Sarah Janssen

Brookings, SD | 605-651-4560 | sarah.janssen@icloud.com | http://www.linkedin.com/in/sarahjanssen06

Innovative Product Owner | Geospatial Solutions Leader | Agile Project Manager

Forward-thinking Product Owner and Project Manager with 15+ years of experience leading cross-functional, global teams to develop and deliver cutting-edge geospatial and drone-based technologies. Proven expertise in Agile methodologies, strategic product road mapping, and stakeholder engagement to streamline operations, elevate user experience, and drive data-informed decision-making. Recognized for pioneering product launches and optimizing software development in high-impact agricultural and scientific environments.

Areas of Expertise

Agile Product | Project Management |Product Roadmap | Backlog Prioritization | Geospatial Technology Integration (GIS, LiDAR, UAV) | Drone Flight Management | UAV Operations | Cross-Functional Team Leadership | Stakeholder Engagement & Communication | User Experience (UX/UI) Testing & Design | Data-Driven Decision Making & Analysis | Global Collaboration | Remote Team Coordination | Customer-Focused Solution Delivery

Professional Experience

Syngenta Seeds, Remote **January 2009 - March 2025**

Product Owner | Project Manager, January 2020 - March 2025

Led the end-to-end development and global rollout of innovative geospatial software solutions, driving cross-functional Agile teams, prioritizing product backlogs, and delivering data-driven tools that increased decision-making efficiency and operational performance across multiple regions.

Digital Product Leadership

- Owned the start-up of a new software product from vision to production use for three regions and multiple crops.
- Managed remote automation project management projects across time zones and regions, ensuring streamlined collaboration.
- 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.

Backlog Management

- 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%
- Managed competing priorities across stakeholders and teams, ensuring alignment on high-impact features and keeping product development focused on business goals.

Customer Centric Product Development

- Bridged the gap between business and technical team specifications, maintaining harmony between development teams and business stakeholders, boosting confidence and engagement by 70%

Cross-Functional Collaboration

- 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.

Stakeholder Engagement & Change Management

- Facilitated stakeholder requirement gathering, sprint planning with developers, cross-team collaboration, and team building to enhance productivity and cohesiveness.

Data Analysis & Improvements

- Analyzed datasets to reveal patterns, correct discrepancies, and improve accuracy by 40%
- Directed the use of analytics with computer vision science in field testing, leading to a 30% increase in operational efficiency.
- Familiarity with Database management and SQL and Creating Data Visualization through dashboards using Mural, smartsheets, and other tools to increase visibility.

Research Associate | Specialist in Applied Phenotyping, January 2009 - December 2019
Managed and executed applied phenotyping research and pilot projects leveraging UAV, GIS, and computer vision technologies to enhance agricultural data collection, improve data accuracy, and support cross-functional scientific collaboration across global regions.

Product Leadership

- 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.
- 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%

Data Analysis

- 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.
- Improved accuracy by 20% and data reliability by developing trial plans across multiple regions.
- Optimized operations by managing data collection activities.

Cross-Functional Collaboration

- Facilitated cross-functional collaboration among global scientists and breeders to generate high-quality agriculture data.
- Managed Lab activities and seasonal employees in field activities.

Education

Bachelor of Science (BS), Agronomy
South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

Associate of Science (AS), Agriculture
Iowa Lakes Community College, Iowa Lakes, IA

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