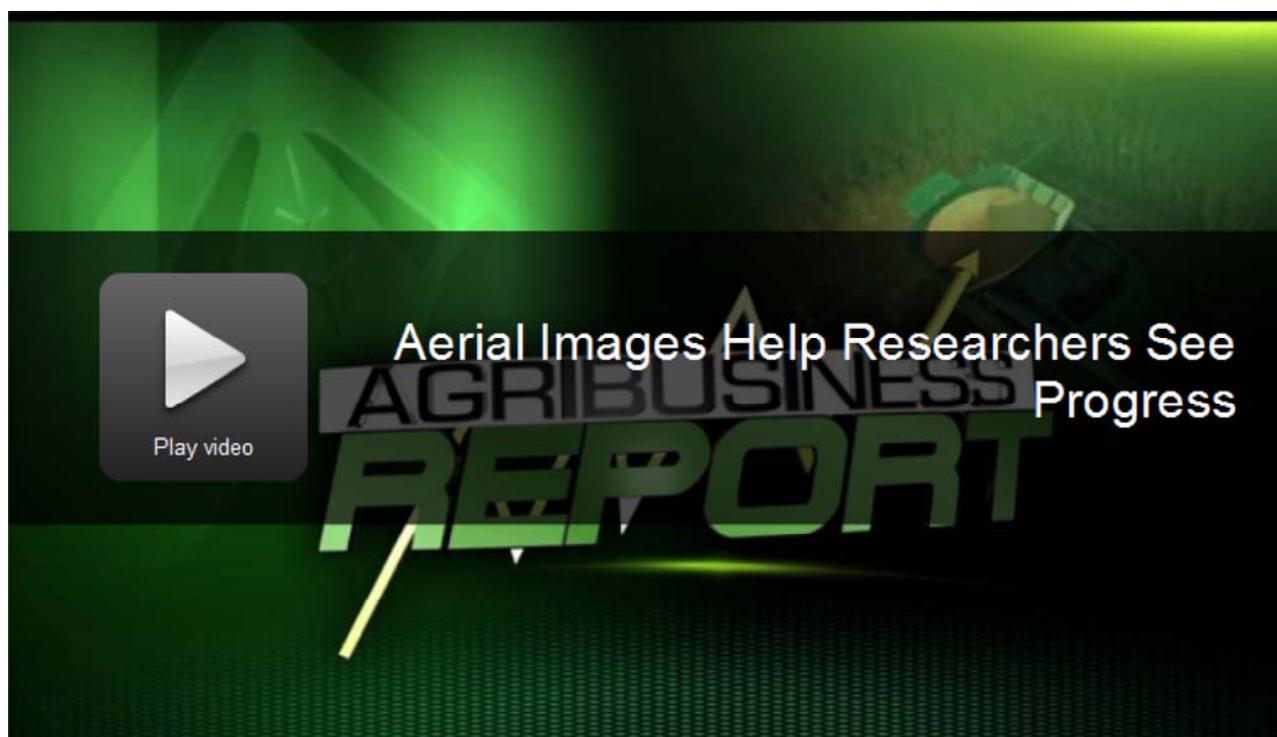


# Aerial Images Help Researchers See Progress

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Airplanes you see flying over farm fields can apply pesticides, herbicides, or just take pictures. That's helping farmers with their operations and field researchers with on-farm trials.

After working with farmers to supply, plant, and scout out crops. In the fall, it's time for the Iowa Soybean Association to see results of their on-farm trials.

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ISA Field Research Specialist Brett McArtor says, "It gives us something to go back to the farmer and kind of show them exactly, 'This is what happened to your field, you can see this and you can see what's going on.'"

And it takes a plane with a special camera, taking photos of trial fields.

Agriculture Manager Matt Sweeney with Geovantage says, "Well we supply aerial imagery to the Iowa Soybean Association's On-Farm Network. As you can see behind me, we use manned aircraft to collect this imagery. Our delivery is a four-band product."

That includes a normal photo, an infrared, and an NDVI calculation, which is a special vegetative index. These pictures are delivered in 48 hours or less.

Sweeney says, "Well it's very important for our agriculture customers to have a short turn around time. The crop can change dramatically depending on the weather conditions that it's growing in."

And McArtor says that can help them prepare for next time, "They can use it to spot issues that they have with their planting with their nitrogen applications. They can go out and spot any issues that they see out in the field and then directly target those issues to go out and look at rather than trying to walk through a whole field when the corn's 14 feet tall."

McArtor says pictures can be taken at any time, but it's most valuable to farmers before harvest begins.

Sweeney says aerial imagery is very important for quality control.



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