

## Role of EM and gamma radiometric surveys in WA agriculture

Aidan Sinnott





## BACKGROUND



- EM and GR surveys conducted in WA since 2005
- Precision Agronomics pioneered soil surveys in WA
- VRT Solutions first acquired soil surveying equipment in 2019
- Each year increasing soil surveying equipment inventory



Equipment:

- 5 x dedicated soil survey vehicles
- 5 x Electromagnetic induction sensors
- 5 x Gamma Radiometric crystals
- 3 x dedicated soil sampling vehicles
- John Deere GPS equipment
- 8 (?) x Christies Engineering soil sampling machines



# Who



## “Core” team:

David Caporn  
Jordan White  
Michael Milverton  
Ari Milverton  
Sacha Zaccaria  
Brett Williamson  
Aidan Sinnott



Ceres Agronomy (Nicky Tesoriero)  
Esperance Private Agronomy (Sean Randall)

Connections with many agronomists around WA Wheatbelt



## Core Business

Soil surveys - EM, gamma radiometrics

PA Consultancy

Yield data

Biomass

Soil sampling

Soil results interpretation

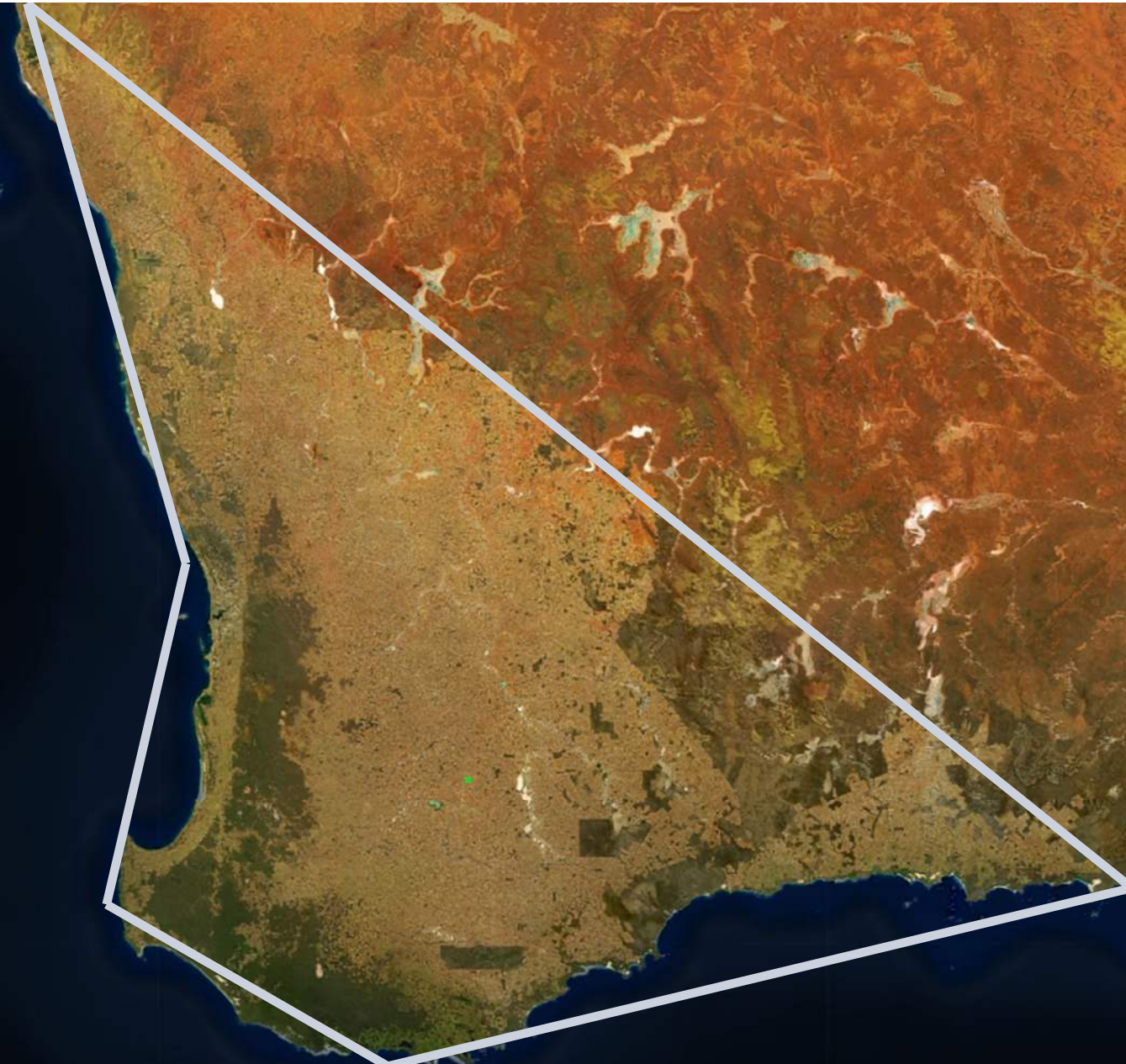
Nutritional / agronomic advice

VR Prescription development

VR Prescription implementation

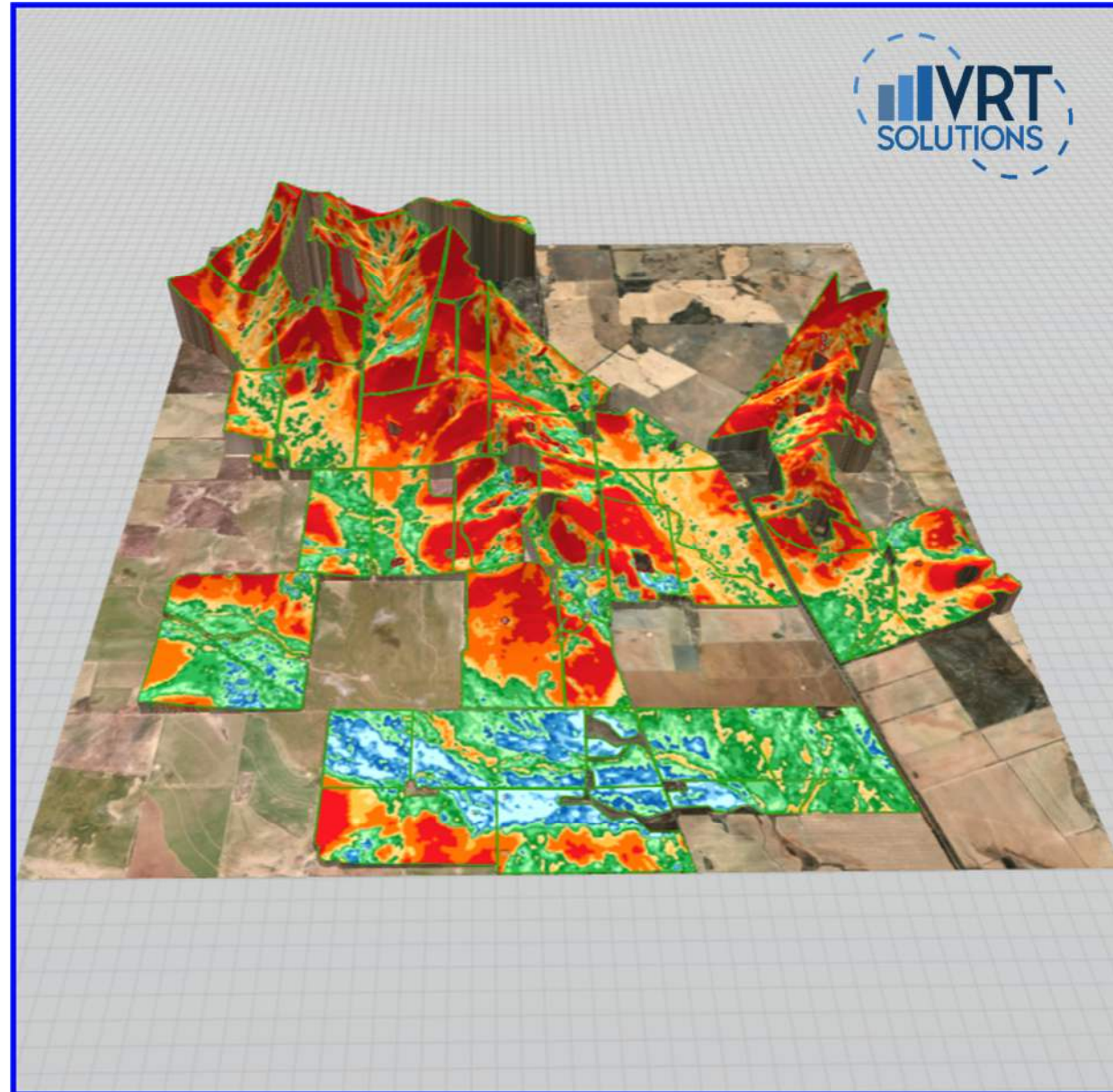


Where?



# Why?

- Scientific methodology
- Statistical - not emotional
- High resolution - soil variability management
- Deep soil sampling and testing
- Semi-permanent soil records to reference
- Reduces seasonality, risk limitation
- Optimises time / labour
- Optimises inputs
- Optimises resources – equipment / vehicles
- VR maps tractor ready, easy user utilisation



# SOIL SENSORS : EM AND GAMMA RADIOMETRICS



## EM – Electromagnetic induction

Influenced by:

- Salt concentration
- Clay content
- Moisture
- Metal

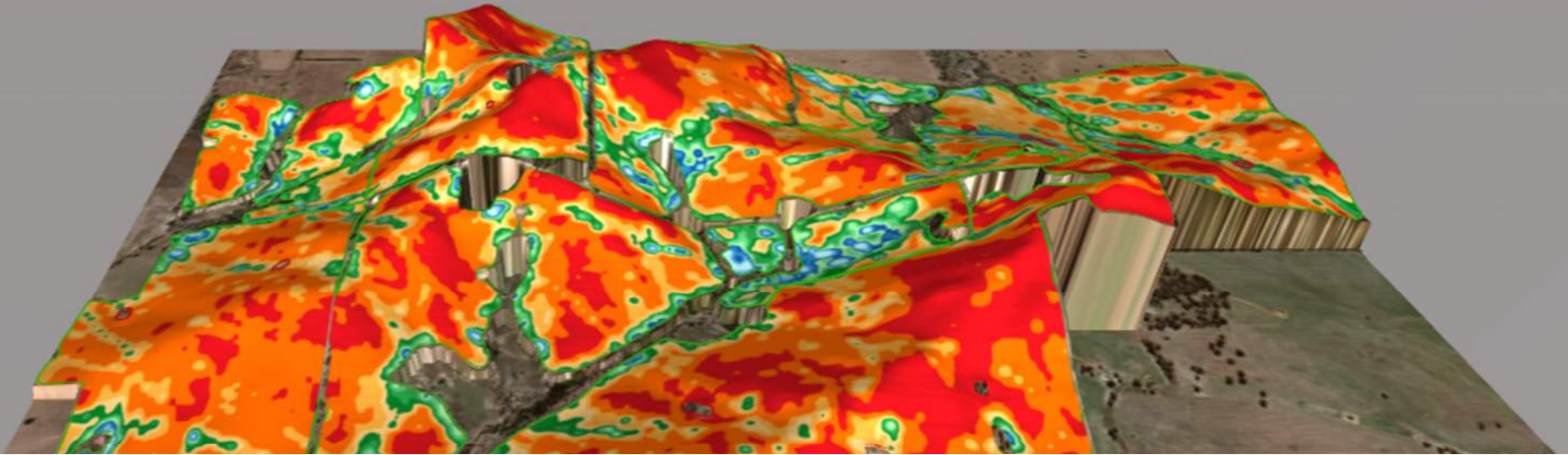


# GR – Gamma radiometrics

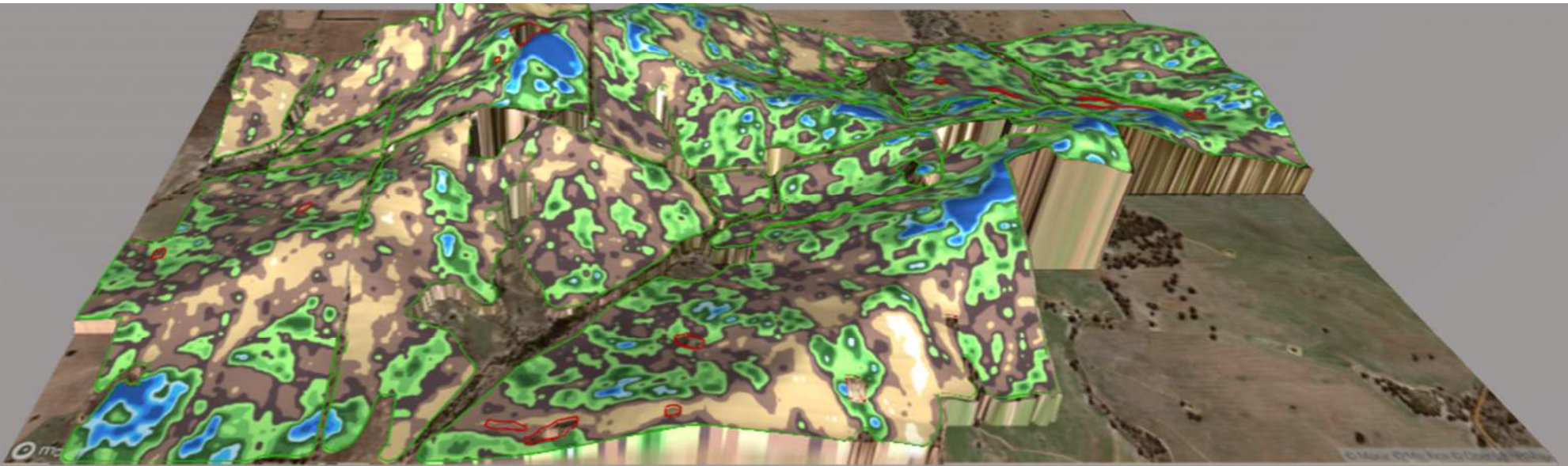
Influenced by:

- Moisture
- Gravel / rock concentrations
- Soil texture/ clay content
- Mineralogy





# DATA PROCESSING



Load EMGR 
 Load Raw Points 
 Load Clean Points 
 Clear Selected 
 Restore Selected 
 Spectre Import 
 Overwrite 
 Map Quality 
 Map Smoothing 
 Show Charts

**Zone Map**

Base Map: em\_150   Grayscale

Data Layer: EM 150   3.5

Overlay: NA   Grayscale

**Sites**

Site Selection KML Export  
[vrts-demo-demo-farm-all-2024-selected-sites.kml](#)

Site Selection CSV Export  
[vrts-demo-demo-farm-all-2024-selected-sites.csv](#)

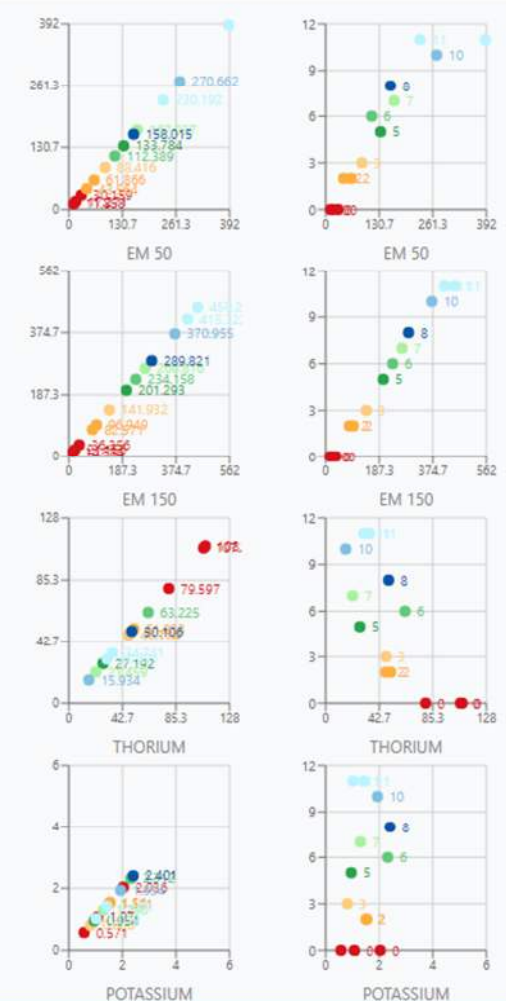
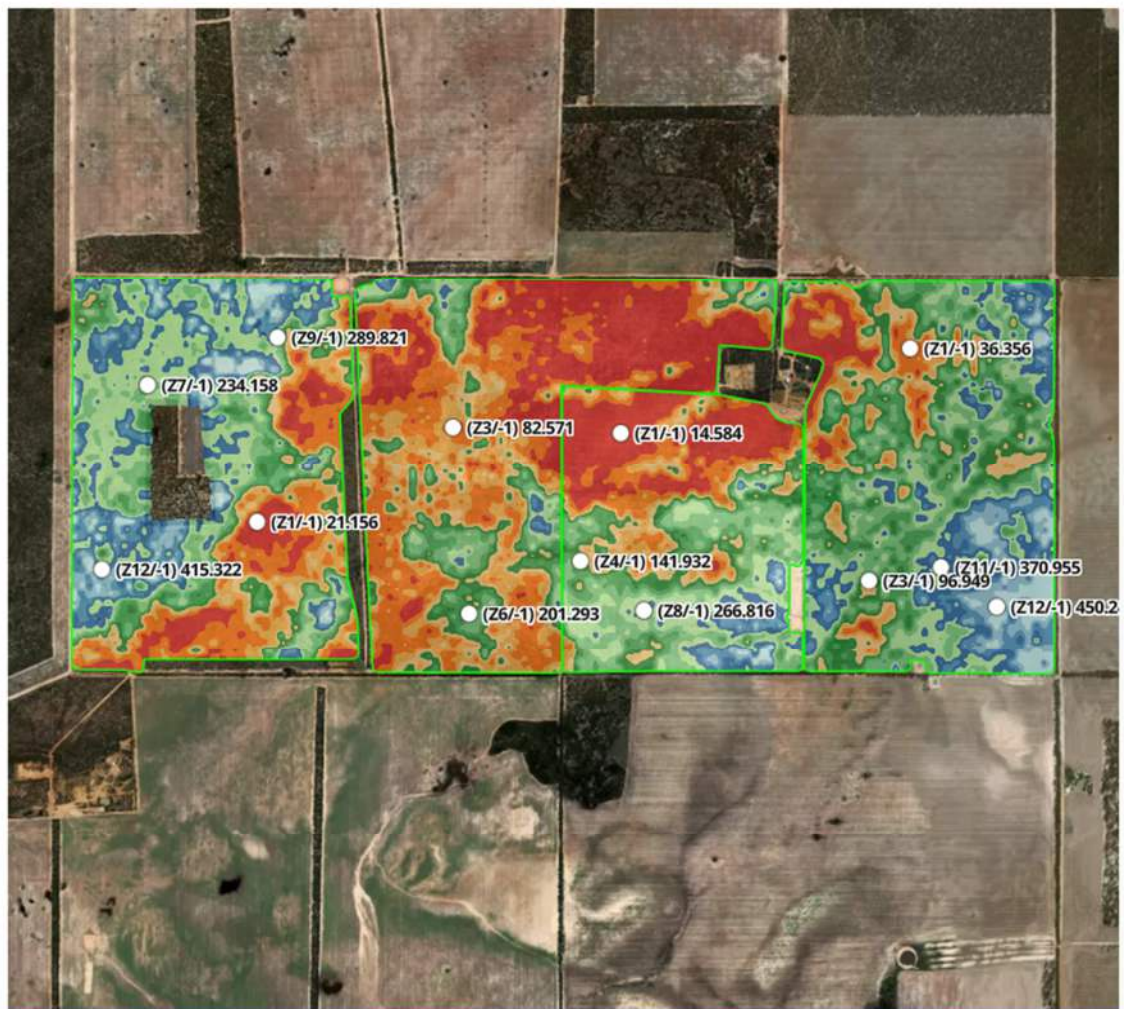
Site Id: DEMO    Sensor Size: 12    Potentials Size: 12    Selected Size: 14

**Selections**

Zones 744.34ha  
 (1) 3.58 - 38.7 - 1540216 - 14.73% - 109.64ha

Potential:     Selected:     Values:     Points:

Filter Difference: 0.01    Filter Minimum: 10

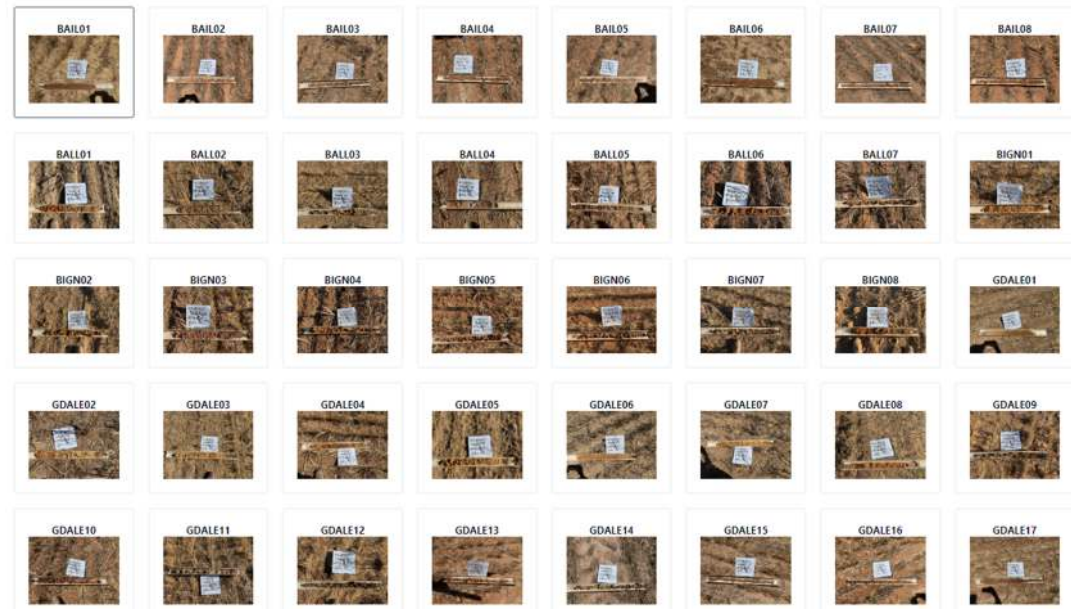


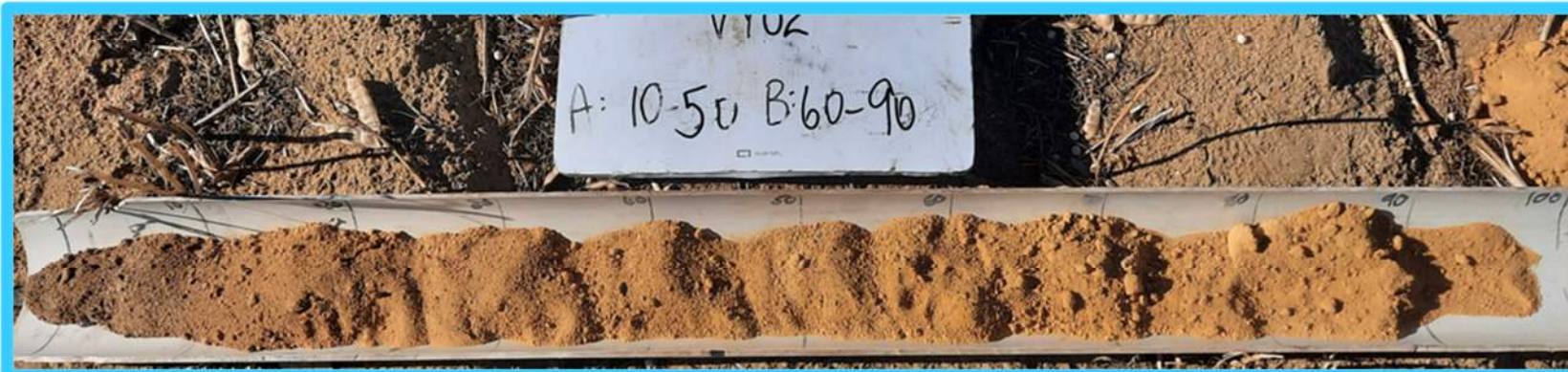
# SOIL SITE SELECTION





# SOIL SAMPLING





# SOIL TESTING

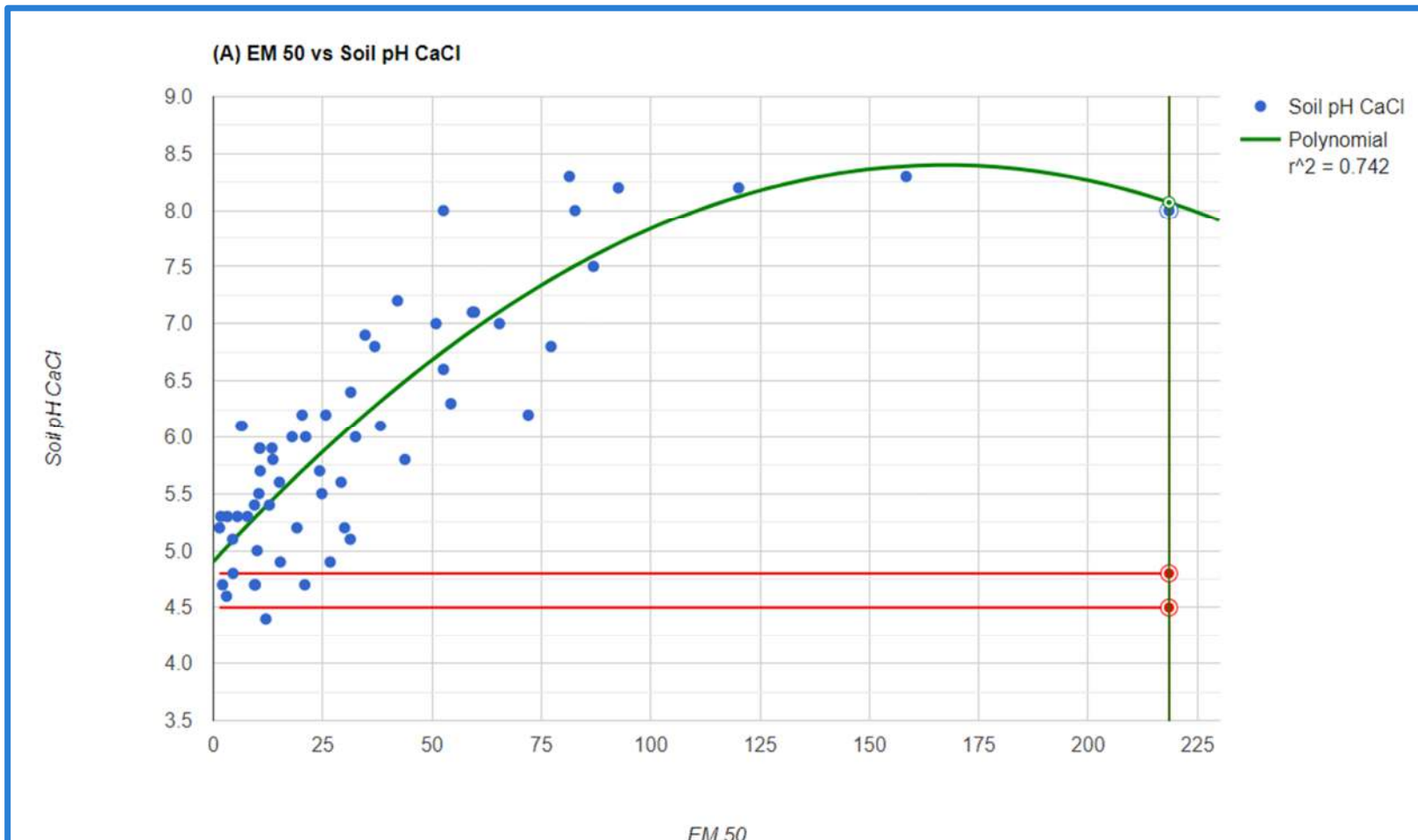


# SOIL TEST RESULTS



Sample ID	Sample Date	Depth Min[cm]	Depth Max[cm]	Soil Gravel [%]	Soil Texture	Soil K Coiwel[ppm]	Soil P Coiwel[ppm]	Soil pH CaCl	Soil pH EC	Soil Ca %[%]	Soil Mg %[%]	Soil K %[%]	Al	Ca	Mg	K	Na	S	Soil Na %[%]	Soil Al CaCl[ppm]	Soil Clay %[%]	Soil Sand %[%]	Soil Silt %[%]	S-OC-WB.12	Soil PBI	
BAIL01	28/07/2023	0	10	10	3.0	556	19	7.3	7.8	0.207	75.95	10.67	12.51	0.024	9.11	1.28	1.5	0.08	3.3	0.667	0.2	22.03	60.43	17.54	0.78	47.5
BAIL02	28/07/2023	0	10	15	3.0	311	20	6.1	6.7	0.079	55.4	22.69	15.12	0.016	3.15	1.29	0.86	0.37	4.9	6.5072	0.2	22.87	65.45	11.68	0.68	28.0
BAIL03	28/07/2023	0	10	15	3.0	236	36	5.4	6.5	0.096	47.82	26.02	13.13	0.036	1.93	1.05	0.53	0.49	3.5	12.1407	0.23	16.53	70.34	13.13	0.55	21.2
Bj	Satellite Source		10	5	3.0	408	52	5.6	6.5	0.097	50.83	27.25	13.83	0.037	3.75	2.01	1.02	0.56	7.4	7.5912	0.2	29.86	56.76	13.37	0.89	47.1
Bj			10	10	3.0	426	31	5.4	6.6	0.081	52.74	24.53	15.31	0.043	3.72	1.73	1.08	0.48	2.1	6.8056	0.2	29.65	56.32	14.02	0.8	37.6
Bj	Mapbox		10	5	3.0	306	30	5.5	6.4	0.1	53.54	21.46	15.24	0.037	2.67	1.07	0.76	0.45	5.6	9.0235	0.2	19.65	69.5	10.86	0.96	27.7
BAILU/	28/07/2023	0	10	5	3.0	303	24	5.3	5.9	0.358	47.93	23.76	10.64	0.04	3.47	1.72	0.77	1.24	20.7	17.1271	0.2	21.95	63.93	14.12	1.01	33.0
BAIL08	28/07/2023	0	10	5	3.0	405	40	5.3	6.5	0.058	46.1	29.12	18.6	0.042	2.85	1.8	1.15	0.34	1.7	5.4998	0.2	29.75	55.95	14.3	0.67	33.0
BALLO1	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	63	28	5.3	5.9	0.075	73.18	15.6	5.57	0.072	1.97	0.42	0.15	0.08	25.7	2.9718	0.25	19.74	70.05	10.21	0.54	25.1
BALLO2	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	88	21	5.4	6.1	0.052	75.61	13.24	7.67	0.04	2.17	0.38	0.22	0.06	6.8	2.0906	0.3	17.2	69.19	13.61	0.71	16.4
BALLO3	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	117	25	5.8	6.3	0.116	74.31	13.61	7.62	0.024	2.73	0.5	0.28	0.14	27.5	3.8106	0.2	14.18	72.72	13.1	1.21	13.5
BALLO4	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	84	32	5.6	6.3	0.057	75.39	14.03	6.2	0.024	2.31	0.43	0.19	0.11	4.6	3.5901	0.2	12.42	79.65	7.93	0.63	18.4
BALLO5	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	194	27	5.9	6.6	0.082	61.33	21.51	9.58	0.026	2.88	1.01	0.45	0.33	3.6	7.0273	0.2	19.49	65.28	15.23	0.71	24.2
BALLO6	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	139	26	4.9	5.7	0.119	57.35	19.12	11.21	0.054	1.74	0.58	0.34	0.32	29.5	10.5471	0.52	16.87	73.33	9.8	0.69	21.7
BALLO7	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	482	26	6.9	8.4	0.363	37.68	35.15	6.44	0.043	9.24	8.62	1.58	5.04	27.0	20.5521	0.2	38.71	46.59	14.7	0.94	106.6
BIGN01	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	141	40	5.5	6.1	0.071	69.92	16.85	7.97	0.041	3.07	0.74	0.35	0.19	19.0	4.327	0.2	21.55	70.18	8.27	1.25	63.6
BIGN02	28/07/2023	0	10	5	2.0	41	24	6.0	6.7	0.059	78.46	13.3	4.43	0.036	1.77	0.3	0.1	0.05	4.9	2.2163	0.2	17.65	73.28	9.07	0.44	7.3
BIGN03	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	459	23	7.3	8.6	0.162	77.83	11.53	8.92	0.021	12.22	1.81	1.4	0.25	2.6	1.5923	0.2	16.44	66.8	16.76	0.67	100.2
BIGN04	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	107	30	6.2	6.7	0.138	67.58	18.57	5.33	0.021	3.42	0.94	0.27	0.41	16.7	8.1012	0.2	18.14	73.99	7.87	0.7	18.8
BIGN05	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	380	36	6.1	6.9	0.074	56.04	27.91	10.45	0.035	5.36	2.67	1.0	0.5	3.8	5.2274	0.2	31.08	56.58	12.34	0.88	54.8
BIGN06	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	516	24	7.7	8.2	0.206	75.59	13.55	6.9	0.024	17.63	3.16	1.61	0.9	1.5	3.8587	0.2	25.5	63.3	11.2	0.71	93.5
BIGN07	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	461	20	7.8	8.6	0.197	71.25	18.18	5.88	0.026	17.09	4.36	1.41	1.1	2.3	4.586	0.2	37.76	50.53	11.71	0.79	117.7
BIGN08	28/07/2023	0	10	20	3.0	147	46	5.2	5.9	0.064	68.64	14.92	11.12	0.086	2.53	0.55	0.41	0.11	11.4	2.9843	0.2	18.5	79.59	1.91	0.99	44.6
GDAL01	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	164	40	4.7	5.5	0.053	46.24	15.96	17.18	0.344	1.13	0.39	0.42	0.16	9.8	6.5466	1.85	18.98	75.14	5.88	1.18	49.3
GDAL02	28/07/2023	0	10	5	2.0	56	28	5.2	5.9	0.072	77.04	13.27	5.16	0.053	2.09	0.36	0.14	0.07	19.0	2.5802	0.77	15.62	79.07	5.31	0.94	26.3
GDAL03	28/07/2023	0	10	5	2.0	81	31	5.2	6.0	0.061	70.14	12.05	11.19	0.074	1.63	0.28	0.26	0.08	11.0	3.4423	0.32	17.02	75.31	7.66	0.67	22.6
GDAL04	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	106	42	5.2	5.9	0.077	71.56	12.78	9.49	0.079	1.96	0.35	0.26	0.09	12.2	3.2859	0.2	17.81	72.46	9.73	0.88	43.8
GDAL05	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	65	18	4.7	5.5	0.039	57.13	14.98	9.98	0.273	1.03	0.27	0.18	0.05	9.6	2.7732	0.7	14.74	73.64	11.63	0.81	34.9
GDAL06	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	83	39	5.1	5.7	0.141	59.16	19.72	7.29	0.082	2.19	0.73	0.27	0.43	13.8	11.6153	0.67	21.66	66.4	11.94	1.06	51.8
GDAL07	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	73	33	5.2	5.8	0.09	71.09	15.65	6.12	0.04	2.09	0.46	0.18	0.17	23.0	5.7823	0.46	16.46	70.48	13.06	0.95	29.9
GDAL08	28/07/2023	0	10	20	3.0	87	27	5.8	6.4	0.048	72.58	17.02	6.74	0.014	2.26	0.53	0.21	0.1	3.0	3.2113	0.2	12.54	82.56	4.9	0.61	20.3
GDAL09	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	363	23	6.2	6.9	0.132	42.75	39.87	9.45	0.041	4.75	4.43	1.05	0.84	26.1	7.5601	0.2	29.03	60.74	10.22	1.07	55.9
GDAL10	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	419	27	5.7	6.5	0.088	47.66	32.8	14.34	0.053	3.69	2.54	1.11	0.35	5.2	4.5202	0.29	28.39	64.69	6.92	1.35	34.5
GDAL11	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	105	25	5.2	6.3	0.072	60.81	21.91	7.4	0.061	2.22	0.8	0.27	0.3	5.2	8.2169	0.27	15.11	74.78	10.11	0.76	14.4
GDAL12	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	378	18	5.8	6.8	0.099	49.18	31.17	11.22	0.032	4.56	2.89	1.04	0.75	3.2	8.0689	0.2	26.88	56.0	17.13	1.25	33.2
GDAL13	28/07/2023	0	10	20	3.0	336	28	5.3	5.8	0.296	59.82	23.81	10.79	0.036	5.1	2.03	0.92	0.44	7.5	5.1607	0.2	29.91	56.22	13.88	1.13	45.9
GDAL14	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	301	19	6.4	7.4	0.136	56.49	32.07	4.66	0.035	9.95	5.65	0.82	1.16	3.4	6.5853	0.2	27.3	58.35	14.35	0.9	51.6
GDAL15	28/07/2023	0	10	20	3.0	139	24	5.2	6.1	0.178	46.56	27.25	7.12	0.038	2.29	1.34	0.35	0.9	31.1	18.3001	0.22	15.76	80.17	4.07	0.7	17.8
GDAL16	28/07/2023	0	10	20	3.0	535	35	6.0	6.6	0.32	50.16	24.76	11.08	0.036	6.97	3.44	1.54	1.91	16.9	13.745	0.2	36.23	54.32	9.44	0.92	60.1
GDAL17	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	363	32	5.8	6.1	2.551	27.24	26.26	4.65	0.051	5.8	5.59	0.99	8.86	305.3	41.6138	0.2	24.85	66.0	9.15	0.88	42.3
GDAL18	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	284	27	5.6	6.1	0.592	44.03	28.09	6.64	0.059	4.64	2.96	0.7	2.18	41.9	20.6851	0.67	26.87	67.58	5.54	0.82	38.4
KURR01	28/07/2023	0	10	20	3.0	100	48	5.1	5.7	0.151	71.62	12.16	8.21	0.104	2.18	0.37	0.25	0.14	48.6	4.5992	0.59	21.63	66.4	11.97	1.13	42.8
KURR02	28/07/2023	0	10	10	2.5	93	24	5.2	5.8	0.074	76.04	12.38	6.19	0.072	1.72	0.28	0.14	0.05	20.1	2.2104	0.29	16.37	77.5	6.13	0.68	19.7
KURR03	28/07/2023	0	10	20	2.5	58	68	4.6	5.3	0.065	69.57	9.8	7.35	0.221	1.42	0.2	0.15	0.05	13.7	2.4498	1.45	19.52	71.21	9.28	1.08	34.1
KURR04	28/07/2023	0	10	20	2.5	50	23	5.3	5.8	0.131	76.27	14.75	4.71	0.046	2.43	0.47	0.15	0.09	61.4	8.2849	0.53	18.75	66.47	14.78	1.06	21.4
KURR05	28/07/2023	0	10	30	3.0	129	31	4.8	5.3	0.206	66.73	14.16	11.12	0.107	1.98	0.42	0.33	0.13	97.9	4.3815	0.7	22.49	69.72	7.79	0.93	20.8
KURR06	28/07/2023	0	10	40	3.0	108	35	5.0	5.7	0.116	72.11	13.02	7.62	0.098	2.27	0.41	0.24	0.13	40.4	4.1296	0.69	20.22	68.5	11.28	1.16	25.1

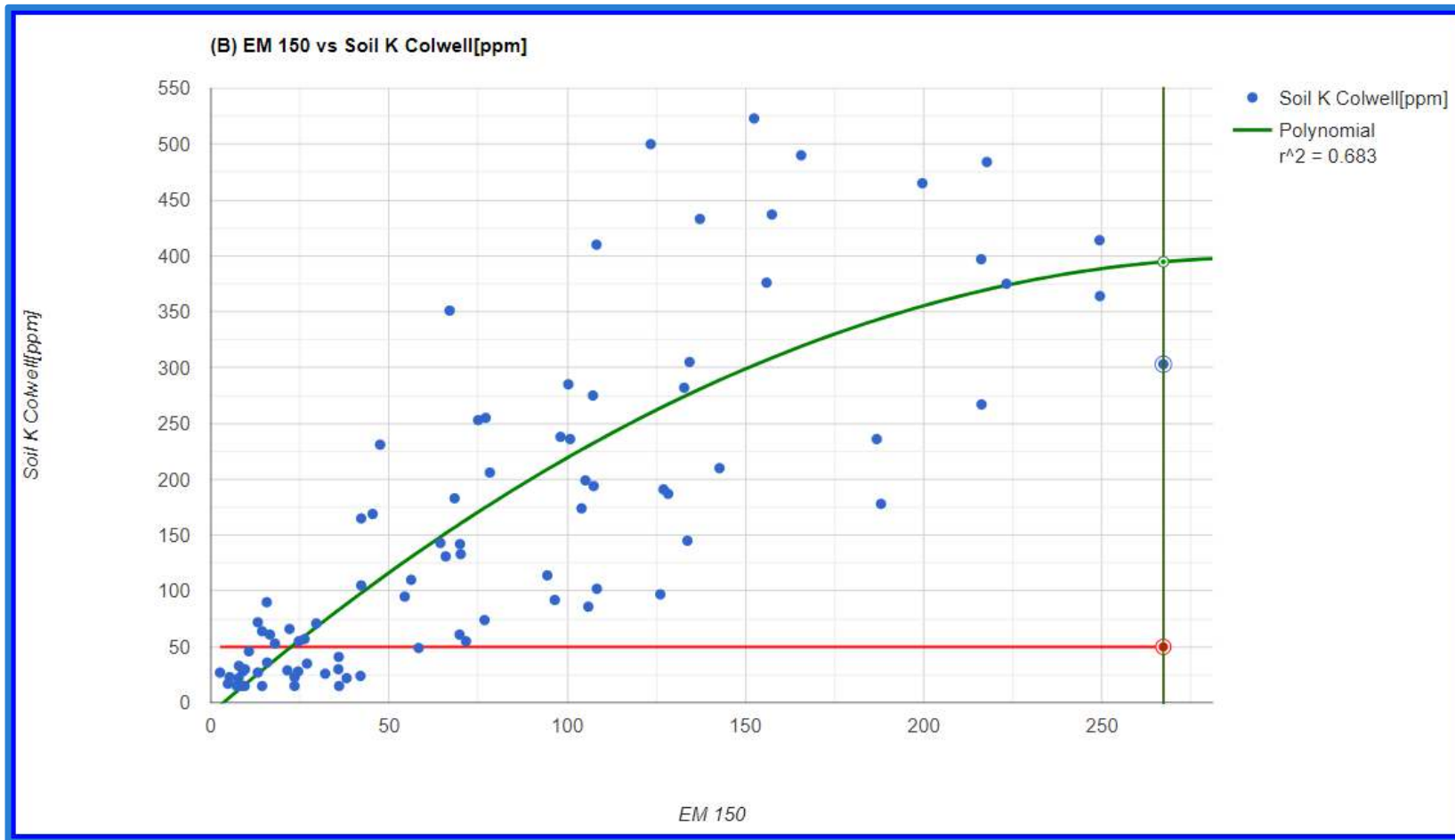
# DATA INTERPRETATION – PRESCRIPTION DEVELOPMENT



Data from:

Dumblebung  
2023

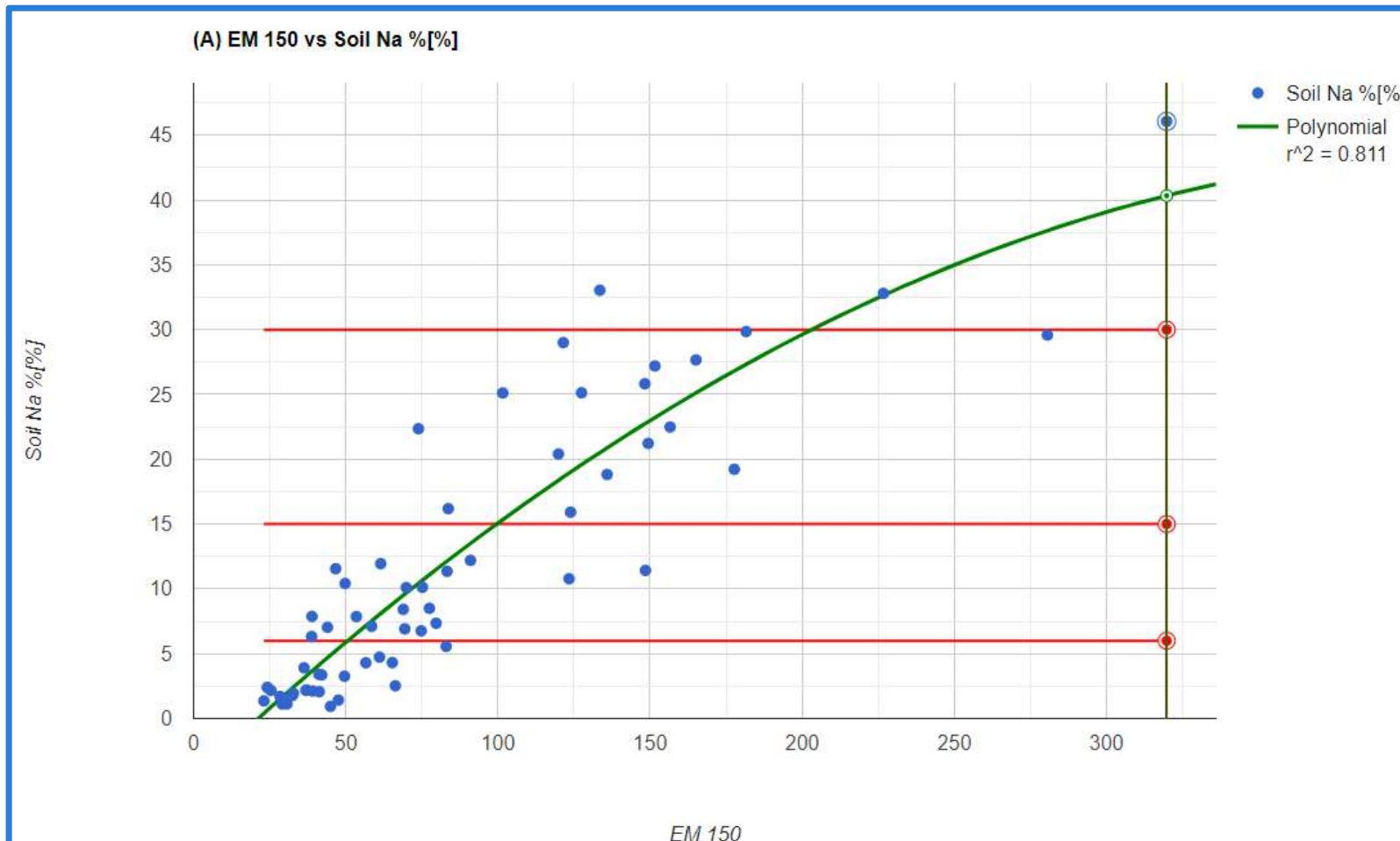
# DATA INTERPRETATION – PRESCRIPTION DEVELOPMENT



Data from:

Merredin 2023

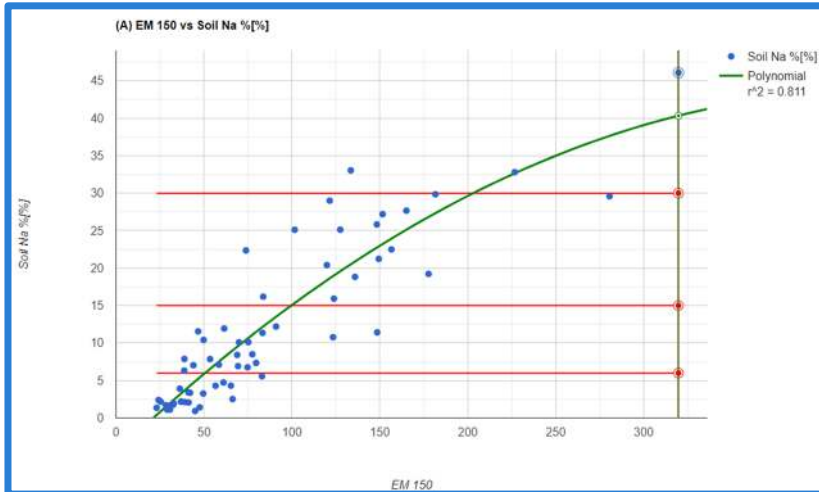
# DATA INTERPRETATION – PRESCRIPTION DEVELOPMENT



Data from:

Wagin  
2023

# PRESCRIPTION DEVELOPMENT



400.000 kg/ha	1690.79 ha	34.96 %
800.000 kg/ha	1868.37 ha	38.63 %
1,200.00 kg/ha	745.15 ha	15.41 %
1,600.00 kg/ha	364.1 ha	7.53 %
2,000.00 kg/ha	168.21 ha	3.48 %

Activity Date:	08/02/2024
Min:	400.00 kg/ha
Max:	2,000.00 kg/ha
Mean:	823.75 kg/ha
Standard Deviation:	422.23 kg/ha
Mode:	800.00 kg/ha
Coefficient Of Variance:	51.26 %
Area:	4,836.78 ha
Total:	3,984,188.80 kg

# PRESCRIPTIONS DEVELOPMENT – TRACTOR READY

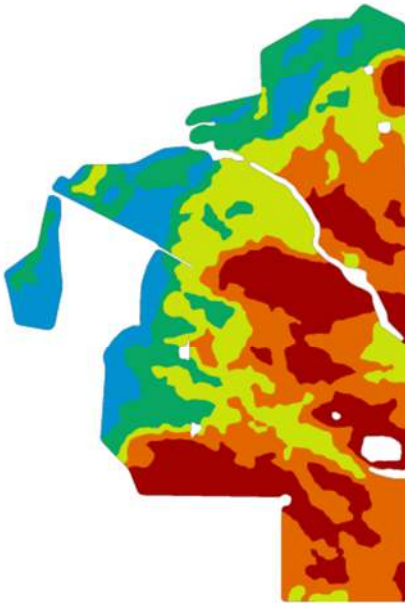




# TRACTOR READY - APPLIED

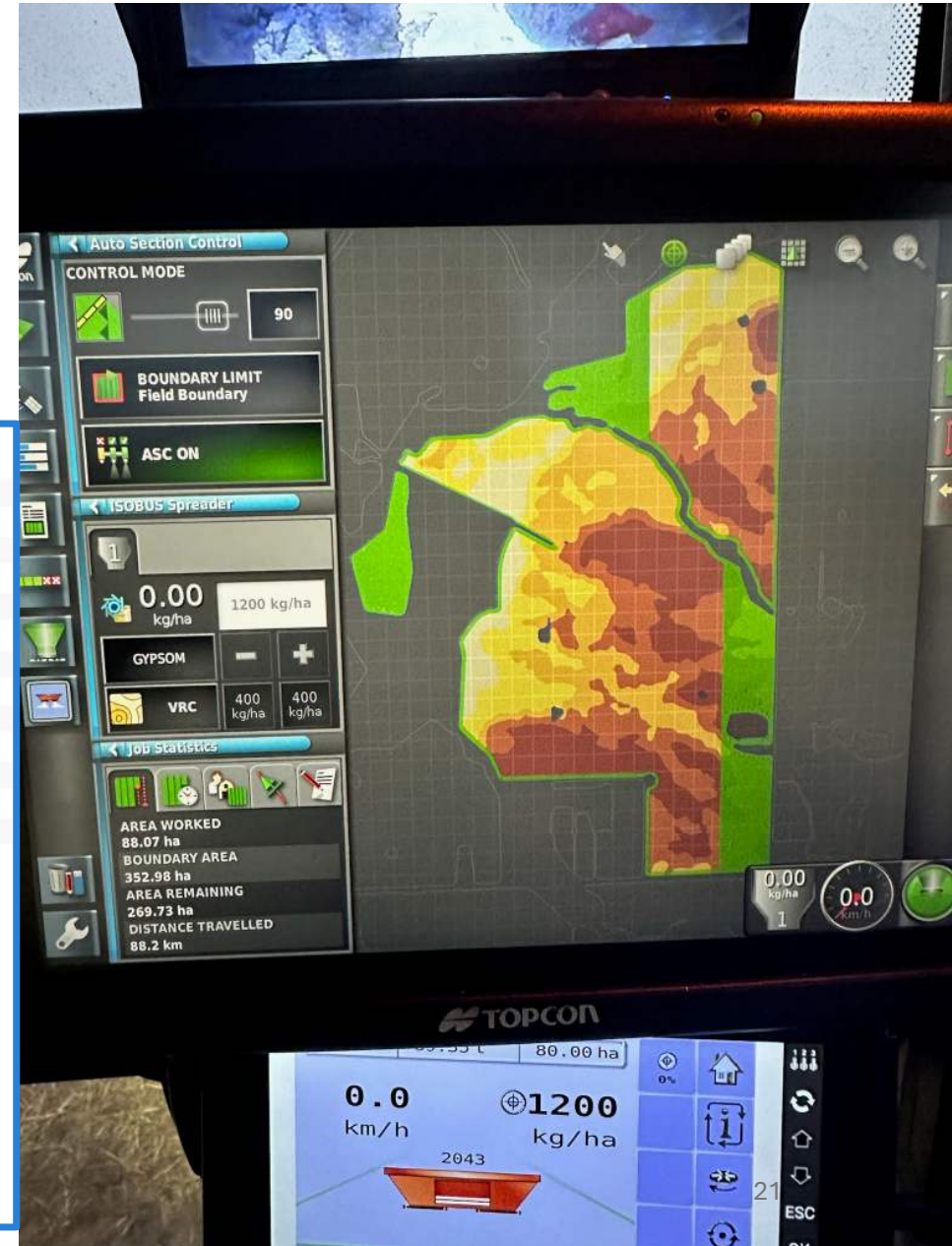
## Rx Gypsum

Dealer: VRTS  
Grower: Harwood Farms  
Farm: Harwood  
Field: Hillside



400.000 kg/ha	79.21 ha	22.45 %
800.000 kg/ha	96.07 ha	27.23 %
1,200.00 kg/ha	76.51 ha	21.69 %
1,600.00 kg/ha	61.02 ha	17.30 %
2,000.00 kg/ha	39.97 ha	11.33 %

Activity Date: 08/02/2024  
Min: 400.00 kg/ha  
Max: 2,000.00 kg/ha  
Mean: 1,071.26 kg/ha  
Standard Deviation: 520.46 kg/ha  
Mode: 800.00 kg/ha  
Coefficient Of Variance: 48.58 %  
Area: 352.73 ha  
Total: 377,923.04 kg



# VRTS – Precision Ag cheatsheet

(based on over 10 years experience)

VR lime

(soils (EM and/or GR))



# VRTS – Precision Ag cheatsheet

**VR lime** (soils (EM and/or GR))

**VR gypsum** (soils (EM))



# VRTS – Precision Ag cheatsheet

<b>VR lime</b>	<b>(soils (EM and/or GR))</b>
<b>VR gypsum</b>	<b>(soils (EM))</b>
<b>VR K</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (80 / 20)</b>



# VRTS – Precision Ag cheatsheet

<b>VR lime</b>	<b>(soils (EM and/or GR))</b>
<b>VR gypsum</b>	<b>(soils (EM))</b>
<b>VR K</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (80 / 20)</b>
<b>VR P</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (60 / 40)</b>



# VRTS – Precision Ag cheatsheet

<b>VR lime</b>	<b>(soils (EM and/or GR))</b>
<b>VR gypsum</b>	<b>(soils (EM))</b>
<b>VR K</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (80 / 20)</b>
<b>VR P</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (60 / 40)</b>
<b>VR N</b>	<b>(opportunistic / biomass)</b>



# VRTS – Precision Ag cheatsheet

<b>VR lime</b>	<b>(soils (EM and/or GR))</b>
<b>VR gypsum</b>	<b>(soils (EM))</b>
<b>VR K</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (80 / 20)</b>
<b>VR P</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (60 / 40)</b>
<b>VR N</b>	<b>(opportunistic / biomass)</b>
<b>Deep tillage / soil amelioration</b>	<b>(EM and GR combo!)</b>



# VRTS – Precision Ag cheatsheet

<b>VR lime</b>	<b>(soils (EM and/or GR))</b>
<b>VR gypsum</b>	<b>(soils (EM))</b>
<b>VR K</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (80 / 20)</b>
<b>VR P</b>	<b>(soils / yield) - (60 / 40)</b>
<b>VR N</b>	<b>(opportunistic / biomass)</b>
<b>Deep tillage / soil amelioration</b>	<b>(EM and GR combo!)</b>
<b>Routine soil monitoring</b>	<b>(approx. 4 years)</b>
<b>On-going evaluations</b>	<b>(strip appns / treatments)</b>



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Aidan Sinnott

[aidan@vrt-solutions.com](mailto:aidan@vrt-solutions.com)

0427 188 854

