# Usability Test Script

## 1. Introduction **(To set tone and build rapport.)**

- Introduce ourselves, go over purpose of testing.
- Discuss user's role and our role in the testing — they're not being tested, the interface is.
- Describe the state of the prototype — not finished product without actual data.
- Mention approximate duration of the test (20-30 mins?) and usual disclaimers (can stop anytime or give up on any task).

## 2. Initial Questions **(To get background info.)**

1. How many fields do you have and what kinds of crops do you grow on them? **[for background info]**
2. How do you think of your fields when you recall them from memory? What specific qualities do you think of when you recall them? **[for field card insights]**
3. What are your current methods for checking the status of your fields — like weather data, precipitation data, etc.? [**for background info]**
    a. How do you do it and at what time of day?
    b. What do you try to determine/figure out when you do this?
4. When thinking of the weather data of your fields, what spans of time are you curious about? **[for timeline shortcut insights]**
    a. For example, how many days of weather forecast information is relevant to you?
    b. What lengths of time in the past would you use to observe trends?
5. What are your expectations for a website that helps you keep track of field weather/status?

## 3. Exploratory Testing **(To observe initial reaction and understanding.)**

- Introduce Climate.com if user is not familiar with it, and how the prototype fits into it.
- Reveal prototype and patiently observe user's initial reaction.
    - Can they understand what it is, what it's for, and how it could help them, without guidance?
- Ask any open-ended follow-up questions based on user's interactions and reactions.
- If user discusses potential usage scenarios as they're exploring, follow up by asking the user to enact the scenario.

## 4. Scenario-Oriented Testing **(To go through scenarios relevant to growers.)**

1. Let's say you're a farmer in (Peoria) Illinois with three fields. Today is July 1st, early in the morning, before you'll head out for fieldwork. You've heard about Climate.com's Field Weather Tracker tool, played around with it briefly, and want to see how it might help you prepare for the day's work ahead.
    a. You're planning to spray some herbicide on "Dads Farm", and want to find a good time today to do so.
        i. (So, you want to find a time that isn't too windy and won't have heavyfall afterwards.)
        ii. (Let's say, the wind speed needs to be below 10mph for a few hours, and you can't have a high amount of precipitation in the hours after spraying.)
2. Now, you're a bit curious about what other kinds of information you could see.
    a. You want to see the soil moisture of "Airport" for the past month.
    b. You want to check the accumulated precipitation in "Homestead" for the past week.
    c. You want to track the progression of growth stages in "Dads Farm" for the current growing season-to-date.

3. You remember hearing that the Field Weather Tracker lets you compare recent weather to previous years. That suddenly reminds you about that unusual rough patch of weather the “Airport” field had back in 2009 at this same time of year. You’re concerned a similar occurrence may happen this year.
    a. You’d like to compare “Airport”’s recent weather with the weather in 2009.
    b. Your other two fields didn’t have odd weather back in 2009, so you’d like to compare those fields’ weather in 2009 with “Airport’s” recent weather.
4. You’re curious about the weather in the harvest period in September/October and want to see if there’s a forecast available.
    a. You want to check the forecasted temperatures for September and October (for any field).
    b. Now, you want to compare those forecasted temperatures to the historical average in the past 10 years.

- **[after every task]** Any thoughts about what you did?
- **[after successes]** After finding the information, is there anything else you want to see/know?
- **[after failures]** What difficulties did you have as you were trying to complete the task?

## 5. Final Questions **(To get final insights/thoughts and probe interface specifics not addressed earlier.)**

- Is the tool understandable? Usable? Useful?
    - How can it be more so? What is or isn’t?
- For specific interface elements...
    - **FIELD CARDS**
        - Is the information shown sufficient to help you identify your field?
        - What information would best help you identify your own fields on these “field cards”?
    - **TIMELINE SHORTCUTS**
        - How soon were you able to find the timeline shortcuts?
            - Did you understand what they meant and what they did?
        - Are these time spans relevant to how you would want to view data?
            - Any other time spans that you think would be useful?
    - **TIMELINE DATA + TIMELINE SLIDERS**
        - What do you think the data in the timeline means? Is it helpful?
        - How soon were you able to understand how the timeline slider navigation worked?
        - How often would you see yourself use the timeline slider navigation (as opposed to the timeline shortcuts)?
    - **DISPLAYED DATA + HOVER EFFECT** (soil moisture, growth stage, precipitation, temperatures)
        - What do you think the information in the graphs mean? How helpful are they?
        - How do you feel about using the mouse to hover and see data?
    - **COMPARISON DROPDOWN**
        - How soon were you able to understand how the comparison dropdown worked?
        - How helpful is it for you to compare recent weather to...
            - ...long-term historical weather averages?
            - …weather from specific years?
            - …weather from other fields?
            - ...weather from other fields on specific years?
- In what scenarios could you see yourself using this tool?
    - When/where? On what kind of device?
- Would this tool help you make decisions for your fields?
- Any final thoughts/comments?
- (Compare prototype with current Climate.com site, if appropriate.)