

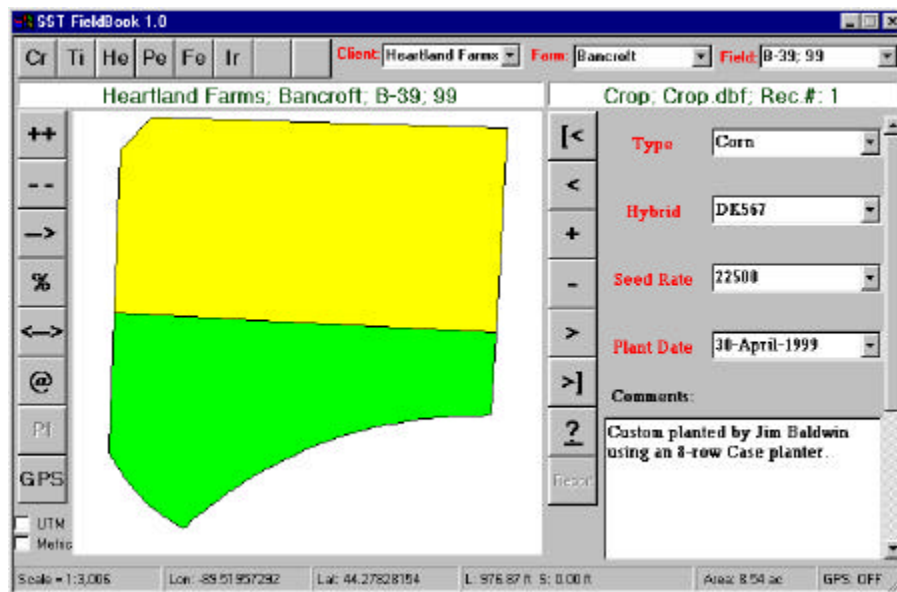
Abstract for NAICC Emerging Technologies Poster

SST FieldBook™

To further the adoption of site-specific technologies, SST has implemented the SST Information Lab™ program, where independently owned companies process farm- and field-level data into information that growers can use to make better management decisions.

Typically, the data input into a GIS is site-specific data. Until now, important whole-field data like planting date, tillage method, tillage tool, and hybrid type have not been combined with site-specific data for analyses. SST has created SST FieldBook™ for free distribution to SST Information Lab customers so they can easily record these farm management practices. SST FieldBook™ uses data templates specified by the Information Lab to maintain consistency for varietal designations, and fertilizer and pesticide products. Once the data are entered, then all data is transferred to the Information Lab for data storage and analysis. The Information Lab in turn delivers reports tailored to each farm as well as provides information gained from the analysis of pooled data (identities protected).

SST FieldBook™



Precision agriculture depends on the collection of geo-referenced data from various sources and different devices. The knowledge gained from analysis of site-specific data helps a grower make more profitable decisions about his farming practices. With the introduction of *SST FieldBook™* people can now effectively utilize whole-field data in addition to site-specific data. Consider how often yield is affected by any one or more of the following whole-field variables: *Planting date, Tillage method, Tillage tool, Hybrid selection, and so on...*

PRIMARY BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING SST FIELDBOOK™

- The producer and retailer can now record farm management operations using a portable in-field computer.
- Whole field data can be combined with site-specific data for a more thorough picture of variables that impact crop yield.
- The producer benefits from analysis of his own farm data as well as from regional analysis of pooled data (when permission is given to group data anonymously).

WHAT DATA IS COLLECTED AND HOW IS IT COLLECTED?

Producers can enter data in the field or at the office using SST FieldBook™ software on a computer operating with Windows 95/98 or NT. SST FieldBook™ utilizes existing field boundaries and data templates created by the Information Lab. Data templates are initially loaded into SST FieldBook™ at the Information Lab to maintain consistency for data collected by growers. As more data is collected the accuracy of the information becomes more valuable to the producer. For example, if one SST FieldBook™ user records DeKalb 485 as D485 and another records it as DK485, these varietal designations would not indicate the same variety in the database. Instead, SST FieldBook™ presents choices from pick lists. Besides ensuring consistent naming conventions, this method also saves the grower time when entering data. Once the data are entered, then all data is transferred to the Information Lab for data storage and analysis. Consider the value of comparing a grower's data with other growers' data in a user-defined area (identities protected) utilizing similar practices.

- SST FieldBook™ collects farm and field data
 - ✓ Planting dates
 - ✓ Harvest dates
 - ✓ Hybrids/Varieties
 - ✓ Tillage types
 - ✓ Tillage tools
 - ✓ Fertilizer applications and rates
 - ✓ Pesticide applications and rates
 - ✓ Pest infestation areas, and so on...
- SST FieldBook™ collects records using GPS in order to mark specific areas or to mark locations where varieties were changed.

SST FieldBook™ is designed by SST Development Group, the developers of SSToolbox®—the most widely recognized precision ag GIS software in use by Consultants, Farm Retailers, Educators, and Researchers.