

Nitrogen Management in Northwest U.S. Sugarbeet Production

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ABSTRACT

Nitrogen (N) management is important in sugarbeet (*Beta vulgaris*) production. This study was conducted to continue to fine-tune N management in the Northwest U.S. sugarbeet growing area. In 2018 and 2019, field studies were conducted at 6 locations by agronomists from Amalgamated Sugar Company (ASCO) and scientists at the USDA-ARS Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory in Kimberly, ID. The purpose was to evaluate the effect of N supply (fertilizer N + soil available N) on sugarbeet production. Five of the studies showed a significant relationship between N supply and sucrose or root yield. The N supply required to maximize sucrose yields in the 5 responsive sites ranged from 145 to 258 kg N/ha. Data from our study supports past research showing that a Static Range N Management (SRNM) approach is valid as an alternative to a Yield Goal N Management (YGNM) approach which often leads to an over-supply of N. The average N supply required to maximize yields in our study was only 1 kg N ha⁻¹ greater than that identified in our 2005-2011 study conducted in the same area (203 kg N ha⁻¹ vs 202 kg N ha⁻¹). However, although opti-

mal N supply was similar, the average maximum yield in this study was 22.2% greater than in the 2005-2011 studies. We suggest that sugarbeet growers determine N supply from a representative 0-0.9 m soil samples and employ a SRNM approach to N management. Continued research over time may be required to further fine tune the SRNM N range.

Additional Key Words: sugarbeet, sugar beet, nitrogen, static

Abbreviations: N = Nitrogen, YGNM = yield goal nitrogen management, SRNM = static range nitrogen management, ERS = estimated recoverable sucrose, NUE = nitrogen use efficiency, Nr = nitrogen requirement, RY = root yield

Sugarbeet production in the Pacific Northwest is located primarily from south central Idaho to southeastern Oregon. Beets are produced by growers who are part of Amalgamated Sugar Company (ASCO), a grower-owned cooperative. From 2011 to 2020 an average of 73,700 ha year⁻¹ of sugarbeets were harvested in this growing area (NASS, 2022).

Nitrogen (N) supply is an important management factor for sugarbeet production because both under- and over-supplying N relative to plant needs can result in decreased profits (Stout, 1960). Under supplying N reduces root and sucrose yields while over supplying N may decrease root sucrose content and increased root impurities which subsequently reduces sucrose extraction efficiency (Carter and Traveller, 1981; James et al. 1971). In addition, over supplying N can lead to increased N losses to the environment as well as unnecessary cost to the grower. Over application or inefficient use of N fertilizers can result in excessive losses of NO₃-N to surface and ground water.

Nitrate movement to ground water is a concern in many agricultural areas receiving N inputs (Jokela, 1992). These concerns are even more relevant in areas where ground water is a major source of drinking water. High NO₃-N in drinking water supplies is a health concern (Keeney, 1982). In Idaho, 95% of the public water supply comes from ground water (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2019). In a 2019 study, The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality found that 21% of the 251 well samples collected across Idaho exceeded the maximum contaminant level of 10 mg NO₃-N L⁻¹ imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 26% of the samples were between 5 and 10 mg NO₃-N L⁻¹ (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2019). It is likely that excess N from fertilizers and manures are contributing to elevated groundwater NO₃-N levels. Because of the unique relationship between N and sugarbeet quality/quantity, and potential negative environmental effects from over application of N fertilizers, periodic research studies have been conducted in the Northwest U.S. sugarbeet growing area to determine sugarbeet N requirements.

Historically, a yield goal N management (YGNM) approach has been utilized in The ASCO growing area. The basis of YGNM is to determine the total available soil N supply [soil (0-0.9 m) NO₃-N and NH₄-N + fertilizer N] needed to optimize sucrose and root yields at measured yield goals. Using this approach, realistic sugarbeet root yield targets for each field were multiplied by a research derived N requirement factor (Nr). These Nr factors have been continually updated over the years, including recently from research by Tarkalson et al. (2016). The Nr factors represent the

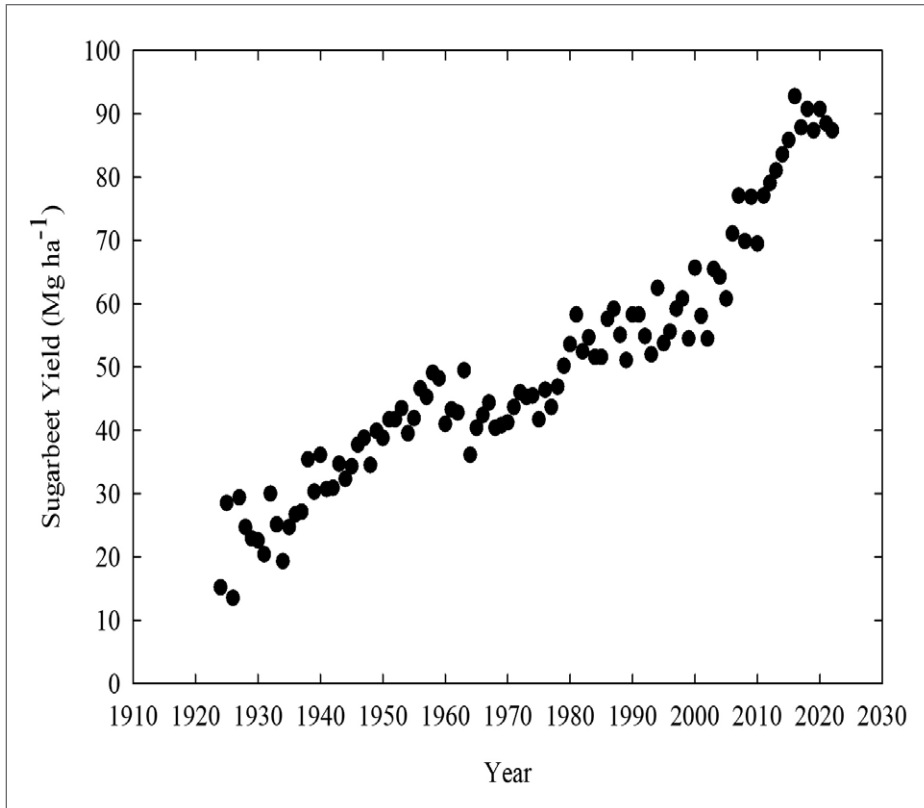


Figure 1. Average Idaho sugarbeet yield over time (USDA-NASS, 2022).

kg of N needed to grow a Mg of sugarbeet roots (kg N Mg⁻¹ roots). Past N_r factors were, 1977: 4 kg N Mg⁻¹ roots, 1997: 3.75 kg N Mg⁻¹ roots, and 2016: 2.75 kg N Mg⁻¹ roots. Tarkalson et al. (2016) and Tarkalson et al. (2018) found that although yields were increasing over time, the amount of N required to achieve those yields remained steady. Further, they showed the YGNM approach often leads to over supplying N. For this reason, it was suggested that a static range N management (SRNM) approach be considered. The SRNM approach is based on supplying a narrow range of N supply to optimize sugarbeet yields that is independent of yield. Rather than setting a fixed N supply, the static N range accommodates for variation in N response due to site factors unrelated to yield such as soil properties, irrigation methods, and climate (King and Tarkalson, 2017).

Table 1. Site information for the Idaho study sites.

City, County	Year	Soil Texture	Plot Size	Harvest Length	Tillage	Irrigation System	Variety	No. Treatment Replications
Jerome, Jerome	2018	silt loam	2.23m × 12.19m	11.13m	conventional	wheel line	BTS251N	8
Kimberly, Twin Falls	2018	silt loam	2.23m × 9.14m	7.92m	conventional	solid set sprinkler	BTS251N	8
Payette, Payette	2018	silt loam	4.46m × 9.14m	7.32m	conventional	furrow	BTS251N	8
Fruitland, Payette	2019	silt loam	2.23m × 9.14m	7.32m	conventional	furrow	BTS251N	6
Kimberly, Twin Falls	2019	silt loam	2.23m × 9.14m	7.92m	conventional	solid set sprinkler	BTS251N	7
Paul, Minidoka	2019	silt loam	2.23m × 12.19m	11.13m	conventional	wheel line	BTS251N	6

Table 2. Site soil sampling and N fertilizer information for sugarbeet at the Idaho study sites.

City, County	Year	Residual Soil N Supply	Fertilizer N Rates	Total N Supplies
kg N ha ⁻¹				
Jerome, Jerome	2018	146	0, 28, 56, 84, 112, 140, 168	146, 174, 202, 205, 230, 258, 286
Kimberly, Twin Falls	2018	101	0, 39, 67, 95, 123, 157, 213	101, 140, 168, 196, 224, 258, 314
Payette, Payette	2018	179	0, 22, 45, 67, 90, 112, 134	179, 202, 224, 246, 269, 291, 314
Fruitland, Payette	2019	133	0, 28, 56, 84, 112, 140, 168	133, 161, 189, 217, 245, 273, 301
Kimberly, Twin Falls	2019	80	0, 65, 92, 121, 148, 176, 244	80, 145, 172, 201, 227, 255, 324
Paul, Minidoka	2019	143	0, 28, 56, 84, 112, 140, 168	143, 171, 199, 227, 255, 283, 311

Site specific field data from sugarbeet producers can be used to determine where in the static N range their optimal N supply sits.

Other locations have changed from yield goal-based N management to static N management. For example, the North Dakota–Minnesota growing area switched from a YGNM approach to a static N management approach in 2001 based on research from the growing area (Lamb et al., 2001).

In the Northwest U.S., additional research was needed to provide additional data to assess the appropriate N management approach under the current higher yields. Since the last research studies assessing N supply and sugarbeet yield were concluded in 2011, average sugarbeet root yields have increased from 74.1 Mg ha⁻¹ (2007 to 2011 average) to 88.2 Mg ha⁻¹ (2014 to 2018 average) an increase of 14.1 Mg ha⁻¹ (Figure 1). The objective of this study was to evaluate the N requirement of sugarbeet grown at these higher yields and to provide added additional data to determine the appropriateness of the SRNM as an alternative to the YGNM approach.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Site Characteristics

The studies in this paper were located at 6 research sites (Table 1) in 2018 and 2019. The sites covered the range of commercial sugarbeet production in southern Idaho, from Minidoka County in the east to Payette County in the west. All sites had the same soil texture (silt loam), tillage practice (conventional), spring soil sample depth (0-0.9 m), variety planted (BTS251N), row spacing (0.56 m), N source (urea), and N application timing (pre-plant) (Table 1 and Table 2). Other cultural and experimental practices varied across sites (plot size, N application rate, treatment replications, irrigation

system, planting date, glyphosate application timings, and harvest date) (Table 2). Planting dates ranged from late-March through April and harvest dates ranged from late-September to mid-October.

N Application

Prior to N fertilizer treatment applications in spring, one soil core was taken in each plot in 0.3 m increments to a depth of 0.9 m. Soil samples were analyzed for nitrate-N (NO₃-N) and ammonium-N (NH₄-N) after extraction in 2M KCl (Mulvaney, 1996) using a flow injection analyzer (Lachat Instruments, Loveland, CO). At each site, the 0-0.9 m NO₃-N and NH₄-N in was averaged across all cores to determine site N supply.

At each site, 7 N fertilizer rates were chosen to provide a range of N supplies that enabled the entire response function to be captured (Table 2). For all sites, N was applied as urea fertilizer and immediately incorporated using conventional tillage.

Harvest and Analysis

Root yield was measured from each plot using a load cell scale mounted to a plot harvester. From each plot, two defoliated rows (1.12m) was harvested at various lengths (Table 1) representing 80% to 90% of the plot lengths. From the roots harvested, two samples (at least 12 kg each) were bagged and analyzed at the ASCO tare lab for percent sucrose, nitrate concentration, and electrical conductivity. Percent sucrose was determined using an Autopol 880 polarimeter (Rudolph Research Analytical, Hackettstown, NJ), a half-normal weight sample dilution, and aluminum sulfate clarification method [ICUMSA Method GS6-3 1994] (Bartens, 2005). Conductivity was measured using a Foxboro conductivity meter Model 871EC (Foxboro, Foxboro, MA) and nitrate was measured using a Model 250 multimeter (Denver In-

struments, Denver, CO) with Orion probes 900200 and 9300 BNWP (Krackler Scientific, Inc., Albany, NY). The kg recoverable sucrose yield per Mg of roots was estimated by: $[(\text{percent extraction})(0.01)(\text{kg gross sucrose/ha})]/(\text{gross root yield Mg/ha})$, where percent extraction = $250 + [((1255.2)(\text{conductivity}) - (15000)(\text{percent sucrose} - 6185)]/[(\text{percent sucrose})(98.66 - [(7.845)(\text{conductivity})])]$ and gross sucrose (Mg/ha) = $(\text{gross root yield, Mg/ha})(\text{percent sucrose})(10)$.

Statistical Analysis and Calculations

Statistical analyses were conducted separately for each site. Analysis of variance was conducted for N supply treatment main effects on selected production factors (sucrose yield, root yield, N use efficiency, N requirement, root sucrose concentration, and root brei nitrate concentration) using a randomized block design model in Statistix 8.2 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL). Nitrogen use efficiency was defined as the quantity of sucrose produced per kg N supply (fertilizer N + spring soil residual inorganic N). Nitrogen requirement was defined as the kg N supply per Mg of harvested sugarbeet root.

For site-years with significant N supply main effects on ERS yield, the maximum ERS yield was determined by comparing adjacent numerically ordered means using the least significant difference method (LSD) at the 0.05 probability level. For each site-year with no significant N supply main effect on ERS yield, the data was not included when assessing N management strategies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Yield and NUE

Across all sites, N supply had a significant effect on many of the yield and NUE factors (Table 3 and Table

4). The effects of N supply on root yield were significant for 5 of the 6 sites, and for sucrose yield in 4 of the 6 years (Table 3 and Table 4). For these sites, yields increased with N supply to the maximum yield than higher N supplies did not increase yield (quadratic type response). The N supplies at maximum sucrose and root yields at each site were bolded in Table 3 and Table 4 and averaged 203 kg N ha⁻¹ (range = 145 to 258 kg N ha⁻¹). Across sites, maximum sucrose and root yield ranged from

12.6 to 21.1 Mg sucrose ha⁻¹ and 82.8 to 131.2 Mg roots ha⁻¹ respectively. The average root yield across all sites and N supply treatments was 96.3 Mg roots ha⁻¹. This was 7% greater than the average yield for all commercial fields in Idaho during 2018 and 2019 (89.1 Mg roots ha⁻¹) (Figure 1). Nitrogen supply had significant effects on NUE at all sites (Table 3 and Table 4). For the 6 sites NUE was highly correlated to N supply (Figure 2). The NUE decreased as N supply increased. The NUE at

the mean N supply at maximum yield was 75.2 kg sucrose kg⁻¹ N. This was a higher NUE compared to the 2005 to 2011 data set (60.3 kg sucrose kg⁻¹ N) (Tarkalson et al., 2016).

Root Quality

Across all sites, N supply had no effect on most quality factors (root sucrose percentage, nitrate, and conductivity) (Table 3 and Table 4). The exception was the 2019 Kimberly site where root sucrose percentage was significantly greater at 201 kg N ha⁻¹

Table 3. 2018 mean site estimated recoverable sugarbeet sucrose yield, sugarbeet root yield, and nitrogen requirement (Nr) for N supply treatments at three sites in southern ID. Analysis of variance for relationships between N supply and measurements. The least significant difference (LSD) method was used to compare numerically adjacent sugarbeet sucrose yields to determine maximum sugarbeet sucrose or root yields (N supply at maximum sugarbeet sucrose or root yield is bolded). Significance is the 0.05 level.

City, County	N Supply [†] kg ha ⁻¹	Sucrose Yield Mg ha ⁻¹	Root Yield Mg ha ⁻¹	NUE kg sucrose kg ⁻¹ N	Nr kg Mg ⁻¹	Root Sucrose %	Root Nitrate mg kg ⁻¹	Root Conductivity mmhos cm ⁻¹
Jerome, Jerome	146	19.0 c	116.7 b	130.6 a	1.2 e	18.7	42.0	0.60
	174	19.3 c	117.7 b	110.9 b	1.5 d	18.7	40.2	0.57
	202	19.2 c	118.7 b	95.2 c	1.7 c	18.6	43.0	0.62
	230	19.6 bc	120.6 b	85.5 d	1.9 b	18.6	41.4	0.58
	258	21.1 abc	131.2 ab	82.0 d	2.0 b	18.5	41.4	0.61
	286	20.2 ab	126.1 a	70.6 e	2.3 a	18.4	55.1	0.61
	314	21.5 a	133.3 a	68.4 e	2.4 a	18.5	62.6	0.59
	<i>p>f</i>	<i>0.033</i>	<i>0.009</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i>0.405</i>	<i>0.059</i>	<i>0.250</i>
Kimberly, Twin Falls	101	15.6	94.0	154.6 a	1.1 g	18.9	62.6	0.57
	140	16.0	98.1	114.2 b	1.4 f	18.7	61.3	0.59
	168	16.1	96.8	95.8 c	1.7 e	18.9	48.0	0.54
	196	16.3	98.1	83.3 d	2.0 d	18.8	58.8	0.53
	224	16.5	100.8	73.6 d	2.2 c	18.6	32.0	0.56
	258	16.0	98.2	62.3 e	2.6 b	18.5	58.0	0.53
	314	16.6	101.3	46.2 f	3.5 a	18.6	66.6	0.55
	<i>p>f</i>	<i>0.812</i>	<i>0.608</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i>0.840</i>	<i>0.824</i>	<i>0.587</i>
Payette, Payette	179	10.9 c	65.2 c	60.7 ab	2.7 bcd	18.6	26.6	0.44
	202	13.0 b	78.6 b	64.4 a	2.6 d	18.5	26.6	0.46
	224	13.7 ab	82.8 ab	61.0 a	2.7 cd	18.5	22.1	0.44
	246	12.9 b	77.7 b	45.7 c	3.2 ab	18.6	21.7	0.44
	269	13.8 ab	84.4 ab	51.5 bc	3.2 abc	18.4	27.1	0.44
	291	14.8 a	90.5 a	50.9 c	3.2 abc	18.4	23.2	0.45
	314	13.5 ab	82.8 ab	43.2 c	3.8 a	18.4	26.1	0.44
	<i>p>f</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i>0.002</i>	<i>0.960</i>	<i>0.785</i>	<i>0.746</i>

N supply. Although, all N supplies at the site had high sucrose concentrations (>18%). Across all sites and N supplies the average root sucrose percentage, nitrate concentration, and conductivity was 18.2%, 42.3 mg kg⁻¹, and 0.55 mmhos cm⁻¹ (Table 3 and Table 4). Root nitrate is a measure of N related impurities in sugarbeet roots and has been related to reduced sucrose concentrations and decreased sucrose extraction. Root nitrate can be higher under increase N rates (Tarkalson, et al., 2016). Guidelines

from ASCO state that sucrose concentration decreases by approximately 0.5% for every 100 mg nitrate kg over 200 mg nitrate kg⁻¹ (Tarkalson et al., 2016). Across all sites and N supply treatments (up to 324 kg N ha⁻¹), the greatest root nitrate concentration was 66.6 mg kg⁻¹ well lower than the critical level that affects root sucrose percentage (Table 3 and Table 4).

Static Range vs Yield Goal N Management

The N requirement (Nr) factor and a

field specific yield goal are the two components of the YGNM approach:

YGNM Recommended N supply (kg N ha⁻¹) = Nr (kg N Mg⁻¹ root) × yield goal (Mg ha⁻¹) Eq. 1

The recommended N supply is a combination of plant available inorganic N (NO₃-N + NH₄-N) in the soil and fertilizer N.

When recommended N supplies to maximize yields are relatively static over time, the Nr factor in in Eq. 1 has to decrease because sugarbeet

Table 4. 2019 mean site estimated recoverable sugarbeet sucrose yield, sugarbeet root yield, and nitrogen requirement (Nr) for N supply treatments at three sites in southern ID. Analysis of variance for relationships between N supply and measurements. The least significant difference (LSD) method was used to compare numerically adjacent sugarbeet sucrose yields to determine maximum sugarbeet sucrose or root yields (N supply at maximum sugarbeet sucrose or root yield is bolded). Significance is the 0.05 level.

City, County	N Supply [†] kg ha ⁻¹	Sucrose Yield Mg ha ⁻¹	Root Yield Mg ha ⁻¹	NUE kg sucrose kg ⁻¹ N	Nr kg Mg ⁻¹	Root Sucrose %	Root Nitrate mg kg ⁻¹	Root Conductivity mmhos cm ⁻¹
Fruitland, Payette	133	11.6	77.1 b	86.9 a	1.7 d	17.1	33.7	0.55
	161	11.6	77.7 b	71.6 b	2.1 cd	17.0	45.3	0.55
	189	12.6	84.9 ab	66.6 bc	2.2 c	17.0	40.3	0.55
	217	13.4	91.1 a	61.8 cd	2.4 c	16.8	56.5	0.53
	245	13.1	89.8 a	53.5 de	2.7 b	16.8	55.6	0.56
	273	13.3	90.5 a	48.6 ef	3.0 b	16.8	47.3	0.57
	301	13.2	89.5 a	43.7 f	3.4 a	16.8	42.7	0.54
	<i>p>f</i>	<i>0.060</i>	<i>0.040</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i>0.283</i>	<i>0.165</i>	<i>0.825</i>
Kimberly, Twin Falls	80	13.4 b	81.1 b	168.0 a	1.0 g	18.6 bcd	34.0	0.51
	145	14.9 a	89.4 a	103.3 b	1.6 f	18.9 ab	40.0	0.51
	172	15.2 a	90.9 a	88.4 c	1.9 e	18.9 abc	33.1	0.51
	201	15.0 a	89.4 a	74.7 d	2.2 d	19.0 a	39.3	0.51
	227	14.9 a	91.3 a	65.5 e	2.5 c	18.5 d	41.8	0.53
	255	15.1 a	91.9 a	59.2 e	2.8 b	18.6 cd	51.0	0.52
	324	14.6 a	89.3 a	45.0 f	3.6 a	18.5 d	50.1	0.51
	<i>p>f</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i>0.002</i>	<i>0.248</i>	<i>0.900</i>
Paul, Minidoka	143	13.3 c	85.4 c	93.0 a	1.7 f	18.1	38.0	0.66
	171	14.8 b	94.6 b	86.3 b	1.8 fe	18.1	36.1	0.64
	199	16.2 a	103.1 a	81.4 b	1.9 e	18.1	44.7	0.62
	227	16.7 a	107.2 a	73.3 c	2.1 d	18.0	54.9	0.67
	255	16.7 a	106.0 a	65.4 d	2.4 c	18.1	42.3	0.61
	283	16.8 a	106.7 a	59.2 de	2.7 b	18.1	53.4	0.64
	311	16.6 a	104.5 a	53.2 e	3.0 a	18.2	51.0	0.62
	<i>p>f</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i>0.820</i>	<i>0.333</i>	<i>0.577</i>

root yields are increasing over time (Figure 1). Findings of Tarkalson et al. (2016) and Tarkalson et al. (2018) showed that Nr values have decreased over time. Research concluded around 1977, 1997, 2011 had Nr calculated at 4.0, 3.7, and 2.75 kg N Mg⁻¹ roots. By comparison, our study calculated the Nr value at 2.1 kg N Mg⁻¹ roots, a continued decrease from previous studies. The declining Nr factors and increasing yields over time leads to the conclusion that a SRNM approach is valid. A YGNM approach will only accurately recommend N supplies over time if continuous research is con-

ducted to provide updated Nr factors. However, time requirements, economic funding, and competing research objectives make this impractical. For a YGNM approach, if the Nr factor is not continually updated with research, YGNM N supply recommendations quickly exceed sugarbeet nutritional needs (Tarkalson et al., 2016; and Tarkalson et al., 2018). For example, from 1977 to 1994 the Nr factor of 4 kg N Mg⁻¹ root (established in 1977) was used with average annual yields increasing from 44 Mg ha⁻¹ to 63 Mg ha⁻¹ (Figure 1), resulting in a YGNM N supply recommendation of 176 kg

N ha⁻¹ to 252 kg N ha⁻¹, respectively. In Tarkalson et al. (2016) and in our study, the average N supply needed to maximize yield was 202 and 203 kg N ha⁻¹, respectively (Table 5). These N supplies to reach maximum root yields were approximately 49 kg N ha⁻¹ (252 kg N ha⁻¹ - 203 kg N ha⁻¹) less than the YGNM N supply recommendation in 1994, although the average yield in 2018 was 28 Mg ha⁻¹ higher than in 1994. If the Nr factor of 4 kg N Mg⁻¹ root was used in 2018, the YGNM N supply recommendation would have been 364 kg N ha⁻¹, 161 kg N ha⁻¹ (364 kg N ha⁻¹ - 203 kg N ha⁻¹) greater than needed to maximize yield. In 2022, this excess N would cost \$354 ha⁻¹ (Figure 3).

The data in our study supports the conclusions of Tarkalson et al. (2016) the SRNM strategy is valid, and over time will reduce over supplying N when using a YGNM approach. If yields continue to increase, the updated Nr value of 2.1 will result in over recommending N supply. The SRNM approach will better predict required N supplies to maximize sugarbeet yields while not requiring continued research to update Nr factors. Periodic studies can be conducted to evaluate the needed adjustments in the SRNM approach.

Sugarbeet Yields and N Prices Over Time

Because the YGNM approach links sugarbeet yield with N supply re-

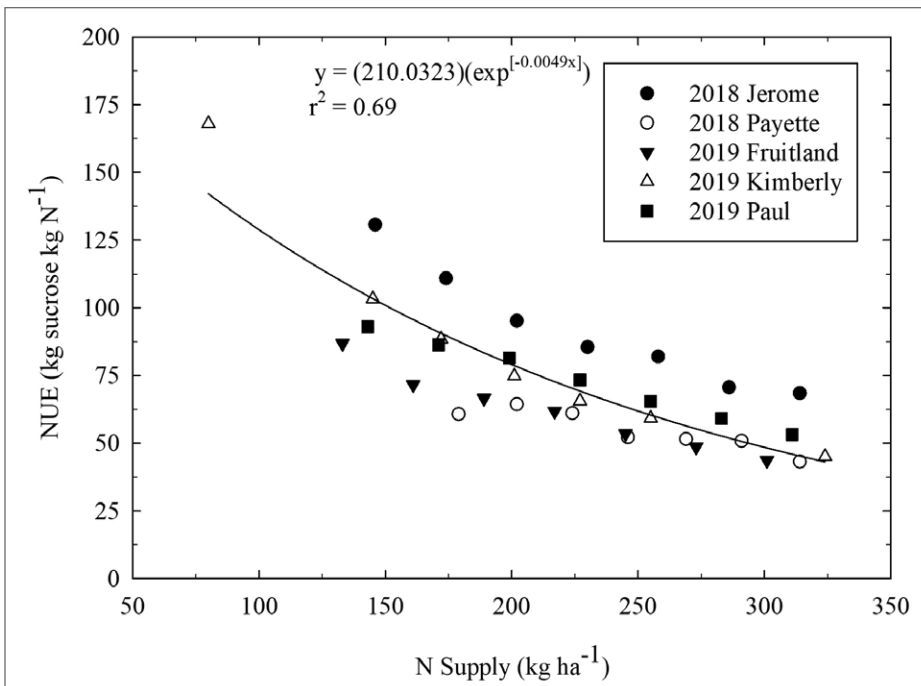


Figure 2. Sugarbeet N use efficiency (NUE) versus N supply for site years with significant N supply main effects (Table 3 and Table 4). Regression model was fit to all data. Points represent individual plot values at the Idaho sites.

Table 5. Average maximum sugarbeet root yields, N supplies at the maximum sugarbeet root yields, N requirement, and range of N supplies at maximum root yields at the Idaho study sites in Tarkalson et al. (2016) and the six sites from this study.

Study Years	Study Sources	Average Maximum Root Yield Mg ha ⁻¹	Average N Supply at Maximum Root Yield kg ha ⁻¹	Average Nr kg Mg ⁻¹	Range of N Supplies at Maximum Root Yield for Study Sites kg ha ⁻¹
2005-2010	USDA-ARS and Amalgamated Sugar Co. †	77	202	2.7	179, 169, 205, 218, 237
2018-2019	USDA-ARS and Amalgamated Sugar Co. ‡	99	203	2.1	145, 199, 189, 224, 258

† Tarkalson et al. (2016). Data from site-years with statistically significant relationships between N supply and root yield ($p = 0.05$).

‡ This study (Tables 3 and Table 4). Data from site-years with statistically significant relationships between N supply and root yield ($p = 0.05$).

quirements, changes in yields and N prices have significant effects on production economics. The average sugarbeet yields in the Northwest U.S. have continually increased over and urea N price has increased by 30% over the last decade (2012-2022) (Figure 3). If a YGNM approach leads to over supplying N to sugarbeet over time, higher N prices can have an increasingly negative economic impact for producers.

CONCLUSIONS

This study supports past research showing that a SRNM approach is valid. The average N supply required to maximize sugarbeet yields in our study and in a previous research study (Table 5) differed by only 1 kg N ha⁻¹, even though root yields in our study were 12 Mg ha⁻¹ greater. Data shows that YGNM approach leads to an over-supply of N over time. This over supply of N can have negative environmental and economic consequences, especially as N prices continue to increase. Sugarbeet growers should evaluate the needed N supplies to maximize yields in their growing area and follow a SRNM approach. Continued research over time can fine tune SRNM.

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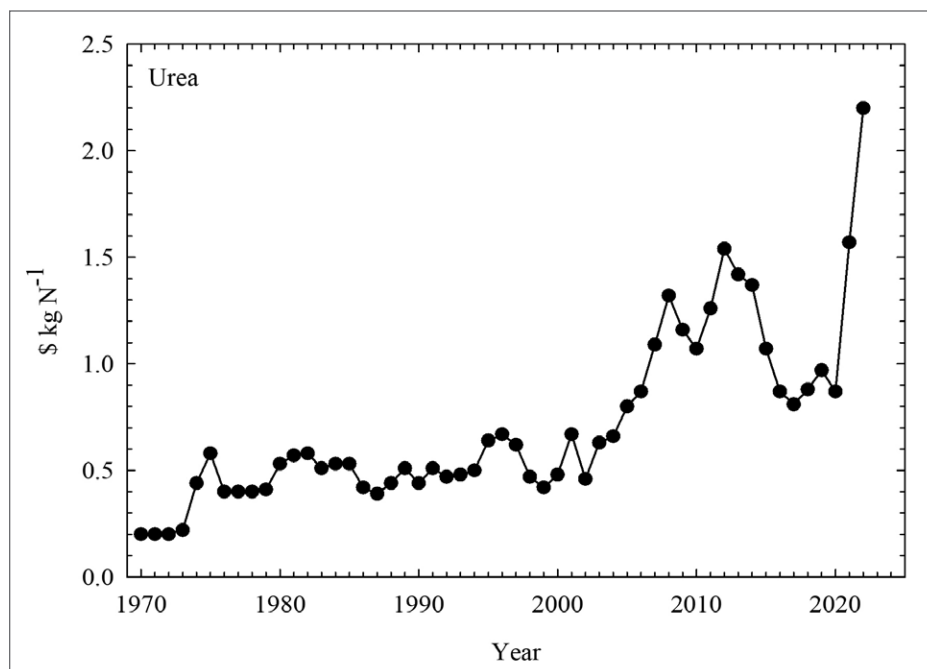


Figure 3. Average U.S. annual urea N price over time (USDA-NASS, 2022).

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