Producers rely on advantages when managing nutrient input costs, and “pop-up” fertilizers offer an ability to precisely apply smaller amounts of nutrients early in the season. Typically the effects are not fully realized until harvest time; however, color-infrared and NDVI* imagery reveals plant health sooner than traditional methods.

In the case study below, the producer noted in his farm management system where the equipment stopped applying pop-up fertilizer. The field was then captured two months later using color-infrared cameras on a manned aircraft. By easily integrating AgPixel’s imagery with his preferred management system, he was able to compare the map and note a distinct difference in plant vitality where the nutrients were not applied.

LESS HEALTHY CORN  HEALTHIER CORN

NATURAL COLOR OBLIQUE IMAGE
There was no visible difference in crop health from an aerial or ground view.

NDVI* IMAGE
The indicated area with no pop-up had a lower NDVI value than the healthier areas receiving fertilizer.

(In this example, the left side of the field was more densely planted than the right, accounting for variations not caused by missed pop-up application.)

FARM MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
A note was made on the indicated area where pop-up fertilizer was not applied.

*Normalized Difference Vegetation Index