

[https://www.crescent-news.com/news/local\\_farm/area-farmers-learn-about-top-soil-mapping-other-innovations-at-wilbur-ellis-grower-meeting/article\\_f949fabe-c548-11ee-aeca-2b84861bd8b5.html](https://www.crescent-news.com/news/local_farm/area-farmers-learn-about-top-soil-mapping-other-innovations-at-wilbur-ellis-grower-meeting/article_f949fabe-c548-11ee-aeca-2b84861bd8b5.html)

## Area farmers learn about top-soil mapping, other innovations at Wilbur-Ellis Grower Meeting

WENDY BRYANT SCHEURICH wscheurich@crescent-news.com

Feb 10, 2024



A top soil mapping tool using gamma radiation was the subject of a presentation Tuesday given by Ryan DeMorrow, Wilbur-Ellis ag tech lead, at Wilbur-Ellis' grower meeting. Here, speaker DeMorrow stands in front of a new Fendt sprayer brought to the event for farmers to look over as part of the agricultural event, held at the 1920s Theater in Sauder Village.

Wendy Bryant Scheurich/C-N Photo

ARCHBOLD — Nearly 50 farmers attended Wilbur-Ellis' grower meeting Tuesday at Sauder Village's 1920s theater here.

Experts in the agriculture field from Wilbur-Ellis Agribusiness, as well as Eric Richer of Ohio State University Extension and others spoke on such topics as "Corn Trait Best Use Practices," biologicals, budgeting, crop insurance, soil sampling, fungicides and others.

Ryan DeMorrow, ag tech lead for Wilbur-Ellis, gave a presentation on soil sampling and top soil analysis innovations and insights for better yields with Soil Optix, a top soil mapping tool that utilizes gamma radiation.

Soil Optix gives 335 data points per acre, said DeMorrow. Once it is run across the entire field, it will tell the best spots to take physical soil samples, pointing out eight points on an eight-acre grid, or one spot per acre.

Once data is collected the soil data and gamma radiation readings are sent for analysis to Soil Optix, which provides a quick turn-around of data back to the farmer, he said.

The data takes into account organic matter, sand and soil pH, and after one pass around the field can provide 25 different maps that include physical properties, macro and micro nutrients, and complex models that tell the grower such things as bulk density of the soil, leakability, plant available water and elevation — all properties important to take in to consideration when planting and growing crops for the best yield.

DeMorrow said the Soil Optix data makes it possible to create fertility and seed prescriptions or any variable rate prescription needed.

Other presentations covered other solutions to challenges farmers face.

Wilbur-Ellis presented the event, which was organized by its Pulaski location. Many area agribusiness vendors were also on hand to talk with growers and answer questions about their products.

---

Wendy Scheurich