

# MODELLING $\beta$ -GLUCAN CONTENT IN OAT

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# $\beta$ -glucan in oat

- Important for health related benefits of oat
- Has been increased through plant breeding
- However in many years BG levels are relatively low

# Environmental control $\beta$ -glucan

- Environmental variables have equal effect compared to genetics
  - Doehlert et al. 2001
- Reduced water usually associated with increase BG
  - Brummer and Freed, 1994; Peterson et al. 1991; Peterson et al, 1995
- Increased temperature also associated with increased BG
  - Doehlert et al. 2001

# $\beta$ -glucan relationship to oat physical quality

- Oil content, breakage and protein positive association with BG
- Groat percentage negative correlation with BG
  - Yan et al, 2007



# Modeling $\beta$ -glucan

- Potential to understand environmental drivers
- Effect of environment and agronomy modelled on barley BG
  - Tiwari and Cummins (2008)

# Objective

- To model the effects of environment and oat quality parameters on  $\beta$ -glucan content in oat

# Data Set

- Western Cooperative Oat Registration Trials (WCORT)
  - 2001 to 2010
- 6-17 locations per year
- 28-36 genotypes per year
- Each genotype normally present only 2 years
- CDC Dancer control in all years
  - Usually two other control per year

# $\beta$ -glucan determination

- BG determined
  - NIR and flow-injection used predominantly
  - Nancy Ames
- 49 site-years BG tested
- 1641 data entries
  - one genotype with quality and environmental data



# Environmental data

- precipitation
- average maximum temperature
- average minimum temperature
- cooling degree-days (days with average temperature above 18C)
- days with maximum temperature above 30 C.
- average monthly temperatures
- monthly temperature range
- growing season precipitation (May – August)

# Seed physical quality

- Test weight
- thousand kernel weight
- percent plumps & percent thins
- percent groat

# Crop development

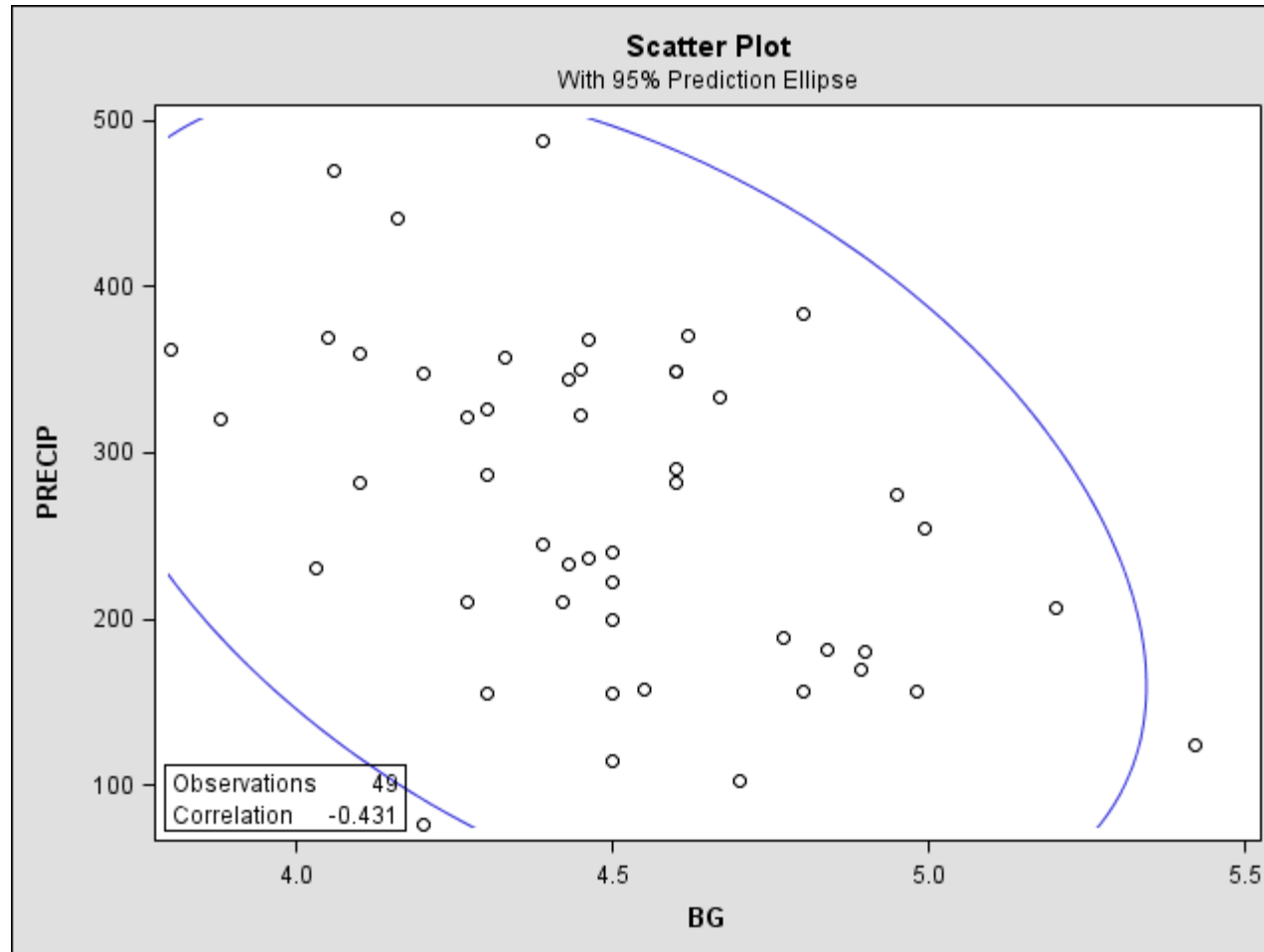
- Days to heading
- Days to maturity

# Analysis approach

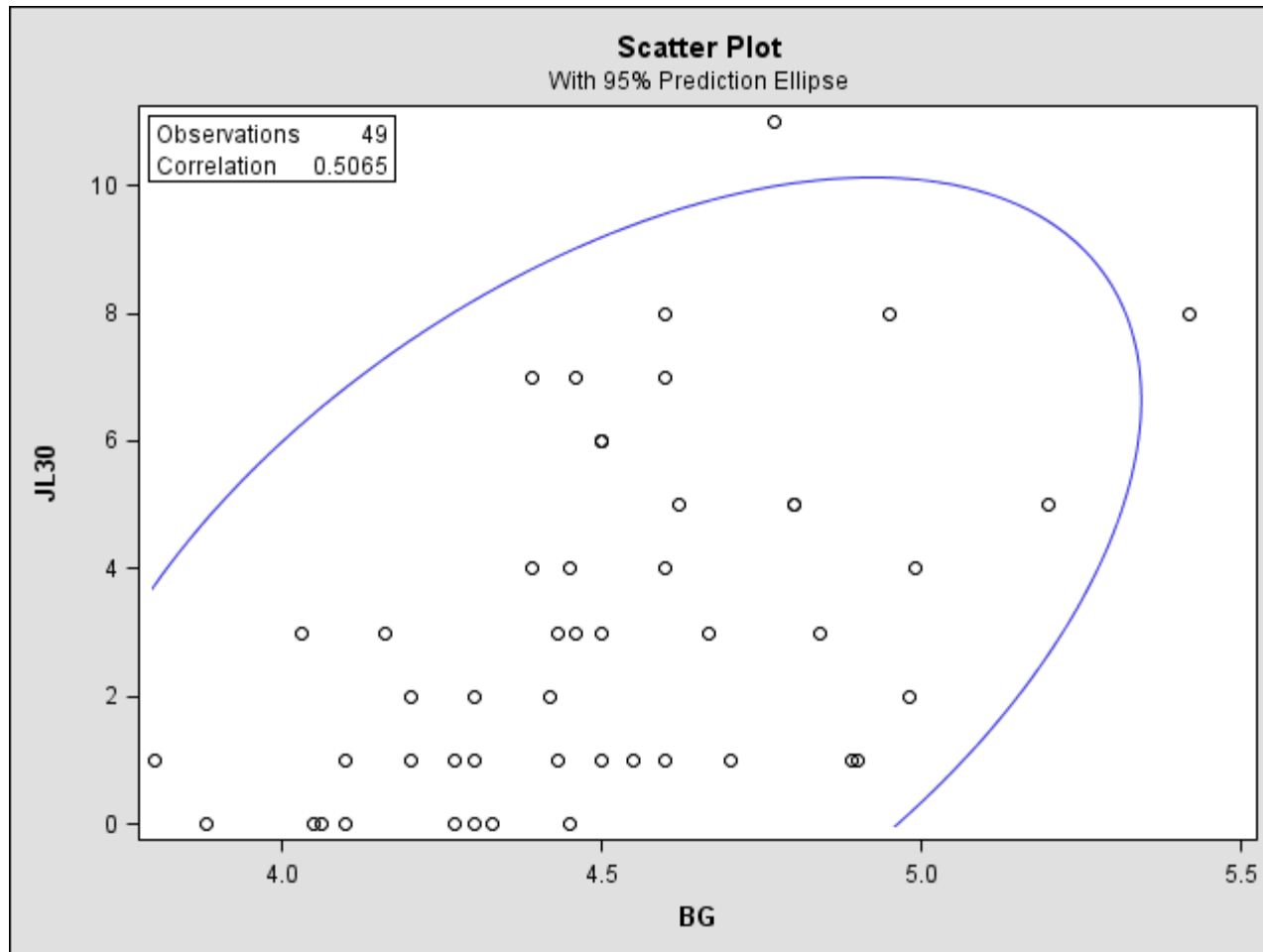
- Initial exploratory analysis with correlation
- Only on CDC Dancer



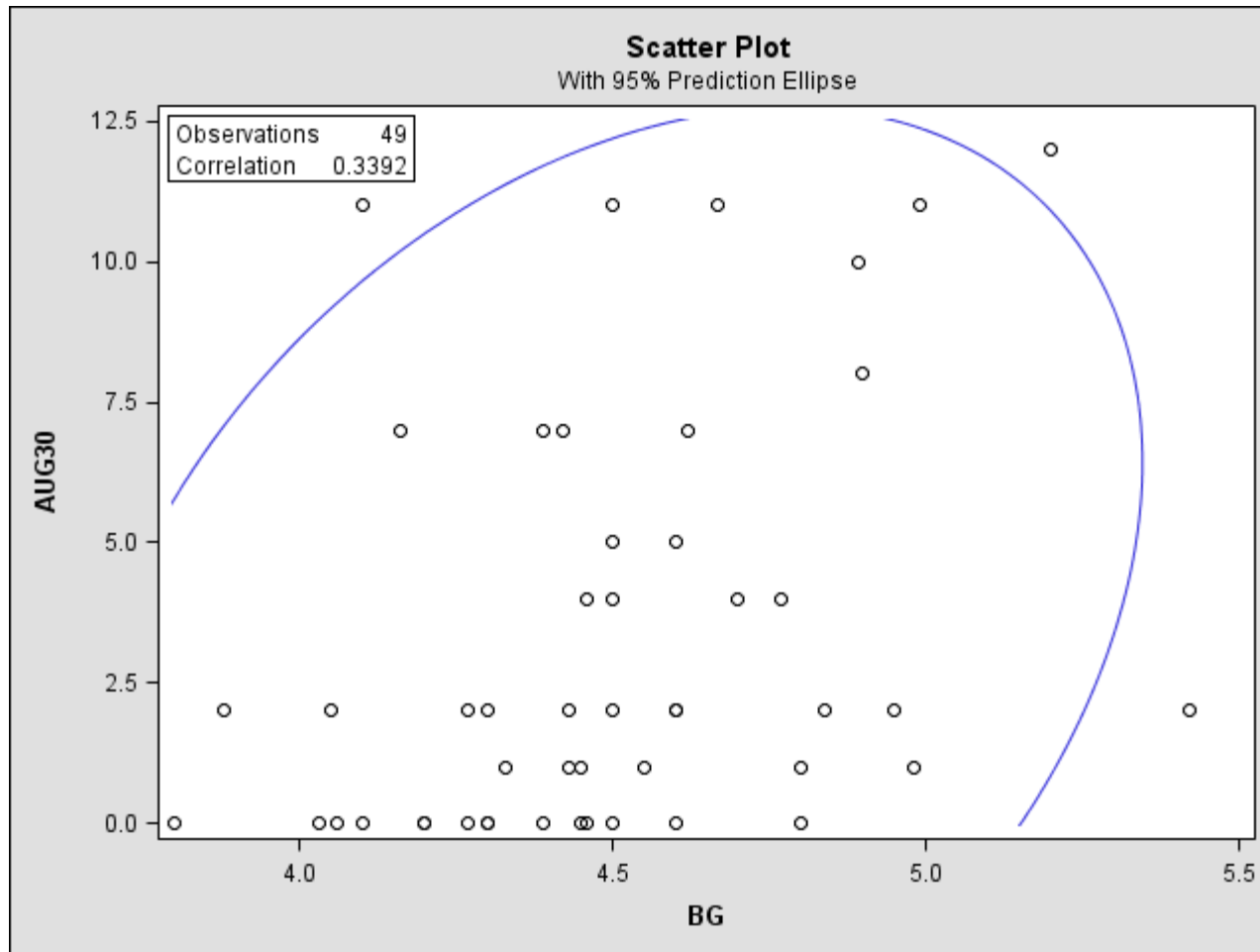
# Seasonal precipitation (PRECIP) & $\beta$ -glucan (BG)



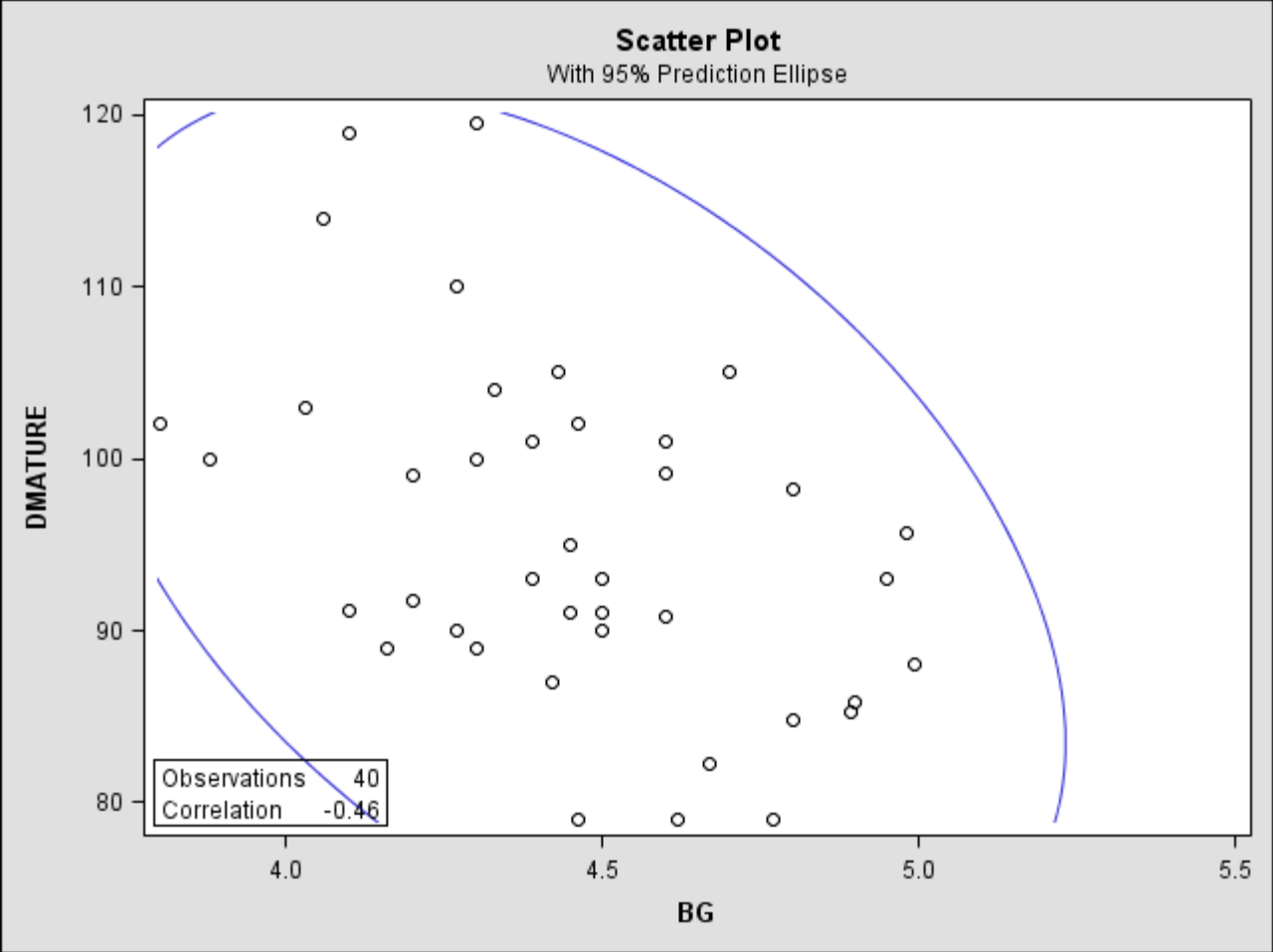
# Days in July with max temperatures >30 C (JL30) & $\beta$ -glucan (BG)



# Days in August with max temperatures >30 C (AUG30) & $\beta$ -glucan (BG)

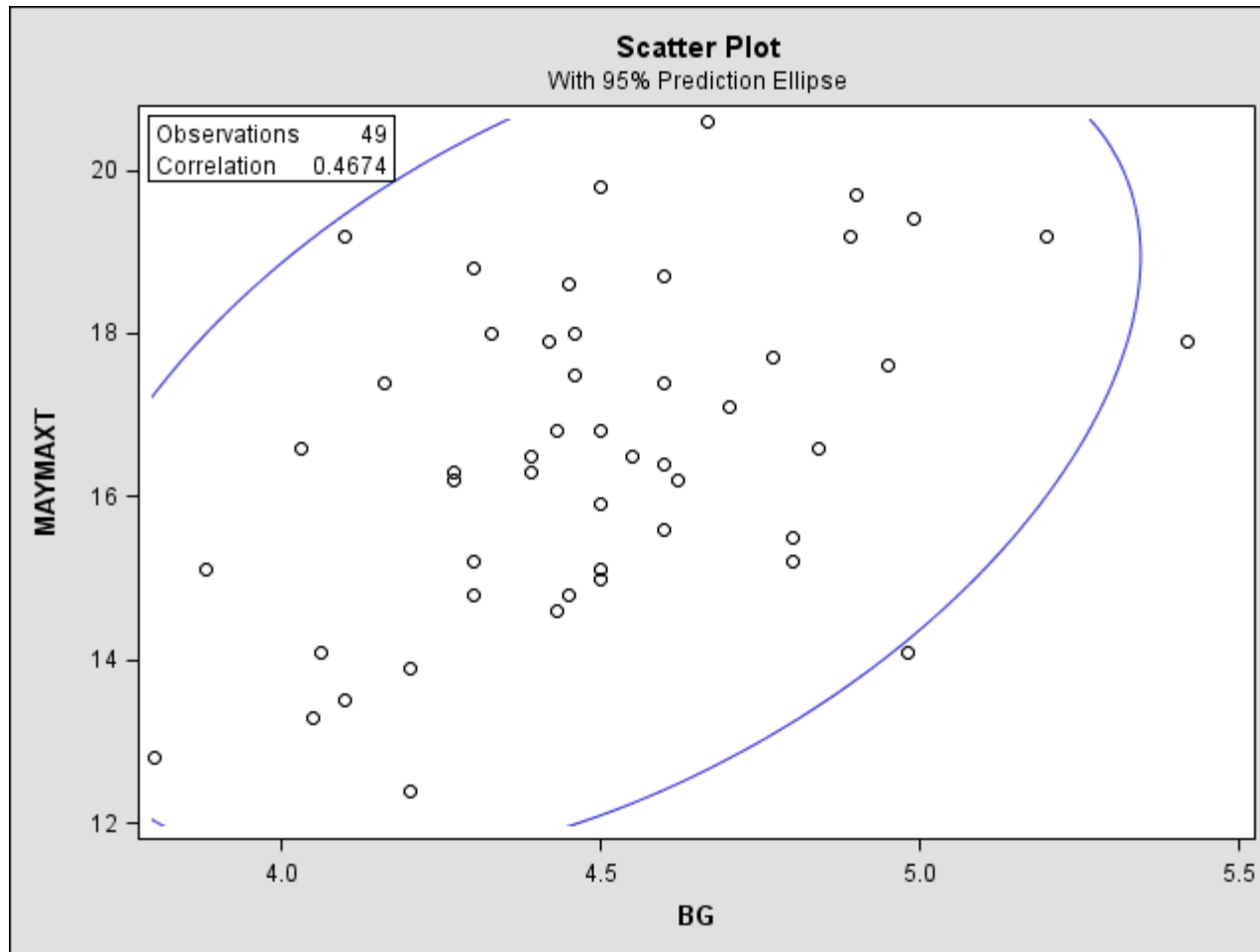


# Days to maturity (DMATURE) & $\beta$ -glucan (BG)





# Average May maximum temp (MAYMAXT) & $\beta$ -glucan (BG)



# Standardizing and removing genetic effect from $\beta$ -glucan

- The genetic effect of BG removed by standardizing relative to controls
  - CDC Dancer and Morgan – low BG controls
  - Leggett and Ronald – high BG controls
- Used PROC MIXED to calculate and then remove the genetic effect
- Increase in  $\beta$ -glucan 0.34% in 10 years
- “Non-genetic  $\beta$ -glucan” (NGBG)

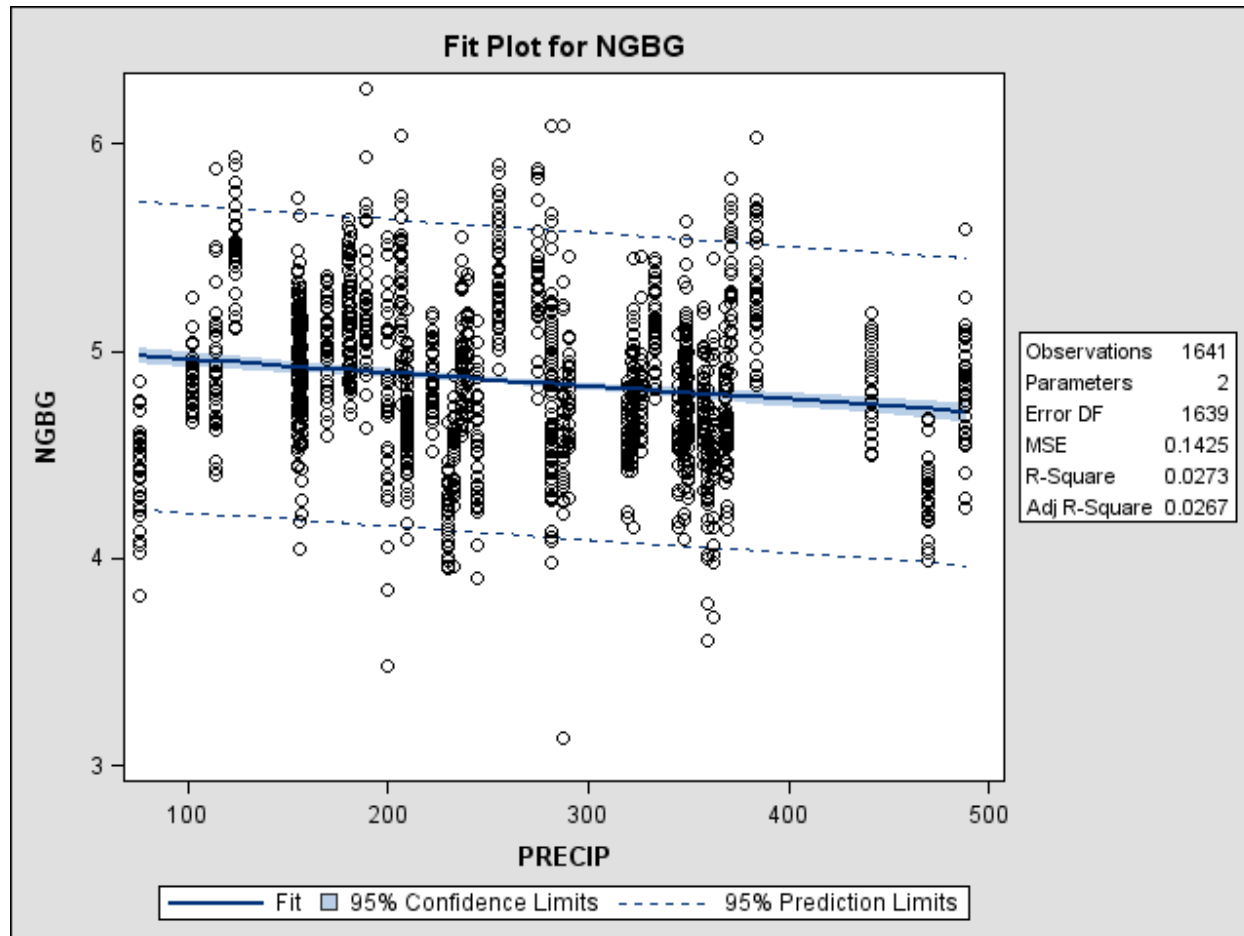
# Stepwise multiple linear regression

- Multiple linear regressions variables
- Iterative process in which variables are removed
- Controlled for colinearity
  - vif and collinoint option in PROC REG of SAS
  - common sense

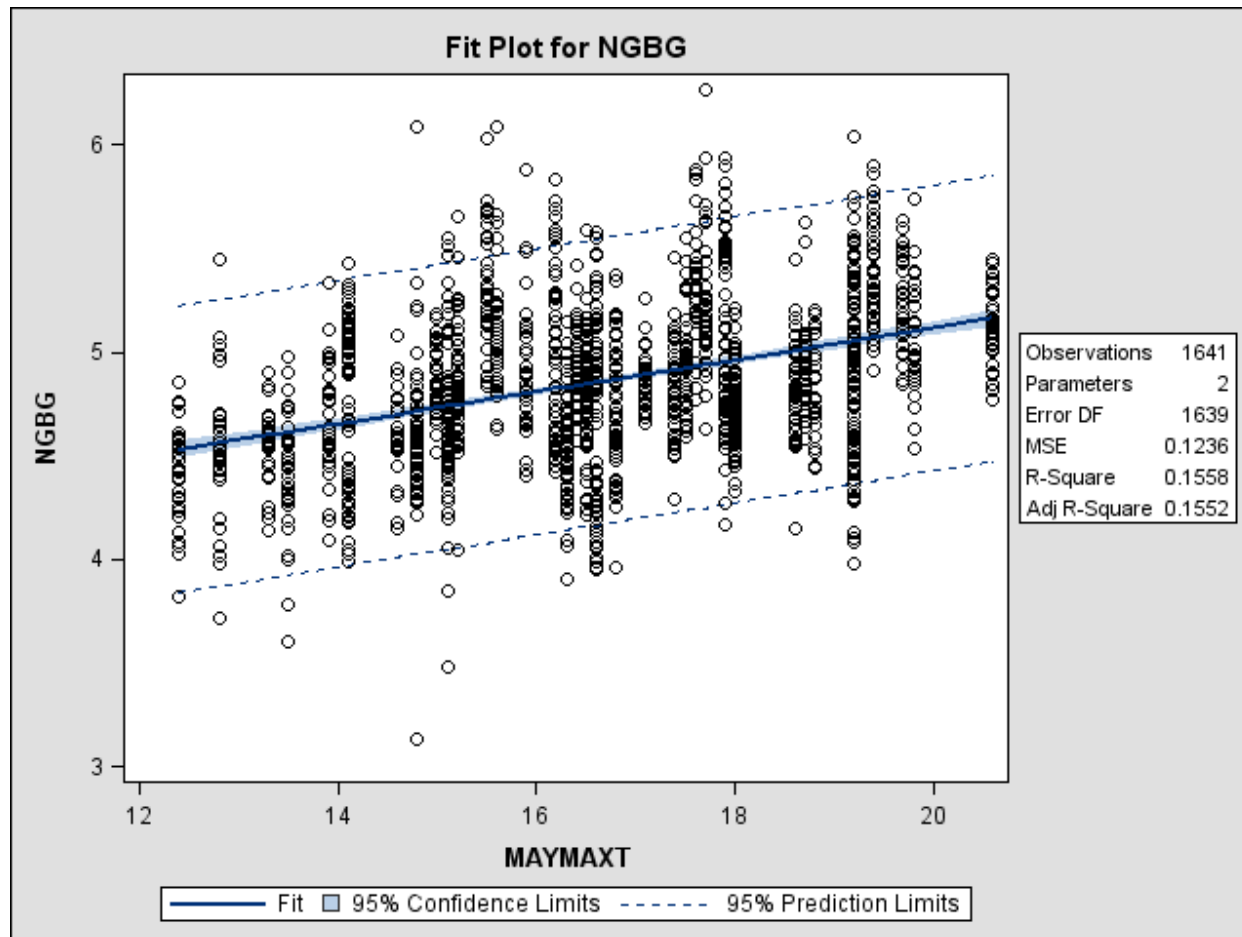
# The 5 Significant environmental parameters:

- PRECIP: growing season precipitation (May – September) in mm
- JL30: to number of days in July with max. T greater than 30 C;
- MAYMAXT: average max. T in May;
- AUGMAXT the average max. T in August
- AUGTDIFF the diff. between that average max. and min. T in August.
- $R^2 = 0.40$

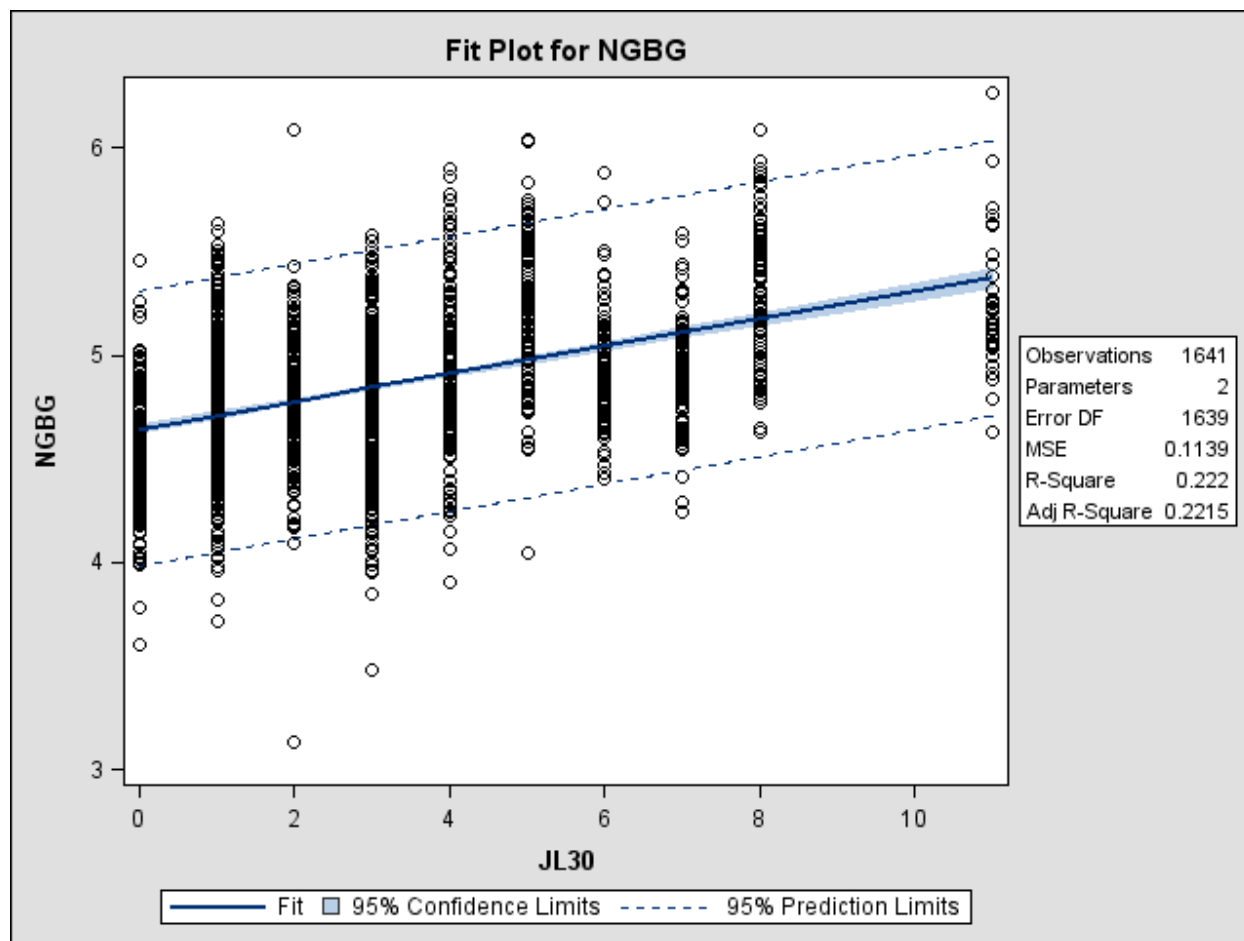
# Effect of precipitation (PRECIP) on non-genetic $\beta$ -glucan (NGBG)



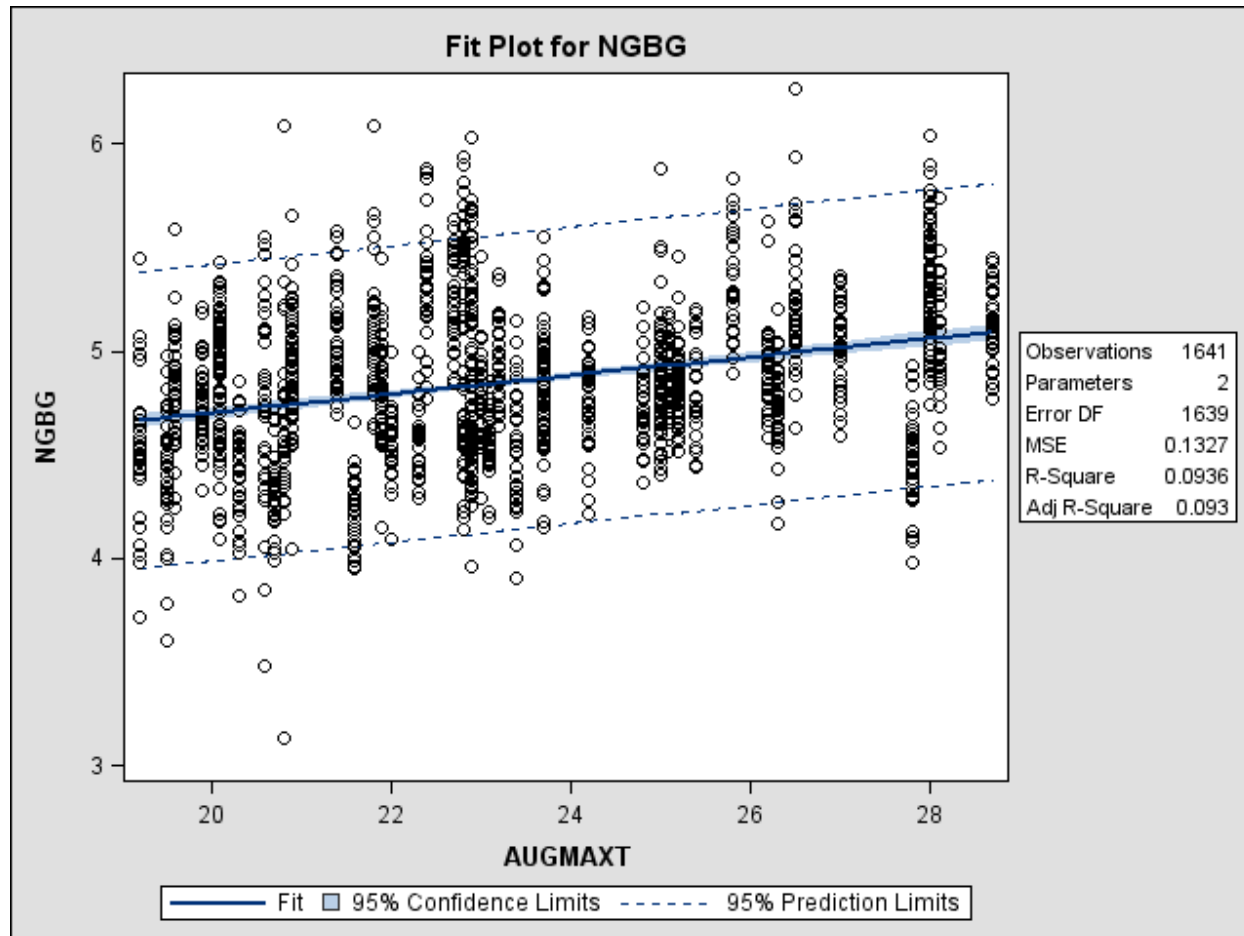
# Effect of avg. May max. temp. (MAYMAXT) on non-genetic $\beta$ -glucan (NGBG)



# Effect of number of days in July > 30 C (JL30) on non-genetic $\beta$ -glucan (NGBG)

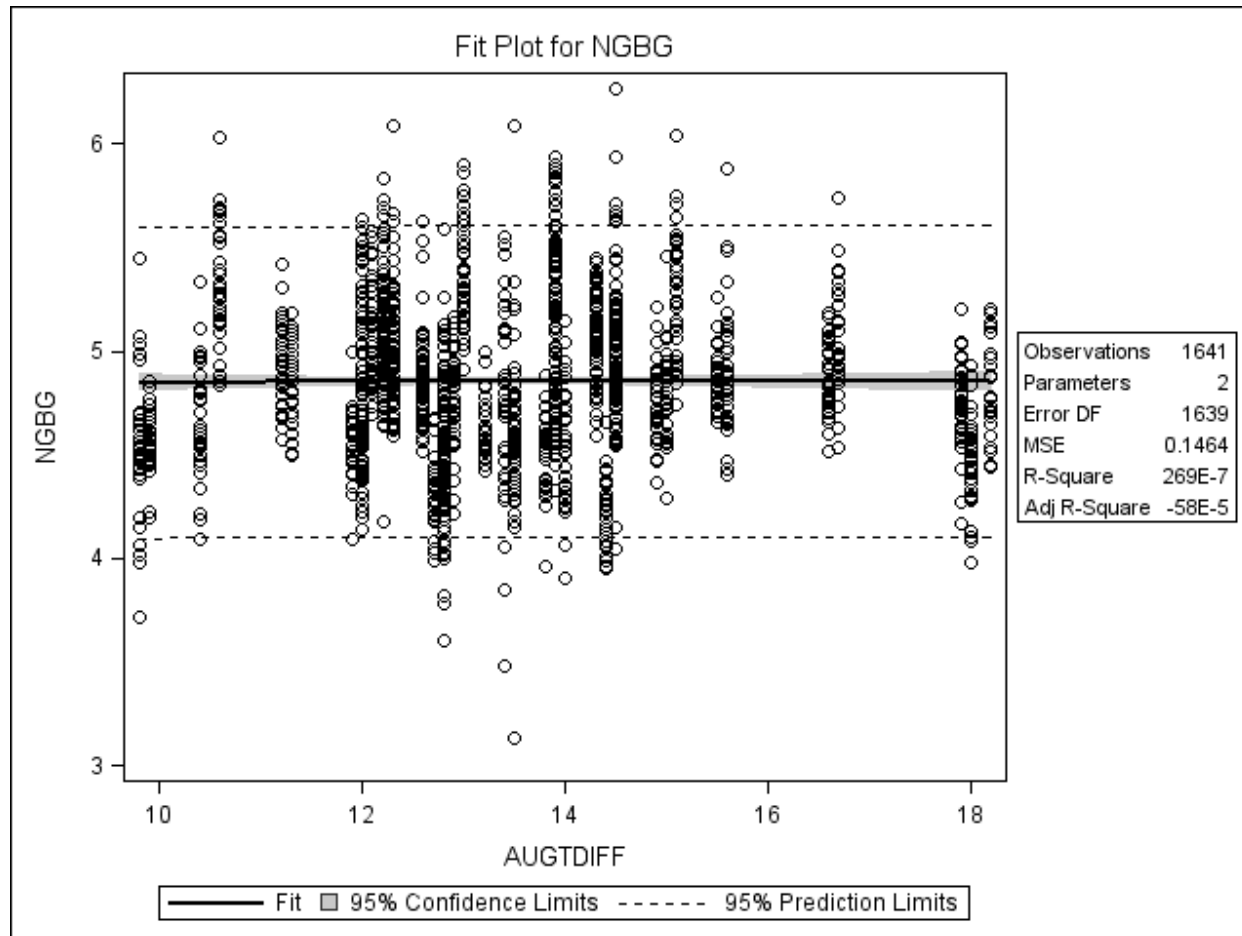


# Effect of avg. August max. temp. (MAYMAXT) on non-genetic $\beta$ -glucan (NGBG)

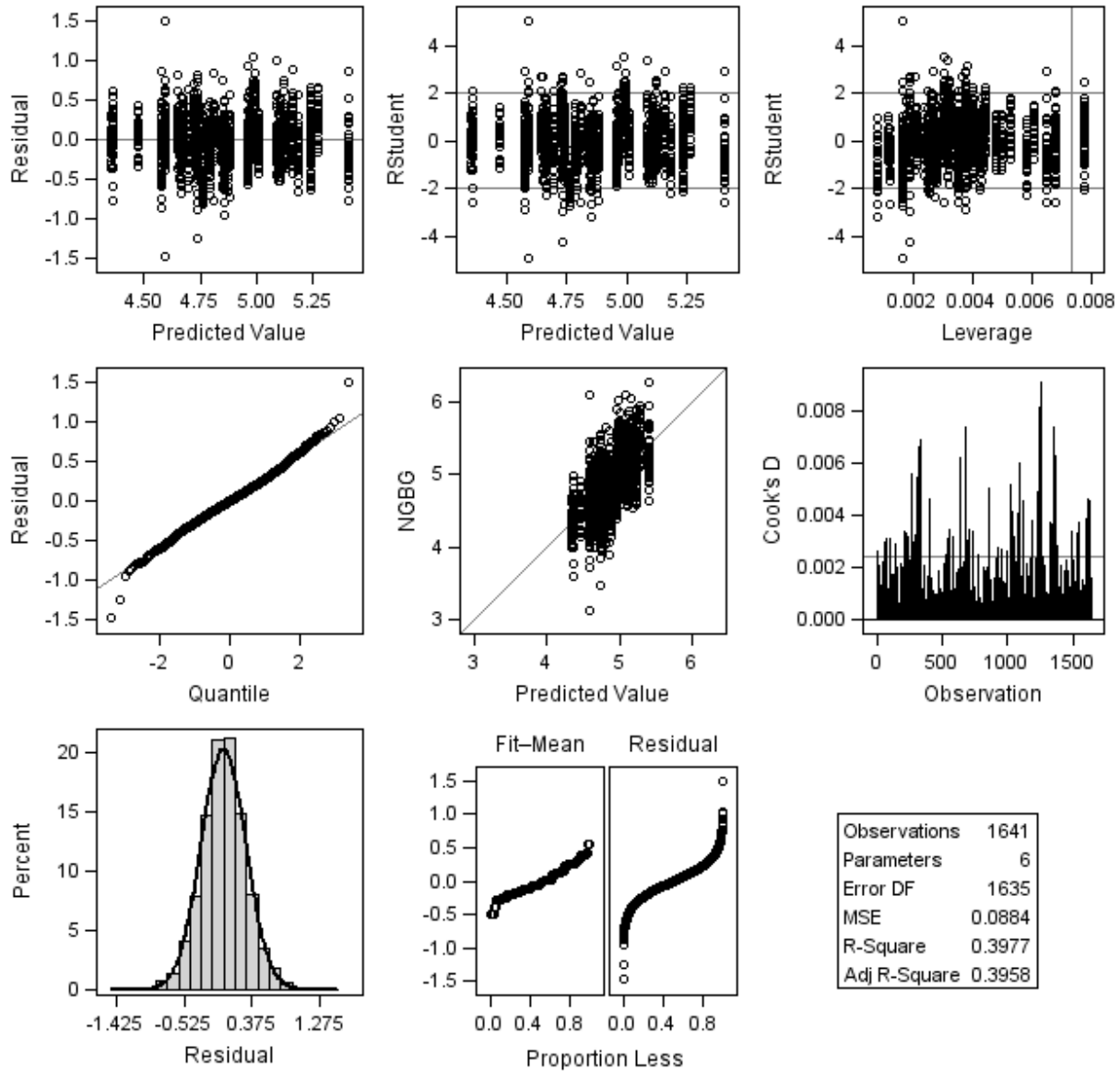




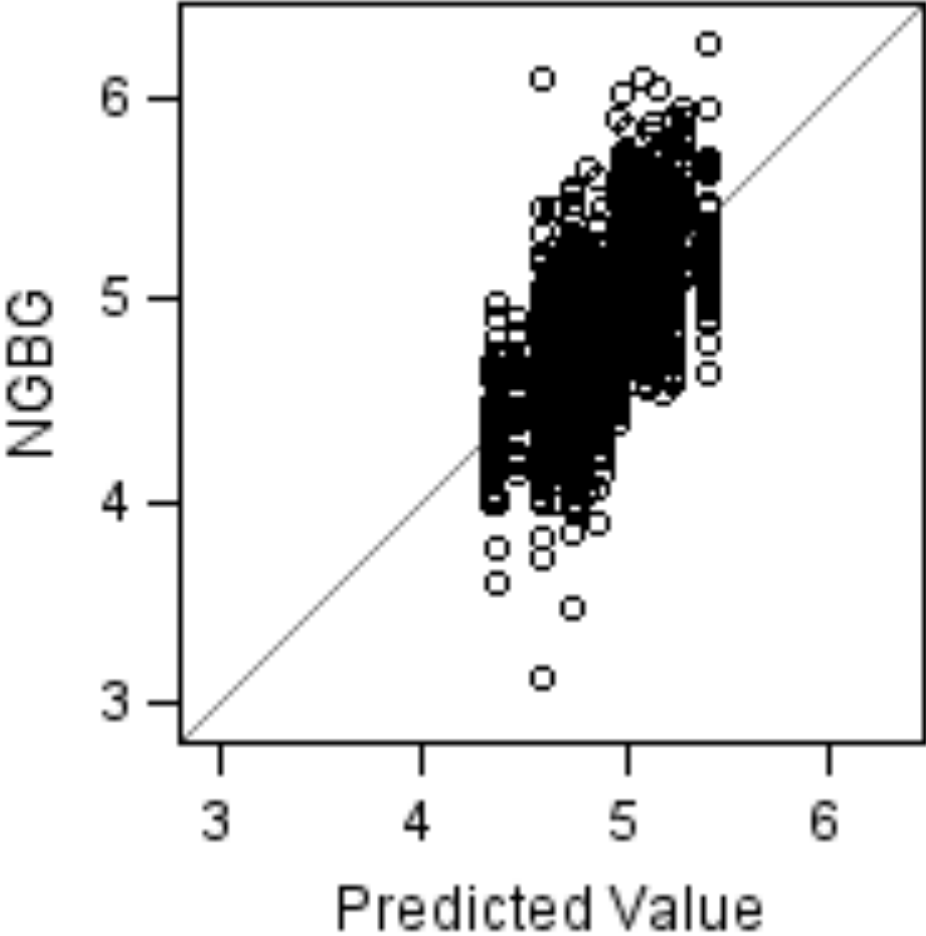
# Effect of August avg. temp. range (max. – min. T; AUGDIFF) on NGBG



### Fit Diagnostics for NGBG



# Observed vs. expected BG values



## THE equation:

- $\beta$ -glucan (%) = 4.2  
- 0.00077 \* PRECIP  
+ 0.054 \* JL30  
+ 0.068 \* MAYMAXT  
+ 0.023 \* AUGMAXT  
- 0.074 \* AUGTDIFF

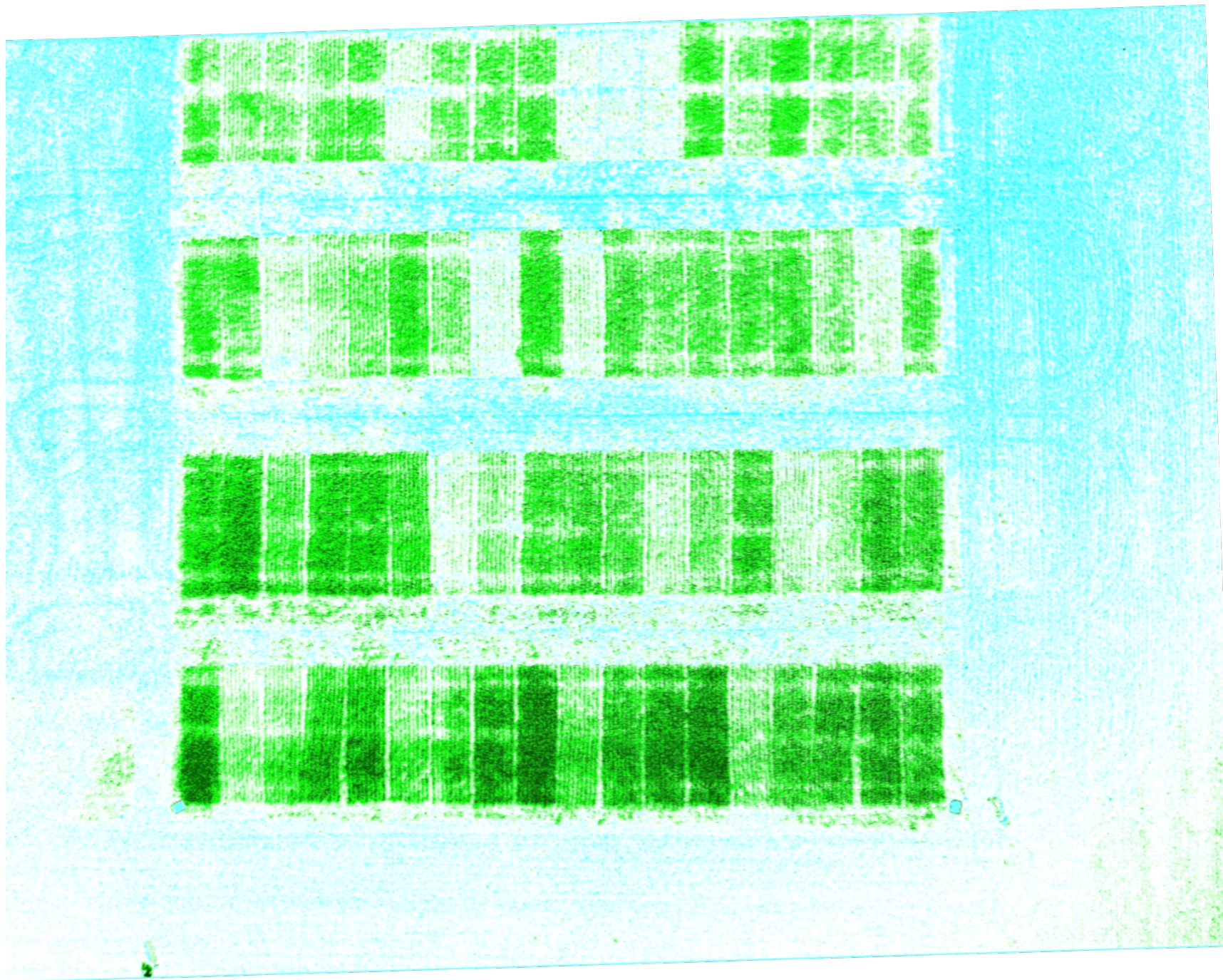
$$R^2 = 0.40$$

# Conclusions:

- Temperature was the driving environmental factor affecting BG in this 10 year period
- Sourcing oats from areas with higher maximum Temperatures should result in higher BG values
- What are physiological mechanisms behind this?







0.941

0.2 %

0.824

0.8 %

0.708

2.8 %

0.588

5.2 %

0.471

7.4 %

0.353

8.3 %

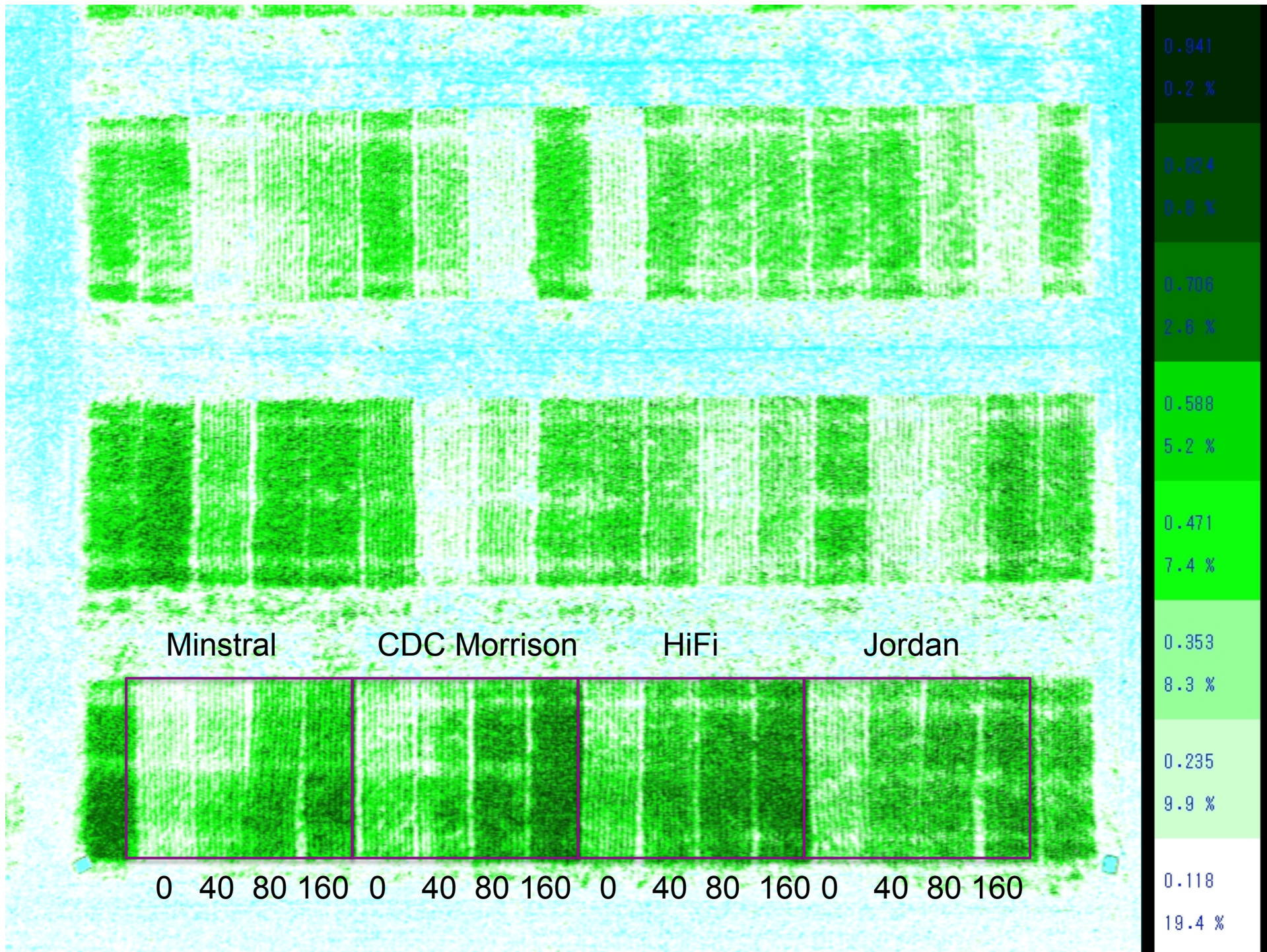
0.235

9.9 %

0.118

19.4 %







# Acknowledgements

- Everyone who grew the WCORT trial!

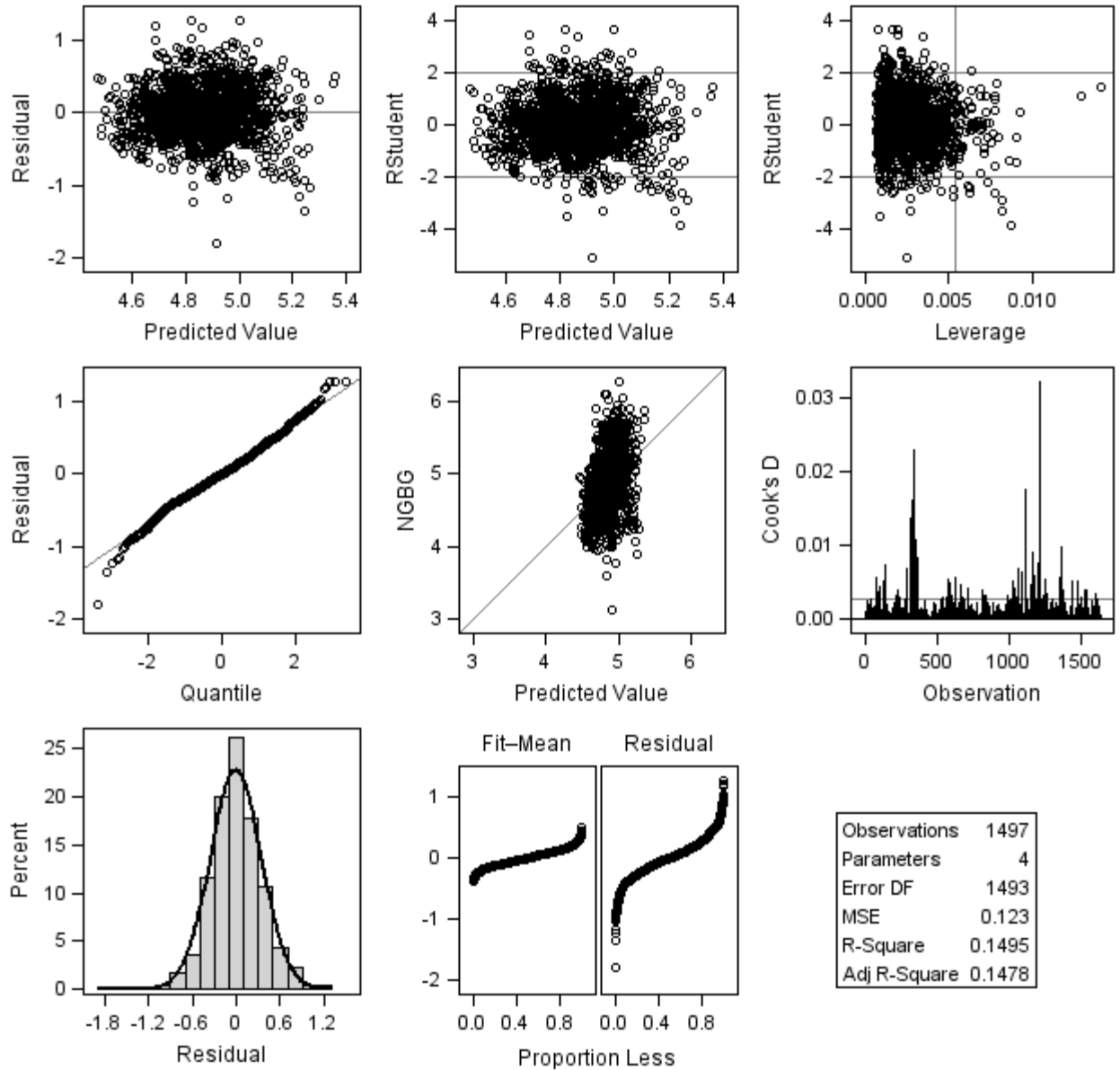


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### Fit Diagnostics for NGBG



Observations	1497
Parameters	4
Error DF	1493
MSE	0.123
R-Square	0.1495
Adj R-Square	0.1478

