PALMS
Applying the Concept

Bill Stangel
Soil Solutions Consulting
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin
bstangel@powerweb.net
Experience to Date

- VERY Limited exposure
- Workshops in 2001
- Discussions of funding for development
- Future systems integration / conception
Strengths of Concept

- PALMS is robust in addressing spatial variability
- Predictive capabilities are impressive
- Actively engages FARM specific data
- Quality of input variables are elegantly expressed in Yield
Spatial Components

- Landscape / raster format
- Overcomes tabular/field ID limitations
- Facilitates cumulative effects of infiltration & flow
- Familiar system of surface generation/interpolation
Predictive Capabilities

- Presentation of predicted Yield vs. Measured Yield
- “What if” management variables are simply compared
- Ability to select historic weather scenarios
- Opportunity for a Work In Progress for the growing crop
Farm and/or Site Specific Data

- Field variability is addressed
- Farm operations not yet integrated
- Landscape components are systematically collected
Real Life Challenges

- Need to integrate into the Farm Management Routines
- Larger Information Systems are non-existent in Agriculture
- Disparate data & non-spatial information are DOA
- Limits of time and money in daily application
Future Applications ...

- This system aggressively addresses difficult issues facing farmers today – in a convincing manner

- Target audience
  - 20 / 80 rule
  - 20 percent of farms produce
  - 80 percent of output
Next Steps

- Continue ground truthing
- Develop additional crop modules
- Forge Private/Public avenues for integration into commercially viable applications