Extension

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Five Year Individual Field Record

Steve Turaj, Extension Field Specialist, Food & Agriculture

There are plenty of times a hard copy of your crop records can come in handy. Think of it as a convenient way to keep track of harvest yields, soil fertility, and pest observations from year to year, along with other items of importance. The sketch map, perhaps, tied into soil and terrain features can also help direct the guy driving the lime or manure spreader away from that muddy, sure-to-get-stuck-in-spot! Give it a try, tell us how you've used it.

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Crop Advisor: "Where again did you say that field with the Armyworms is?"

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Using Your Individual Field Record Sheet

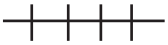
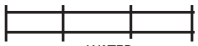
Its purpose is to give you a convenient way to store various kinds of information and observations collected over the course of the year. It's been said that no matter how impressive data may be, it's worthless if you put it somewhere and then can't find it or tell what it is when you do. A master copy of these sheets should fit well in any spare loose-leaf binder you have available. Copies can then be made for those in need of them: work crews, custom applicators, consultants or emergency responders.

Sketch Map of the Field

This "Base Map" can be as simple as a (not to scale) drawing of the field outline and its boundaries or an imported aerial photo/soil survey map obtained from FSA or NRCS/USDA. Whatever is used, you should begin by anchoring the map to a fairly permanent, easily identifiable landmark. Descriptions that make the field easy to locate by all users will save considerable time and effort later on. To make it more functional you might include:

- **Locations where special precautions are necessary, wells, spring lines, rocky outcrops, power lines, wet areas.**
- **Soil type boundaries**
- **Rights of Way and Key road ways**
- **Cell phone reception**
- **Important structures**

An Abbreviated Map Symbol Table:

Boundaries, Land Features:	**Water Features, Rivers or Streams:**
Stone Wall OOOOOO	Streams Perennial 
Rock Outcrop 	Intermittent 
Road	Drainage Ditch 
Railroad 	Drainage 
Fence	
Power-transmission line (Label if underground) UNDERGROUND	Well (Label if artesian or dug)
Pipeline (label) GAS, ETC.  WATER	**Cell Phone Reception C**

In addition, this base-map can serve as a dynamic, yearly record of field observations. You might, for instance, pencil in and date problem area hot-spots: specific weed infestations, insects, other pest damage, make note of recurrences, spreading trends. Crop insurable events could be delineated: wind/hail damaged sections of a corn field; winter-time ice sheeting or lack of snow cover, spring flooding, water ponding areas. These will aid in follow-up scouting damage to cornfield, haylands and pastures. If you find the map becoming overly crowded, a commonly used technique is to record specific events on a transparent map overlay.

The Spreadsheet:

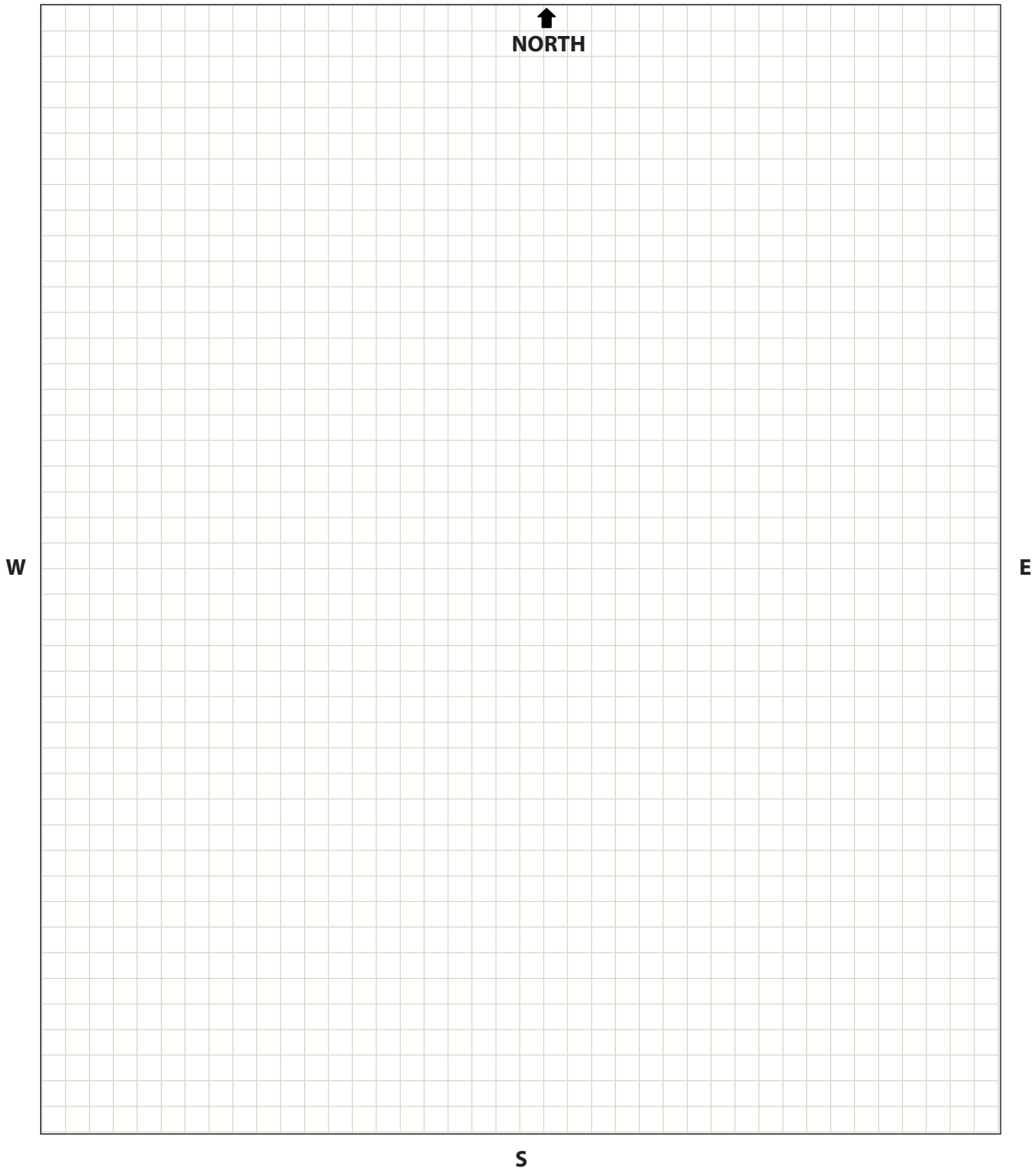
A place to explain in detail your scouting observations on the base-map. "What day it was and where did I first see cutworm damage in the corn field?" It's also meant to help you keep track of all that data you know you may need at some point. "Now what was the corn variety that did so well against the Blight last year?" Blocks for inputs and yield information, differing fertilizers, pesticide types, will help identify successful, profitable cropping approaches. "How many more days of grazing did I get after top-dressing that worn-out pasture with woodash?"

Let us know how it works best for your operations. *http://extension.unh.edu/Crops-Soils/Meet-Team*

Five Year Year Individual Field Record

Field Name: _____ **Landowner:** _____ **Date:** _____

Location: _____ **GPS Coordinates:** _____



Five-Year Record for Field: **Major Soil Types:**

		Year: 20____	Year: 20____	Year: 20____	Year: 20____	Year: 20____
CROP INFORMATION	Crop & Field Goal					
	Variety/GDDs/Days to Maturity					
	Planting Rate or Population					
	Tillage: Method/Depth					
	1st Harvest Yield & Date					
	2nd Harvest Yield & Date					
	3rd Harvest Yield & Date					
	4th Harvest Yield & Date					
	Total Yield & Relative Feed Value (RFV)					
	Weather Observations:					
FERTILIZERS	Manure Type Tons/A or Gals/A/ Date					
	Lime or Woodash Tons/Acre/Date					
	Broadcast Fert. Analysis - Lbs/A/Date					
	Bio-solid Type Analysis – T/A/Date					
	Sidedress Fert. Analysis - Lbs/A/Date					
	Other Actions:					
PESTICIDES	Pre-Ap Material(s) & Mode of Action Rate(s)/Date					
	Post-Ap Material(s) & Mode of Action Rate(s)/Date					
	Problem Weed (s) Identified					
	Other Material (s) Used Rate(s)/Date					
	Other Pest Observations:					

SOIL TESTS	Soil Tests - Years	Lab Testing	Soil Texture	Soil pH	Buffer pH	Organic Matter %	Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Potassium (K)	Phosphorus (P)	Nitrogen (N)	Soil Health Limitations	Soil Health/Actions Taken
	1												
	2												
	3												
	4												
	5												

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About the Author

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