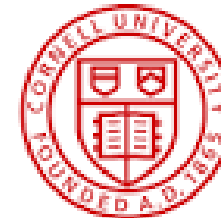
June 22nd, 2023



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Cornell University.

Project Objectives

The goal is to help alleviate key production, economic, and market constraints of promising perennial grain crops, when managed to **produce both grain and forage**.

Specific objectives:

- Agronomic trials (Objectives 1 and 2)
- Enterprise budgets for organic systems (Obj. 3)
- Farmer networks and commercialization efforts (Obj. 4)

Agronomic trials

- A) **Establish management recommendations to optimize organic dual-use grain and forage production of perennial crops**
- B) **Quantify improvements that perennial crops have on soil health**

Agronomic trials:

- **Kernza Dual-Use (KODU)**
- **Kernza-Legume Intercrop (KLI)**
- **Organic Perennial Wheat (OPW)**

Sites: Ohio (2 sites), New York, Minnesota, and Kansas

Measures:

- Soil health assessment (bio, chem, phys indicators)
- Crop yield (grain and forage), below- and above-ground biomass, and perenniality (grid)



Kernza after defoliation. Wooster, Oct 27th, 2022



Kernza + Clover vs. sole cropping. Wooster, May 26th, 2023

Enterprise budgets

Objective 3. Develop enterprise budgets to identify economic indicators that could increase or limit adoption of perennial grain systems

Enterprise budgets with focus on organic perennial grain systems (fixed and variable costs, financial return)

- Dual-Use: Grain and Forage production
- Management:
 - Manure
 - Legume Intercropping

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY		ORGANIC CORN PRODUCTION BUDGET-2023				Updated: 3/3/23	
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES		Conventional Tillage Practices; Nutrient Source-Poultry Litter				Reflects 500 acres, Corn-Soybean-Wheat-Red Clover rotation	
ITEM	EXPLANATION	YOUR PROD. NUMBERS	PRICE PER UNIT	YIELD (bu/A)			YOUR BUDGET
				109.6	137.0	164.4	175.0
RECEIPTS							
Com ¹			\$10.10 /bu	1,106.96	1,383.70	1,660.44	1,767.50
ARC/PLC Payment (to be paid October 2023) ²				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Crop Insurance Indemnity				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ad Hoc Payment				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grower or Market Premium				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS				1,106.96	1,383.70	1,660.44	1,767.50
VARIABLE COSTS							
Seed (kernels) ³	28000 32000 34000	34000	\$3.75 /1000	105.00	120.00	127.50	127.50
	Seed Cost Per Bag		\$300.00 /bag				
Nutrients⁴							
Starter Fertilizer				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Poultry Litter	2.5 tons		65.00 /ton	162.50	162.50	162.50	162.50
Cover Crops/Green Manure			45.00 /acre	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00
Other Nutrients (Chilean Nitrate)	200.0 lbs		0.90 /lb	0.00	135.00	180.00	180.00
Lime/Gypsum (ton)	0.5 tons		35.00 /ton	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Crop Protection (biopesticides, hand weeding, etc)⁵							
				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Drying ⁶	20.0 % moisture at harvest		0.042 /cent/bu/point	23.02	28.77	34.52	36.75
Hauling ⁷	\$0.49 /per bushel			53.70	67.13	80.56	85.75
Fuel, Oil, Grease ⁸				30.01	30.01	30.01	30.01
Repairs ⁹				33.18	33.18	33.18	33.18
Crop Insurance ¹⁰				31.16	34.58	38.05	38.05
Miscellaneous ¹¹				5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69
Hired Custom Work ¹²				18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
Hired Labor ¹³				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Int. on Oper. Cap. ¹⁴	7 mo.		7.00%	17.05	23.18	25.32	25.32
TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS				542.56	721.29	798.58	806.00
			-Per Acre	4.95	5.26	4.86	4.61
			-Per Bushel				
FIXED COSTS							
Labor Charge ¹⁵	5 hours		18.00 /hr	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
Management Charge ¹⁶	5% of gross revenue			55.35	69.19	83.02	88.38
Mach. And Equip. Charge ¹⁷				88.32	88.32	88.32	88.32
Land Charge ¹⁸	Rent			175.00	228.00	283.00	283.00
Miscellaneous ¹⁹				20.50	20.50	20.50	20.50
TOTAL FIXED COSTS				429.17	496.01	564.85	570.20
TOTAL COSTS				971.73	1,217.30	1,363.43	1,376.20
			-Per Acre	8.87	8.89	8.29	7.86
			-Per Bushel				
RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE COSTS²⁰				564.40	662.41	861.86	961.50
RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE AND LAND COSTS				389.40	434.41	578.86	678.50
RETURN ABOVE TOTAL COSTS				135.23	168.40	297.01	391.30
RETURN TO LAND				310.23	394.40	580.01	674.30
RETURN TO LABOR AND MANAGEMENT				280.57	325.59	470.04	569.68
RETURN TO LAND, LABOR AND MANAGEMENT				455.57	553.59	753.04	852.68

Farmer networks and commercialization efforts

Objective 4. Integrate research activities and farmer networks into existing perennial crop commercialization efforts

Donation of 800 lbs. of harvested organic grains to:

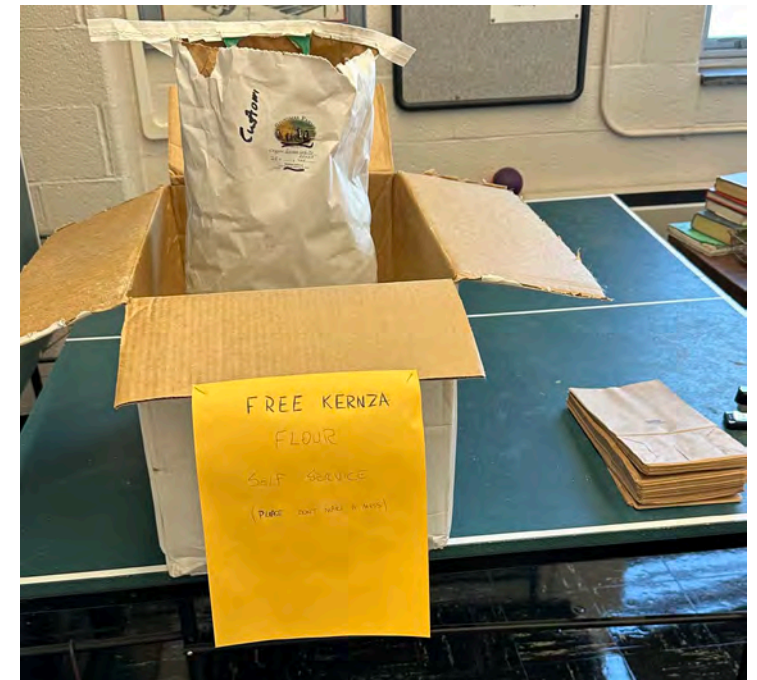
- **a baker** (Avalanche Pizza, Athens - OH)
- **an organic grain mill** (Stutzman Farms and Mill, Millersburg - OH)



John Gutekanst, 2023 - Avalanche Pizza, Athens, OH



Free Kernza four self-service
at OSU campus



OSU - Wooster, OH, 2023

The impact of nitrogen rates across sites and years on intermediate wheatgrass grain yields: A meta-analysis

Roberta Bianchin Rebesquini

MS Student – University of Nebraska – Lincoln

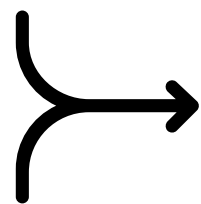
Adviser – Dr. Andrea Basche

Resilient Cropping Systems Lab





**TITLE,
ABSTRACT &
KEY WORDS**



“kernza” OR “intermediate
wheatgrass” OR
“thinopyrum intermedium”

+

“nitrogen” OR “nitrogen
rate” OR “nitrogen
application”

Screening criteria:

1. Field studies evaluating at least 2 nitrogen rates
2. Studies evaluating Intermediate wheatgrass grain and/or biomass yield

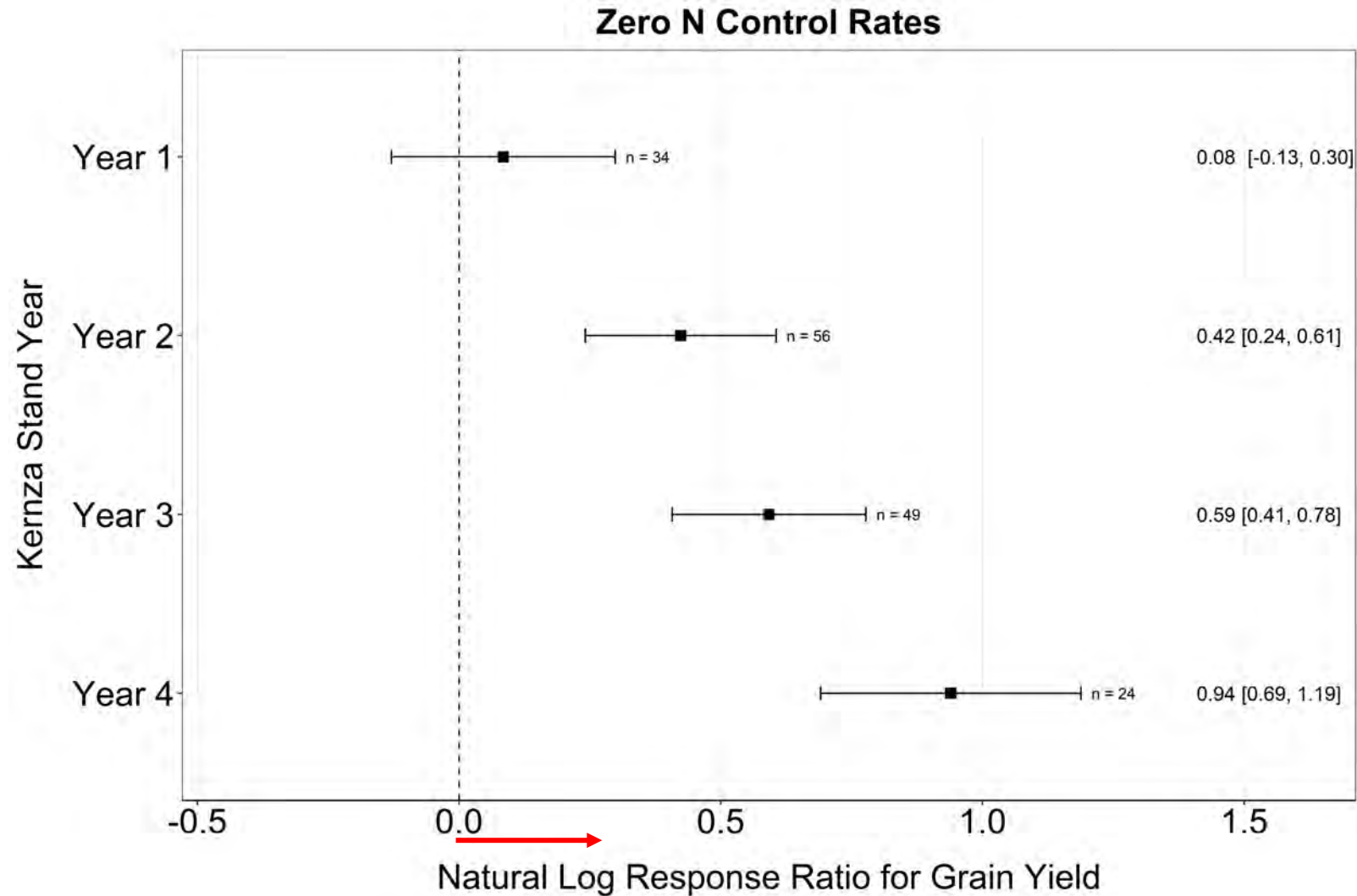


**16 Published
articles + 1
unpublished
multi-site trial**



**263 comparisons
by site-experiment year**

→ Preliminary Results:

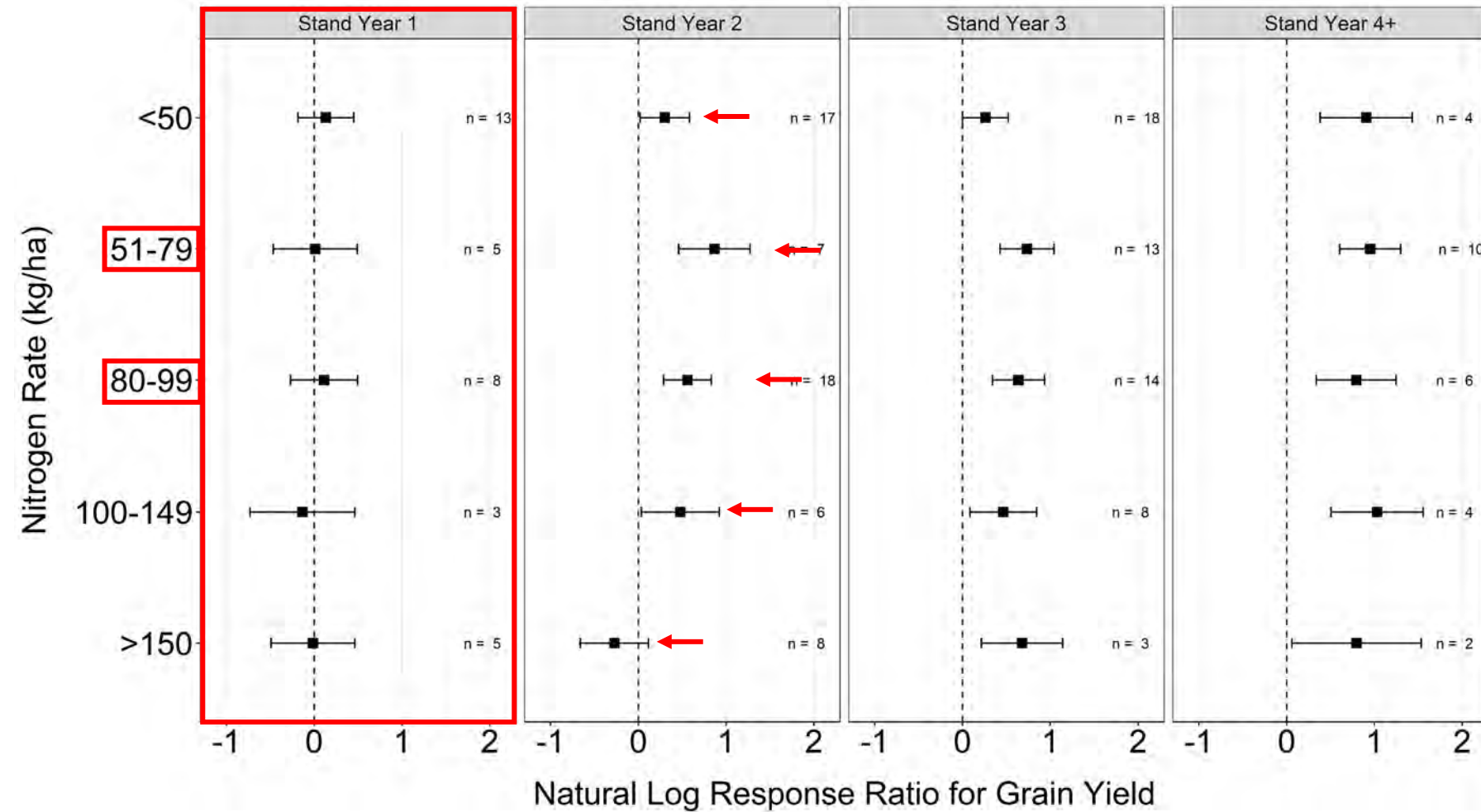


Response ratio above
zero = Kernza
response to N

- Response ratios represent a higher N rate divided by **control N rates (0)** where comparisons by site-experiment year were available.
- Estimated effect sizes and its respective 95% CI for grain yield, with response ratios separated by year of intermediate wheatgrass stand.

→ Preliminary Results:

Yield response ratio x Nitrogen Rate grouped by Kernza Stand Year



- Response ratios represent a higher N rate divided by **control N rates (0)** where comparisons by site-experiment year were available.
- Nitrogen rates separated by groups.
- **Limited effect** of N across rates in **year 1**, with greater N needs in later years.

Thank you!





Automated Seed Quantification for Kernza

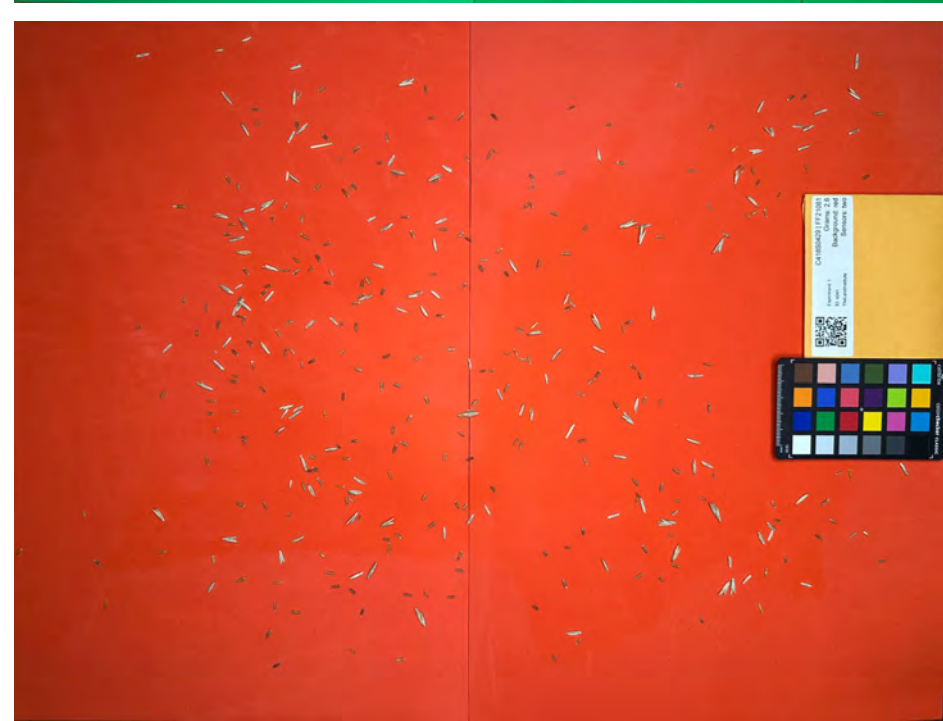
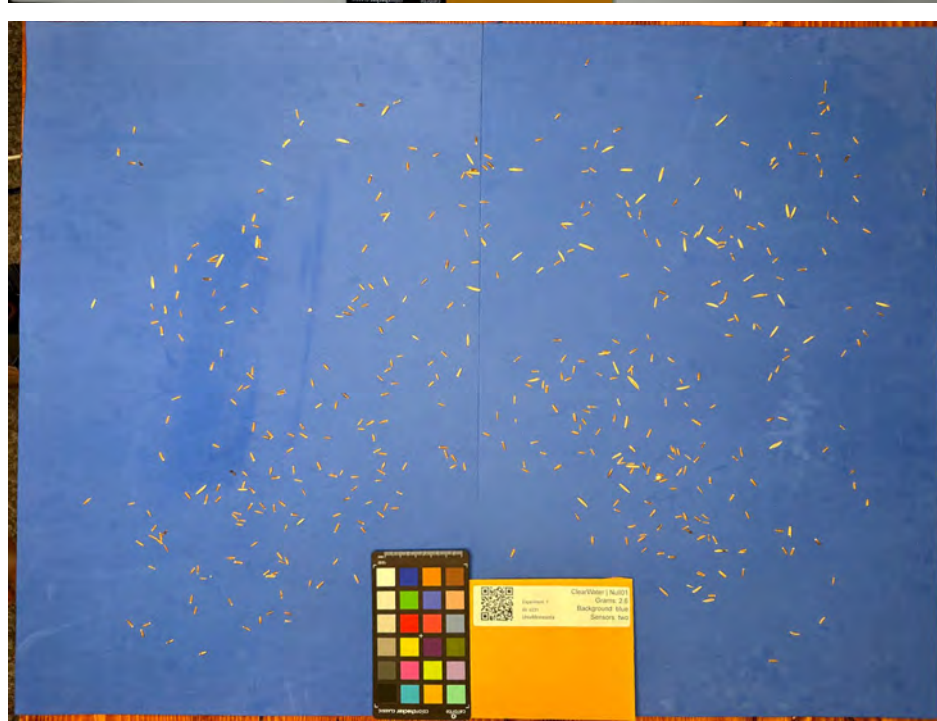
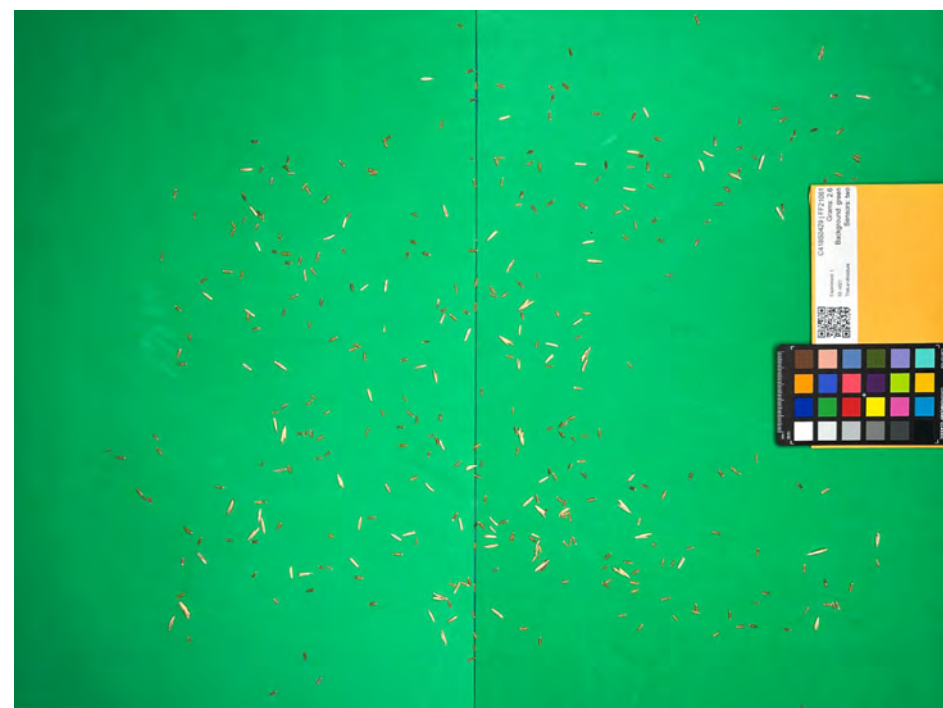
Garett Heineck, Lou Saporito, Collins Wakholi, Devin Rippner, Lee DeHaan
Kernza Con 2023

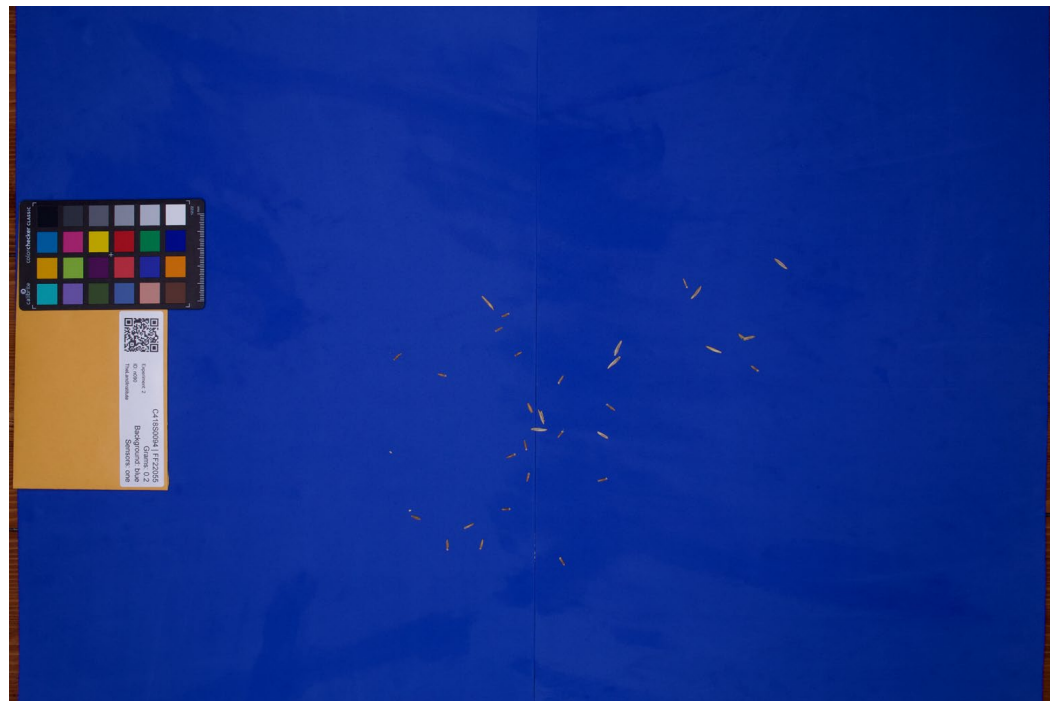
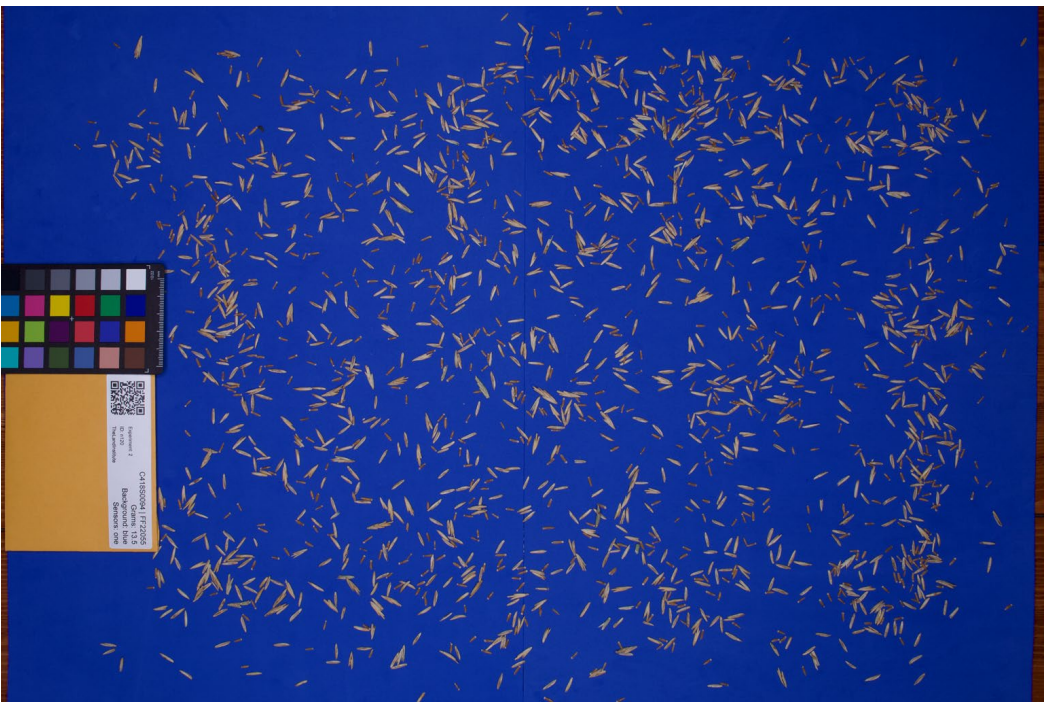


Identifying and quantifying components of Kernza grain



Methods: Collecting a representative dataset





























C9-3581 | FF21063
Experiment 1
ID: 0005
TheLandscape

Grams: 2.6
Background: white
Sensors: two



Camera Sensors	Image File Format	Imaging Platform (random)
Digital SLR/Point and Shoot  	Raw .Tiff  	Garett Heineck Prosser, WA   
Smartphone w/ RAW functionality  	.PNG 	Lou Saporito University Park, PA   
	.JPEG 	Lee DeHaan Salina, KS   
		Kernza Nerd   

Model development, training, implementation

roboflow

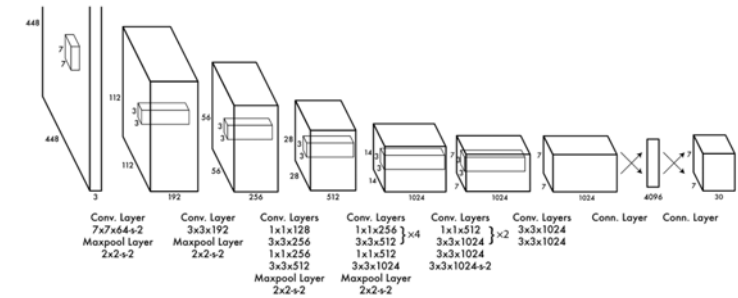


Figure 3: The Architecture. Our detection network has 24 convolutional layers followed by 2 fully connected layers. Alternating 1×1 convolutional layers reduce the features space from preceding layers. We pretrain the convolutional layers on the ImageNet classification task at half the resolution (224×224 input image) and then double the resolution for detection.



Segmentation vs. Object Detection

Annotations

Group: kernzaSeeds

CLASSES LAYERS

- BrokenSeed 6
- chaff 6
- dehulled 255
- ergot 1
- florets 24
- hulled 59

Tags

No Tags Applied

Type and select tags below to add them to the image.

+ Add Tag

- 30% + RESET



Annotations

Group: kernzaSeeds

CLASSES LAYERS

- hulled 14
- dehulled 12
- Base : background

Tags

No Tags Applied

Type and select tags below to add them to the image.

+ Add Tag

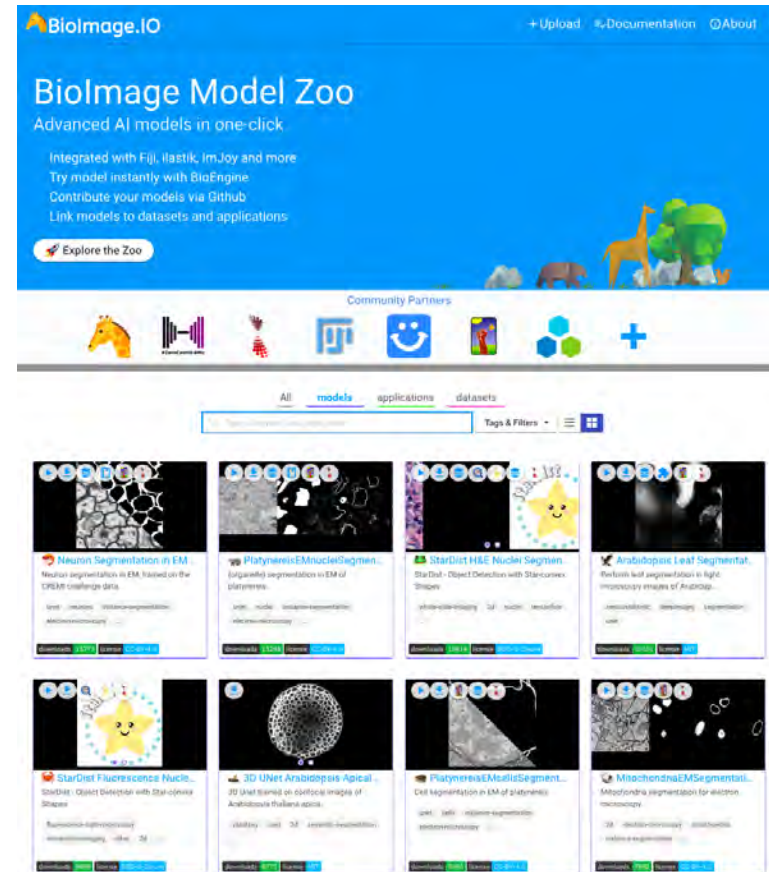
- 20%  + RESET



Vertical toolbar with icons for: crop, rotate, zoom, pan, and other editing tools.



Impact: open source code on GitHub and Ilastik





United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service



USDA ARS: Kernza® Initiative

José G. Franco

U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Madison, WI

Presenting on behalf of the ARS Kernza® Initiative team

KernzaCon June 22-23, 2023

ARS Kernza® Initiative:

Regional and National Assessment

- Where does intermediate wheatgrass fit in today's systems?
 - *Diverse production systems across varying climates*
 - Semi-arid small grain production to temperate livestock forage & dual-use production
 - Rainfed to irrigated and dryland systems
- Can a dual-use, perennial crop improve the sustainability of agroecosystems?



Pullman, WA

TRIAL & EVALUATION SITE

Dryland Systems

St. Paul, MN

BREEDING & LAB SITE

*Forage and Soil Quality Lab
Crop and Grazing Systems*

Madison, WI

DATA COORDINATION, TRIAL and EVALUATION SITE

*Agronomic Data Coordination
Dairy Forage Production Systems
Crop and Conservation Systems*

Kimberly, ID

TRIAL & EVALUATION SITE

Irrigated Systems

Logan, UT

GENETICS SITE

Semi-Arid Production Systems

Fort Collins, CO

LAB, TRIAL, and DATA COORDINATION SITE

*Brewing, Baking, and Grain Quality Lab
Dryland and Irrigated Systems
Livestock Utilization*

Salina, KS

BREEDING SITE

Fayetteville, AR

TRIAL & EVALUATION SITE

*Grazing and
Conservation Systems*

Univ. Park, PA

TRIAL & EVALUATION SITE

*Crop, Grazing, and Conservation
Systems*



RESEARCH PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

ARS Kernza[®] Initiative: Outcomes

National Assessment

- Variety trial
 - Production (G × E)
 - Forage quality/nutritive value
 - Grain quality
 - Environmental
 - Soil health/soil quality
 - Air and water quality
 - End use
 - Brewing, baking quality



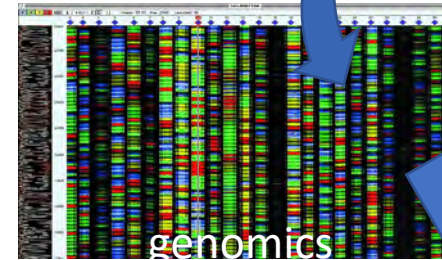
Flex crop



Drought tolerance
Efficient water use



Soil health
Carbon footprint



genomics



crop wild relatives



breeding



desirable traits

ARS Kernza[®] Initiative: Outcomes



Regional Assessment

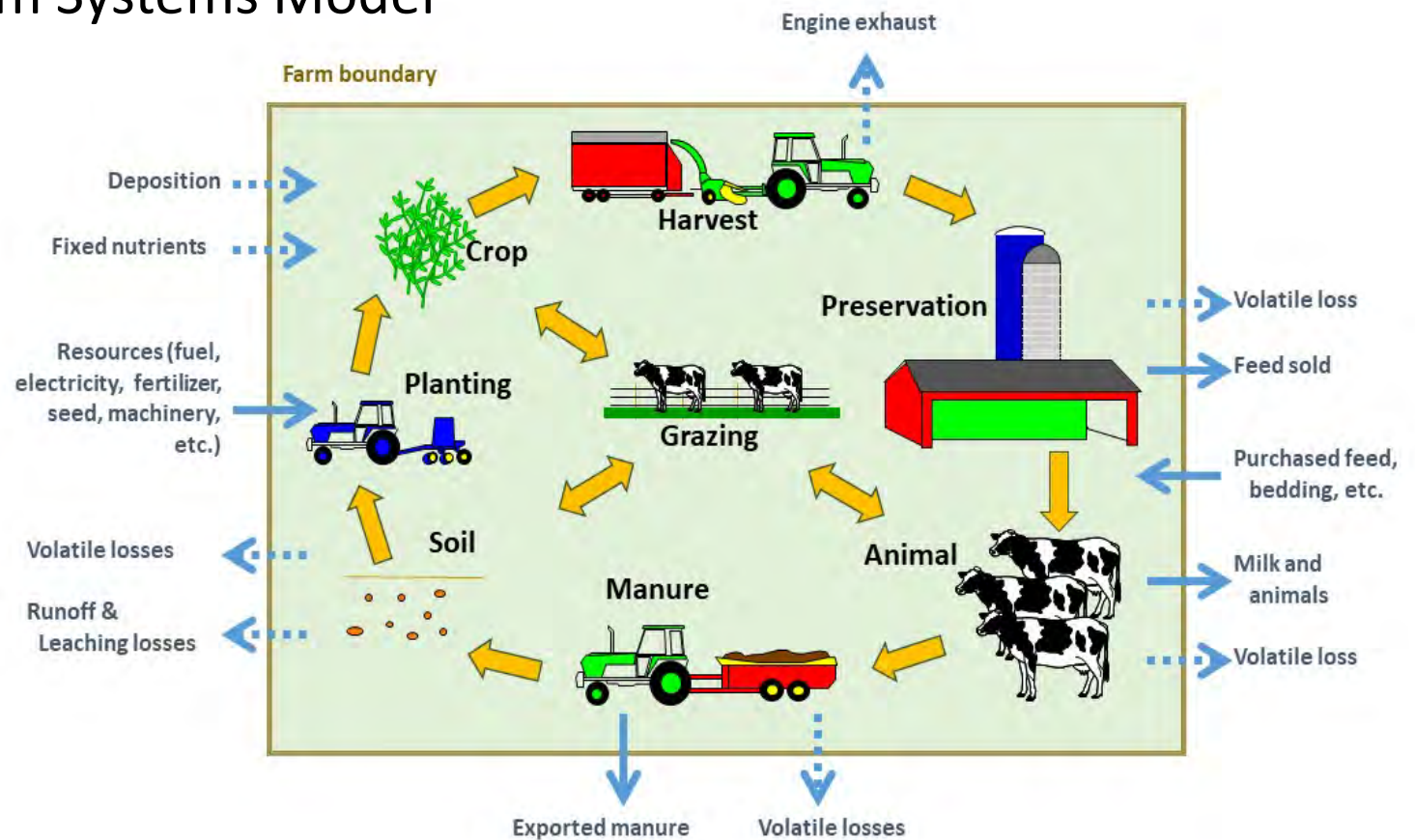
- Farm systems: Integrated Farm Systems Model

- Inputs

- Grain yield
- Forage yield
- Fertilizer inputs

- Outputs

- Production costs
- Nutrient losses
- Carbon footprint
- Water footprint
- Fossil energy footprint





United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service

Questions?



Contact Information

Dr. Peter Kleinman

Research Leader/Soil Scientist

Soil Management and Sugarbeet Research Unit

peter.kleinman@usda.gov

Dr. José G. Franco

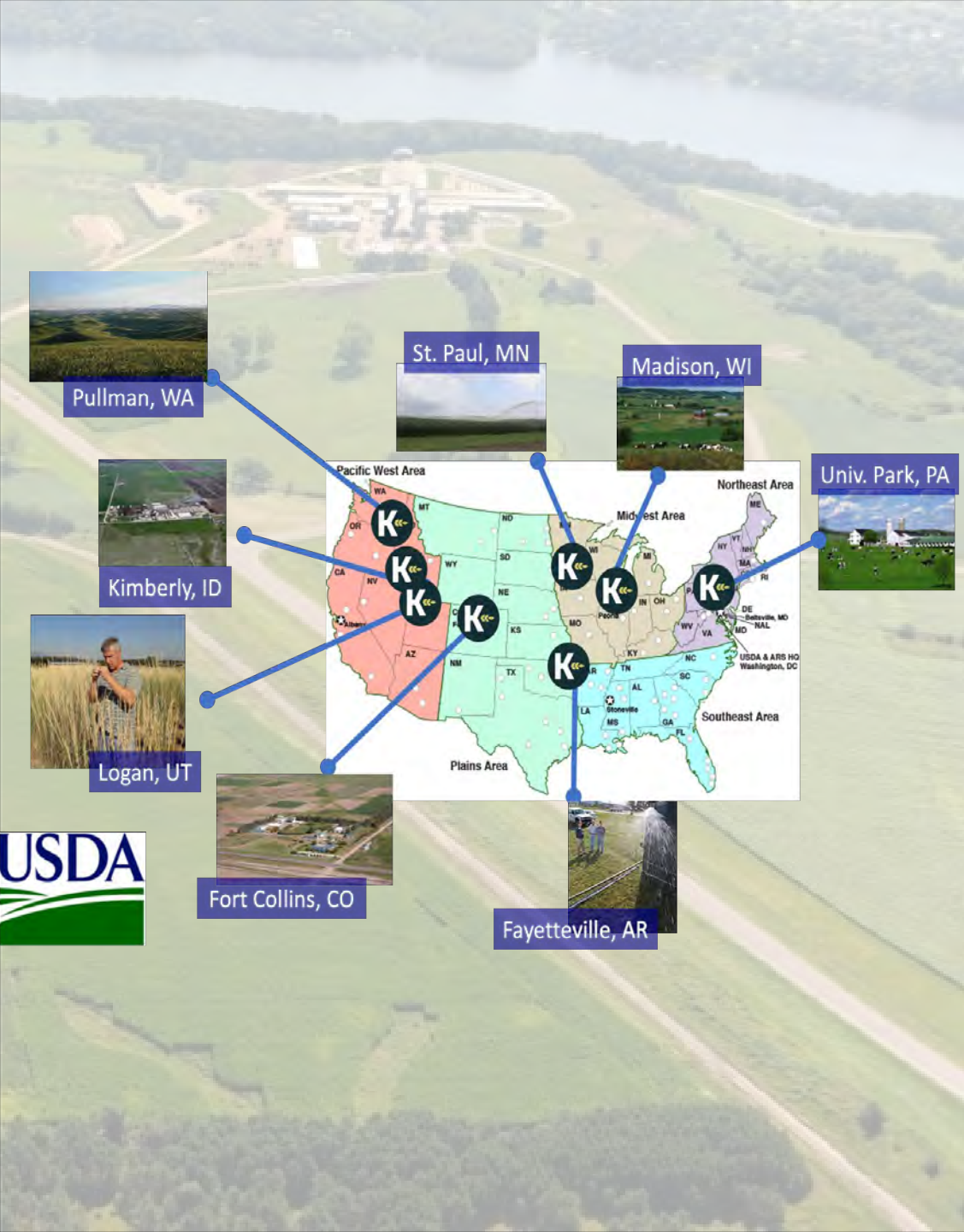
Research Agroecologist

U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center

jose.franco@usda.gov



PCC Lab Logo credit: KC Cifizzari, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Madison, WI.



Pullman, WA



St. Paul, MN



Madison, WI



Kimberly, ID



Logan, UT



Fort Collins, CO



Fayetteville, AR



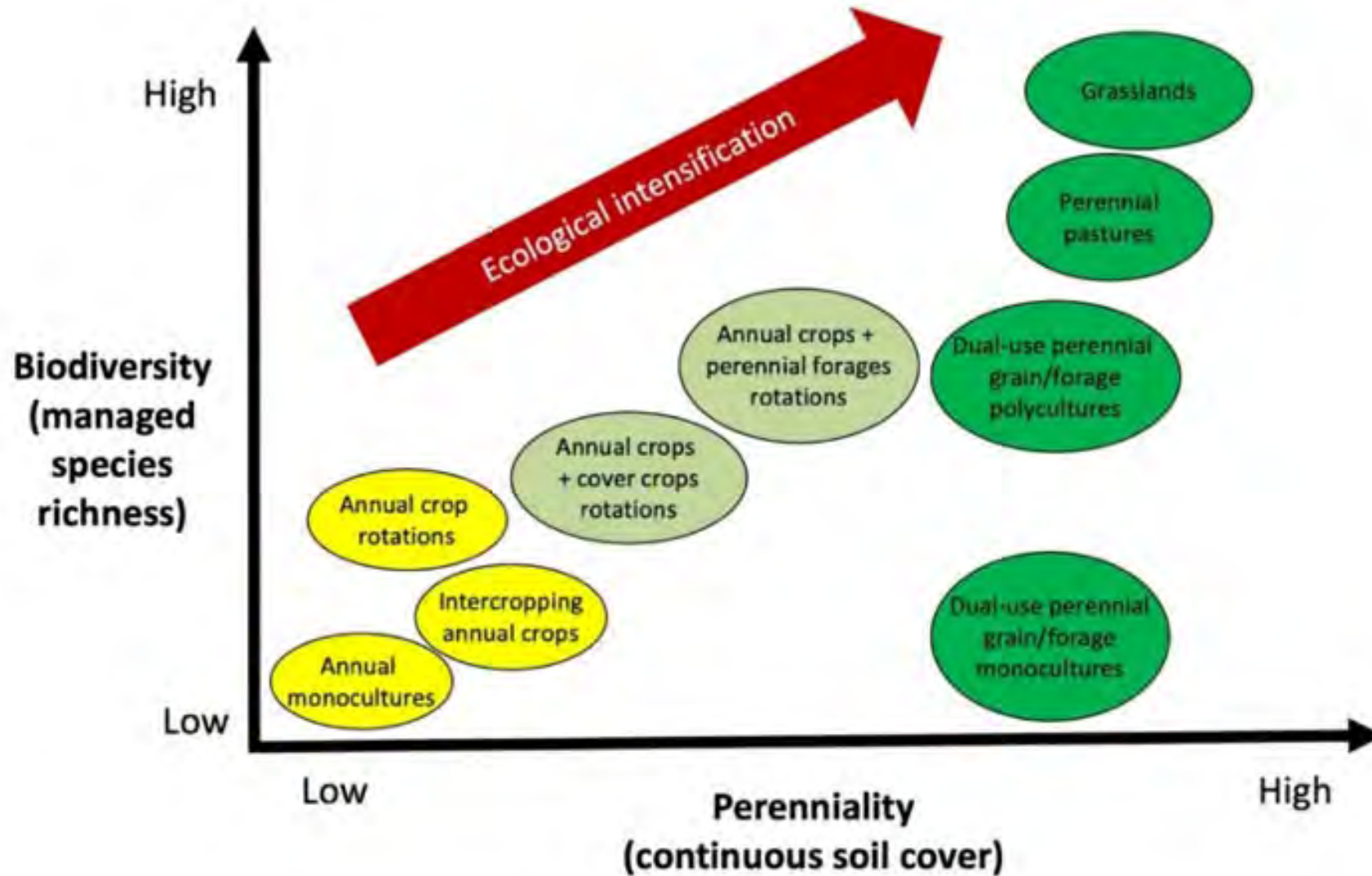
IWG-Legume intercropping

— Priscila Pinto —



University of Wisconsin - Madison

Why intercrop?



IWG-Legume intercropping systems



IWG Control
45N, 90 N



Berseem clover



Kura clover



Alfalfa

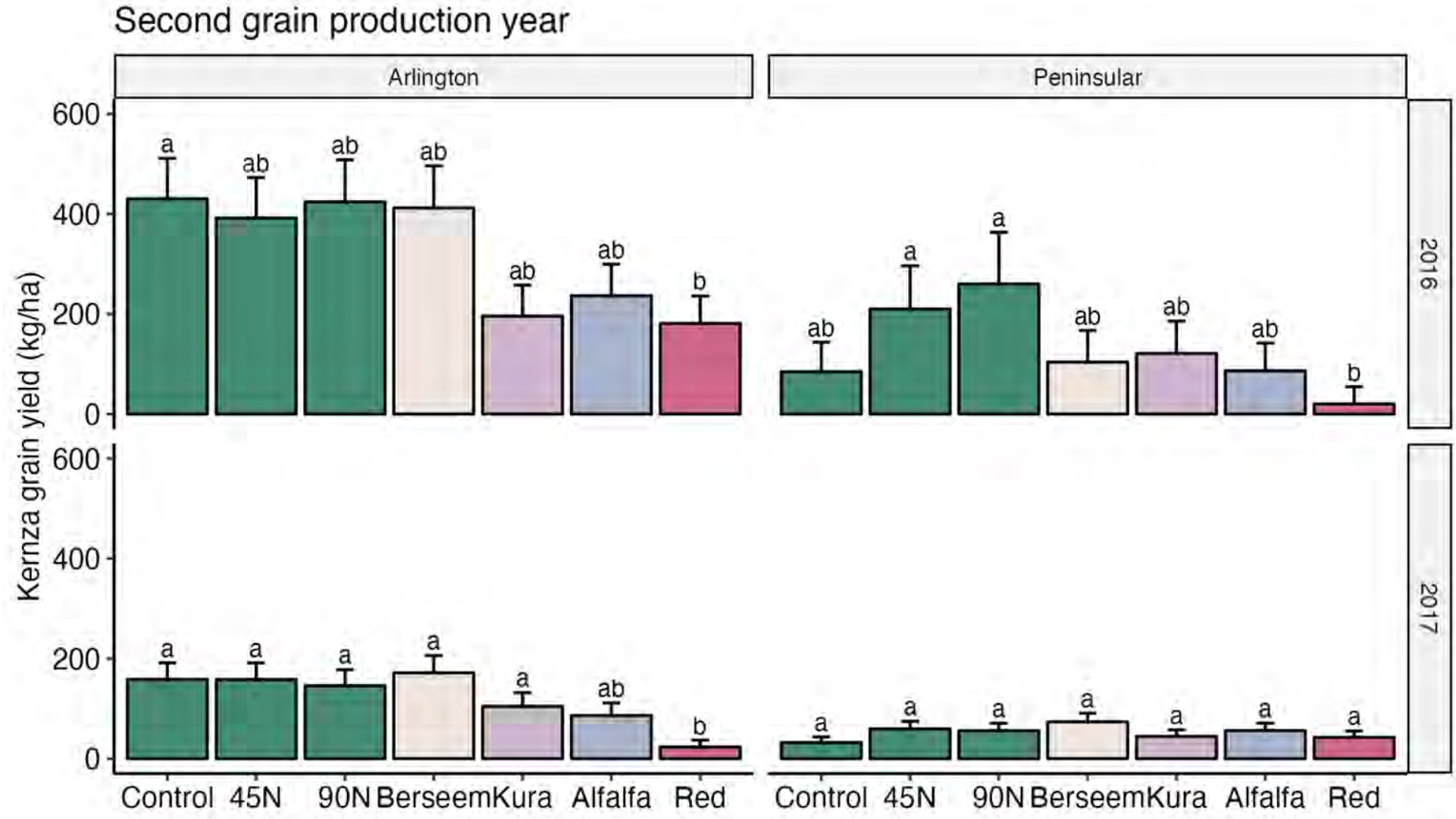


Red clover

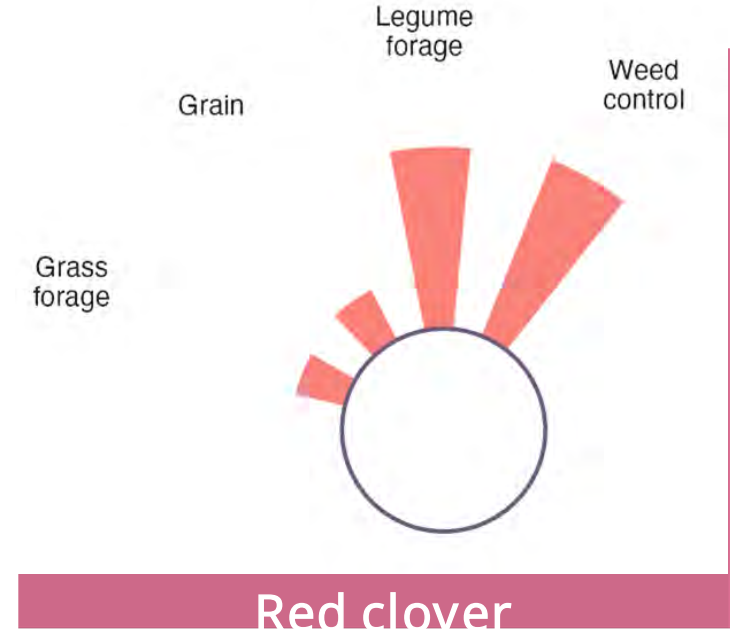
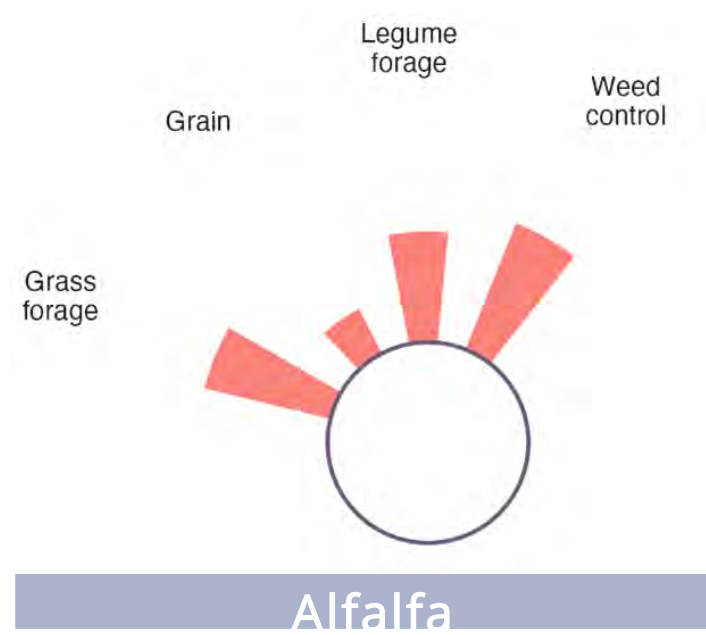
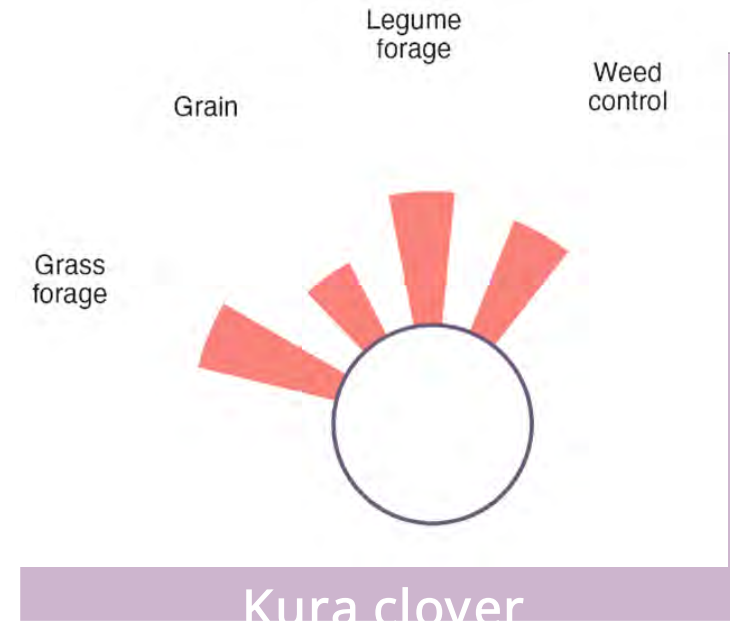
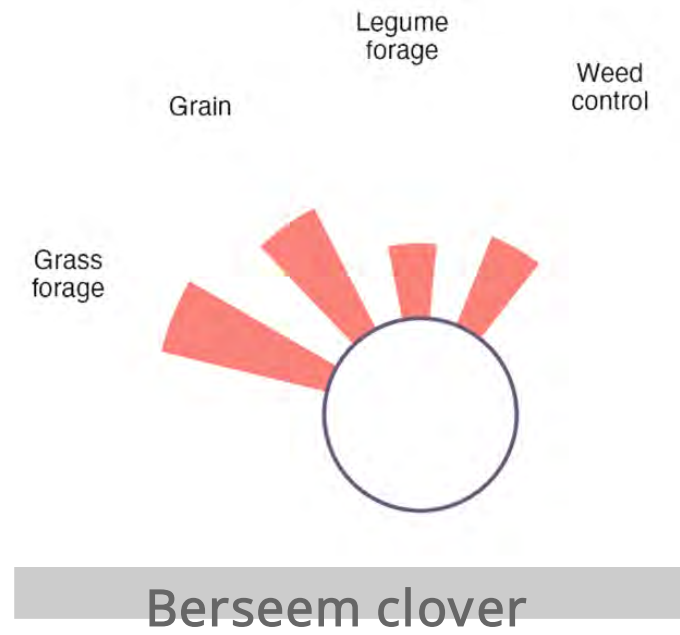
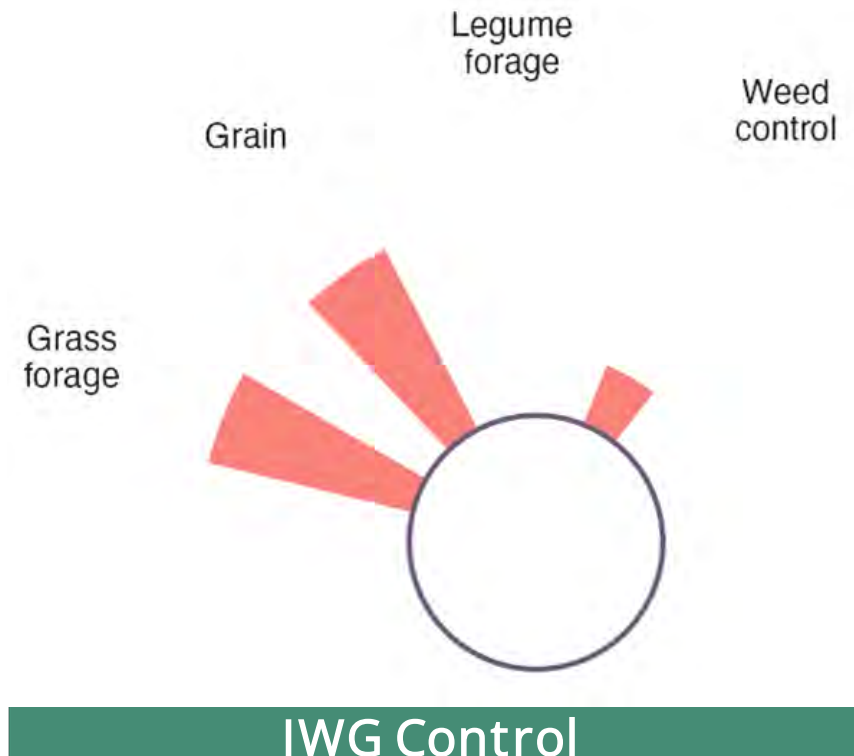
4 environments: Arlington16, Arlington17, Peninsular16, Peninsular17

Kernza grain yield

First year: 610 kg/ha
 Second year: 190 Kg/ha



Dual-purpose systems



Grazing Intermediate Wheatgrass (Kernza®) as a Dual-Use Crop for Forage and Grain Production



Impact of Grazing on Grain Yield
Profitability of Kernza

Photo Credit: Kaleb Anderson



Kernza planting, Anderson Farm - Sep 10, 2018



Photo Credit: Clean River Partners



Direct Cut
Anderson Farm
Aug 23, 2019

Photo Credit: Clean River Partners



Kernza Grain Harvest 2019, Anderson Farm



CFANS

CLEAN RIVER
PARTNERS



Kernza Straw Bales, Anderson Farm



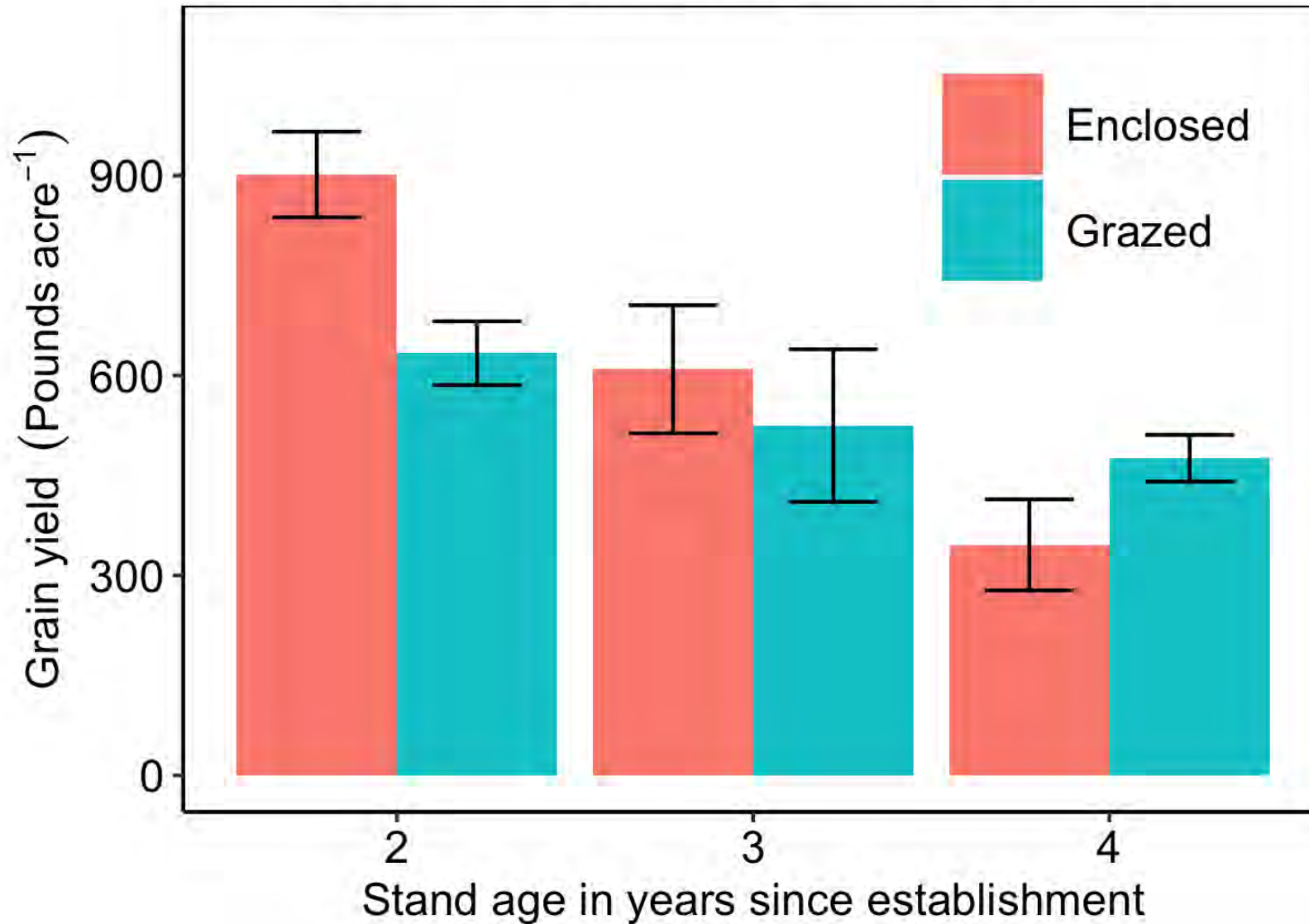
Fall Grazing 2019,
Anderson Farm



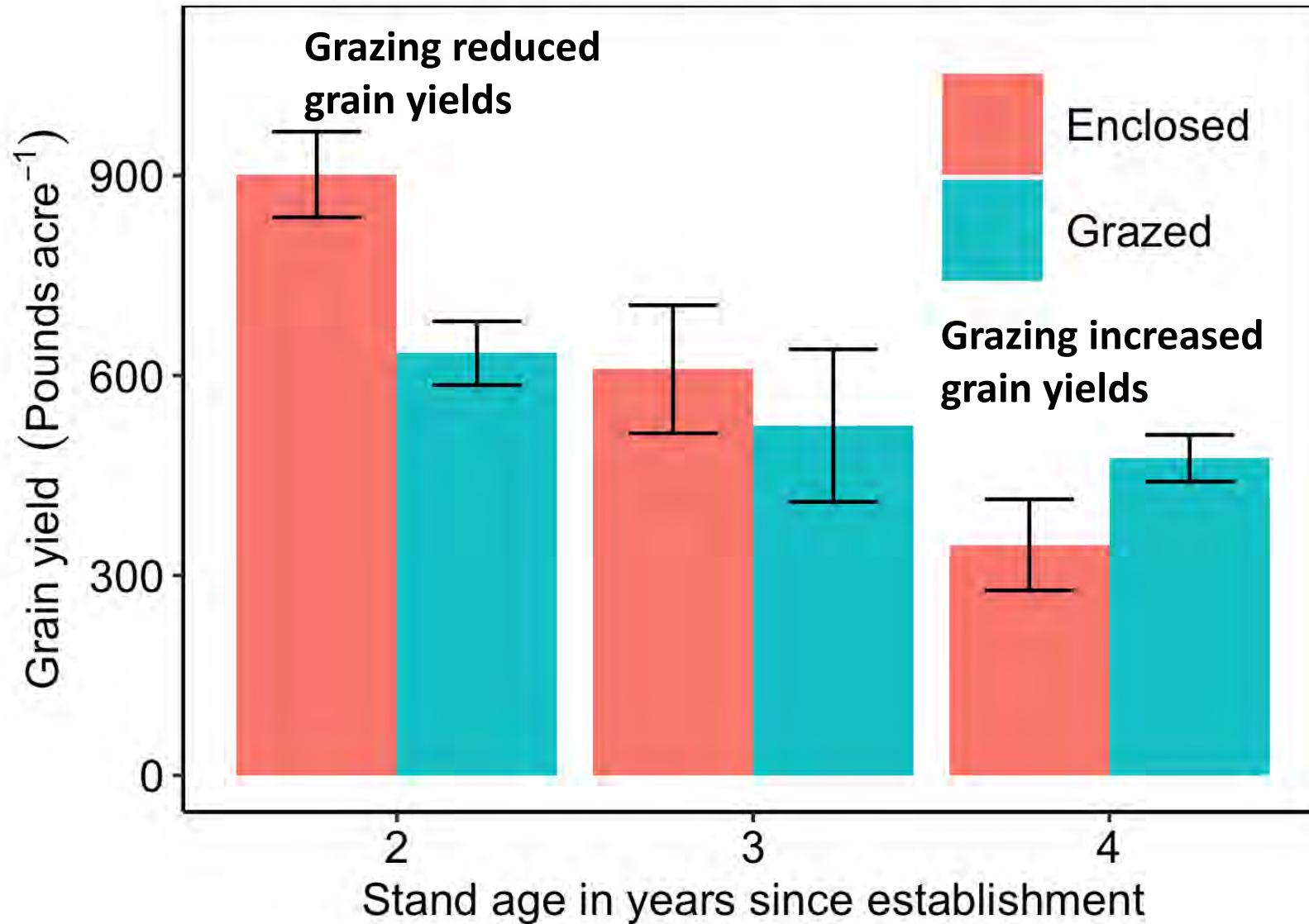
Grazing Intermediate Wheatgrass (Kernza®) as a Dual-Use Crop for Forage and Grain Production - Timeline of Field Activities														
	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	
Anderson	Sprayed Glyphosate Sep 2	Sprayed 2,4-D Jul 3	Grain harvest Aug 23	Grazed Oct 15-20	Grazed May 15-22	Grain harvest Aug 8	Grazed Nov 1-10	Grazed May 10-16	Grain harvest - Aug 15	Grazed Oct 11 - Oct 17	Grazed May 19-25	Grazed Aug 25 - Sep 2	No Activity - Very little biomass	
	Planted no-till Sep 10	Rested, no grazing	Applied 5000 gal liq dairy manure		Applied 5000 gal liq dairy manure	Applied 5000 gal liq dairy manure		Applied 5000 gal liq dairy manure	Applied 5000 gal liq dairy manure		Applied 5000 gal liq dairy manure	Applied 5000 gal liq dairy manure		



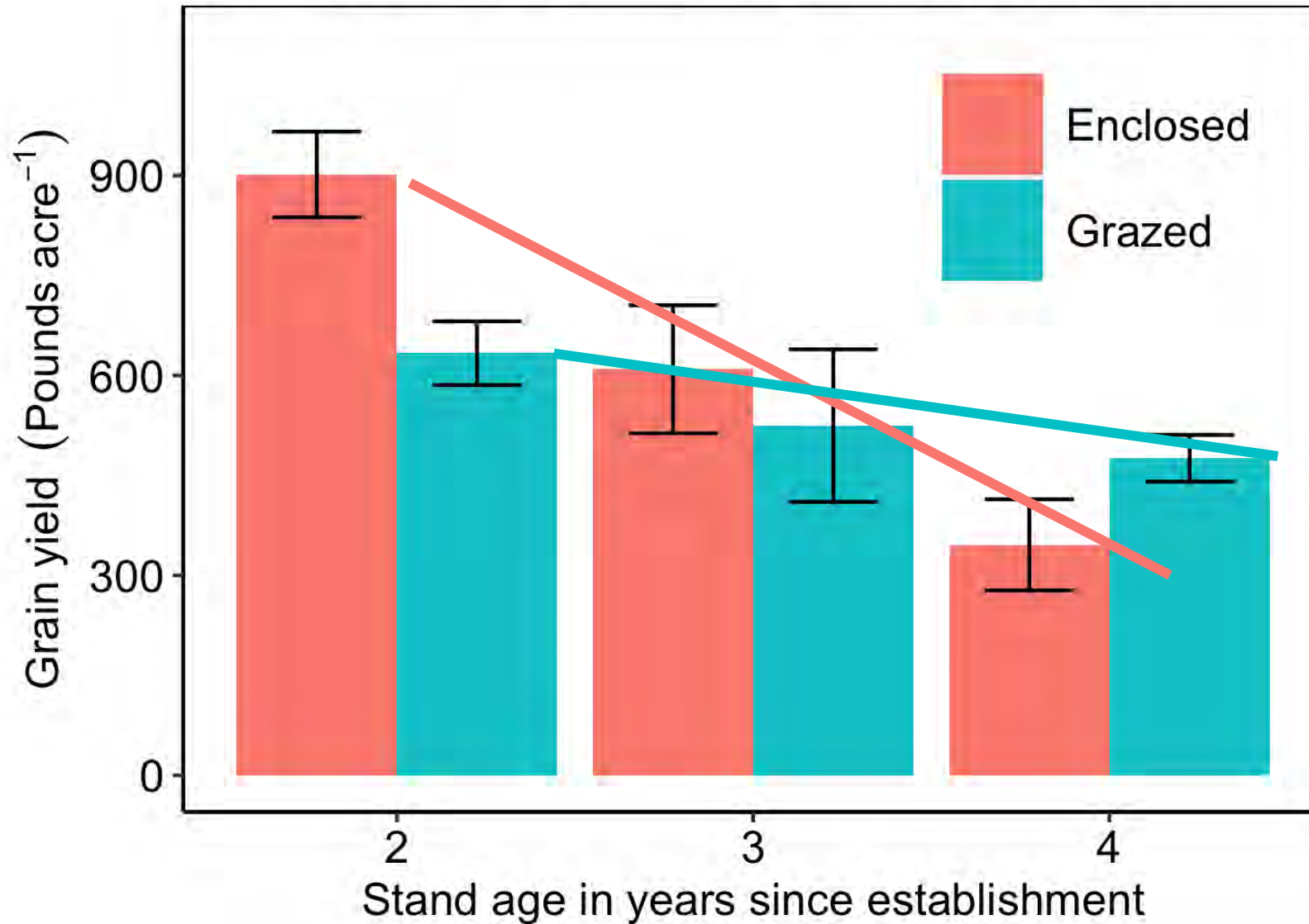
Kernza grain yields in paddocks that were grazed (blue bars) and not grazed (red bars)



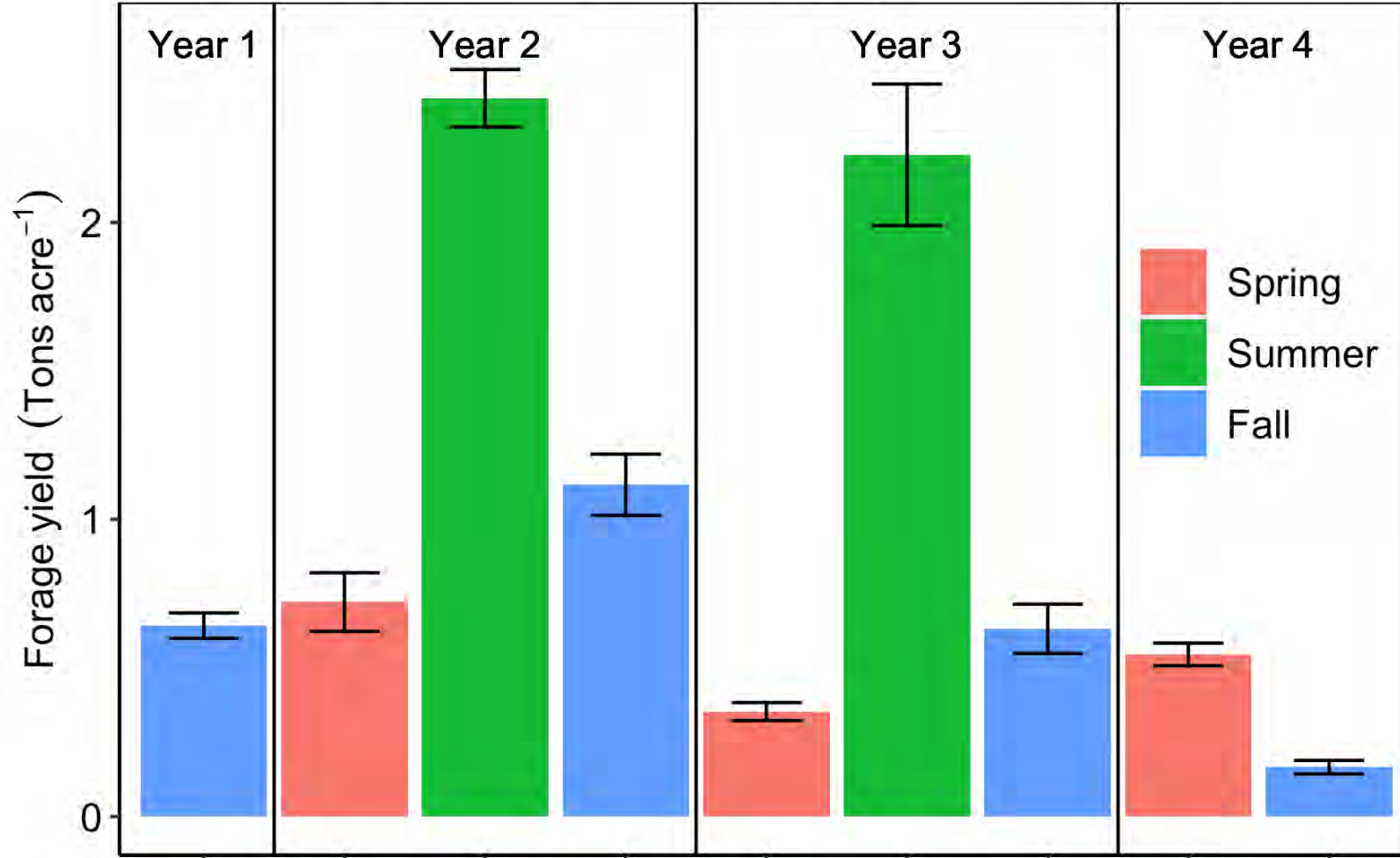
Kernza grain yields in paddocks that were grazed (blue bars) and not grazed (red bars)



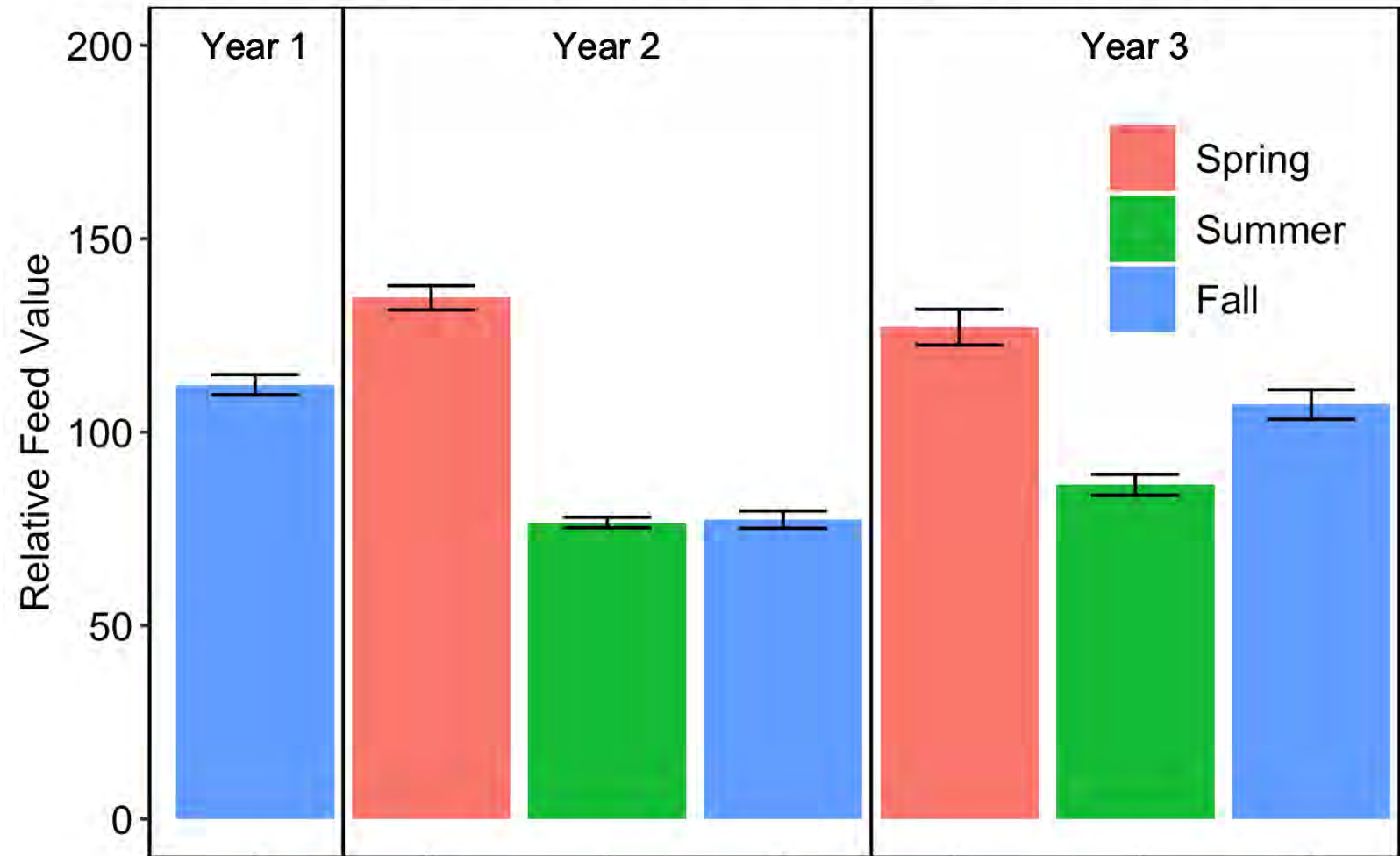
Kernza grain yields in paddocks that were grazed (blue bars) and not grazed (red bars)



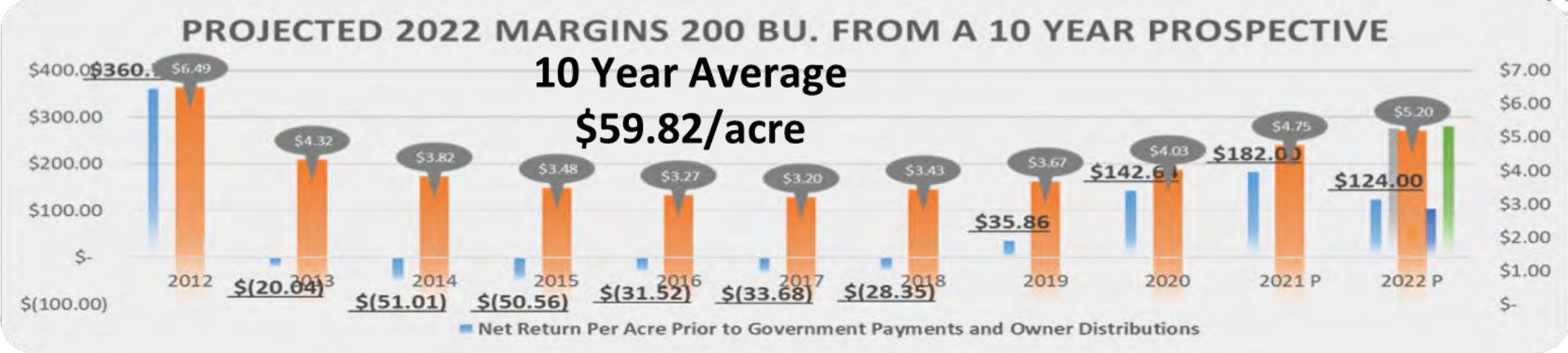
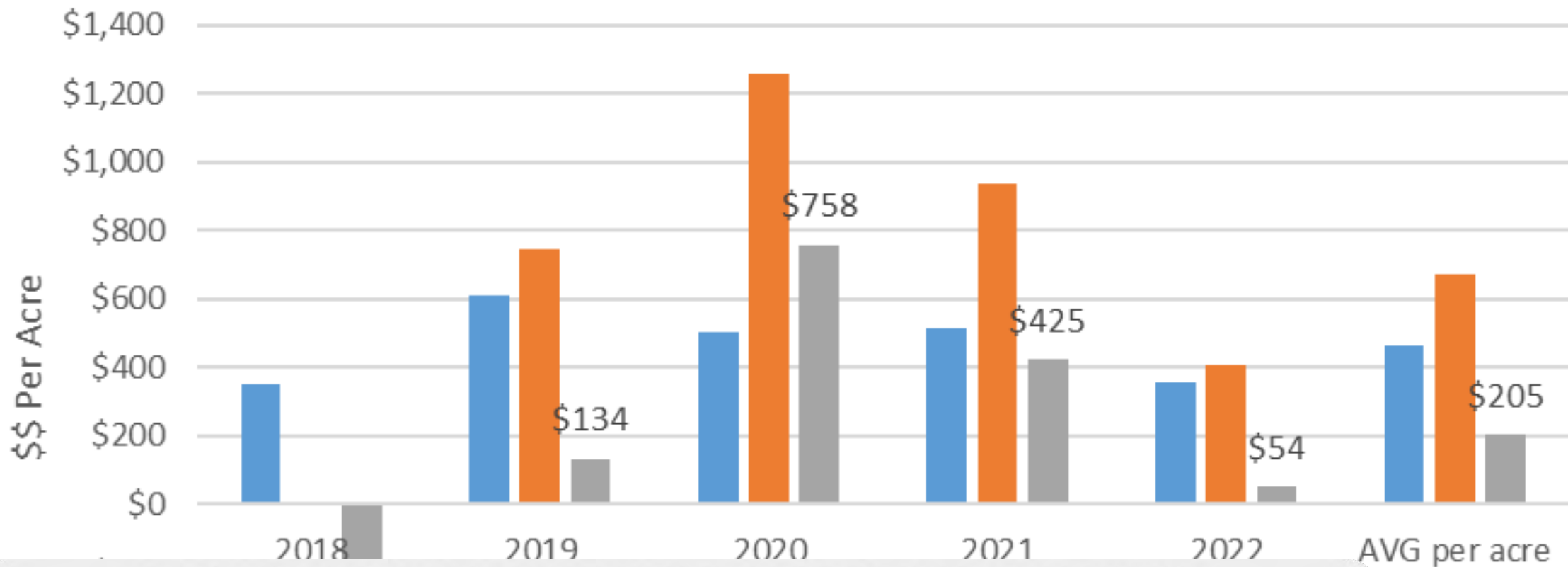
Kernza forage yield measured in spring, summer, and fall



Kernza forage quality measured in spring, summer, and fall



Economics of Dual Use Kernza



Grazing Intermediate Wheatgrass (Kernza®) as a Dual-Use Crop for Forage and Grain Production



Impact of Grazing on Grain Yield
Profitability of Kernza

Photo Credit: Kaleb Anderson



Food Science



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

Effect of Nitrogen Treatment on The Chemical Composition and Pasting Properties of Intermediate Wheatgrass

Obed Aduama, Food Science Graduate Student

Kernza[®]CAP



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Rational

Nitrogen fertilization and its impact on IWG chemical composition and functional properties is not well understood.

This study evaluates the effect of nitrogen fertilization and when it is applied i.e. Spring or Fall on the chemical composition and pasting properties of IWG.

Analysis and Methodology

Sample preparation.

Whole grain samples: Milled IWG grain with Cyclone sample Mill equipped with 0.5mm screen

Refined samples: IWG grain were tempered and milled with Brabender Quadrumat Junior Mill

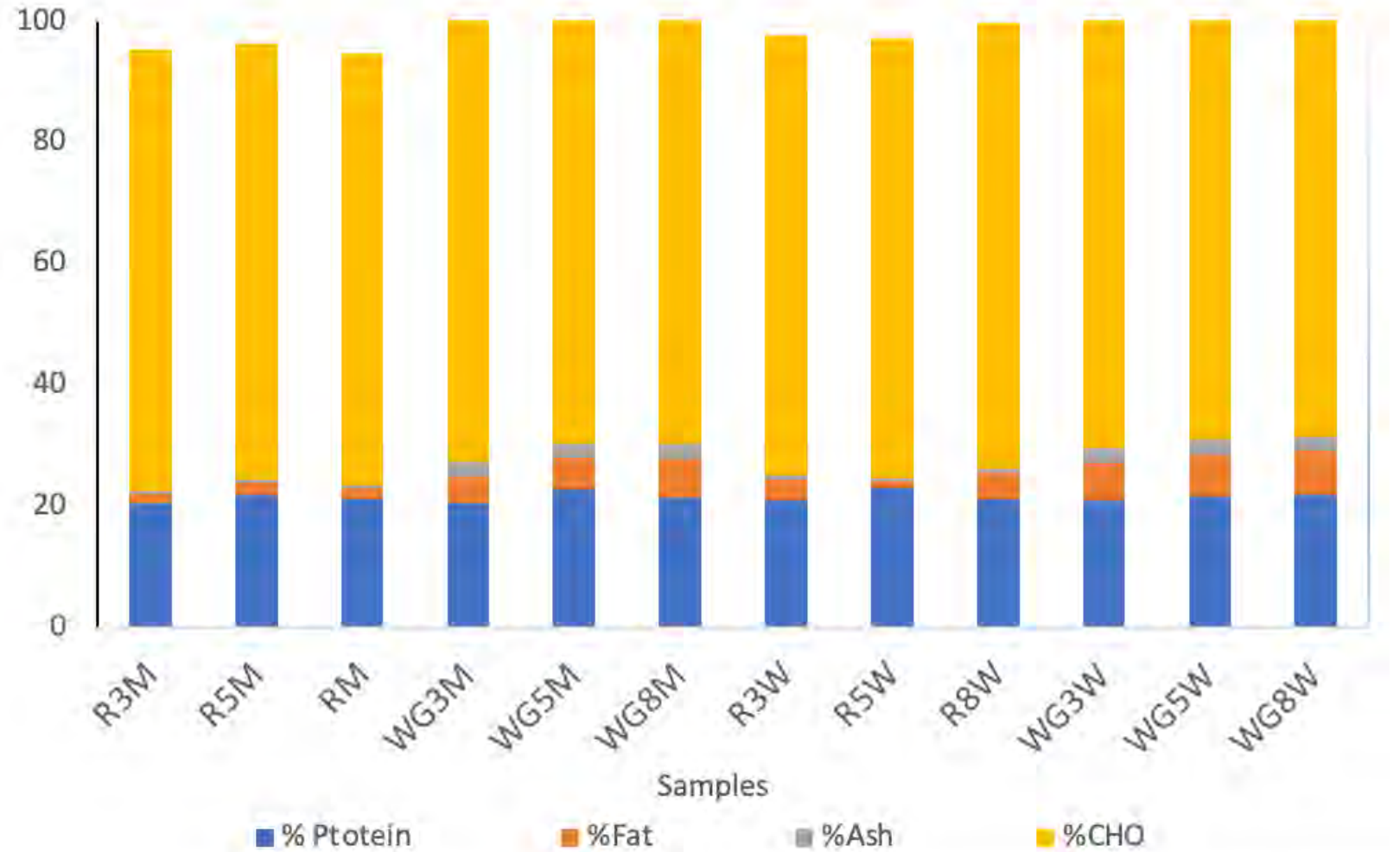
Chemical composition: Determined using standard methods

Pasting properties: Evaluated using the Micro Visco – Amylo – Graph



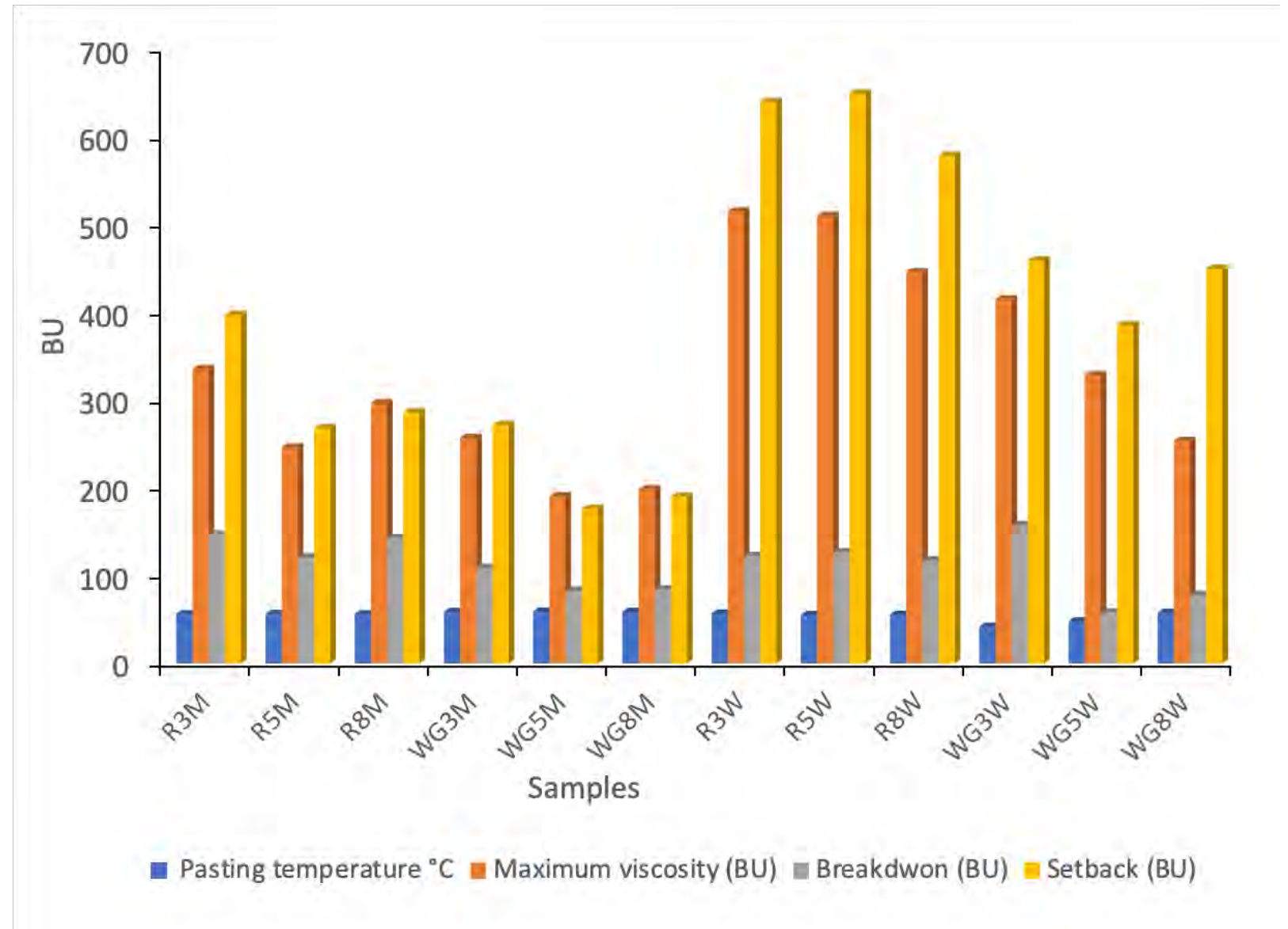
Results - Chemical composition

3-No nitrogen treatment
5-nitrogen treatment in the Spring
8-Nitrogen treatment in the Fall
M- Minnesota
W- Wisconsin
R - Refined
WG - Whole grain



Results - Pasting properties of nitrogen treated and untreated IWG

3-No nitrogen treatment
5-nitrogen treatment in the Spring
8-Nitrogen treatment in the Fall
M- Minnesota
W- Wisconsin
R - Refined
WG - Whole grain



Puffing Application of Kernza[®] Grain as a Food Ingredient

Dana Edleman, Food Science Graduate Student



**Forever
Green**



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Puffing

- Rapid application of heat and pressure allowing moisture in grain to vaporize and expand grain (Mariotti, 2005)
- RTE breakfast cereals & snacks



Puffing Gun Pressure (psi)

Grain Moisture Content (%)



Puffed Physical Analysis

Grain Moisture (%)	Pressure (psi)	Kernel Water Uptake (%)	Puffed Kernel Ratio (%)	Bulk Density (g/L ³)	Color Lightness (L*)	Color Red/Green (a*)	Color Yellow/Blue (b*)
10	100	58.01 ± 8.20	0 ± 0	603 ± 18	43.57 ± 2.12	7.34 ± 0.60	12.39 ± 0.69
	130	82.19 ± 6.86	8 ± 3	417 ± 8	41.74 ± 0.97	6.30 ± 0.33	10.44 ± 0.60
	160	219.29 ± 15.79	87 ± 3	250 ± 7	44.56 ± 1.54	5.36 ± 0.48	11.36 ± 1.55
15	100	57.89 ± 5.71	1 ± 1	550 ± 22	43.52 ± 1.00	7.42 ± 0.40	13.45 ± 0.83
	130	103.64 ± 8.99	23 ± 7	380 ± 10	43.45 ± 0.22	6.90 ± 0.49	12.06 ± 0.64
	160	260.70 ± 33.62	89 ± 9	193 ± 3	44.78 ± 1.83	5.52 ± 0.66	12.09 ± 1.83
20	100	67.53 ± 9.74	3 ± 1	524 ± 15	43.23 ± 1.03	7.29 ± 0.47	14.18 ± 1.13
	130	106.73 ± 8.73	46 ± 5	374 ± 11	44.45 ± 0.90	7.04 ± 0.48	14.12 ± 0.43
	160	221.49 ± 13.33	92 ± 2	238 ± 3	43.77 ± 1.26	6.19 ± 0.46	12.42 ± 1.17

Improving the nutritional profile of Kernza® by
solid-state fermentation with *Aspergillus
oryzae* strains

Takehiro Murai, Food Science Graduate Student



**Forever
Green**



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Fermentation with strains of *Aspergillus oryzae*



Soy strain



Sake strain



Miso strain

Analysis conducted/planned

1. Sugar content
2. Amino acid content
3. Total phenolic content
4. Kojic acid content
5. Antioxidant capacity
6. Total flavonoid content
7. Phenolic acid composition



<https://www.realsimple.com/food-recipes/shopping-storing/beverages/what-is-sake>



<https://www.realsimple.com/food-recipes/shopping-storing/beverages/what-is-sake>

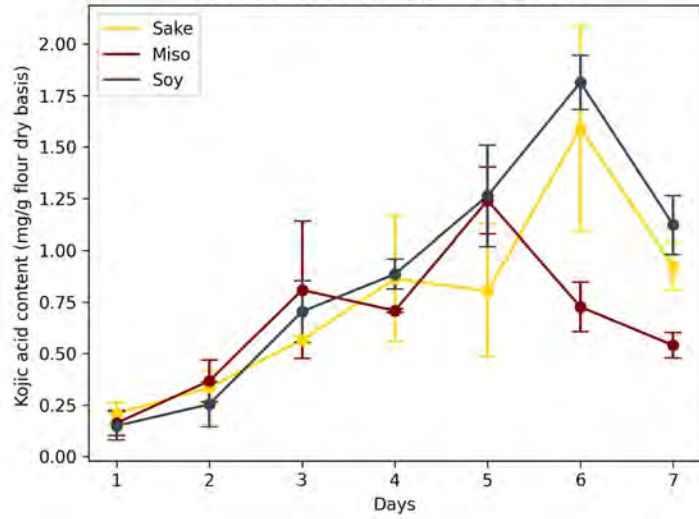
Kojic acid and sugar

Strain	Day	Arabinose	Xylose	Glucose	Fructose	Sucrose
Sake	0	0.02	0.01	0.80	1.40	0.24
Sake	1	0.15	0.02	1.83	0.36	2.43
Sake	2	0.32	0.05	3.39	0.68	5.49
Sake	3	0.29	0.04	3.80	0.88	3.23
Sake	4	0.12	0.07	3.23	0.98	0.65
Sake	5	0.18	0.09	3.50	1.08	1.08
Sake	6	0.12	0.10	3.12	0.55	0.35
Sake	7	0.26	0.06	2.83	0.62	4.10
Miso	0	0.02	0.01	0.80	1.40	0.24
Miso	1	0.03	0.01	4.03	1.24	2.92
Miso	2	0.50	0.10	3.32	0.94	3.55
Miso	3	0.34	0.10	4.13	1.33	2.95
Miso	4	0.29	0.11	5.55	1.32	1.01
Miso	5	0.13	0.06	4.01	0.56	0.43
Miso	6	0.14	0.06	5.17	1.31	0.90
Miso	7	0.24	0.09	5.95	1.65	0.97
Soy	0	0.02	0.01	0.80	1.40	0.24
Soy	1	0.13	0.08	4.67	1.26	2.49
Soy	2	0.35	0.05	1.80	0.43	0.79
Soy	3	0.35	0.07	2.67	0.78	1.69
Soy	4	0.35	0.20	4.25	0.67	0.35
Soy	5	0.20	0.15	2.71	0.72	0.39
Soy	6	0.07	0.06	2.12	0.59	0.17
Soy	7	0.12	0.08	1.56	0.45	0.30

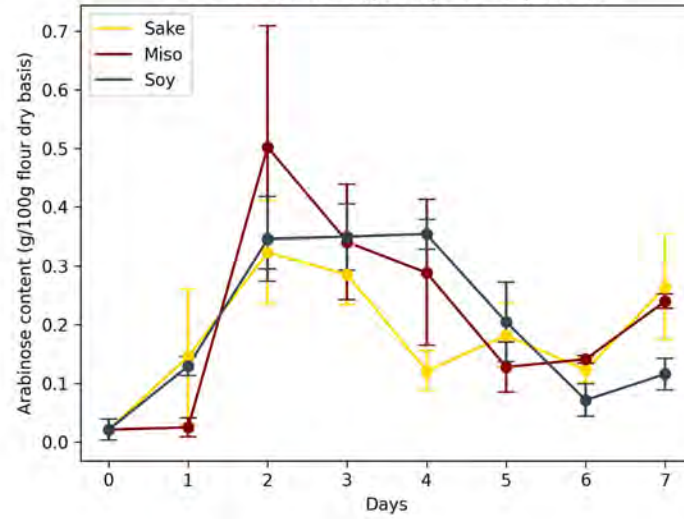
Units are in g/100g flour dry basis

Kojic acid and sugar

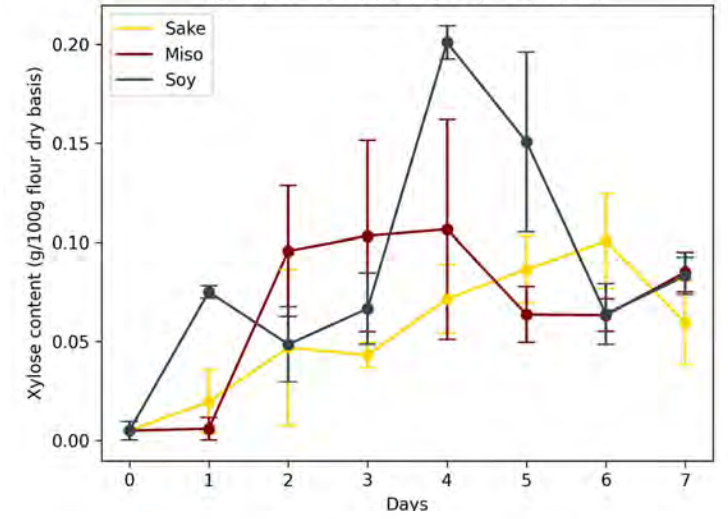
Kojic acid content (mg/g flour dry basis)



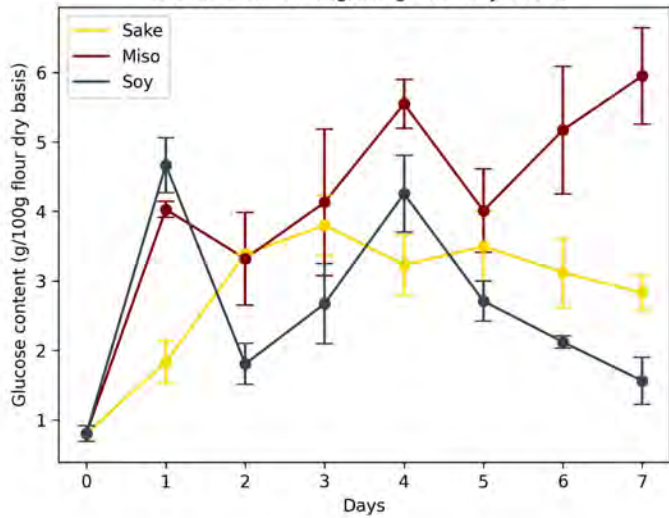
Arabinose content (g/100g flour dry basis)



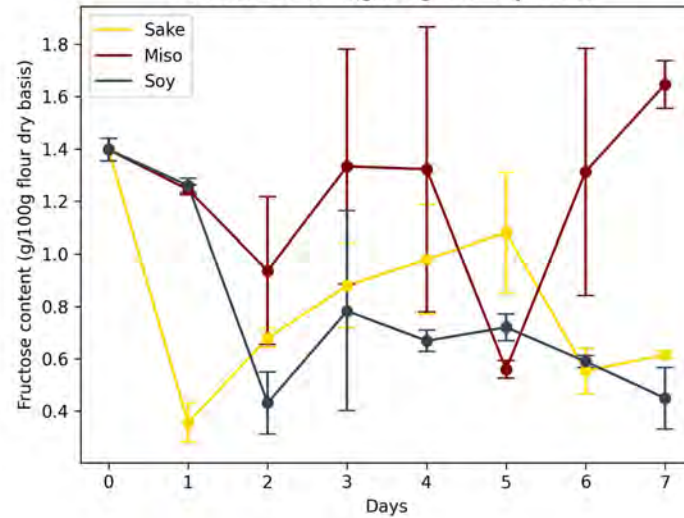
Xylose content (g/100g flour dry basis)



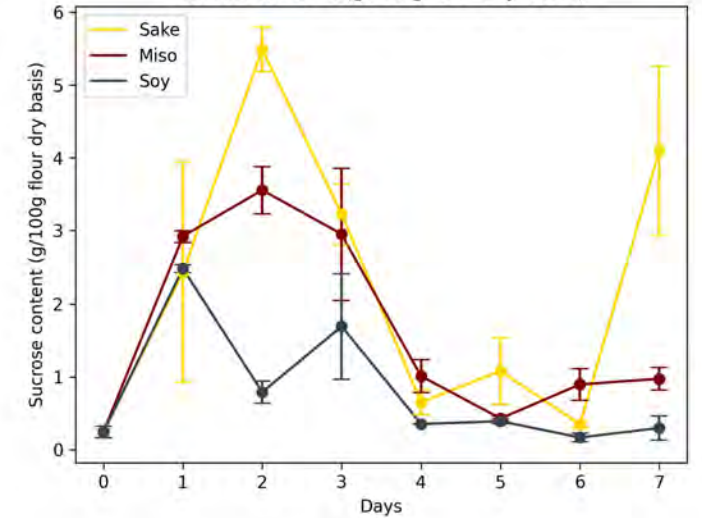
Glucose content (g/100g flour dry basis)



Fructose content (g/100g flour dry basis)



Sucrose content (g/100g flour dry basis)



Kernza[®] Brewing and Malting Quality: Survey Results

Alison Hamm, PhD

USDA - ARS – Soil Management and Sugarbeet Research Unit

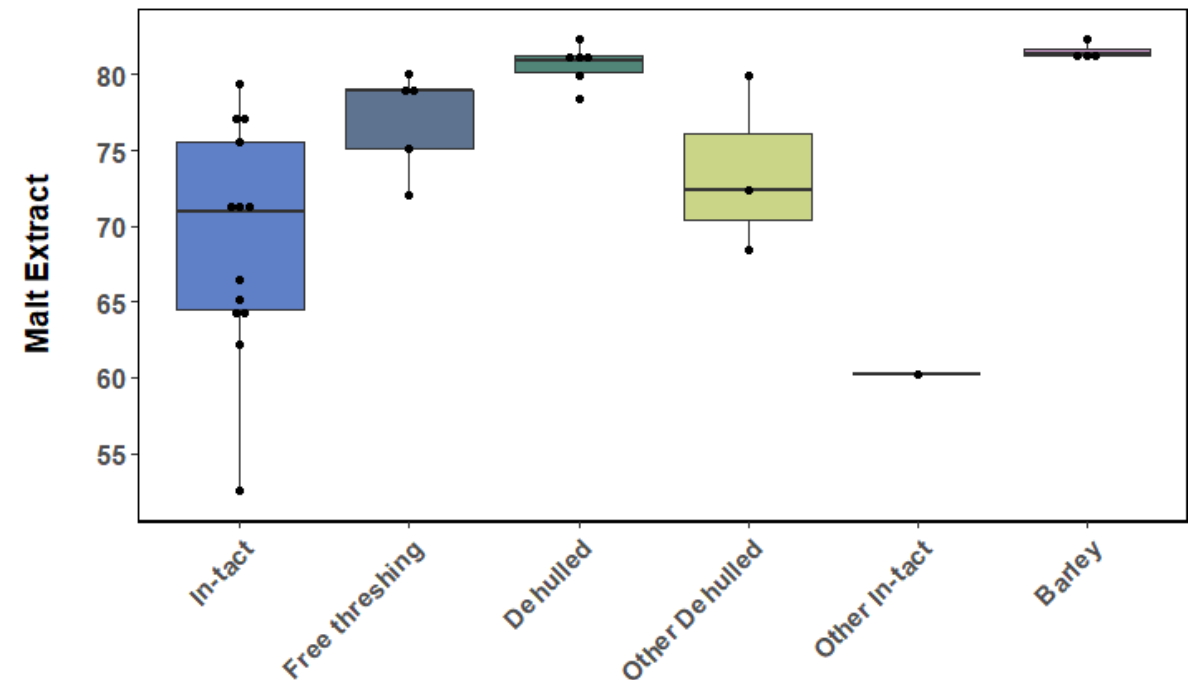
Fort Collins, CO

24 Kernza samples:

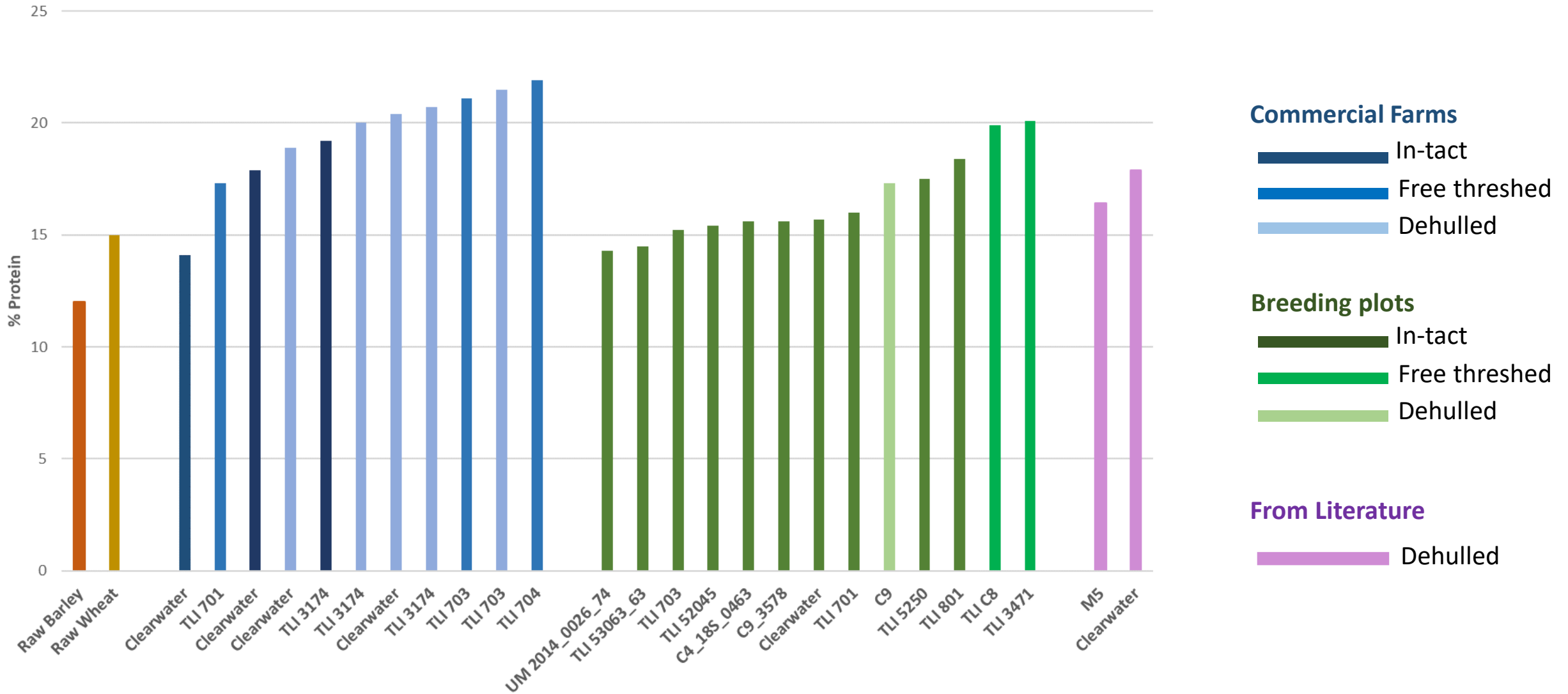
- 16 Varieties, 4 states
 - Commercial farms (11) and breeding plots (13)
- Dehulled (6), free-threshing (5), and in-tact (13)

Results Summary:

- Variability between varieties, growing locations and hull presence
- Some differences compared to other data available in the literature and online



Protein (Raw Grain)



Should Kernza Be Dehulled Before Malting?

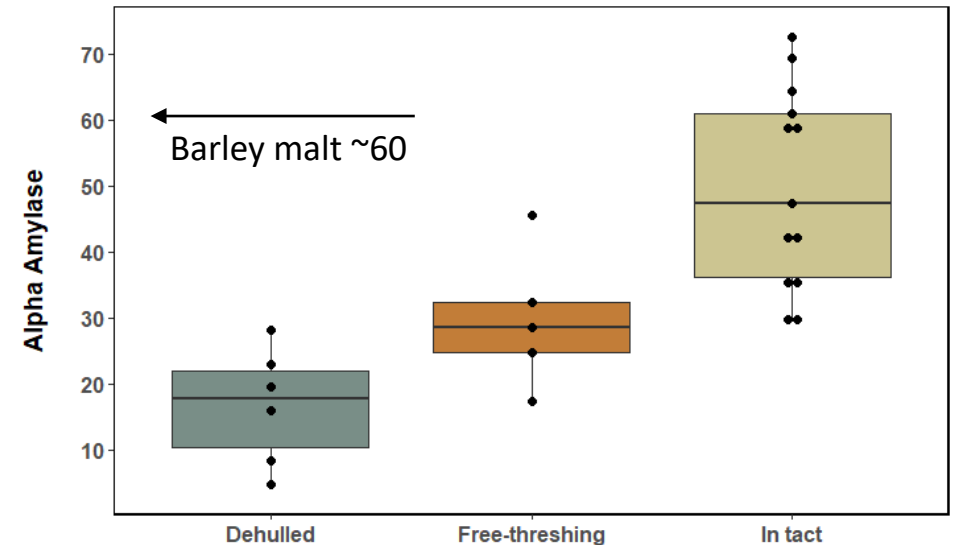
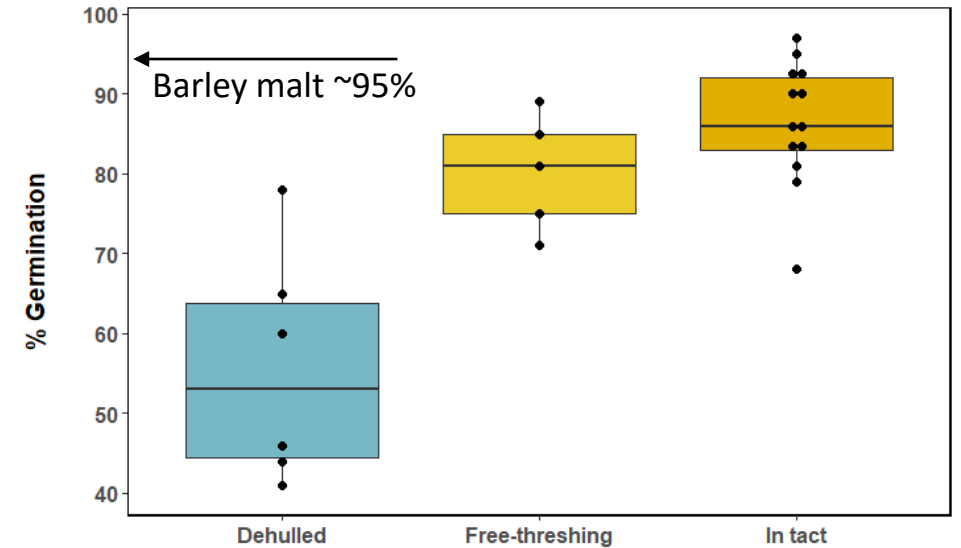
(barley isn't!)

Dehulling pros:

- Increases bushel weight ~30%
- No added husk flavor
- Limit introduction of microbes and mycotoxins

Dehulling cons:

- More processing for the farmer
- Decreases α -amylase enzyme for starch conversion
- Brewery addition of filtration agent (rice hulls)
- Harder to malt
 - Decreases germination
 - Smaller seed size is difficult with equipment



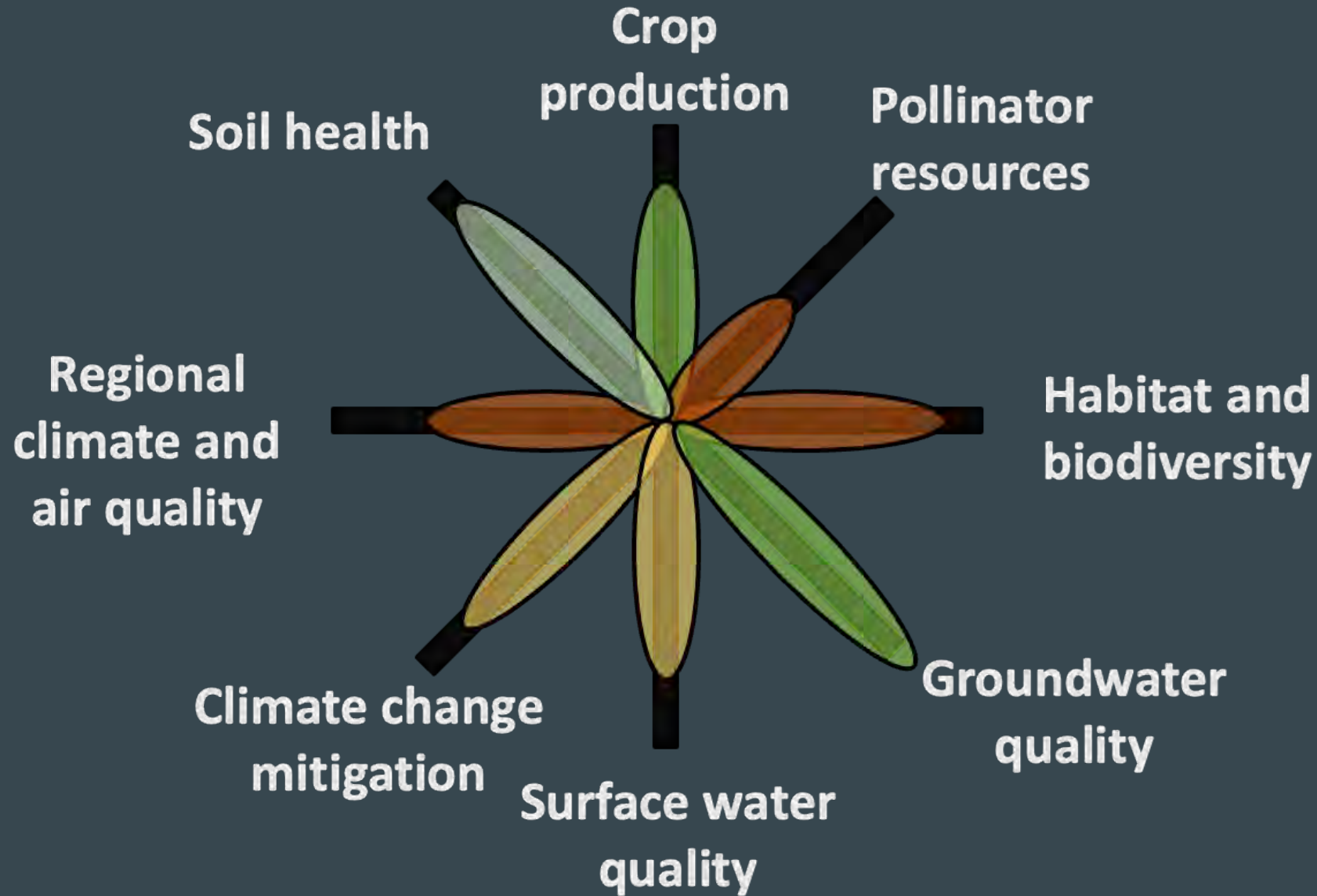
What do we know about the environmental impacts of Kernza?



Presenter: Jake Jungers, University of Minnesota

Slide prep: Jess Gutknecht and Jake Jungers University of Minnesota

A snapshot:



What do we know? Water quality

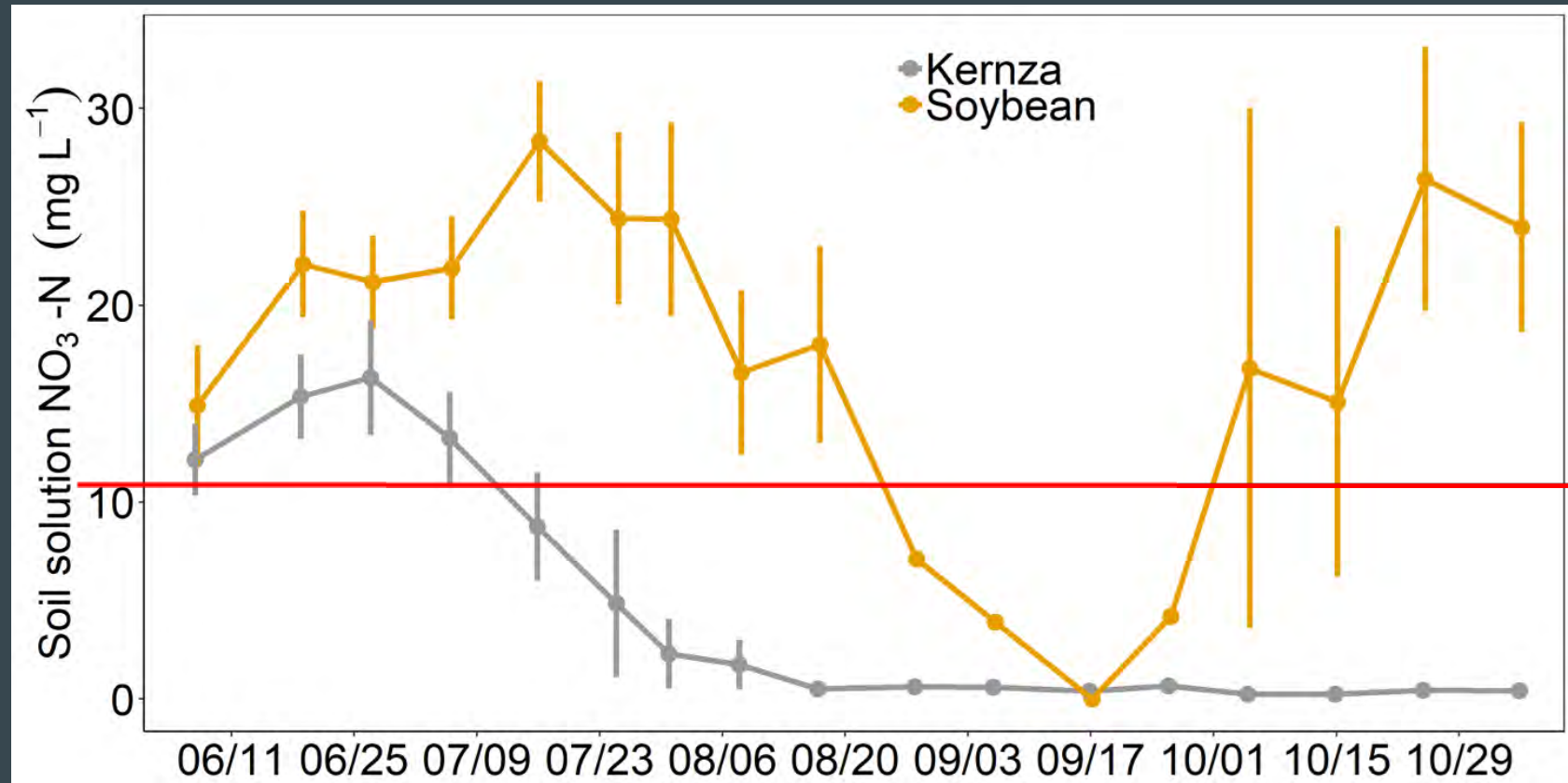
Kernza prevents nitrate leaching to groundwater.

Culman et al., 2013 - Wheat

Jungers et al., 2019 - Corn

Reilly et al., 2022 - Corn/soybean

Huddell et al., 2023 - Wheat

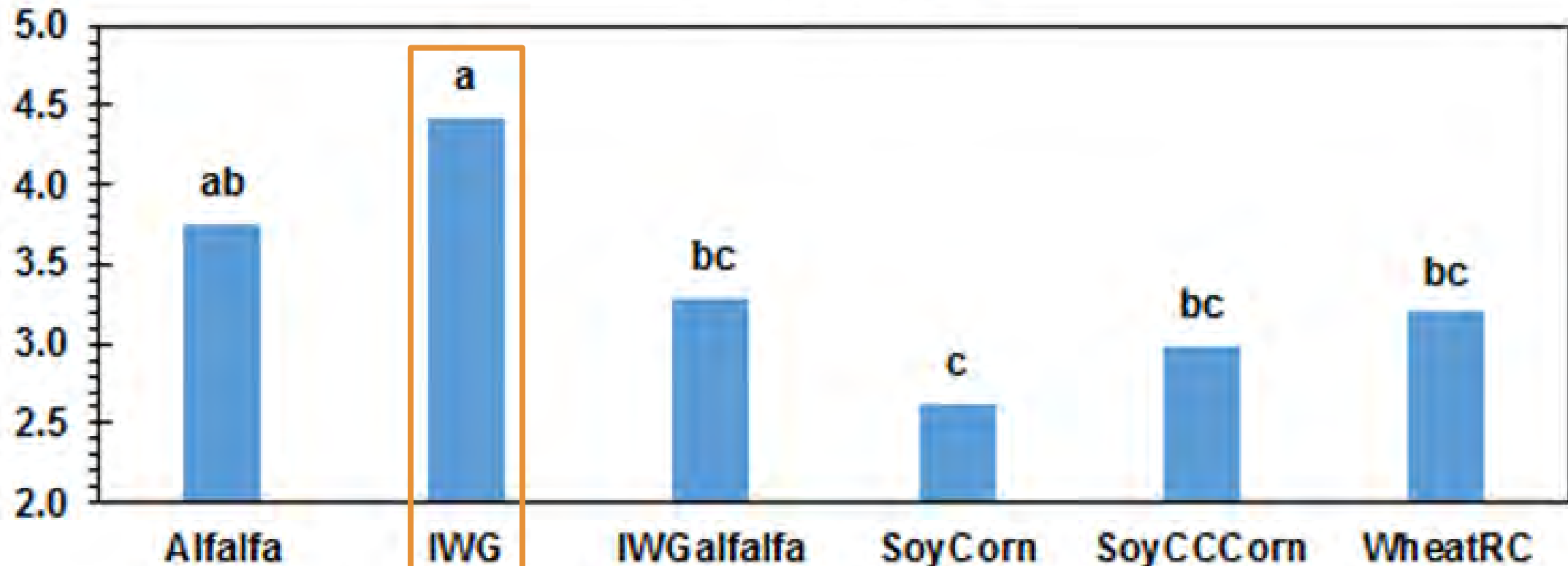


EPA drinking water limit, ~ 10 ppm

Reilly et al. 2022

What do we know? Soil and carbon

- Kernza quickly improves aggregate stability (~2 years; Rakkar et al. 2022; Link et al. 2023)



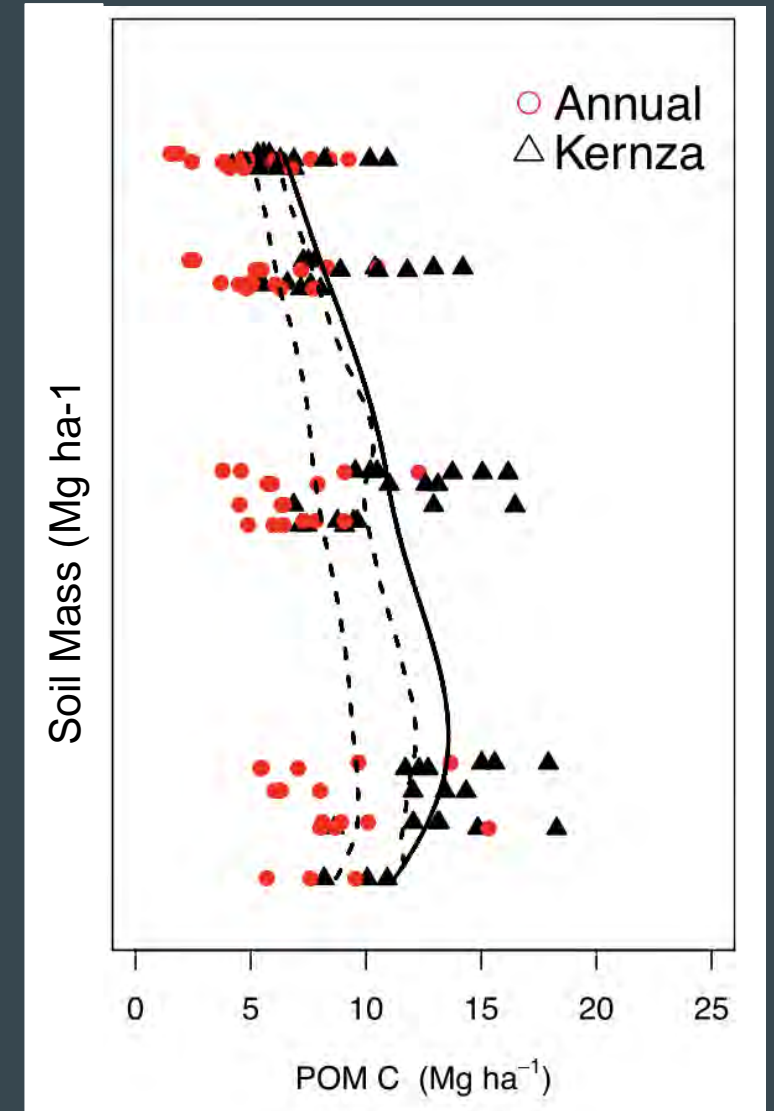
Bigger stable soil aggregates (Rakkar et al. 2022)

What do we know? Soil and carbon

- Kernza quickly improves aggregate stability (~2 years; Rakkar et al. 2022; Link et al. 2023)
- Kernza encourages microbial growth and AMF growth (McKenna et al., 2020; Audu et al., 2022; others)

What do we know? Soil and carbon

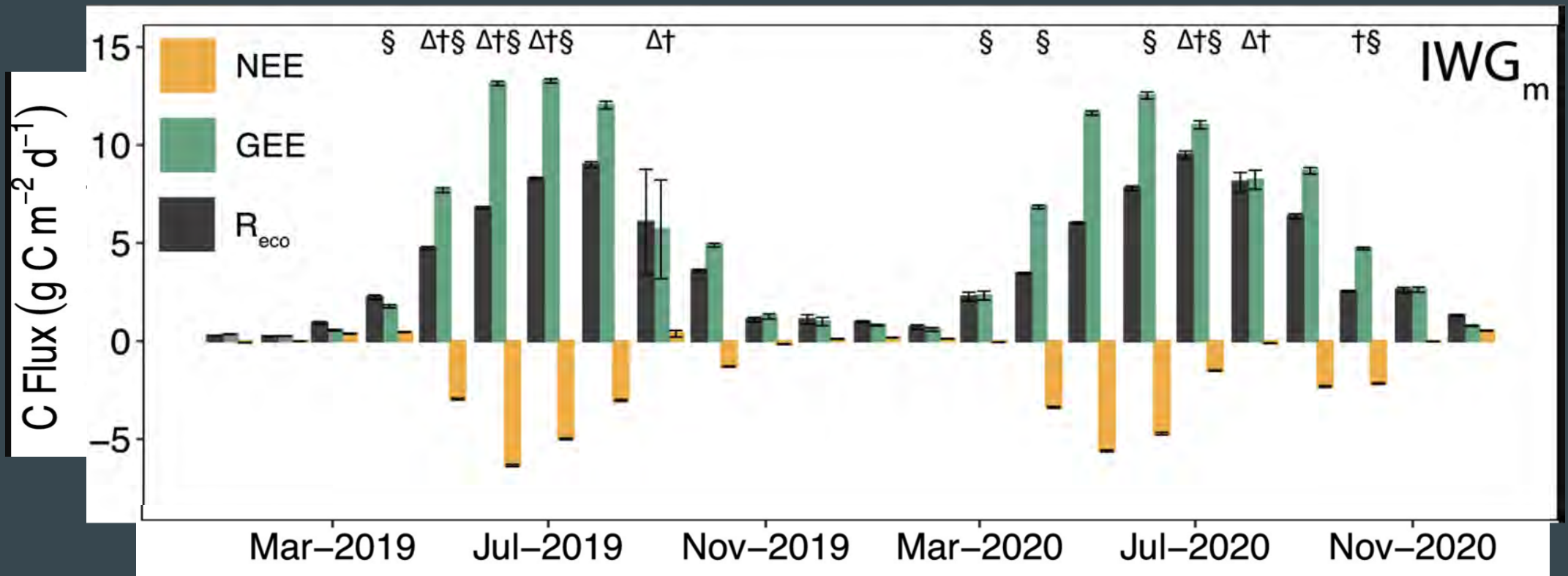
- Kernza quickly improves aggregate stability (~2 years; Rakkar et al. 2022; Link et al. 2023)
- Kernza encourages microbial growth and AMF growth (McKenna et al., 2020; Audu et al., 2022; others)
- Kernza may respire (lose) soil carbon after 1 year of growth (Woeljen et al. 2023) but in the longer term may store carbon deep in the soil (Van der Pol et al. 2022 and others)



More carbon deep in the soil (Van der Pol et al. 2022)

What do we know? Carbon balance

- Kernza can be a small positive ecosystem level carbon sink, but results are variable based on climate or fertilization needs; more studies in different environments and over different time frames are needed (Wiesner et al. 2022; de Oliveira et al. 2020).



Future Research

- Nitrate leaching across a broad range of soil types and climates
- Water conservation in arid regions
- Carbon footprint under varying management (e.g., dual-use)
- Nitrous oxide emissions
- Biodiversity and wildlife habitat
- Payments for ecosystem services

Future Research

- Nitrate leaching across a broad range of soil types and climates
- Water conservation in arid regions
- Carbon footprint under varying management (e.g., dual-use)
- Nitrous oxide emissions
- Biodiversity and wildlife habitat
- Payments for ecosystem services

EQ Breakout Session 3

Thanks!



USDA - ARS: Kernza[®] Initiative

Environmental and Ecosystem Services



Grace Miner - Soil and Sugarbeet Management Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO
Alison Duff - Dairy Forage Research Center, Madison, WI
Josh Gamble - Plant Science Research Unit, St. Paul, MN

KernzaCon June 22-23, 2023

Regional & National Assessment Coordinated Temporal/Spatial Data

Production (G × E)

Forage quality/nutritive value
Grain yields, grain quality

End use

Brewing, baking quality

Environmental and Ecosystem Services

Soil health/Soil quality; Soil biology; Water

Attune to Agroecological Realities

Minimum common datasets related to soil sample collection, processing, chemical and physical properties, crop growth and development, yield components, and associated metadata.



Environmental and Ecosystem Services: WATER

Dryland and Irrigated Western Agroecosystems

- Water-use efficiency and precipitation use efficiency of Forage and Grain yield?
- **Water Use in-season vs water capture and storage? Drought tolerance?**
- Potential for reduced input costs, long-term environmental benefits, and potential dual-use
- **Improve Farm and Ranch Resilience**



Field Data to Inform the Integrated Farm System

Model *José Franco, Alison Duff, and Al Rotz*

How does intermediate wheatgrass (IWG) compare with other regional dairy forage systems in:

Productivity
Profitability

Carbon Balance
Fossil Energy Footprint



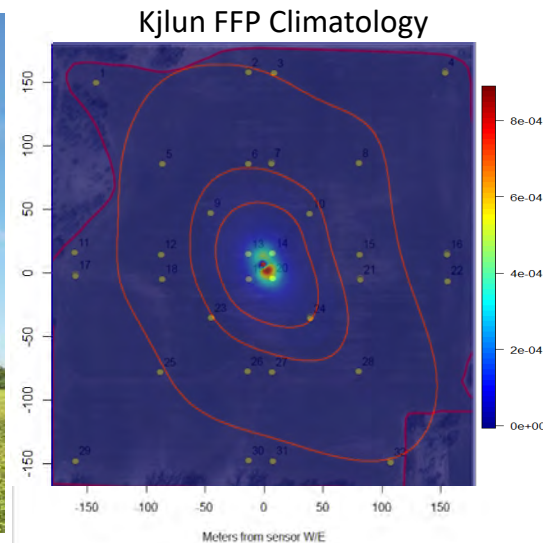
- | | |
|-----------|---|
| S1 | Continuous corn silage (CCS) |
| S2 | CCS + interseeded cover crops (CC) |
| S3 | CCS + fall CC |
| S4 | WW→sorghum sudan/CC mix→corn silage→soybean |
| S5 | Alfalfa |
| S6 | IWG |

Carbon Balance of Forever Green Agroecosystems

Joshua Gamble, Jake Jungers, Jess Gutknecht, Ce Yang

Evaluating modes of continuous living cover (CLC) for improving C balance:

- Field-Scale Productivity
- Reconciling C budgets (eddy flux, soil inventory, static chambers)
- Quantifying Spatial Variability
 - Carbon Balance & GHG Emissions
 - Soil Aggregate Stability & Enzyme Activity
 - Grain maturity



Year	Annual intensification CLC	Perennial CLC
2020	Silage corn - Winter camelina	Alfalfa
2021	Winter camelina-Soybean (double)	Alfalfa
2022	Spring wheat-Winter camelina	Alfalfa-IWG 'MN Clearwater' (fall seeding)
2023	Winter camelina-Soybean (relay)	IWG 'MN Clearwater'
2024 - 2026

Q&A

Presentation of 2023 Kernza Demand Review + Q&A

Kernza Market: 2023 Demand Survey Findings

A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS & NEXT STEPS

KernzaCON JUNE 2023 PRESENTATION





Goals



Gain insight into the successes and challenges of working with Kernza.

Methodology



Worked with our industry and research partnerships to compile a list of 80+ businesses working with (or interested in) Kernza.



Developed ~15 quantitative and qualitative questions, aimed at identifying market successes, challenges, and price sensitivity



Recipients



The survey was sent to anyone that had:

- cooked with Kernza at an event,
- received a kernza sample or piloted a recipe,
- developed a Kernza product,
- or, is currently selling or developing Kernza products.

Response Rate



47% response rate!

Respondent business type:

- CPG Manufacturer
- Restaurant
- Other (generally brewery/ distillery)
- Processor
- Bakery
- Distributor

People recognize and appreciate the inherent worth of Kernza.

“Using Kernza strongly aligns with our values... and we plan to continue to use it as much as we are able.”



– Anonymous

“We're committed to making Kernza work, and are building our company around it. ”



– Anonymous

“Kernza is amazing and we need to support it for many reasons including our planet. ”



– Anonymous

Key Themes



Supply & Marketing
Concerns



Industry Specific
Resources



Scientifically
supported claims



Pricing Insights



Supply & Marketing

- Guaranteed **long-term availability** of product
- Long-term **consistency in quality** and performance of the grain
- Lack of well-understood and **scientifically supported claims**



- Development of a **supply dashboard** (2023)
- Pursuit of a **Kernza® LCA** (2023/2024)
- Kernza **Quality Standards** (2023/2024)



Industry Specific Resources

- 33% of respondents want **recipe development** and testing information
- 70% of restaurants want support in **marketing products with 1 - 5% Kernza**
- 66% of CPGs and 100% of processors need more marketing and **storytelling** materials



TLI is working to create **industry - specific kits**.

We want to **equip businesses with tools** for:

- Consumer Education
- Targeting marketing strategies
- Industry specific recipes



Scientifically Supported Claims

Defensible and third-party verified claims around ecosystem benefits

- Provide **brands** with the data/claims they need to make climate-positive decisions
- Working towards carbon **insetting and offsetting** opportunities



TLI is working to identify partners to study and verify environmental claims:

- Pursuit of a **Kernza® LCA** (2023/2024)
- Third-party data collection: **biodiversity, water quality, carbon sequestration** (2023/2024)



Pricing Insights

When survey recipients were asked, "*Which of the following might help you move along the Kernza R&D journey?*" Most businesses selected:

A Reduction in Price

When survey recipients were asked, "*Thinking of the other ingredients which you purchase regularly, which is most similar in price/function to Kernza?*" We heard (and many more):

"Locally milled...organic spelt flour, finely milled..."

"Kernza is the only expensive grain that I purchase. I use ancient grains such as rye, turkey red, red fife, [and] buckwheat..."

"Other high-quality flours, such as King Arthur, Bob's Red Mill, Great River Milling, Sunrise Flour Mills heritage flours..."

Pricing Research



Van Westendorp Pricing Results*

Kernza	Theoretical Price Range*	N
Whole Grain	2.00 \$/lb -- 3.00 \$/lb	26
Flour	1.84 \$/lb -- 3.00 \$/lb	16

* This methods is NOT based on actual purchase data! These price ranges are based on buyer sentiment and perceived willingness to pay



Pricing Research



Kernza	Theoretical Price Range	Actual	Spelt	All Purpose Whole Grain Wheat (HRW)	Organic Einkorn
Whole Grain	2.00 \$/lb -- 3.00 \$/lb	2.5 \$/lb	2.28 \$/lb -- 2.80 \$/lb	2.00 \$/lb - 2.76 \$/lb	4.52 \$/lb -- 5.04 \$/lb
Flour	1.84 \$/lb -- 3.00 \$/lb	4.5 \$/lb	1.10 \$/lb -- 2.20 \$/lb	1.25 \$/lb -- 3.53 \$/lb	3.80 \$/lb -- 4.30 \$/lb



Estimated price ranges provide a wide window. To narrow the ideal price window, more **industry-specific pricing research is needed.**





Where to go from here:



Industry Specific Kits



Perennial Pricing Experiment



Marketing & Storytelling



Specific Claims



Thank you!

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Lightning Talks #2



Education: Kernza® in Context

Aubrey Streit Krug & Lydia Nicholson

The Land Institute

kernzaincontext@landinstitute.org

Kernza®CAP

This work is supported by AFRI Sustainable Agricultural Systems Coordinated Agricultural Program (SAS-CAP) grant no. 2020-68012-31934 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



What is Kernza® in Context?

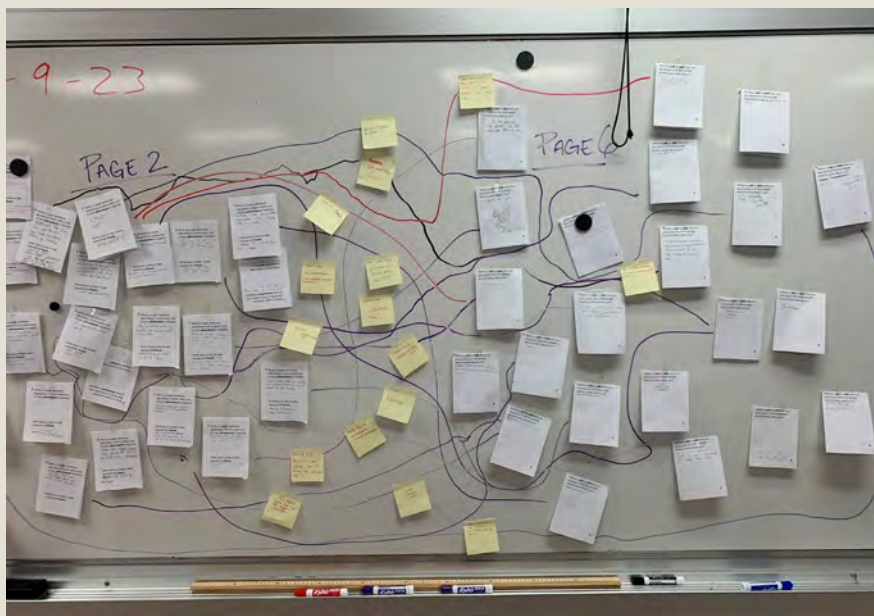


- Educational curriculum that we are developing to support students and teachers to learn about Kernza perennial grain in the context of their communities, agroecosystems, and planetary systems.
- Nearly 30 lessons drafted so far on a range of topics that align with high school standards in subject areas including science, history, and English
- Collaborative effort with many lesson designers, writers, and reviewers, from post-baccalaureate researchers and graduate students to teacher-researchers in the Kernza®CAP to high school and college teachers

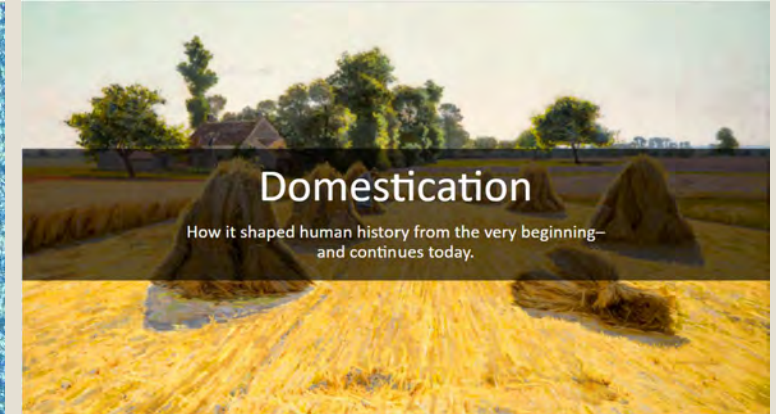


What is next for Kernza® in Context?

- Keep growing the beta-testing network and receiving feedback through individual teachers and group events, including organizations of high school teachers of science, agriculture, and environmental education
- Collaborate with UW-Madison agroecology educators to evaluate draft lessons and the framework, and then move into last phase of lesson development and revision
- Develop additional lessons, including on complex topics that may be more appropriate for undergraduate students
- Develop the publication format and dissemination plan – curriculum will be freely available!



How can Kernza® in Context be used?



24-Hour Food Log
 Before you complete the food log activity, visit <https://www.landinstitute.com/learn/24-hour-food-log/> and answer the following questions:

1. What is a grain?
2. What are pseudocereals and pulses? How are these grains different from traditional grains?

Fill in the food log below with what you eat over 24 hours. Try to fill in the log as you eat so you can remember the details of what you eat! The first two rows have been filled in for your reference. After you finish logging your meals, add as the number of calories you consumed for each food category and calculate the percent of calories came from each category. Then add your data to a larger table with your classmates' data and answer the discussion questions below.

Category of food	Grain	Sugar & fat	Produce	Dairy & eggs	Meat	Other
Subcategory of food	Rice, wheat, corn, cereals, etc.	Sugar, vegetable oil, etc.	Starchy roots (potatoes), vegetables, fruits	Eggs, milk, butter, tofu, cheese, yogurt	Beef, pork, poultry, seafood, other	Pulses, oils/seeds, miscellaneous

Food/Drink/Condiment	Category of food	Subcategory of food	Calories	Notes
Size of bread	Grain	Wheat	75	
Butter	Dairy	Animal fat	100	

Kernza®^{CAP}

DATA NUGGET
 Collaborative cropping: Can plants help each other grow?
 Featured scientist: Jilka Jungers (PhD) from the University of Minnesota
 Written by Claire Weisman (she/her)

Abstract: Background
 Most of the crops grown on farms in the United States are annual plants, like corn, soybeans, and wheat. Annual plants die every year after harvest and must be replanted the following year. Preparing farm fields for replanting every year can erode soils and hurt important bacteria and fungi living in the soil.

One way to change how we produce food is to grow more perennial crops. Perennial plants live for many years and don't need to be replanted. Perennials stay in the ground all year and start growing right away in the spring before annual crops are even planted. This early growth also gives perennial crops a "head start" in competing with annual weed species that emerge later in the season.

While there are potential benefits of perennial crops, they are not commonly planted because they tend to make fewer profits for farmers than annual crops. Crop scientists are still examining potential options to make perennial crops work at a large scale for farmers. For twenty years, researchers at The Land Institute in Kansas and at the University of Minnesota have been looking at a new perennial grain, called **Kernza**®, that could be used as an alternative to wheat and rye annual crops. Kernza® comes from the seeds of a plant called intermediate wheatgrass. Because Kernza® is such a new crop, scientists still have a lot to learn about it. Before it can be widely used by farmers, they want to know what field conditions help the plants grow to ensure the crop makes money for farmers.

One strategy to improve field conditions for perennial crops is to plant legumes in the field alongside them. Legumes can make nitrogen, a nutrient that plants need to grow, more available to the plants around them. Additionally, farmers can select legume species that typically don't compete with the crop but may outcompete weeds.

DATA NUGGETS developed by Michigan State University scientists and teachers in the GR-12 Partnership.

Kernza® and Global Supply Chains



Lesson: Kernza® and Global Supply Chains

Driving Question(s): What are the components of a supply chain? What is the impact of supply chains beyond the products that they create?

[Kansas History, Government, and Social Sciences Standards:](#)

KHGSSS 1.1 The student will recognize and evaluate significant choices and consequences that have impacted our lives and futures. *Students learn the basics of a supply chain and how end products are the results of a multitude of choices. But the product of a supply chain is not its only consequence.*

KHGSSS 2.2 The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about rights and responsibilities.

KHGSSS 2.4 The student will use their understanding of rights and responsibilities to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.

[Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Social Studies:](#) 9.X.4.5.1 Substrand 4:

Microeconomic Concepts Standard 5: Individuals, businesses, and governments interact and exchange goods, services, and resources in different ways and for different reasons; interactions between buyers and sellers in a market determine the price and quantity exchange of a good, service, or resource.

[KSDE TASN:](#)

I. Core Principles

B. Develop, implement, promote, and model core ethical and performance principles.

1. Analyze community needs in the larger community, analyze effects on the local and larger community, design, and critique positive, responsible action, and reflect on personal and community involvement.

2. Analyze ethical dilemmas in content areas and/or daily experiences

Section Goals

Students Will:

- Learn about how vast supply chains are and all the sectors they affect
- Learn the particular importance of food supply chains

Section Objectives

Students Will be able to:

- Identify and briefly describe the three main parts of a supply chain.
- Express their views and opinions through discussion and argue for them using points from the reading they have previously summarized in question answers.

- Organize different supply chain activities by whether they are production, manufacturing, or distribution.

Lesson

If the class is unfamiliar with Kernza®, start by watching the Kernza® in Context video that can be found in the resource folder. Next, introduce supply chains with the PowerPoint Provided.

Global Supply Chains In Context.pptx. This material can also be covered in

Supply Chain Elements.pdf. After being introduced to the Famous Amos cookies, students will be able to begin the activity portion of the lesson. Divide the students into small groups, and assign each group one of the ingredients in the cookies. Each group should have a worksheet, the list of steps associated with their ingredient (out of order), scissors, glue, and something to write with. Each group should also receive the list of links associated with their ingredient. Set aside some time for the groups to research their ingredients and fill out the worksheets. Once all the groups have completed their worksheets come back together as a class to finish the PowerPoint. Have each group briefly summarize what they learned about their ingredient, then finish the PowerPoint together. If time allows, finish the class by watching at least the first 6 minutes of the Unbroken Ground documentary as an example of how new food supply chains are being developed.

Unbroken Ground | A New Old Way to Grow Food

Activity type: In-class lecture and discussion; in-class research; cut and paste activity sheet

Teacher prerequisite: Understanding of basic supply chains

Student prerequisite: None

Materials needed: Digital presentation, Activity Sheets, Scissors, Glue, pen or pencil.

Time to set up: 10 minutes for prepping activity

Time to teach: 40-90 minutes

Assessment type: Activity Sheets

This educational effort, Kernza® in Context, is being made possible through the support of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's (AFRI) Sustainable Agricultural Systems Coordinated Agricultural Program (SAS-CAP) grant no. 2020-88012-31934 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), known as the Kernza® CAP.

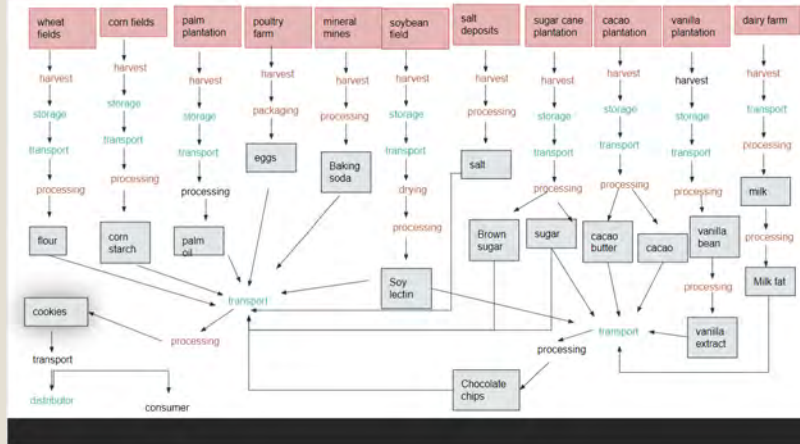


Kernza® and Global Supply Chains



Consumption Buyer/End-User/ Consumer

Often consumers are considered the end of a supply chain, but most consumers are often involved in and affected by different parts of the supply chain. Most often, consumers are not even the last step for the product, part of which will probably be thrown away or recycled after the consumer is finished with it.



Cookie Supply Chain Resources

Distribute this list of links to students or groups to construct a supply chain for chocolate chip cookies. Most ingredients also have links to articles discussing ethical dilemmas around the products. Each ingredient has two articles that must be read (or skimmed) to complete the worksheet. One link will describe the supply chain, and one will address a moral controversy around the ingredient. Some ingredients have additional links that could be fun for students to explore or provide further supply chain context.

FLOUR

Necessary

[What is Monocropping and Why is it Bad for the Environment? \(treahugger.com\)](https://www.treahugger.com/what-is-monocropping-and-why-is-it-bad-for-the-environment/)

This article briefly discusses the woes of monocropping, which is the method of growing nearly all wheat.

<https://www.buysvibakery.com/how-is-flour-made/>

This article clearly explains the steps in the flour-making process.

Supplementary

[Wheat Supply Chain Data Collection \(wa.gov\)](https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/wheat-supply-chain-data-collection)

This is a very long document showing the complexity level in wheat supply chains, even before grain becomes flour.

[Microsoft PowerPoint - Day 2 Session 4 - Miller Milling \(tortilla-info.com\)](https://www.tortilla-info.com/microsoft-powerpoint-day-2-session-4-miller-milling)

This source shows pictures of some of the equipment used in creating flour and a few maps showing where wheat is grown in the U.S.

<https://hmhub.in/processing-wheat-flour/>

This short video briefly goes over the flour-making process and history.

SOY LECITHIN

Necessary

[Soybeans — Louisiana Ag in the Classroom \(aitcla.org\)](https://www.aitcla.org/soybeans-louisiana-ag-in-the-classroom)

This page describes how soybeans are grown and processed and the history behind the plant. You only need to read about how soybeans are grown on this page. Once you reach the processing stage, switch to the following article.

[How is Soy Lecithin Made? | National Lecithin](https://www.nationallectin.com/how-is-soy-lectin-made)

This page gives a simple break-down of how Soy Lecithin is made

[The problem with soy | Forest 500](https://www.forest500.com/the-problem-with-soy)

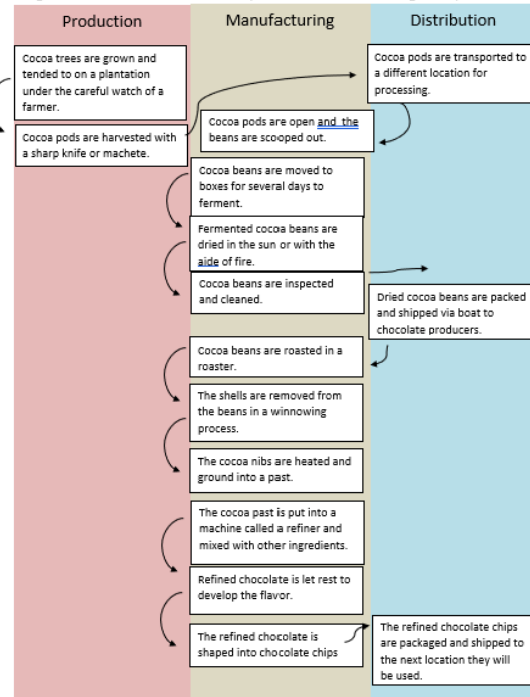
On this page, you can read about how soy farming in Brazil is threatening natural landscapes.

Supplementary

[What is Monocropping and Why is it Bad for the Environment? \(treahugger.com\)](https://www.treahugger.com/what-is-monocropping-and-why-is-it-bad-for-the-environment/)

This article briefly discusses the woes of monocropping, which is the method of growing nearly all soybeans.

Ingredient: Chocolate Name: Lydia Date: August 8th, 2022





Other Lesson Types

Data Nuggets: Collaborative Cropping

Projects: Design a Grain Crop

DATA NUGGET
Collaborative cropping: Can plants help each other grow?
Featured scientist: Jake Jungers (PhD) from the University of Minnesota
Written by Claire Wiseman (she/her)

Research Background
Most of the crops grown on farms in the United States are annual plants, like corn, soybeans, and wheat. Annual plants die every year after harvest and must be replanted the following year. Preparing farm fields for replanting every year can erode soils and hurt important bacteria and fungi living in the soil.

One way to change how we produce food is to grow more perennial crops. Perennial plants live for many years and don't need to be replanted. Perennials stay in the ground all year and start growing right away in the spring before annual crops are even planted. This early growth also gives perennial crops a "head-start" in competing with annual weed species that emerge later in the season.

While there are potential benefits of perennial crops, they are not commonly planted because they tend to make better profits for farmers than annual crops. Crop scientists are still exploring potential options to make perennial crops work at a large scale for farmers. For twenty years, researchers at The Land Institute in Kansas and at the University of Minnesota have been looking at a new perennial grain, called **Kernza**™, that could be used as an alternative to wheat and rye annual crops. Kernza™ comes from the seeds of a plant called intermediate wheatgrass. Because Kernza™ is such a new crop, scientists still have a lot to learn about it. Before it can be widely used by farmers, they need to know what field conditions help the plants grow to ensure the crop makes money for farmers.

One strategy to improve field conditions for perennial crops is to plant legumes in the field alongside them. Legumes can make nitrogen, a nutrient that plants need to grow, more available to the plants around them. Additionally, farmers can select legume species that typically don't compete with the crop but may outcompete weeds.

Data Nugget is licensed by Michigan State University and hosted on the MSU IT Platform.

Scientific Data

Use the data below to answer the scientific question:

Site	Replicates	Alfalfa biomass (kg/ha)	Weed biomass (kg/ha)	Kernza grain yield (kg/ha)	Kernza straw biomass (kg/ha)
1	1	1154	0	493.0	493.0
1	2	884	0	302.8	719.1
1	3	773	0	271.6	574.4
1	4	221	36	81.4	182.3
2	1	851	0	381.7	443.9
2	2	765	2	192.2	369.0
2	3	1160	16	322.5	343.5
2	4	304	1	114.4	287.0
3	1	1450	44	441.5	371.0
3	2	408	22	247.9	329.0
3	3	340	0	382.2	448.0
3	4				

*The missing one of zero is the result of a bad bag of biomass. After it was in the spring crop it got lost before it could be weighed.

What data will you graph to answer the question?
Independent variable(s): _____
Dependent variable(s): _____

Teacher Note: This experimental design may raise questions for students. It does not have a control as students might expect. There are no field plots that don't have alfalfa planted alongside Kernza™, only fields with the two perennials planted together. Students can have a class discussion about the strength of this research and how much they can rely on these data as they are. The scientist's question is about how alfalfa affects the yield of Kernza™. Though the same amount of weed was added to each site, reactions are often in the amount of alfalfa and other plants that grow at each site. This variability may be a reflection of the amount of alfalfa and other plants that grow at each site. This variability may be a reflection of the amount of alfalfa and other plants that grow at each site. This variability may be a reflection of the amount of alfalfa and other plants that grow at each site.

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*The missing one of zero is the result of a bad bag of biomass. After it was in the spring crop it got lost before it could be weighed.

What data will you graph to answer the question?
Independent variable(s): _____
Dependent variable(s): _____

NELUMBO LUTEA
American Lotus

Number of perennial species: low
Soil Types: protein rich and very acidic, it is an aquatic plant with roots to be in water.
Bloom and Seeding Times: Blooms in summer and into fall. Stratification or other treatment for planting before germinating a year in the field need to be ground down in a process called scarification.
Prize: Lotus has been used for medicinal purposes including several insects.
Known Negative Traits: Only grown in water.
Known Positive Traits: The Asian lotus species are extremely culturally important and popular as a commercial plant and a medicinal plant, so there's a lot of information about growth and care for the plant, down to details about the genome and seed processing for food.
Seed Size and Description: The seeds are fairly large, around 8 millimeters in length. It has a very hard outer coating.

Edibility: What parts are edible? The seeds and roots of this plant are considered edible. What are traditional uses? Lotus has been used for many purposes including eating the raw seeds as a snack and grinding them into a paste that can be used in pastries. The American species more and seeds were both used in soups. The seeds were roasted and eaten.

Who has used it traditionally? Asian Lotus is popular throughout the continent, especially in China. American Lotus has been used by the Catawba, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Delaware, Iroquois, Miami, Seminole, and Shawnee peoples.

What are the most nutritious parts of it? The plant has many vitamins and minerals such as well as other benefits.

How does it differ? This species are described as being glaucous and smooth. If it has? This plant is not related to any other grain crops, but the same species has been domesticated historically for a long time.

Ecosystem Services: Lotus plants attract pollinators, and it is a water purifier. The fiber of the plant aquatic life.

Name: _____
Date: _____
Class: _____

Worksheet 4: Evaluating Plant Traits

- Domestic Morphology and Phenology**
 - will germinate and grow soon after it's sown to better compete with weeds.
 - will have seeds that become ripe at the same time, making it easy to harvest without waiting periods that were not ready yet or had become too old.
 - has a stalk that is robust. This helps prevent "lodging," which happens when the wind blows over a crop, making it impossible to harvest with conventional methods.
 - is medium height, from 2-4 feet tall. This makes the plants much easier to manage.
- Ease of Breeding and Genetics**
 - is a species whose basic breeding habits and methods are already known and easy to research.
 - has many flowering flowers with clearly defined parts. This generally means having large flowers in the genus, especially ones that have been domesticated.
 - has seeds that are large, smooth, and dense.
 - has a stalk that dies completely when the grain is ready to harvest. This prevents rotting from happening during harvest.
 - has seeds that are "dormant-resistant" and "easily threshed," which means they will remain on the plant even after they are ripe but still be easily detached when they are being threshed and processed.
 - has seeds that are clustered together in one part of the plant rather than spread out in multiple places.
- High Yield**
 - has a large ratio of the plant dedicated to seeds. This could present in many different ways. For example, on good conditions may have a large number of very seed heads. A different one may only have a few seed heads, but each of them is very large.

Name: _____
Date: _____
Class: _____

Worksheet 3: Finding Your First Plant

in the field.

[Click here to learn more about the characteristics of a good plant.](#)

For this project, we are looking for plants that can be domesticated into grain crops. This means you will need to find herbaceous seed-bearing plants. During the fall, it is easy to determine if a plant is seed-bearing, just look for seeds! If you are evaluating during a different season, look for flowers or green seeds where seeds will be created. Deciding if a herbaceous plant is better herbaceous plants are distinguished from woody plants. The main difference is that herbaceous plants grow off during the colder months, while woody plants retain much of their above-ground growth. For example, deciduous trees and woody plants lose their leaves in the fall but retain their trunks and branches. An herbaceous perennial, such as cornflower, may look like they also retain above-ground growth over the winter. A closer inspection, however, will reveal that a stem will above the ground and die, and the plant will have to grow new stems when spring comes. It is harder to tell the difference between herbaceous and woody plants in warmer climates. A good indicator is that woody plants tend to have fibrous stems covered in bark (bark's what makes them woody), and herbaceous plants have much more flexible stems. Herbaceous plants are more likely to have green stems, whereas woody plants often have dark-colored stems due to their bark.

Choose a few seed plant species you can find outside that match your domestication goals. Make sure you can identify them to genus, and make a good guess at species so you can look up information about them that you are not able to observe. You can use an app such as iNaturalist if you have to become more familiar with the plants in your area.

Once you have found the plants you would like to evaluate, look at the plant, and write the answer to these questions. These will help you fill out your plant profile and evaluate if domestication is likely.

DATA NUGGETS

Activities that bring real scientific data into the classroom.

WHAT ARE DATA NUGGETS? | CURRENT DATA NUGGETS | MIDDLE DATA NUGGET | RESOURCES | RESEARCH & NEWS

NEW TO DATA NUGGETS? | FOR EDUCATORS | FOR SCIENTISTS | MAKE YOUR OWN DATA NUGGET | PRESENTED USAS

DATA NUGGETS WERE FOUNDED IN 2011 BY MSU SCIENTISTS AND TEACHERS IN THE GK-12 PARTNERSHIP. THEY ARE CURRENTLY FUNDED BY A DRK-12 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

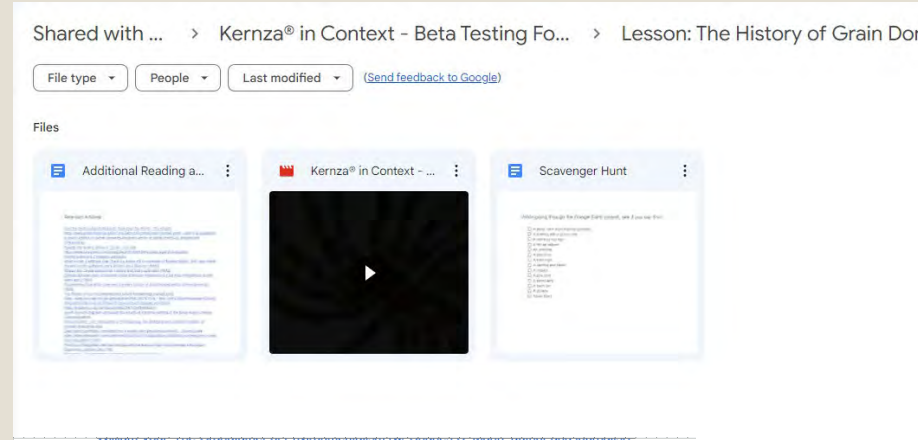
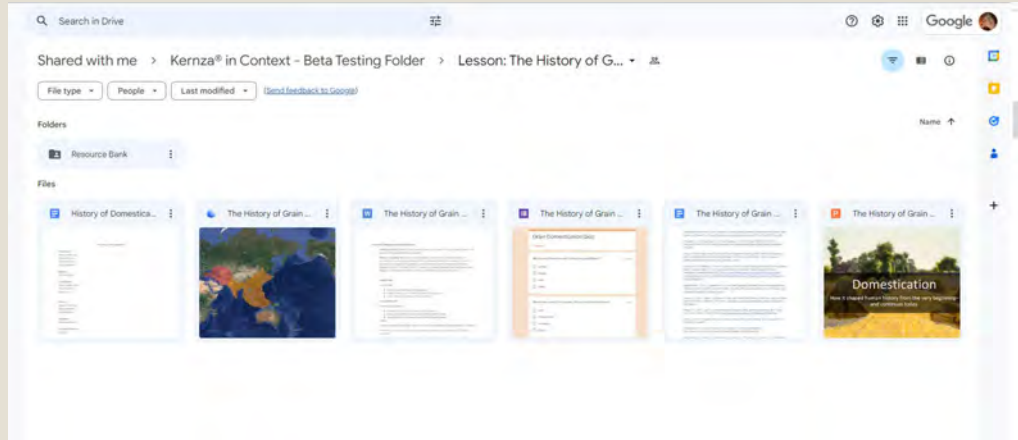
Data Nuggets are free classroom activities, co-designed by scientists and teachers, designed to bring contemporary research and authentic data into the classroom. Data Nuggets feature a scientist role model and the story of what inspired their research. In a Data Nugget activity, students are guided through the entire process of science, including identifying hypotheses and predictions, visualizing and interpreting data, suggesting claims using data evidence, and asking their own questions for future research. Because of their simplicity and flexibility, Data Nuggets can be used throughout the school year and across grades 6-8, as students grow in their quantitative skills and gain confidence. Data Nuggets have the potential to improve the understanding of science in society while engaging and motivating the next generation of scientists.

RECENT NEWS & EVENTS | CONTACT US | DONATIONS TO BY THE MEANS

adaptation | agriculture | animals behavior | biodiversity | climate change | community | conservation | food systems | health | history | life science | mathematics | physical science | social studies | technology | earth and space science

DOMESTICATION: DESIGN A GRAIN CROP

Using Lessons for More Advanced Audiences



How does domestication work?

Researchers have identified three essential elements of domestication:

1. Genetic changes in the domesticate.
2. The development of unique environments, practices, and tools to care for and manage the domesticate.
3. Social and cultural values or practices that sustain relationships to the domesticate.



[- YouTube Biological Changes in Human Populations with Agriculture | Annual Review of Anthropology \(annualreviews.org\)](#)

Quotes and notes from important sources:

Notes from Against The Grain:

Pg 1.

Pg 2.

"Anthropocene," was coined to name a new geological epoch during which the activities of humans became decisive in affecting the world's ecosystems and atmosphere.

Pg 3. Fire as the first domesticated thing/ tool for domestication

Pg. 6-8

Using Lessons for Younger Audiences



Lesson: What is a grain?

Driving question(s): What is a grain? What do we use grain for? Why are grains such a significant part of our diets?
Relevant Science Practices: 4 Analyzing and interpreting data; 7 Engaging in an argument from evidence

Section Goals

- Students will:
- Understand what a grain is
 - Understand what grains are most prevalent in their personal diets

Section Objectives

- Students will be able to:
- Gather evidence from personal experience and to measure the prevalence of and make conjectures about grains in the human diet

Lesson

Using the Artisan Grain Collaborative [website](#) and the [Land Institute case study on grains](#), have students explore how we define grains. Students will then fill out a food log over the course of 24 hours in order to measure the prevalence of grains in their personal diets, and then collectivize their data as a class to identify broader patterns of grain consumption.

Teacher prerequisite: Understand the [Artisan Grain Collaborative](#) and [Land Institute](#) definition of a grain

Student prerequisite: None

Materials needed: 24-Hour Food Log Worksheet ; computers with equipped with Excel or another spreadsheet software

Time to set up: 5 minutes or less

Time to teach: 50 minutes

Assessment type: Worksheet completion



24-Hour Food Log

Before you complete the food log activity, visit www.artisancollaborative.com/grains-101 and https://landinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/TUI_CaseStudy_Grains_web-1.pdf and answer the following questions:

- What is a grain?
- What are pseudocereals and oilseeds? How are these grains different from traditional grains?

Fill in the food log below with what you eat over 24 hours. Try to fill in the log as you eat so you can remember the details of what you had! The first two rows have been filled in for your reference. After you finish logging your meals, add up the number of calories you consumed for each food category and calculate what percent of calories came from each category. Then add your data to a larger table with your classmates' data and answer the discussion questions below.

Category of food	Grain	Sugar & fat	Produce	Dairy & Eggs	Meat	Other
Subcategory of food	Rice, wheat, corn, cereals, etc.	Sugar, sweeteners, vegetable oils, oil crops, sugar crops	Starchy roots (potatoes), vegetables, fruits	Eggs, milk, animal fats, cheese, yogurt	Beef, pork, poultry, seafood, other	Pulses, beverages, miscellaneous

Food/Drink/Condiment	Category of food	Subcategory of food	Calories	Notes
Slice of bread	Grain	Wheat	75	
Butter	Dairy	Animal fat	100	



Using Materials from Lessons



What is a Supply Chain?

A supply chain is the network of natural resources, programs, people, and other entities involved in creating a specific product or service.

1 Production

Producers are those who provide the base materials or ingredients of a supply chain. Examples of producers include farms, mines, and fisheries.

2 Manufacturing

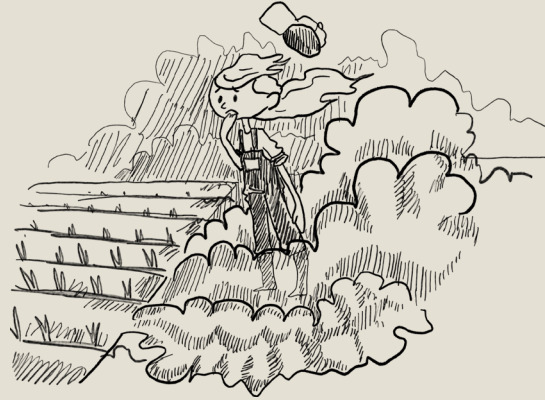
Manufacturers take the raw goods from suppliers and convert them into new forms. Processing can take up a very large part of the supply chain since most products have to go through many steps.

3 Distribution

Distributors are entities that move products from one part of the supply chain to another. Most often, they buy from manufacturers and sell to consumers.

4 Consumption

Consumers drive the supply chain by creating a need for the products it produces. Most often, we think of consumers as individuals, but larger entities can be consumers as well.



KERNZA® SUPPLY CHAINS

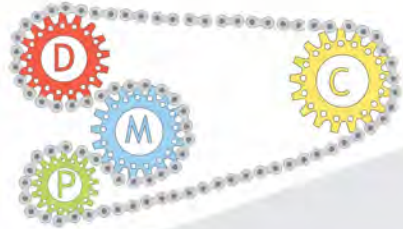
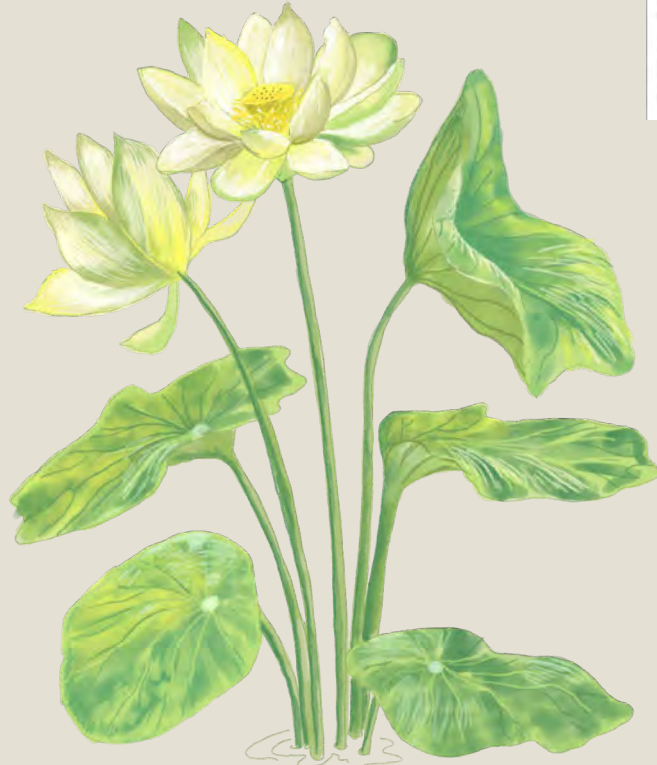
When a farmer becomes interested in growing Kernza® perennial grain, they will apply to be a licensed Kernza® grower. The licensing process ensures that Kernza® grain is 100% intermediate wheatgrass bred for grain production in truly perennial systems. The farmer will plant the grain with a seed drill or a seeder and packer. Kernza® is typically planted in the late summer or fall but may also be planted in the spring. To produce grain, the plants must go through a winter.

This farmer is using a seeder and packer to plant seeds.

This is a draft version of the Kernza® Supply Chains Zine, created for the Kernza® in Context curriculum. It is being distributed at the 2022 Prairie Festival held by the Land Institute. If you have any questions about the zine, or the Kernza® in context curriculum, email kernzacontext@landinstitute.org

Kernza® CAP

This educational effort, Kernza® in Context, is being made possible through the support of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's (AFRI) Sustainable Agricultural Systems Coordinated Agricultural Program (SAS-CAP) grant no. 2020-68012-31934 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Known as the Kernza® CAP.



All four of these categories are important for global supply chains to run. But in smaller supply chains, one or two businesses may be able to fulfill multiple roles.

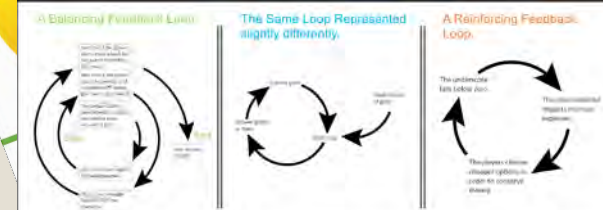


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SYSTEMS

A Review and Discussion with Rubber Ducks



Littleton Feedback Loop Examples

ROOTS PROTECT SOIL. SOIL PROTECTS LIFE.

Perennial Roots Prevent Soil Erosion

24 billion tons of soil are lost annually worldwide, nearly 3 tons for every person.

It would take 380 years for a prairie to build back up the soil lost in a conventional field in a year and about 16 and a quarter years to do the same for a no-till system.

24 billion tons of soil are lost annually worldwide, nearly 3 tons for every person.

Kernza® can reduce nitrate leaching by 86%

The dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico is around 6-7 thousand square miles and appears yearly because of nitrate runoff from agriculture along the Mississippi River.

There are more than 400 dead zones around the world.

Perennial Systems can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

11-13% of global greenhouse gases are caused by agriculture
75% of nitrous oxide is produced by agriculture
Even though nitrous oxide only makes up 7% of human greenhouse gas emissions, its warming effect is 300 times as strong as carbon dioxide.



"The Kernza" is a draft version of the Kernza® Supply Chains Zine, created for the Kernza® in Context curriculum. It is being distributed at the 2022 Prairie Festival held by the Land Institute. If you have any questions about the zine, or the Kernza® in context curriculum, email kernzacontext@landinstitute.org

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The Keys to Kernza USDA Benefits

Dr. Cynthia Bartel
Kernza Con
June 22, 2023





Farm registration is critical:

- Program updates/deadlines
- Crop reporting & certification
- Ad-hoc programs





Timeline for application

NRCS CSP Perennial Grain Enhancement (E3280)

<https://kernza.org/growers>



*Sign up deadlines are state-specific. November is the earliest deadline. Check with local NRCS for details.

USDA



Risk Management Agency

Focus on Framework:

- Farmer Consent Forms
- Data identification, collection, and infrastructure for crop insurance products



Date _____

Dear Farmer Jones,

Thank you for growing Kernza on your farm. Your input and expertise is critical for improving Kernza. As part of the development process, system researchers are working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to evaluate the crop for (1) working lands conservation practices with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and for (2) crop insurance products with Risk Management Agency (RMA). We are requesting to share the results of your Kernza crop with USDA only for these purposes.

We are requesting individual permission from each farmer before data sharing with USDA. Each farmer has a choice for:

1. name/address identifiers with location information;
2. deidentification with masked data for privacy (therefore reporting information only at a county or state level);
3. for no data to be shared with USDA.

Your choice on data sharing will **NOT** affect any program benefits, farm trial benefits, or farm trial support. Please choose an option below:

My on-farm trial data may be shared with USDA:

(1) with name/address identifiers _____

(2) after deidentification for privacy _____

My data on-farm trial data may **not** be shared with USDA: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Reflections/Key Factors:

- Equitable, scalable crop
- Excellent objective collaboration
- Technical policy analysis
- Funded by USDA for sanctioned work
- Leverage 20+ years scientific, policy and farming experience
 - > Relationships
- Call USDA service centers as farmer constituent
- No advocacy/lobbying activities
- Do not request specific outcome

Kernza[®]CAP





Minnesota Policy Advances

Supporting Research, Growers, and Entrepreneurs

Sienna Nesser

CLC Adoption Specialist, Forever Green Initiative

Mitch Hunter, PhD

Associate Director, Forever Green Initiative

Developing Grower Support with MN Dept. of Ag

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Support early on-farm adoption of Forever Green crops
2. Protect water quality through increasing continuous living cover
3. Field-specific ecosystem benefit payments
4. Outcomes/results-based
5. Local (state) innovation in programming for potential adoption by other states, federal gov, other

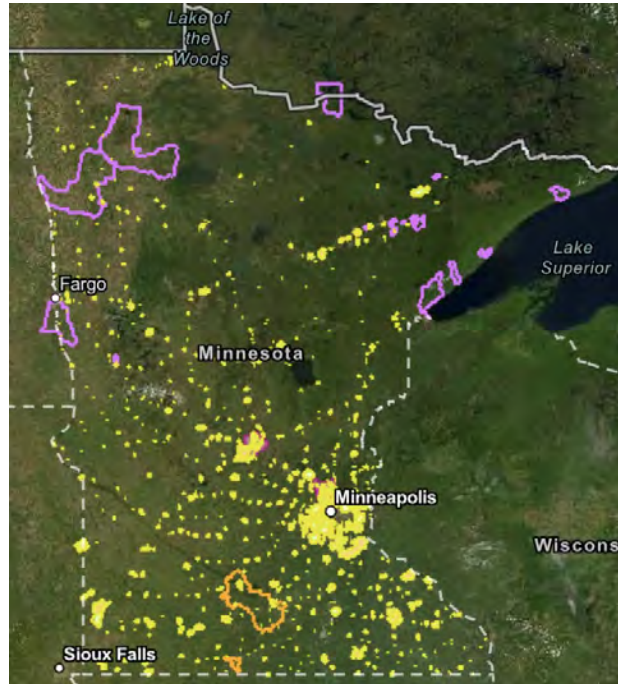


Photo credit: Erin Meier

EECO Program: Environmental and Economic Clusters of Opportunity

- Supporting early on-farm adoption of Forever Green crops
 - Kernza®
 - Winter camelina
 - Hybrid winter rye
 - Winter barley
- Funded by the MN Dept. of Agriculture
- Targets regions with impaired water quality



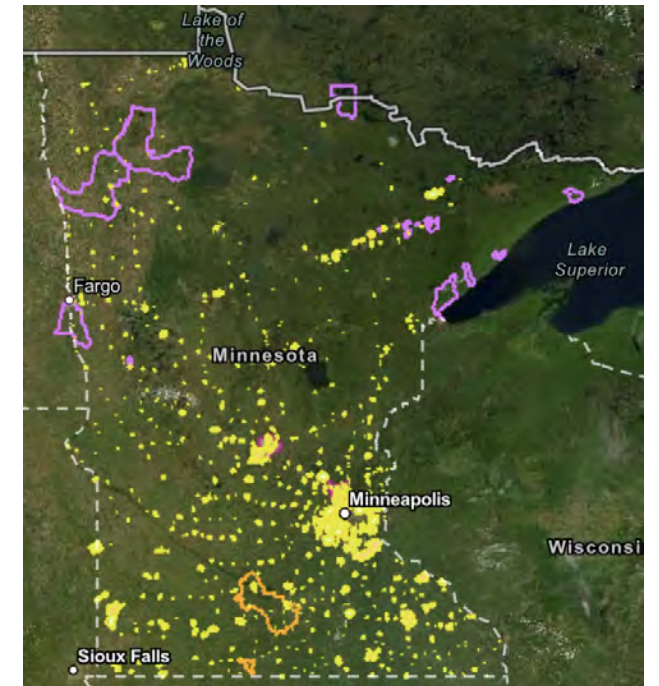
EECO Program: Environmental and Economic Clusters of Opportunity

- Grower-community-university Technical Assistance Team
- Two types of payments:
 - Ecosystem benefit (\$25-50/ac Kernza, \$20-40/ac winter annuals)
 - Economic risk - half the cost of production in the event of failure (think partial crop insurance without the premium)
- Seed and grain testing costs covered
- Goal of 5000 acres by 2024 across four crops



Forever Green EECO Implementation Program: Additional details

- 25% premium on ecosystem benefit payment if field is located within a DWSMA
- Kernza[®] growers must be licensed by The Land Institute



Forever Green Environmental and Economic Clusters of Opportunity (EECO) program

- \$68,000 provided to growers
- 683 acres are included

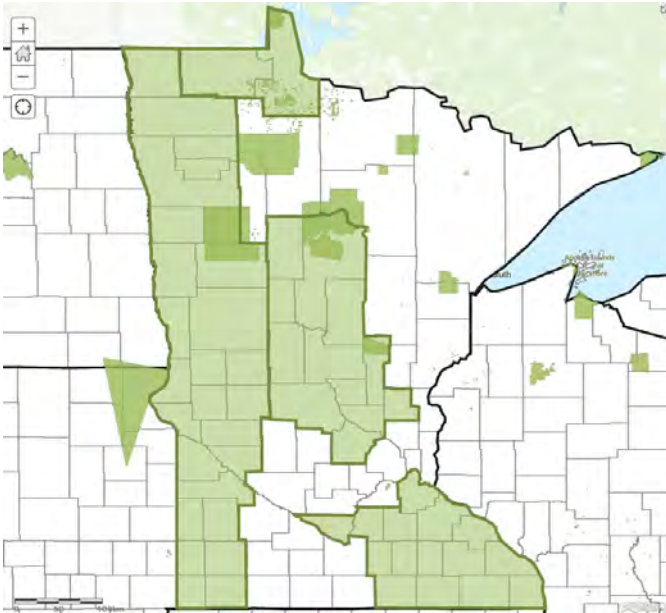


Photo credit: Erin Meier



Clean Water Fund

- \$6M for 2024-2025
- Supports Forever Green Research Program
- Also EECO and the Forever Green Partnership



Base Funding

- \$802K per year, ongoing
- Long-term **stability**
- Top priorities:
 - Stabilize funding for breeders
 - Support management of Forever Green



Rep. Ginny Klevorn



Value Chain Grants

- \$500K in 2023, another \$500K in 2024-2025
- Grants to help **private businesses** and other organizations take Forever Green crops from the lab to the marketplace
- Administered by MN Department of Agriculture
- Focused on:
 - Kernza® perennial grain
 - Hazelnuts
 - Winter camelina
 - Elderberry



Value Chain Outcomes

- Root these industries in MN
- Break through bottlenecks
- Accelerate growth
- Jobs in rural communities
- Build demand for Forever Green crops



Perennial Promise
Grower's Cooperative





Forever Green Initiative

Technology Push

Research and
Development

Market Pull

Commercialization,
Adoption, and
Scaling

Forever Green
Partnership

Societal Lift



Kernza[®] Stewards Alliance

Tessa Peters, Director of Crop Stewardship



Purpose

Creating the Kernza Steward Alliance centers stakeholders in decision making and establishes a strategy & plan for long-term success.



Power - Those bearing greatest risks (growers + businesses) should have a say in decision-making

Voice - Kernza's governance model should allow a voice for licensees + non-licensees

Protection - We need to collectively protect Kernza's 'purpose' + vision

Growth - We need to allow for nimble market activity

What we have done

Mission,
Vision, Values

Steward
Ownership

Diversity
Equity
Inclusion

Governance

Revenue
Models

Mission: Guiding and growing Kernza's future, together.

Vision: Vibrant ecosystems, vital economies, and healthy people through perennial grains.

Perpetual Purpose: Scale Kernza perennial grain, ensure stewards benefit from Kernza, and steward resources responsibly.

Innovation

Good ideas-guided by inspiration, purpose, study, and experience-grow into transformative results.

Equity

We embody fairness and, justice by uplifting diverse and underrepresented, stakeholders who support, Kernza.

Effectiveness

We are capable of advancing shared agendas, acting together, and making sound decisions.

Urgency

We advance solutions at a pace and scale that mitigate the impact of our global climate crisis.

Collaboration

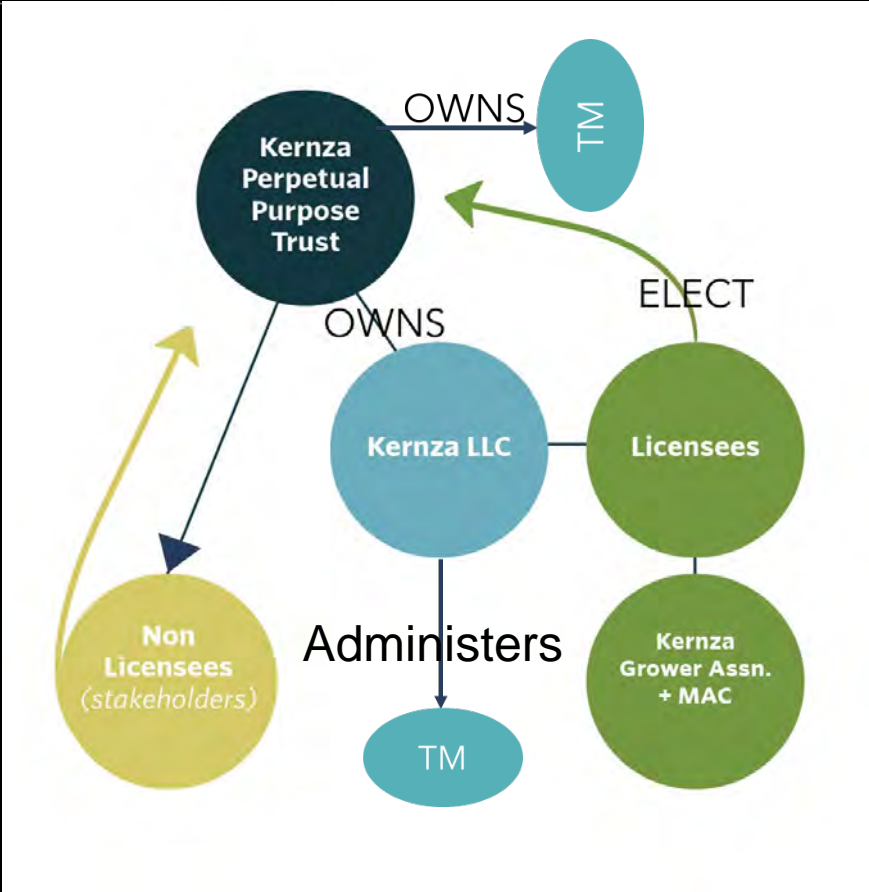
We foster cooperation through transparency, accountability, balance, and mutual respect.

Longevity

We are Kernza stewards who generate lasting, shared value for our communities, ecosystems, and each other

Structure

Perpetual Purpose Trust Establishment



What's next?



Governance + Decision-Making

- Licensee v. non-licensee involvement
- On-ramps for new members
- Intentional inclusion practices

Formation of Legal Entities

- Document filing
- Transitioning TM ownership
- Board selection

IP + Supply Chain Management

- Address supply/demand dynamics
- IP compliance & audit support
- Determine grain valuation for ecosystems

Communication + Marketing

- Interface with other partners
- Clear and direct communication among licensees
- Marketing & promotion

Real talk - Why have we paused

- **Funding from CAP can't be used on lawyers**
- **The Kernza market has been very slow and investing in legal structures feels premature**
 - We can invest in marketing endeavors instead

Moving to full commercialization



Thanks

If your life's work
can be completed
in your lifetime,
you're not thinking
big enough.

~ Wes Jackson



Research Update: Social Sustainability of Kernza®

Lightning talk:
Kernza Conference
June 2023

Amy Teller, PhD
Tara Conway, PhD Candidate
University of Minnesota
asteller@umn.edu & conwa304@umn.edu

Funding: Foundation for Food and
Agriculture Research (FFAR) grant
(PI, Nick Jordan, UMN)



Photo by Amy Teller at The Land Institute

Why social sustainability?

Intentions for Kernza to have social benefits, change systems, scale responsibly, and be part of a just perennial transition. Yet...

- Social sustainability is **not a given** alongside environmental sustainability during pilot stages or scaling.
- Harmful historical and present relationships are likely **reproduced** without early and ongoing evaluation and action.

Learning to care for a novel crop is an **opportunity to instigate** new relationships (Streit Krug & Tesdell 2021), which we can **make more visible and study**.

Just sustainability approach

Social sustainability & diversity/equity/inclusion/justice (DEIJ) are **not** the same thing, but they are connected.

1. To inform data collection, social sustainability is:
the intersection point of what Kernza users want to see maintained [sustainability] and want to see change [justice] about their industries, supply chains, and communities
1. Collect data that **expands** the grounded stories we tell about how Kernza plays a part in people's varied responses to what they see as unsustainable conditions.

What is social sustainability?

- We **don't know yet** what social sustainability means in Kernza supply chains.
- The social is the least clearly defined and tracked aspect of sustainability in the literature and in practice (Valence et al. 2011; Hicks et al. 2016; Janker et al. 2019; Ergas 2021).

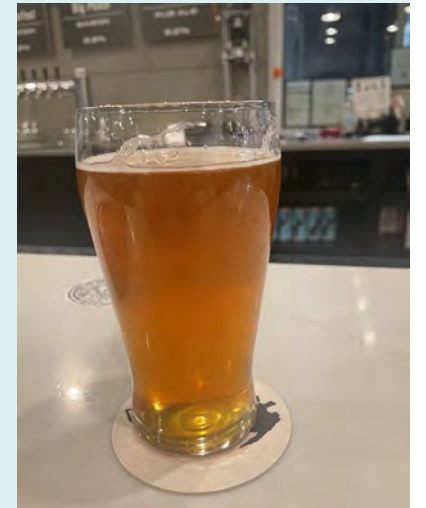


Contextual and co-creative process

Kernza presents an opportunity to define social sustainability and find ways to track it **contextually and in collaboration** with current/interested growers and supply chain businesses.

Research aims to strike the difficult middle ground between:

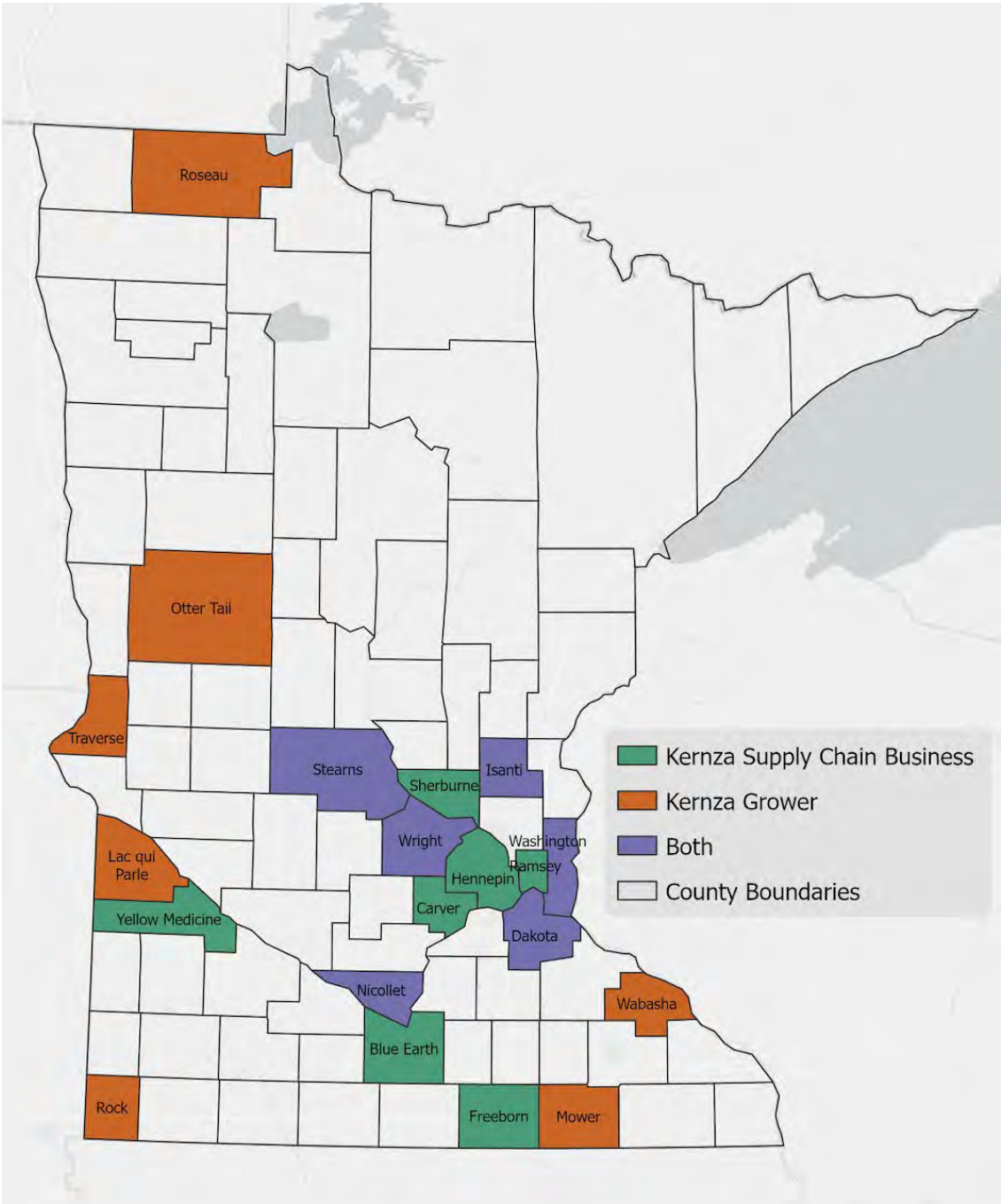
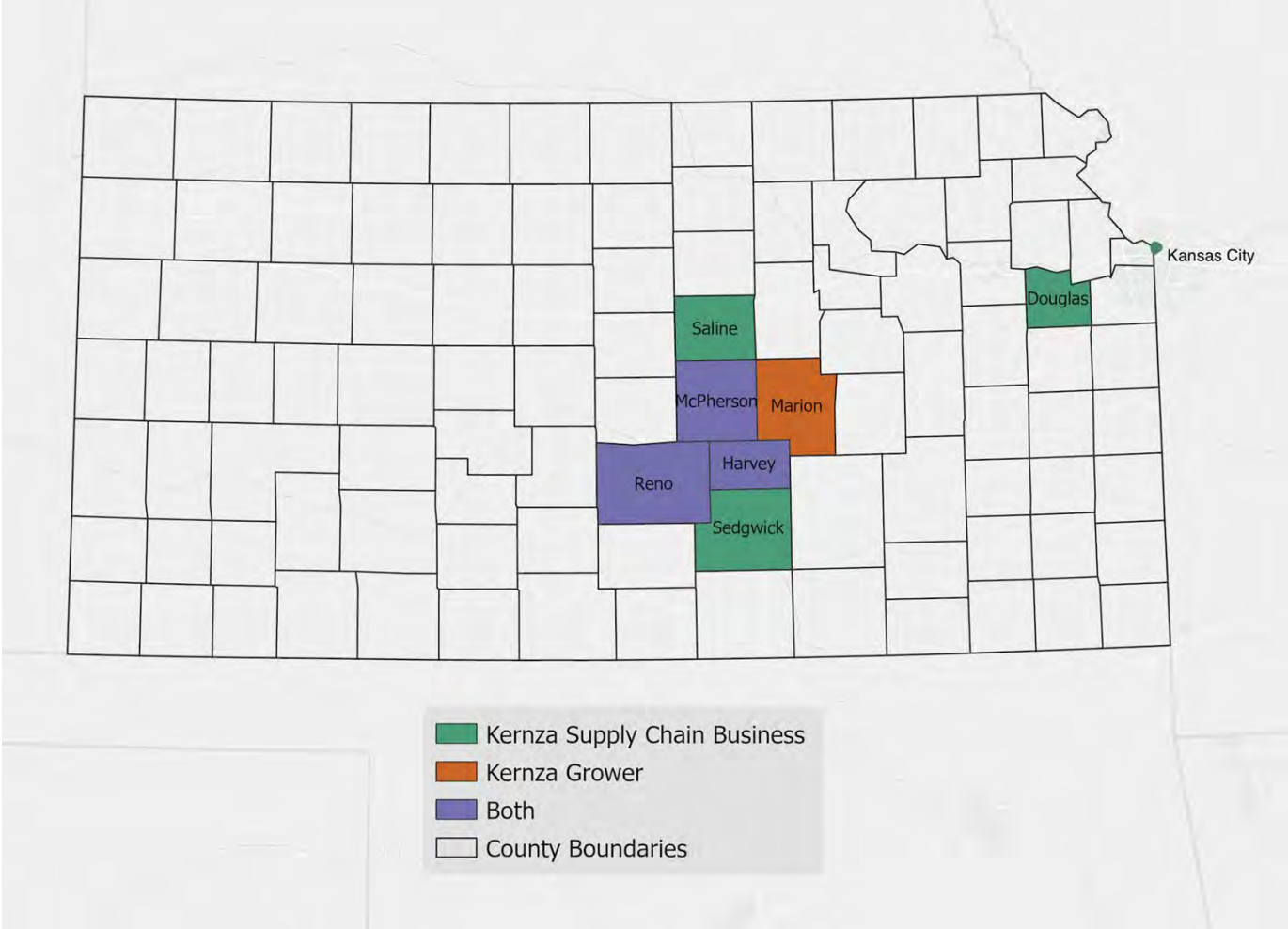
- Social sustainability left too vague
 - Allows business as usual
- One universal definition
 - Doesn't make sense in a specific context (i.e., perennial grain in MN/KS)
 - Risks leaving out important (historically/presently excluded) perspectives
- Both hinder accountability (Gaard 2017)



First phase of research (2022-2023): Supply chain interviews

Kernza supply chain actors	Minnesota	Kansas	Total
Growers	14 (of ~27)	6 (of ~9)	20
Rest of supply chain	30	10	44
Multinational/national companies	4		
<i>Brewing-Distilling</i>	12		
<i>Culinary</i>	7		
<i>Baking</i>	6		
<i>Consumer packaged goods (CPGs)</i>	4		
<i>Processing/Seed/Milling</i>	8		
<i>Retail or Marketing</i>	7		
Total N	64		

Counties in Kansas and Minnesota where interviewees are based



Phase 1: Supply chain interviews
(completed in March 2023)

Next phase
(Fall 2023 into 2024)

- Two types of data collected:
 - Baseline evaluation using qualitative measures of social sustainability
 - Meanings of social sustainability
- Practical challenges and needs
- Supply chain interviews as social sustainability practice
 - Space to think and reflect; ask me questions and learn; notice reactions; receive input

- Sharing initial findings at **July 25 KernzaCAP seminar** & in more ways coming soon (open to suggestions...)
- Bring results to help with...
 - deciding how to collect and use social data for Kernza going forward
 - building mechanisms of accountability for responsible scaling into FGP, TLI & network

Tracing social sustainability through multiple sites of perennial transition...



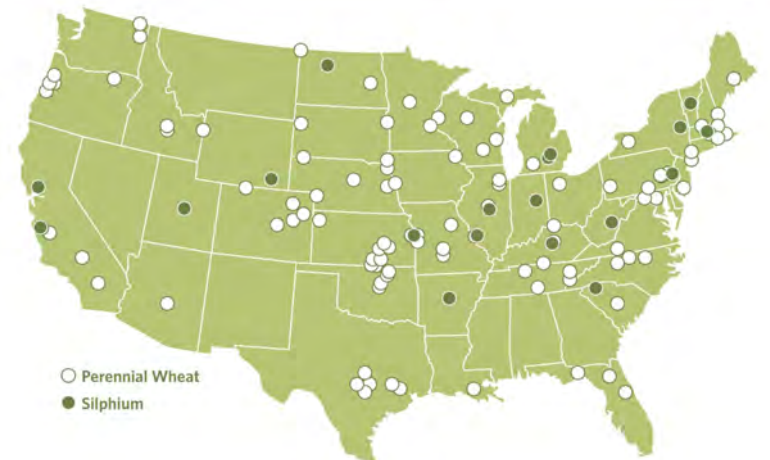
Pilot perennial grain supply chains (Amy Teller)



Intermediaries: Link between R&D institutions/NGOs <=> supply chain (Tara Conway)

Civic science program at The Land Institute (Aubrey Streit Krug)

Civic Scientists



Social Sustainability in Supply Chain and Policy Development



Forever Green's
Learning and Experimentation Network
(LEN)



MICHAEL FIELDS
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE



Intermediaries

Individuals (or organizations) that make connections, build collaborations, and mobilize resources to create momentum for systemic change

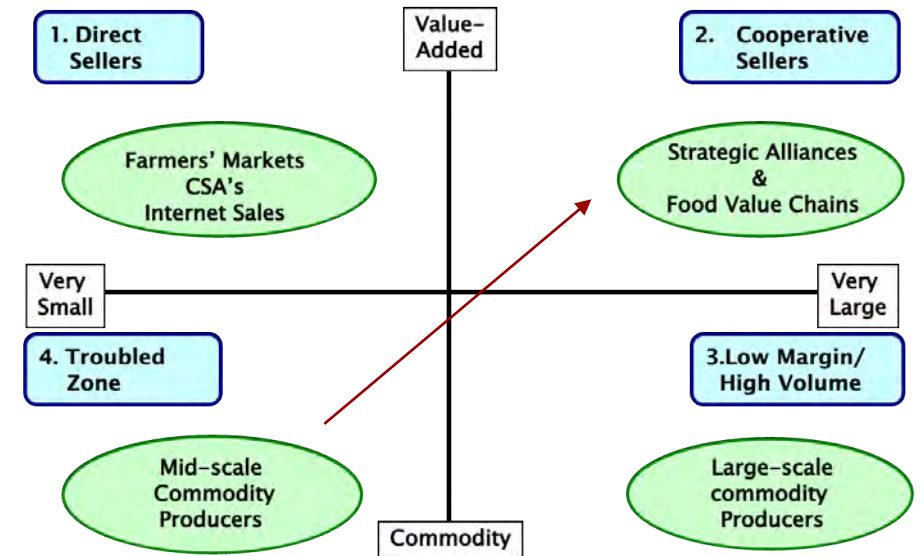
- Concerned with scaling and building new systems
- Concept comes from transitions to renewable energy systems in Europe
- In the case of Kernza, this work can look like:
 - Integrating crop research with the development of supply chains, demand, policy, financing
 - Synthesizing and sharing knowledge
 - Devising support programs like EECO



Illuminating practice

- Questions:
 - What does this work look like?
 - Who is doing it? Who are they doing the work with and/or for?
 - Where?
 - Why do they their work?
 - Does this look different for different crops?
- Objective:
 - Make visible the labor undertaken by Kernza and Forever Green crop intermediaries
 - Illuminate network of relationships being built and maintained
 - Compare practices and strategies across cropping systems
 - How are environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainability litigated?

Strategic Business & Marketing Options



Source: Stevenson, GW. et al. 2011

Methods

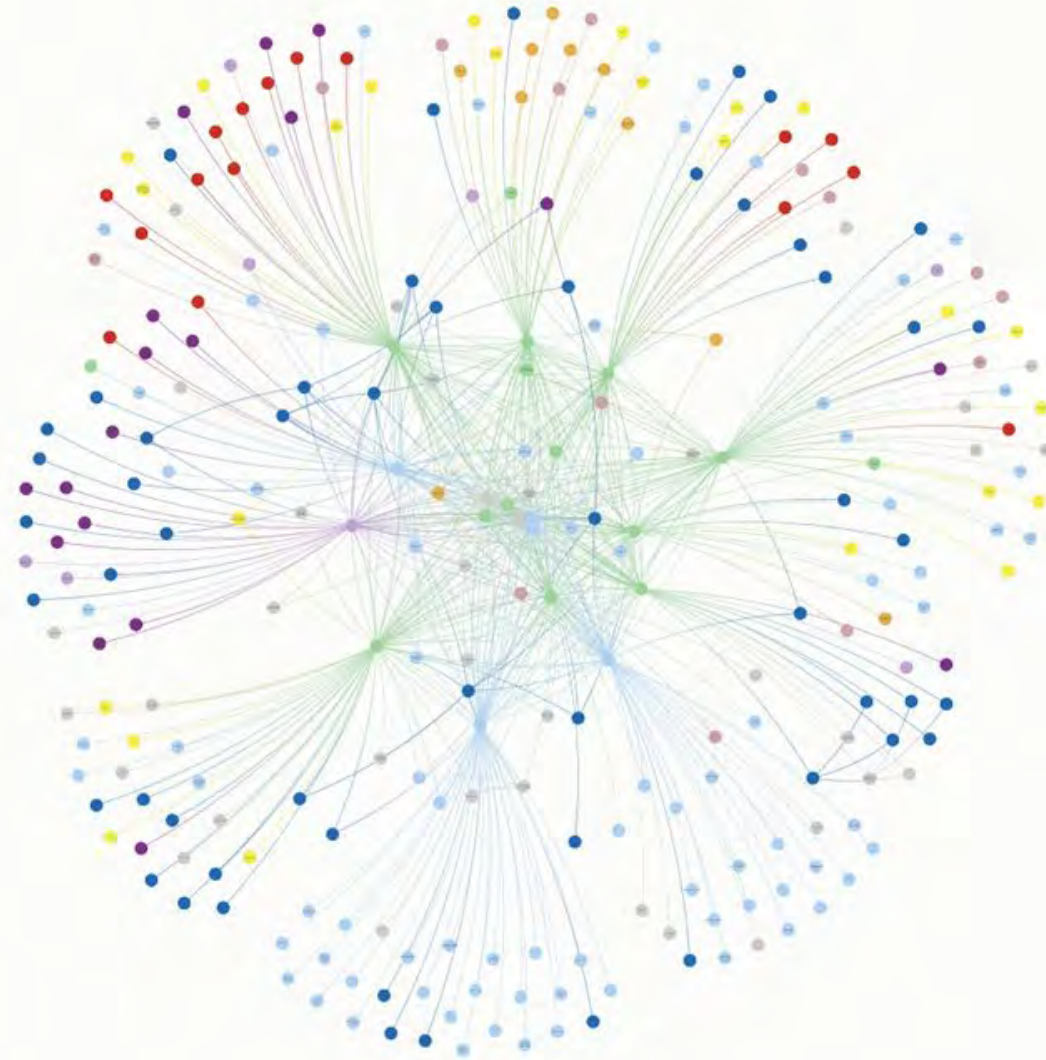
- Interviews
 - Why do they do their work?
- Monthly work calendar time logs
 - What does this work look like?
 - Who are LEN members working with and/or for?
 - Where is this work happening?
- Group meeting facilitation
 - Space for collective reflection and mutual support



Work Activity	Length (hours)	Recurrence (in time period of four weeks)	Total time (hours)	Type of intermediary activity	Secondary intermediary activity (if applicable)	Crop (if applicable)	With who? (does not need to be individual names, can be 'Forever Green Researchers' or 'Kernza Commercial')
Forever green meetings	1	4	4	Learning	-	all	Forever green researchers, graduate students
IonE agriculture and climate cohort	1.5	2	3	Facilitating	-	not CLC	UMN ag/climate graduate students
Institutional analysis class	1.5	4	6	Learning	-	not CLC	Forestry and natural resources PhD students interested in agroecology
FGP DE meeting	1.5	2	3	Creating institutional	Framing and coordinating	all	Nick, Kate, Keith
Care work meeting	1	1	1	Knowledge aggregation	-	all	Aubrey, Amy
Coworker meeting	1.5	n/a	1.5	Facilitating	Knowledge aggregation	all	Sophia
Advisor meeting	0.5	4	2	Creating institutional	-	all	Nick
Writing block	4	2	8	Knowledge aggregation	-	all	
RFP review	3	1	3	Brokering	-	not CLC	
Comparative indigenous methods	2	4	8	Learning	-	not CLC	UMN graduate students interested in indigenous knowledge
LEN	1.5	1	1.5	Facilitating	Creating institutional	all	LEN
Grad leaders meeting	1.5	2	3	Facilitating	-	not CLC	IonE graduate leaders cohort
IonE coworker meeting	0.75	1	0.75	Framing and coordinating	-	not CLC	Terin (Humphrey PhD)
FEAST	1	2	2	Facilitating	-	not CLC	UMN graduate students interested in agroecology
FFAR research braiding	1	2	2	Knowledge aggregation	Framing and coordinating	all	Nick, Amy, Ian (prosocial)
FGP Steering Council	2	1	2	Facilitating	-	all	FGP SC
LEN member meeting	0.75	n/a	0.75	Facilitating	-	all	Sarah Lloyd
Kernza happy hour	2	n/a	2	Initiating and developing	-	Kernza	FGP-FGI kernza community
APG seminar committee	1.5	n/a	1.5	Conflouring	-	not CLC	Two agronomy and plant genetics professors, two A

One month of LEN working relationships

- 695 connections
- 282 unique elements (either individuals or institutions)



Legend

- research
- NGO
- supply chain actor
- government org
- agri-business
- farmer
- crop stewardship, commercialization, scaling, adoption
- policy
- extension

The “juice” of our work

I'm drawn strongly to collective efforts to achieve something together... and so a lot of the sort of emotional juice in the work around scaling [crops like Kernza] comes from this sense that there are all these people that I think are lovely, admirable, interesting people trying to do something really, really hard... so I guess I'm motivated by a sense of kinship

-LEN member



Q&A

Thanks to our co-hosts & organizers!

Kernza[®]CAP



**Forever
Green**



Green Lands
Blue Waters

**Thanks to our welcome
reception sponsor!**

TATTERSALL
