The Impact of Weather on Organic Farming

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Has Our Project Scope Changed?

- Yes – based largely on USDA call for proposals, we narrowed the focus to weather and pest management.

- This is an area where very little research has been done – especially for migratory pests.
Progress to Date

- USDA proposal
  - “I have not seen a proposal that has suggested the type of thing you are considering. Personally, this is a direction I would like to see organic farmers move...”
The end-end-end process

DSS development

Users & Researchers

DSS refinement

DSS evaluation
Organic Survey

- Section I – Current organic farming practices
- Section II – Corn pests and pest management
- Section III – An online corn pest decision-support system
Corn Pests
Barriers/Frustrations

- Ability to communicate (time)
- Didn’t pre-test survey
- Surveys never arrived
- Lack of knowledge
- No funds for travel
Lessons Learned

- Never stop
- Don’t be afraid to fail
- Don’t be afraid to ask questions
- Don’t be too ambitious
Development of an Online Decision Support System for Forecasting Pest Migration in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois

- Determine whether and how organic farmers utilize weather information
- Develop spatial, probabilistic forecasts of corn pest migration
- Demonstrate the utility of the online Decision-Support System