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## Crs Report for Congress: Precision Agriculture and Site-Specific Management: Current Status and Emerging Policy Issues: August 7, 2000 - RL3063

By Tadlock Cowan

Bibliogov, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Precision agriculture (PA) is a suite of information technologies that can support a farm-based and site-specific crop management system in agricultural production. PA is not a single technology or farming system, but rather a cluster of different techniques. PA uses advanced information technologies to identify and to evaluate temporal and spatial variation in cropland. Rather than apply inputs of production, e.g., fertilizers, pesticides, seed, or water, uniformly across a field, a grower using PA techniques can apply inputs more efficiently based on the biophysical variability of different areas of a field. Proponents argue that PA can increase the yield potential of a farm while reducing the costs from inefficiently applying inputs. Further, by applying fertilizers and pesticides in more efficient amounts, proponents argue that farmers would reduce the environmental effects of over-application. Because PA is in the early stages of adoption, however, these benefits have been difficult to measure to date. Returns to investment in PA have also been mixed according to available research. Questions persist about the appropriate scale of analysis and measurement needed to validly assess...



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