

Sarah Janssen

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PROFILE

Dynamic Product Owner and Manager with a proven track record leading the development of innovative geospatial tools from ideation to production. I excel at collaborating with developers from the ground up to create solutions that drive customer value and enhance business decision-making. Experienced in Agile project management and cross-functional leadership, boosting operational efficiency by over 30%. Expertise in geospatial analysis, fostering stakeholder engagement, and driving projects to success through strategic vision and collaborative excellence.

TOP SKILLS

- Agile Project Management Skills/Agile Development
- Product development road-mapping and backlog prioritization
- Global project management
- Stakeholder engagement
- Cross-functional collaboration and Leadership
- User Experience Testing
- Geographic information systems
- Drone flight management
- Drone Technology proficiency, UAV operation, and flight planning
- LiDar Technology proficiency
- Visual communication skills
- Customer Focused

EXPERIENCE

Product Owner | Project Manager; Syngenta Seeds, Remote — 01/2020 - 03/2025

- Owned the start-up of a new software product from vision to production use for three regions and multiple crops.
- Led global, cross-functional teams in developing geospatial tools and software, optimizing enterprise data management, and enabling 20% more data-driven decision-making across multiple regions.
- Managed remote automation project management projects across time zones and regions, ensuring streamlined collaboration.
- Directed the development of multiple product roadmaps to maintain team progression.
- Prioritized project backlog to streamline enhancements and keep development on track, enabling the launch of two new geospatial software tools that improved decision-making in three regions by more than 20%.
- Facilitated stakeholder requirement gathering, sprint planning with developers, cross-team collaboration, and team building to enhance productivity and cohesiveness.
- Bridged the gap between business and technical team specifications, maintaining harmony between development teams and business stakeholders, boosting confidence and engagement by 70%.

- Managed competing priorities across stakeholders and teams, ensuring alignment on high-impact features and keeping product development focused on business goals.
- Analyzed datasets to reveal patterns, correct discrepancies, and improve accuracy by 40%.
- Removed roadblocks for the team to ensure 99% timely completion of projects.
- Collaborated with UX/UI developers on user testing, product evaluation, revisions, and enhancing user engagement to adopt new tools easily.
- Led the development of internal GIS software for four regions leveraging UAV imagery, LiDar, and advanced spatial analysis.
- Directed the use of analytics with computer vision science in field testing, leading to a 30% increase in operational efficiency.

**Research Associate | Specialist in Applied Phenotyping; Syngenta seeds, Brookings, SD —
01/2009-12/2019**

- Led successful execution of many proof-of-concepts, driving efficiency through data-led processes and methodologies. Including UAV collection flights, Automation, and Engineering solutions.
- Worked with external companies to build UAV flight software solutions that met our internal needs.
- Conducted thorough data analysis on numerous trial experiments and managed data to support decision-making that led to advancements in products that helped American farmers.
- Managed proof-of-concept and pilot projects across many areas involving GIS, computer science, and computer vision solutions, enhancing collection and data efficiency by more than 50%.
- Enhanced accuracy by 20% and improved data reliability by developing trial plans across multiple regions.
- Facilitated cross-functional collaboration among global scientists and breeders to generate high-quality agriculture data.
- Optimized operations by managing data collection activities.
- Managed Lab activities and seasonal employees in field activities.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Part 107 - UAV Unmanned Pilots License – Federal Aviation Administration (2019 – Present)
- PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP) – Project Management Institute (2020 – 2024)
- Going Places with Spatial Analysis – Esri (2019)

AWARDS

- Seeds Research and Development Award (2023) for Digital Acceleration
Globally rolled out phenotypic GIS solution across three regions that enabled data extraction from UAV imagery for over 500K plots
- Seeds Research and Development Award (2023) for Execution
Replacing legacy tools, enabling & delivering workflows to simplify daily tasks and streamline data
- Seeds Research and Development Award (2021) for Product Pipeline & Innovation
Induced Phenotyping Technology solution to produce quality, repetitive data for faster delivery

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science, Agronomy – South Dakota State University (2007 – 2010)
- Associate of Science, Agriculture – Iowa Lakes Community College (2005 – 2007)