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Remote sensing products help with land management decisions

4/21/2005, 12:52 AM CDT

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AgroWatch zooms in on problems

EarthMap Solutions, LLC, this week launched a new line of information products for customers using remote sensing tools for agricultural, environmental and forestry land management.

EarthMap Solutions (EMS) offers tools that help growers and producers measure crop yields to determine marketing strategies; manage fertilizer applications to their fields for cost-savings and to avoid polluting streams; obtain higher cotton yields by targeting the application of plant growth regulators; and monitor the invasion of pests, such as Asian Rust in soybeans, the company says.

EMS, a spin-off of DigitalGlobe's agriculture business, now has exclusive intellectual rights to the AgroWatch suite of information products from DigitalGlobe, as well as the AgSense information systems from Boeing.

AgroWatch products are derived from a constellation of orbiting satellites and aircraft and customized for agricultural markets by EMS. To produce its land



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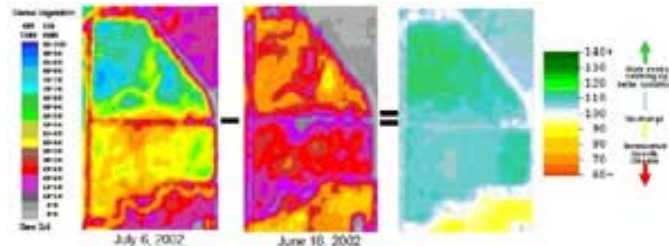
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maps, EMS also draws upon its image library, which comprises 2.9 million square miles on four continents, delivering color-coded, highly detailed, quantifiable maps in near real-time.

The AgroWatch product suite quantifies crop status, soil conditions and rates of crop change -- good or bad -- throughout the field in areas as small as 2x2 feet. These products include:

- **The AgroWatch Green Vegetation Index** -- Helps users spot potential problems in dense, unwalkable crops, even under conditions where other indices cannot measure vegetative differences because of an existing crop canopy.
- **The AgroWatch Soil Zone Index** -- Gives growers a ground-level view of the soil, even through vegetation early in the growing season. Calibrated images show the soil surface of a field, including irrigation patterns, sand streaks, clay lenses, and organic matter and crop residue variations.
- **AgroWatch Color Infrared Maps** -- Similar to infrared photographs, these maps allow growers to quickly understand the general status of crops, depicted in varied hues based upon light reflectance of vegetation.
- **AgroWatch Scout Aide** -- Provides a calibrated measure of two different Green Vegetation Index maps on two different dates, giving customers a quantitative picture of the level and rate of vegetative change over the entire field or region of interest.



These ScoutAide maps show the difference between July 6 and June 16 images, demonstrating the rate of cotton growth. This rate is an important factor in determining the rate of Pix to apply to cotton, the company says.

[Continued: AgSense manages at field level >>](#)

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