

## Data Management

# Data Management Audit

To maximize returns, farmers should consider the upfront costs and long-term benefits of data management. The best way to accomplish this is to take an inventory of the equipment and systems needed on the farm and identify the appropriate partners, such as local dealers and service providers who can fill those needs.

### DATA MOBILITY

Consider how the data is moved from point of origination to point of application.

- ▶ Physical memory cards
- ▶ Wireless data transfer

### DATA TOOLS

Compatibility can be an issue between data sources and should be considered when selecting a hardware and software solution on the farm.

- ▶ Machine-based (third-party sensors and bolt-on devices)
- ▶ Mobile devices and smartphone apps
- ▶ Field deployable devices (weather stations, moisture or plant sensors)
- ▶ The cloud (farm data sources too large for traditional storage and management)

### FARM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (FMIS)

The best FMIS is one you like and use regularly. Ask yourself: What do I want my FMIS to do?

- ▶ Find efficiencies on the farm?
- ▶ Help visualize field and farm data through mapping?
- ▶ Assist with farm planning and management plans?

FMIS platforms include desktop and cloud service systems. There are benefits and limitations for each of these platforms, including:

#### FMIS Considerations

	BENEFITS	LIMITATIONS
<b>Desktop Platform</b>	Custom reports, greater analytics, data privacy controls.	Periodic software updates, training to be proficient, reduced data mobility.
<b>Cloud Service</b>	Easy to use, greater data mobility, data sharing.	Continually changing, interoperability, lack of long-term data archiving.

For more information and links to additional resources, visit [www.unitedsoybean.org/techtoolshed](http://www.unitedsoybean.org/techtoolshed)