



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

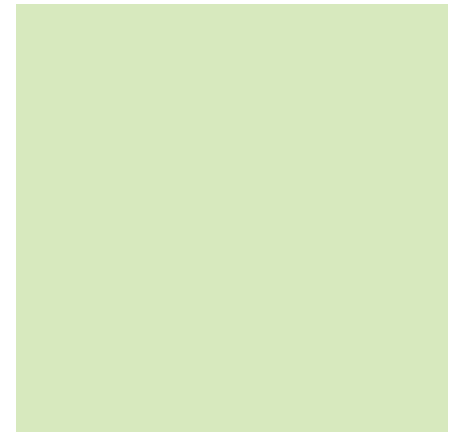
This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

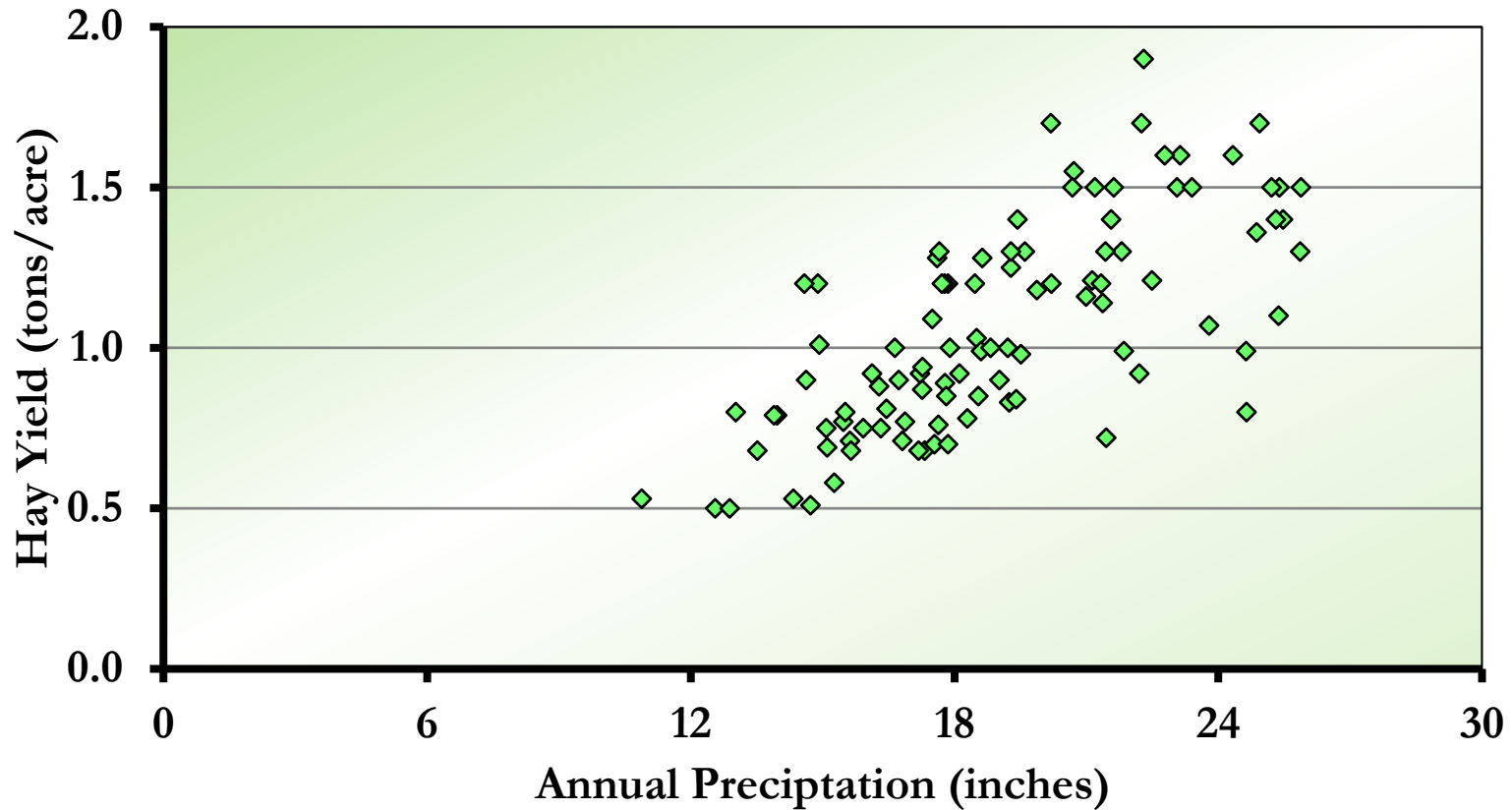


**Trade-offs in the Pasture, Rangeland
and Forage Rainfall Index (PRF-RI)
Insurance Purchase Decision**

**NC-1177 Annual Meeting - Minneapolis, MN
October 3, 2017**

Matthew Diersen & Scott Fausti

South Dakota Rainfall and Hay Yields, 1917-2016



Ifft, Wu and Kuethe (2014)



- Explicitly test for changes in pasture land values before and after introduction of PRF
 - e.g., $V_{pasture} = X_{it}\beta + \delta PRF_t + \epsilon$
- Also test for impact of length of adoption (> 3 years) and intensity of adoption (% of eligible land covered)
- Found 4-9% increase or premium in $V_{pasture}$
 - May get capitalized like other payments

Maples, Brorsen and Biermacher (2015)



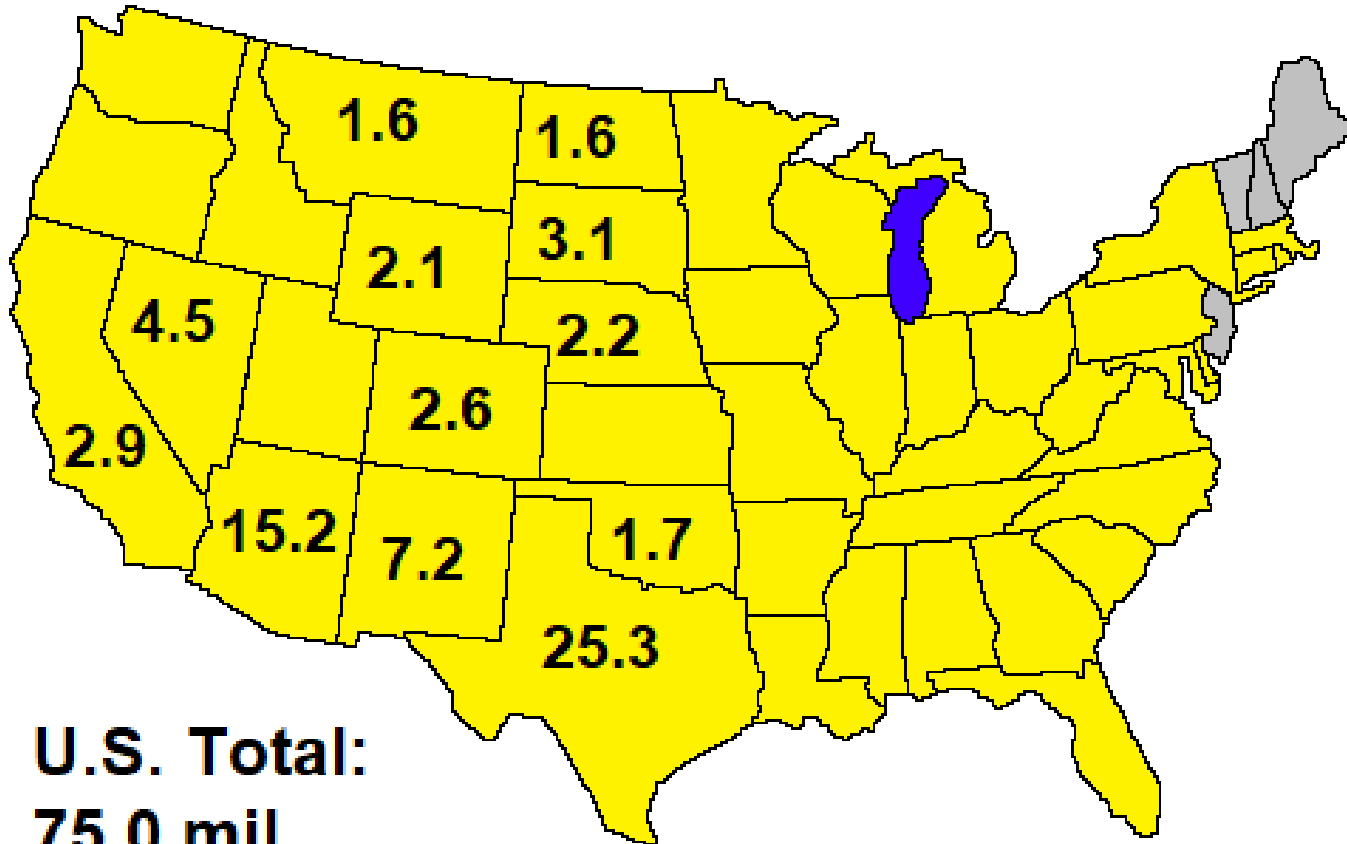
- Cites Chavas and Jones (1993) study finding negative relationship between land prices and risk
- Present land values as a function of rents (+), variance of rents (-), risk aversion (-), and time- (and risk-adjusted) discount rate (-)
- Findings show riskier returns associated with:
 - Lower land values
 - Lower rental rates
 - Higher risk-adjusted returns

Diersen, Gurung and Fausti (2015)

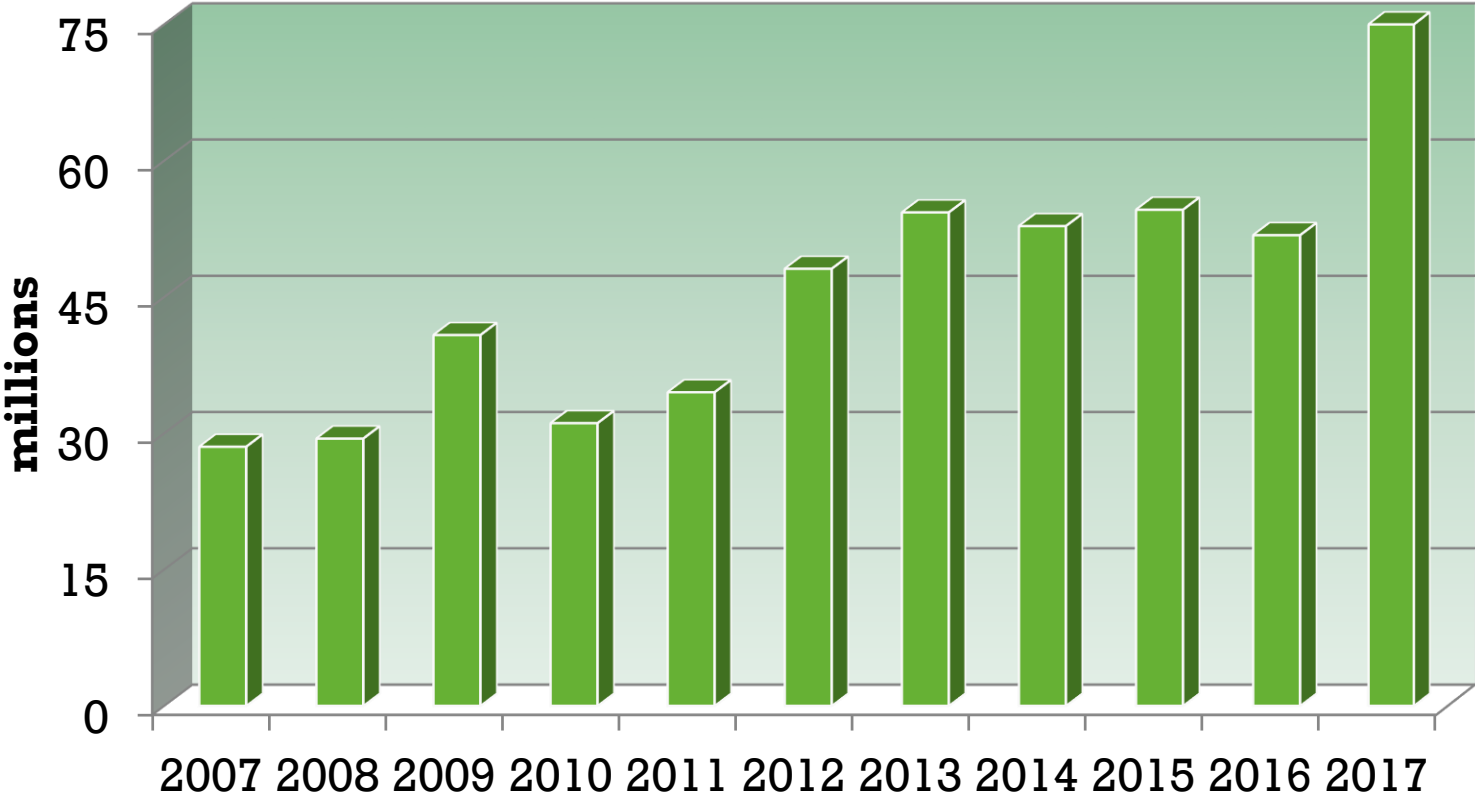


- Rainfall and hay yields are positively correlated at the state and county levels
- Possible to construct a portfolio with PRF intervals as decision set
- Optimal portfolio is “close” to equally-weighted interval loadings
- Variance reduction possible by weighting critical periods more heavily

2017 Acres Insured with PRF



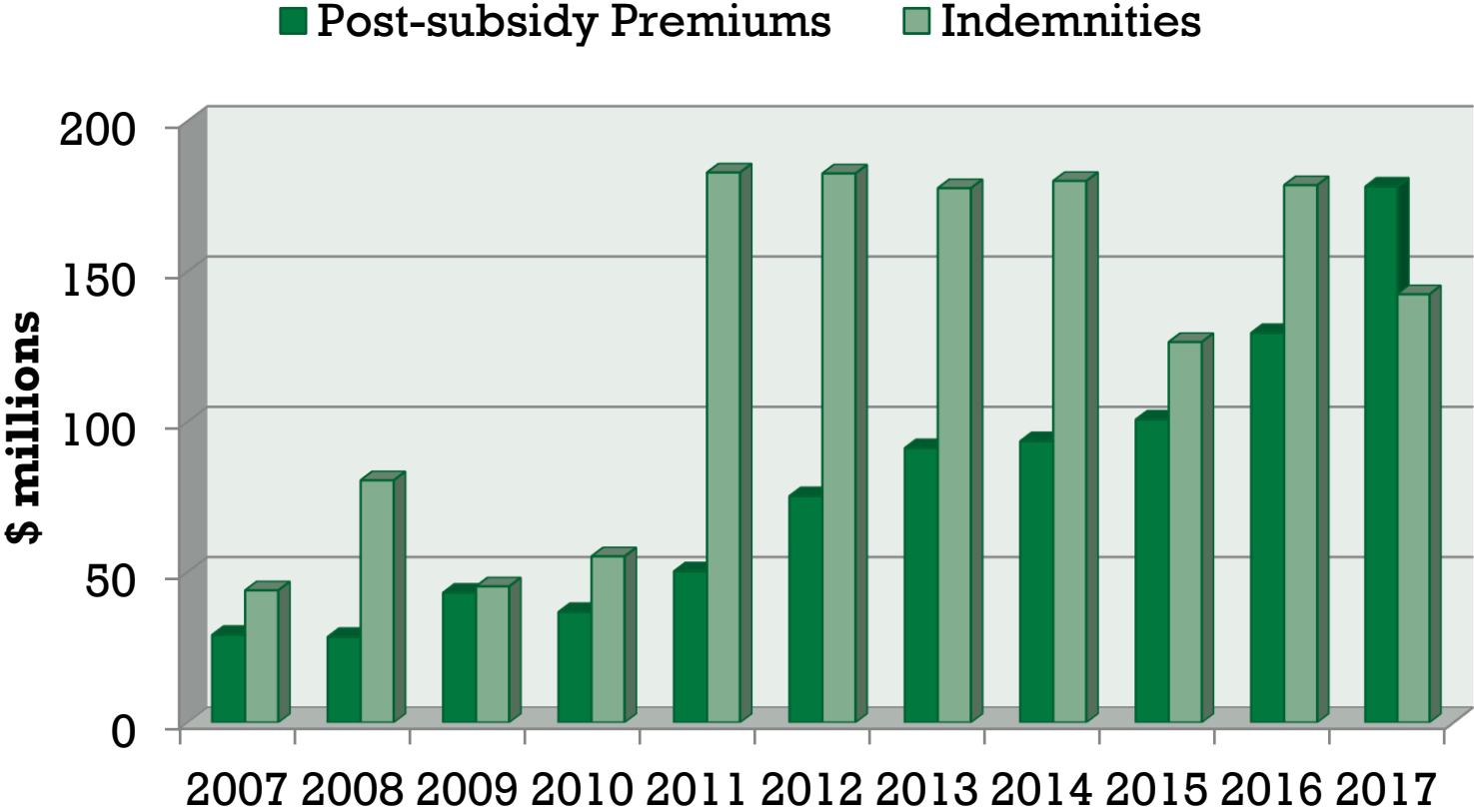
U.S. Acres Insured with PRF



2012 Census of Agriculture, Land

Land Use	United States (acres)	South Dakota (acres)
Land in farms	914,527,657	43,257,079
Permanent pasture	415,309,280	22,545,069
Woodland pastured	27,999,006	180,751
Other pasture	12,802,847	518,702
Forage harvested	55,775,162	2,615,889

U.S. PRF Loss Summary



Accommodating, Complex Choice



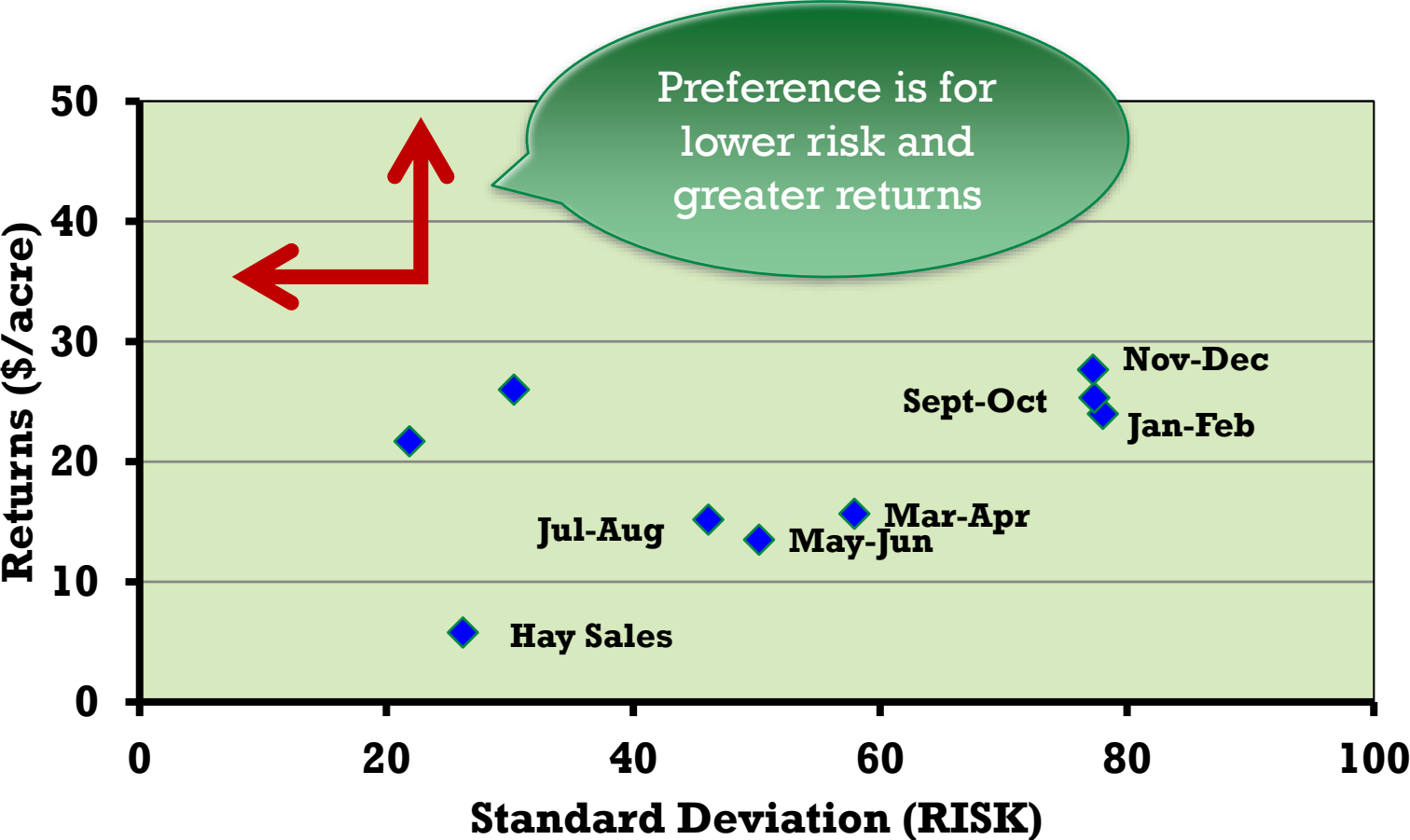
Example 1. A portion of eligible acres is spread equally across several intervals.

	Feb-Mar	Apr-May	Jun-Jul	Aug-Sep	Oct-Nov	
		250	250	250		
Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	

Example 2. All eligible acres are covered with the maximum and minimum allowed in single intervals.

	Feb-Mar	Apr-May	Jun-Jul	Aug-Sep	Oct-Nov	
			200	100		
Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	
	700					

Hughes County Portfolio



RMA Grid ID Locator



Grid Locator
Pasture, Rangeland, Forage

Find a Location: Search
Enter name, address, or latitude/longitude values. [More Info](#)

Vegetation Rainfall

Grids: Counties: Marker Info:
Labels: Labels: Degrees Dec

Map Satellite Clear All
Zoom to Grids

Current Location

Grid ID: 30707
Latitude: 45° 30' 54.03" N
Longitude: 103° 17' 56.22" W
County: Harding
State: South Dakota
Address: Unnamed Road, Buffalo, SD 57720, USA

Grid Tools:

- [Decision Support Tool](#)
- [Historical Rainfall Indices](#)
- [View Actuarial Info](#)
- [View Cost Estimator](#)

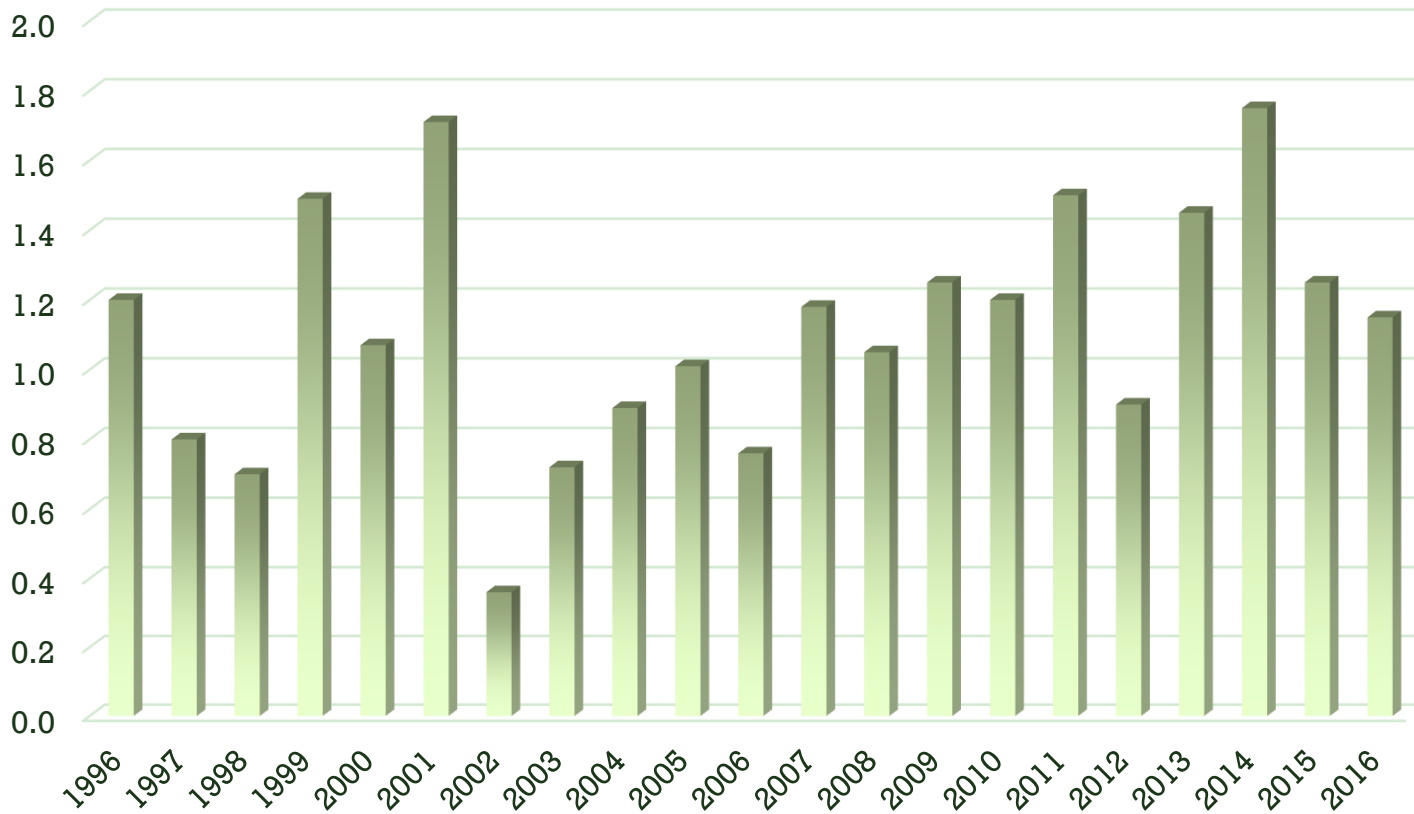
Steps

1. Enter nearest town or address
2. Click Search
3. Navigate to property
4. Click a point on property
5. Print view for records
6. Note the Grid ID
7. Choose grid tool to view data

Grid ID: 30707
Latitude: 45° 30' 54.03" N
Longitude: 103° 17' 56.22" W
County: Harding
State: South Dakota

State Experiment Farm and Antelope...

Harding County/District Grass Hay Yields (tons/acre), 1996-2016



Hypothetical Antelope Station Situation



- Buying replacement hay would have occurred in 7 of 21 years
- Average feed cost of \$11.23 per acre for sample (in today's dollars)
- Masks per acre extremes of \$12.80 (2012), \$30.30 (2006) and \$80.30 (2002)
- Likely capitalized in “lower” land values
- Quantifies “cost” that could be reduced with insurance

PRF-RI Returns



- Rainfall index is actuarially robust
 - A subtle point often ignored by researchers and practitioners
- Premiums by interval reflect underlying distribution of rainfall
- Overall cost is about 15% of the full program cost; aggregate indemnities are typically 85% of aggregate premiums
- PRF-RI buyer typically pays less than 50% of total premium; expect to net \$0.70 per \$1.00 spent

Antelope Station Back Test

	J-F	M-A	M-J	J-A	S-O	N-D
Premium (\$/acre)	11.90	11.00	7.80	7.40	15.00	14.24
E(Indemnity)	8.33	7.70	5.46	5.18	10.50	9.97
E(NPV)	106.80	98.72	70.00	66.41	134.62	127.80
Correlation w/Hay Loss	0.24	-0.45	-0.34	-0.37	-0.43	-0.44
Actual Average Net						
NPV ₂₁						

Antelope Station Back Test

	J-F	M-A	M-J	J-A	S-O	N-D
Premium (\$/acre)	11.90	11.00	7.80	7.40	15.00	14.24
E(Indemnity)	8.33	7.70	5.46	5.18	10.50	9.97
E(NPV)	106.80	98.72	70.00	66.41	134.62	127.80
Correlation w/Hay Loss	0.24	-0.45	-0.34	-0.37	-0.43	-0.44
Actual Average Net	8.34	3.00	9.26	-0.48	1.62	15.01
NPV ₂₁	140.23	32.3	141.71	-17.90	1.36	154.62

Variables

P – Hay price (\$/ton)

Y – Hay yield (ton/acre)

C – Coverage level (e.g., 90%)

b – Base price (\$/acre)

Z – Productivity index (0.6-1.5)

R_i – Interval indemnity (\$/acre)

S_i – Interval weight (0 or .1-.7)

sp_i – Subsidized premium (\$/acre)

Expected Returns & Risk



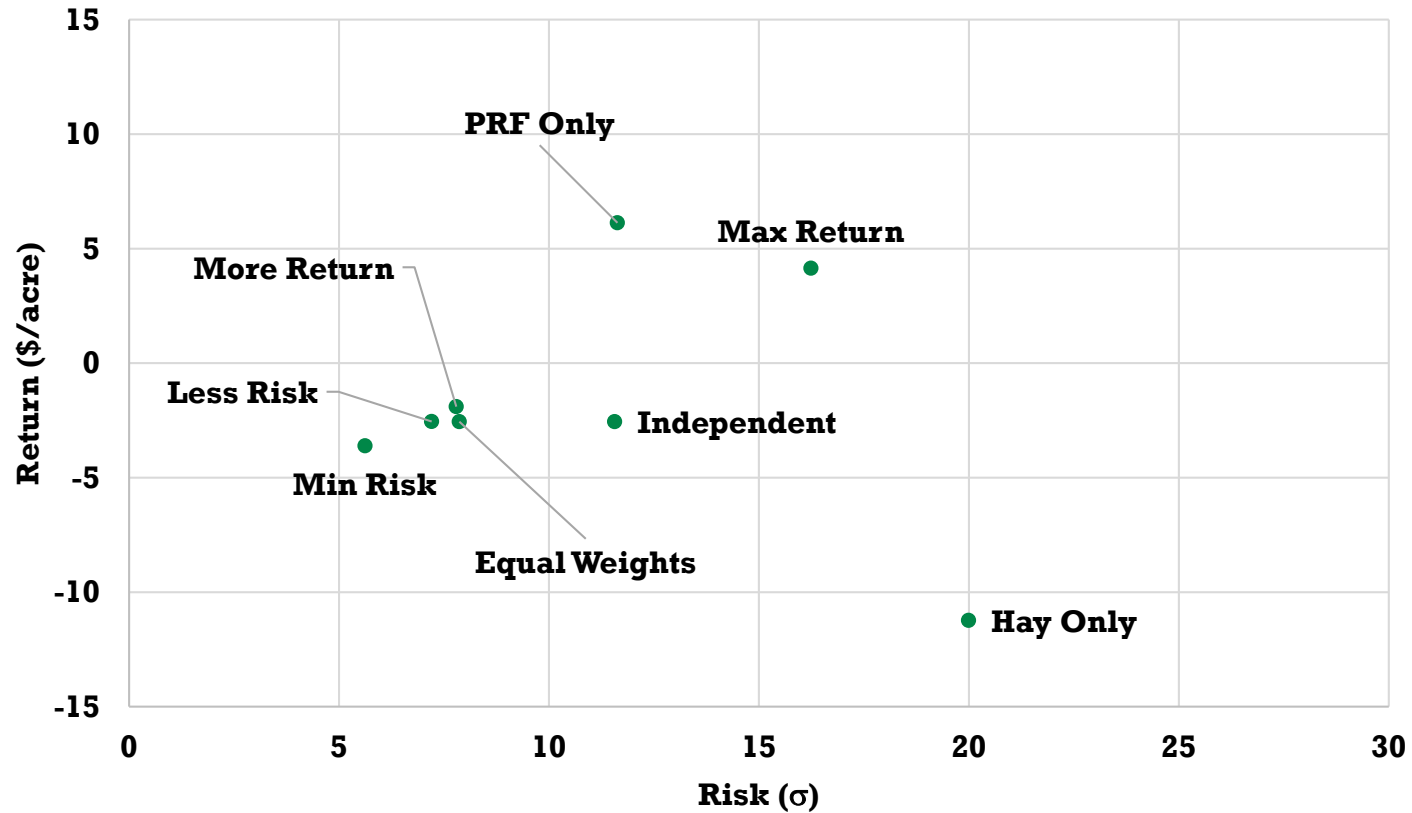
$$\text{Max } \sum_t [-PE(Y - C\bar{Y}) + \varphi bE[(R_1 - C)S_1 + \dots +$$

Modeling

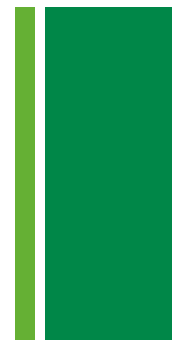


- Used Excel solver to back test portfolios with equal weights and those on the frontier with $C=0.90$
- Used county hay yields (NASS) and rainfall data from 1996 to 2016 (RMA)
- Used 2018 base prices and premiums (assumes historic yield losses occur at current costs)

Antelope Station Portfolios



Antelope Station Weights



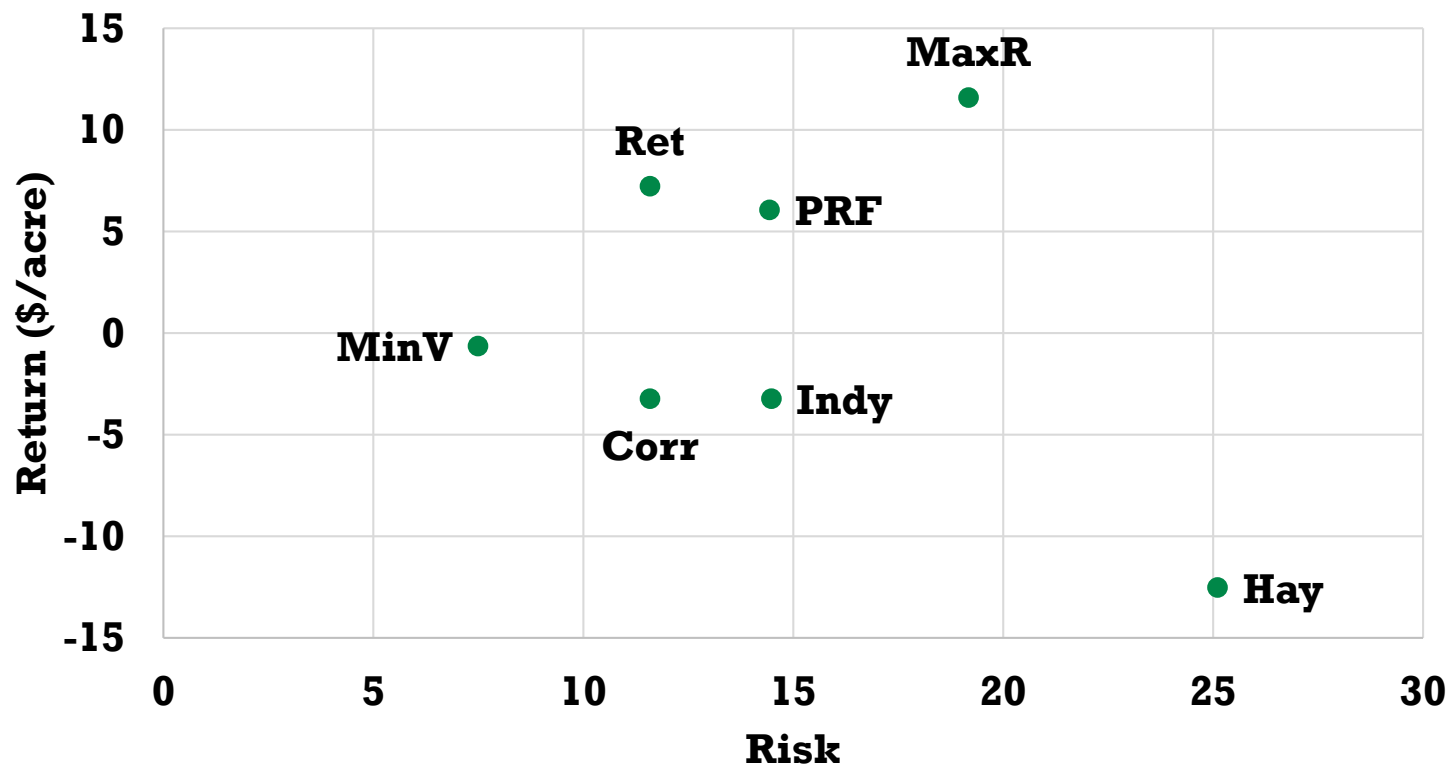
	(% Acres per Interval)					
	J-F	M-A	M-J	J-A	S-O	N-D
Equal Shares (-.62)	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%
Correlation	0.24	-0.45	-0.34	-0.37	-0.43	-0.44
Less Risk (-.69)	0%	39%	0%	27%	0%	43%
Min. Risk (-.83)	0%	35%	0%	37%	18%	10%
More Return (-.65)	0%	38%	0%	20%	0%	43%
Max. Return (-.37)	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%	70%

PRF Implications

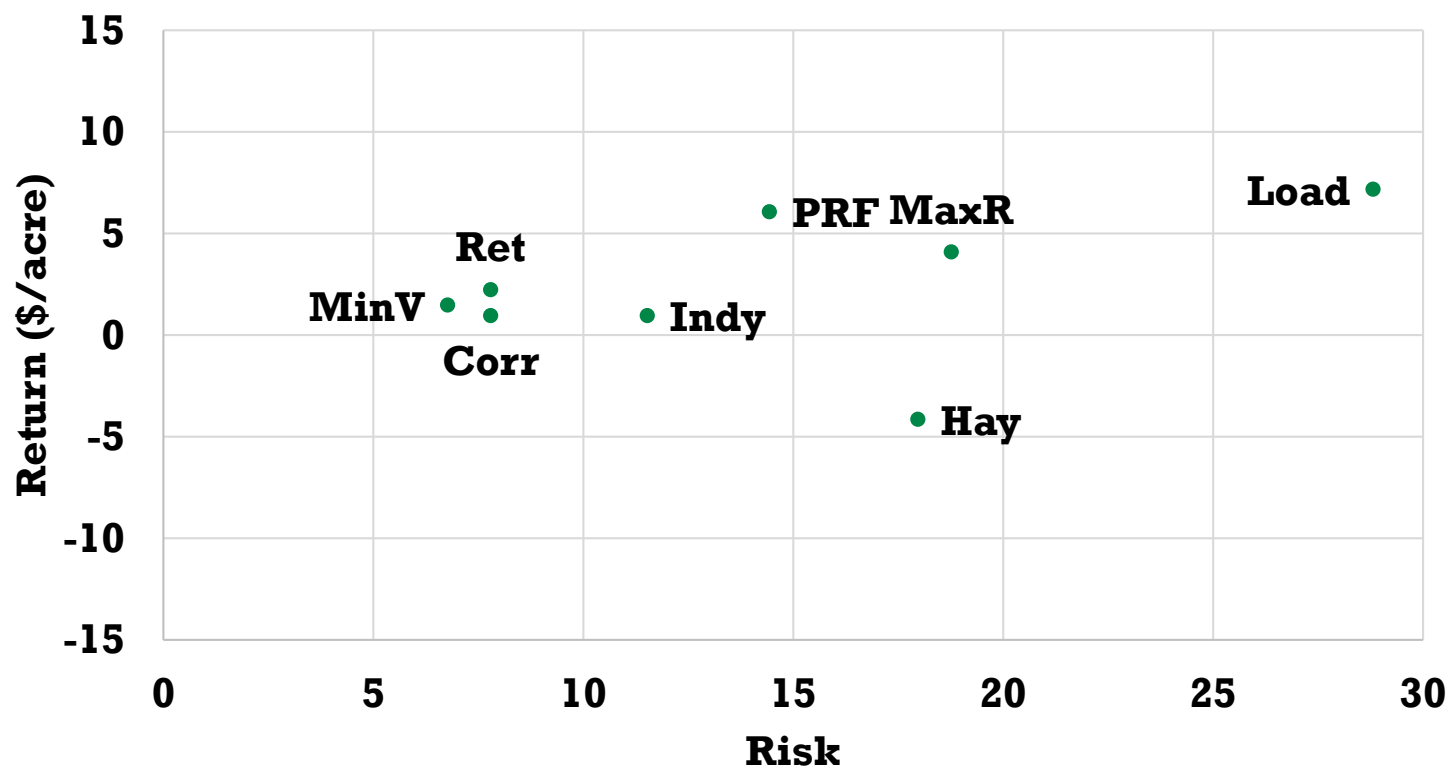
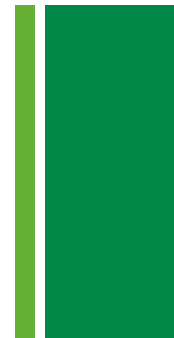


- Draws from any single interval may:
 - Lead to very long lags in indemnities
- Payoffs from an inclusive portfolio capitalizes on covariance across intervals
 - Premium of \$11.22, $E(NPV) = \$100.77$, $NPV_{21} = \$75.39$
- Inclusive portfolio is unlikely to need other equity or financing to sustain coverage
- Productivity index may be adjusted to match feed replacement needs without affecting indemnity frequency

Tripp County Portfolios



Marshall County Portfolios





Matthew Diersen

Professor & SDSU Extension Risk/Business Management Specialist

South Dakota State University

109M DePuy Military Hall (SDP), Box 2236, SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007

Office: 605.688.4864

Email: matthew.diersen@sdstate.edu