Progress to date:

Overall the state of Minnesota harvest was behind due to poor harvest conditions and late spring planting. Data collection in this period was delayed for similar reasons but eventually all yield data from sites was collected. Anna met with current growers to establish relationships. The field was harvested at the end of October and the yield data was collected shortly after that.

During this quarter two more sites were added to our program. They are located in Rock Creek and Manohmen. One site is looking at conventional tillage vs. no-till with cover crop. The other site is comparing conventional vs. manure with cover crop. Anna has met in person with one of the two additional growers and plans to meet with the other in the spring. All growers have been invited to the winter research meeting held in Marshall, MN and at least two of them plan to attend.

Planning for the winter research meeting which will occur next quarter has been a priority. Anna has been continuing her education by attending events and conferences to familiarize herself with relevant information for Minnesota. This quarter we launched our Farmer Reports, which display National, Regional, and farm level analysis of the soils and yield data we have been collecting. Additionally, we launched our new cover crop survey to collect economic and management data pertaining to cover crops. Data from this survey will be presented at the winter research meeting next quarter, and those attending will be given the opportunity to share their input. This has been a team effort supported by our lead scientist and internal data team.

Future Work:

Next quarter, SHP will be taking advantage of the winter months to advance our data infrastructure and strengthen our network through outreach events.

Our team will be gathering in Minnesota in January for a working meeting where we will review data from 2019 and prepare protocols and methods for 2020. John Mesko, SHP Senior Director will be attending the MN Ag Expo. SHP will round out our January 2020 activities with the Winter Research Meeting. SHP will also be increasing our outreach and engagement through business case development, social media, webinars, in person training, and farmer to farmer networking at our Commodity Classic Happy Hour and educational presentations. Anna will continue to attend events located within the state to continue to gain knowledge and perspective of issues relevant to Minnesota. Additionally, she is attending Commodity Classic to gain a better understanding of State and National corn growers processes as well as connect with farmers.

As spring approaches and farmers get their planters ready to roll, Anna will be preparing for data collection and research implementation for the field trails. As well as prepare new sites for their first year with SHP. Soil sampling and agronomic data collection protocols will be specific areas of focus this spring.