



# 2018 FFA Fantasy Farming Challenge in Iowa

## Trial Objective

- Since 2016, the Bayer Learning Center in Huxley, Iowa has engaged the Iowa FFA community in a farming contest dubbed the Fantasy Farming Challenge. The program allows students to make key decisions for a plot of corn to produce the highest yield and/or the highest profit.
- The students select several real-life crop production management decisions, each with an associated cost. The Learning Center plants each FFA chapters' plot utilizing the selected management inputs. FFA Chapters are invited to the Learning Center to see their plot and learn about Bayer Crop Science and the many opportunities within agriculture.
- At the end of the 2018 season, each plot was harvested and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes were awarded for the highest yield and/or the highest profit.
- In 2018, 25 chapters participated in the program.

## Research Site Details

Location	Soil Type	Previous Crop	Tillage Type	Planting Date	Harvest Date	Potential Yield (bu/acre)	Seeding Rate (seeds/acre)
Huxley, IA	Clay loam	Soybean	Strip tillage	Various	09/28/2018	225	Various

- Each chapters' management decisions are shown in Table 1.
- Each plot was planted in 30-inch row spacing, 6 rows per chapter, and 375-ft long strips.
- Weed management was the same across all plots and consisted of a pre- and post-emergence program.

**Table 1. Management decisions of the 25 FFA chapters involved in the 2018 Fantasy Farming Challenge.**

FFA Chapter	Corn Brand Blend Products	Seeding Rate (seeds/acre)	Planting Date	Nitrogen (lb/acre)	Side Dress	Starter Fertilizer	Soil Insecticide	Foliar Fungicide	Total Cost (\$/acre) *	Yield Rank	Net Profit Rank
Wilton	DKC64-34RIB	37,500	Early	200	No	Yes	No	No	\$712.83	1	1
Diamond Trail	DKC58-06RIB	34,000	Mid	240	Yes	No	No	No	\$700.47	2	2
South Winneshiek	DKC61-86RIB	33,500	Mid	250	No	Yes	No	Yes	\$750.69	3	8
Davis County	DKC64-34RIB	32,500	Early	185	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$724.10	4	5
Corydon-Wayne	DKC64-34RIB	38,000	Mid	230	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$808.15	5	15
Gilbert	DKC60-87RIB	36,000	Early	180	Yes	Yes	No	No	\$692.06	6	4
SE Polk	DKC60-87RIB	33,000	Mid	200	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	\$689.86	7	3
Rock Valley	DKC64-34RIB	34,000	Mid	165	No	Yes	Yes	No	\$719.87	8	7
Collins-Maxwell	DKC63-21RIB	35,500	Mid	170	Yes	Yes	No	No	\$712.01	9	6
Westwood	DKC63-21RIB	35,500	Mid	200	No	Yes	No	Yes	\$747.96	10	10
Newton	DKC63-21RIB	34,000	Mid	170	Yes	No	No	Yes	\$725.50	11	9



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CAM	DKC54-38RIB	35,000	Early	240	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$743.51	12	14
Linn-Mar	DKC64-34RIB	35,200	Mid	181	No	No	No	Yes	\$728.13	13	13
Shenandoah-Davis-Rodgers	DKC60-87RIB	31,000	Early	160	Yes	No	Yes	No	\$698.50	14	11
Kingsley-Pierson	DKC58-06RIB	34,000	Mid	180	Yes	No	No	Yes	\$694.88	15	12
AC-GC	DKC64-34RIB	35,000	Mid	175	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$743.96	16	19
Albia	DKC64-34RIB	32,000	Late	165	No	Yes	No	No	\$743.80	17	20
Audubon	DKC60-87RIB	32500	Mid	155	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$729.05	18	16
Roland Story	DKC64-34RIB	32500	Mid	160	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$728.04	19	18
ADM	DKC64-34RIB	33000	Mid	155	Yes	No	No	Yes	\$716.39	20	17
Charles City	DKC54-38RIB	34000	Mid	200	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$713.47	21	21
Missouri Valley	DKC58-06RIB	35000	Mid	140	No	No	Yes	Yes	\$686.81	22	22
Ballard	DKC54-38RIB	33000	Late	145	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	\$697.97	23	23
SE Warren	DKC64-34RIB	38000	Mid	132	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$709.07	24	24
GMG	DKC54-38RIB	34000	Mid	90	Yes	No	Yes	No	\$645.63	25	25

Early, mid, and late planting dates were on 4/28/2018, 5/10/2018, and 5/24/2018, respectively.

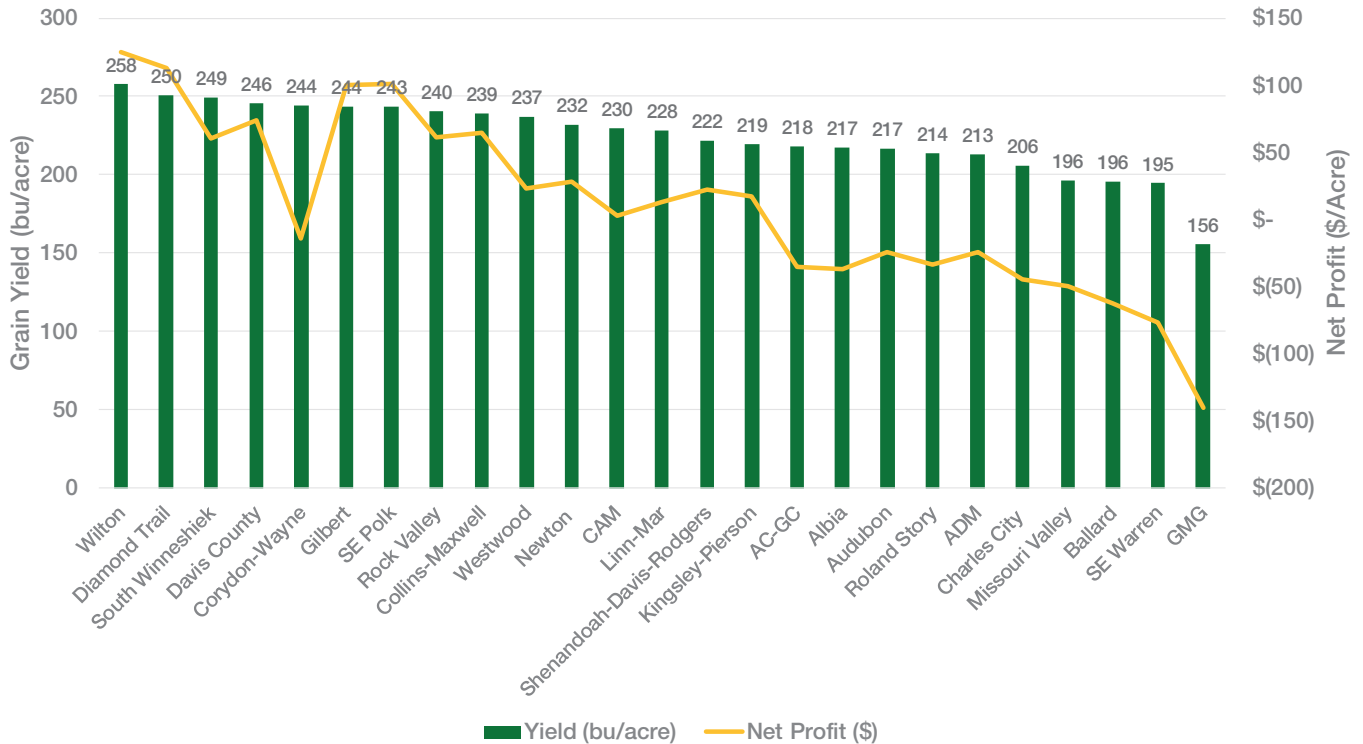
\*Chapters did not pay any cash amount to participate in the program. All costs associated with the program were paid by Bayer Crop Science.

## Understanding the Results

- Congratulations to our 2018 winners (Figure 1).
  - **Yield Winners**
  - **1st** Wilton (\$1,000.00)
  - **2nd** Diamond Trail (\$500.00)
  - **3rd** South Winneshiek (\$250.00)
  - **Net Profit Winners**
  - **1st** Wilton (\$1,000.00)
  - **2nd** Diamond Trail (\$500.00)
  - **3rd** S.E. Polk (\$250.00)
  - **3rd** Gilbert (\$250.00)
- We look forward to another exciting program in 2019.



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**Figure 1. Yield and profit results of the 2018 FFA Fantasy Farming Challenge at the Bayer Learning Center at Huxley, IA.**

## What Does This Mean For Your Farm?

- Each growing season presents its own unforeseen challenges that make some well-intended decisions fall short. We hope students appreciate the challenges our farmers face each year.

## Legal Statements

The information discussed in this report is from a single-site, replicated demonstration trial. This informational piece is designed to report the results of this demonstration and is not intended to infer any confirmed trends. Please use this information accordingly.

**Performance may vary**, from location to location and from year to year, as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible and should consider the impacts of these conditions on the grower's fields.

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