Test Plots Factsheet

Importance of Test Plots

- Needed to estimate crop yields for the current season;
- Represent the average production in each field;
- Must be placed early in season to be unbiased; and
- **Must not be removed or harvested by the producer.**

The data collected is required to establish the producers individual yield history.
This information is also used when calculating the producer and provincial average yields.

Number of Acres in Field	Number of Test Plots required
1 – 5 Acres	4 Test Plots
6 – 10 Acres	6 Test Plots
More than 10 Acres	8 Test Plots

Producers may request to have additional Test Plots placed if they feel that the original placement of the plots is not representative of the crop yield within the field. They should request the placement of a second diagonal by August 31st of the crop year.

Test plot markers placed early in the season to avoid bias

Test Plot Location

Test Plots are placed at equal distances on a diagonal across the field to get an unbiased representation of the yields. In the event that a second diagonal test plot is placed in the field, it will be done in the opposite diagonal. The weights of marketable crop harvested from all the test plots will then be used to calculate the average for a combined total for the field.

On a field that is 500 feet in length and has 40 drills (rows) the layout is as follows:
Divide the length by five (number of test plots required + one) = 100 feet.
Divide the number of drills (40) by five (number of test plots required + one) = eight drills.

On a one acre field four plots are required (see diagram below):
The first plot will be placed at 100 feet down drill #8.
The second plot will be placed at 200 feet down drill #16.
The third plot will be placed 300 feet down drill #24.
The fourth plot will be placed 400 feet down drill #32.

By adding one to the number of test plots, it eliminates the placement of test plots at the perimetre of the field which are generally not representative.

Example field with test plots:
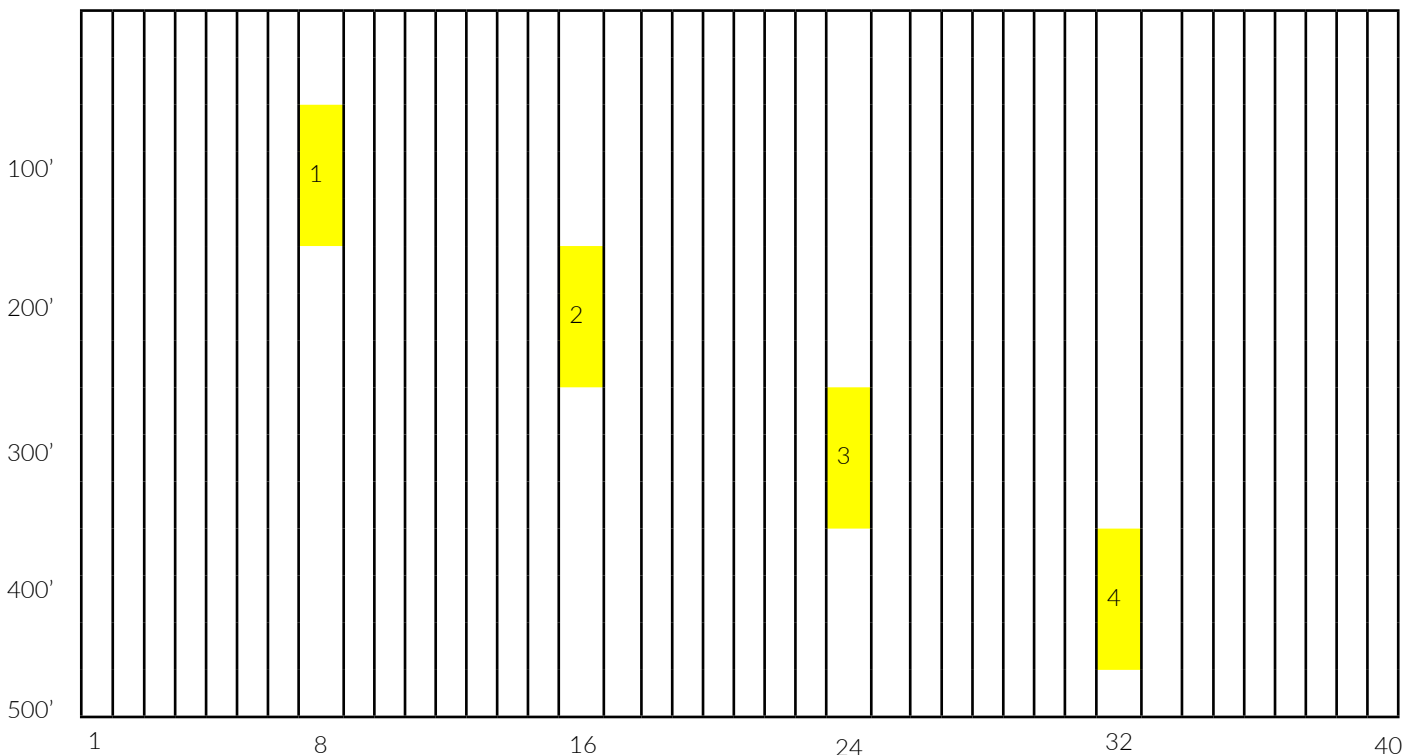
Yield Formula per Field

[(Test Plot Average Yield (lbs.) X 26.16)/ Drill Width (inches)] X Acres X 2000 (lbs.)/Ton.

All fields with the same crop have their yields added together to get a total yield for the farm.

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