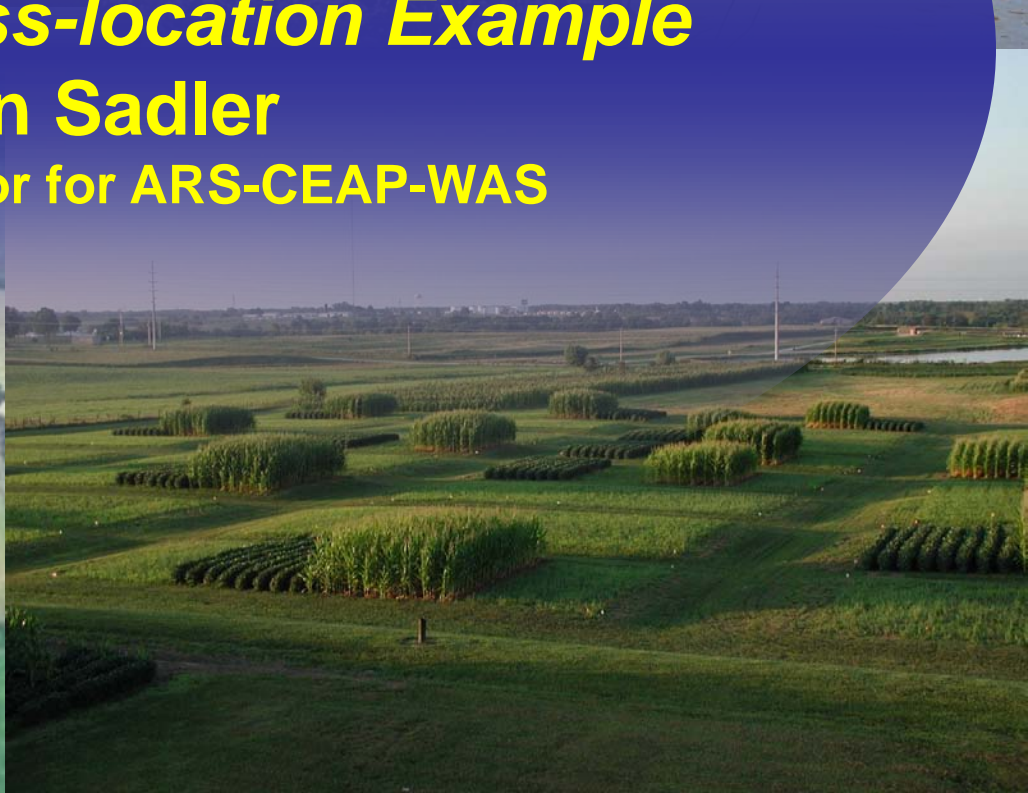



Conservation Effects Assessment Project
CEAP as a Cross-location Example
John Sadler
Field Coordinator for ARS-CEAP-WAS



Cross-location Issues

- A common goal provided focus
- Seed funding helped leverage interest and commitment to project
- Communication was a challenge
 - Meetings face to face required, especially at first
 - Various team leads, RLs, or SYs
 - Parallel system for data managers
- Contributions to annual reports went well
- Field Coordinator and team leaders worked pretty well as a leadership model
- Having a point person or pair (coord and NPL) helped represent CEAP to other agencies, projects, meetings, etc.

Value of cross-location project

- **Attacked bigger problems**
 - Specifically those where spatial variation leverages answers to be more general
- **Brought more resources to bear**
 - Funds, scientific expertise, partners
- **Raised visibility and strength of voice**
- **Demonstrated ARS commitment to problem as no single location could**
- **Facilitated sharing data, and that contributed to collaboration**

Challenges in STEWARDS

- **During development – diverse group**
- **Communication, communication, communication!**
- **Needed to be a hugely flexible database structure**
 - Disparate data now
 - No way to predict what might be coming
- **Bridge between temporal and spatial data**
- **Substantial metadata if others are to use data**
- **Data use policy, attribution, trust issues**
- **Highly variable local IT resources**
 - Training, database development, and management utilities.
- **Data providers need to see the benefit**
- **Financial support of CEAP was essential to bringing STEWARDS to operational status.**

Benefits of STEWARDS

- **Visibility far beyond local databases**
 - And those are big – e.g., Boise, Tucson
 - Potential for increased impact to scientists
- **DB-to-DB queries – STORET, NWIS via WEBX**
- **Facilitate cross-location projects**
 - Previously needed more up-front work to merge data for single analysis or modeling work
 - Focus of next phase of NP211
- **Provide a framework for new watersheds to follow**
- **Increased the IT resources**
 - Formal training and OJT/experience
- **Defined needs for IT**
- **Provided model for other databases**