**LTAR Cropland Common Experiment Design Workgroup**

**February 24, 2016**

**Archbold Biological Station**

**Major outcomes:**

* All sites have described ‘Business as Usual’ and ‘Aspirational’ treatments for the Common Experiment.
* Some sites may ‘tweak’ their treatments based on outcomes from this meeting, ongoing site-specific discussions, clientele input, etc.
* Most sites are unable to replicate at the field scale, while all sites but 3 are currently planning to replicate at the plot scale.
* Limited land availability at some locations is a challenge (plot sizes <0.1 ha minimum).
* Randomization of BAU and ASP treatments not consistent across sites (*de novo* approach vs. plots previously established). Similarly, starting dates are inconsistent with unfunded sites postponed indefinitely.
* Guidance/input from statisticians on proposed designs is pending at most locations.

**Plans going forward:**

* Finalize BAU and ASP treatment designs at each location with input from statisticians.
* Consider external review of site designs (qualitative power analysis).
* Revisit questions testable at field scale (n=1/site) and plot scale (n=3-8/site) (SRS as guidance)
* Interact with measurement groups (e.g., guidance for baseline sampling).
* More to come… …design group is meeting at lunch.