

150 Years of Data, One Legacy

How the Morrow Plots are training AI for future farming.

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THE DATA

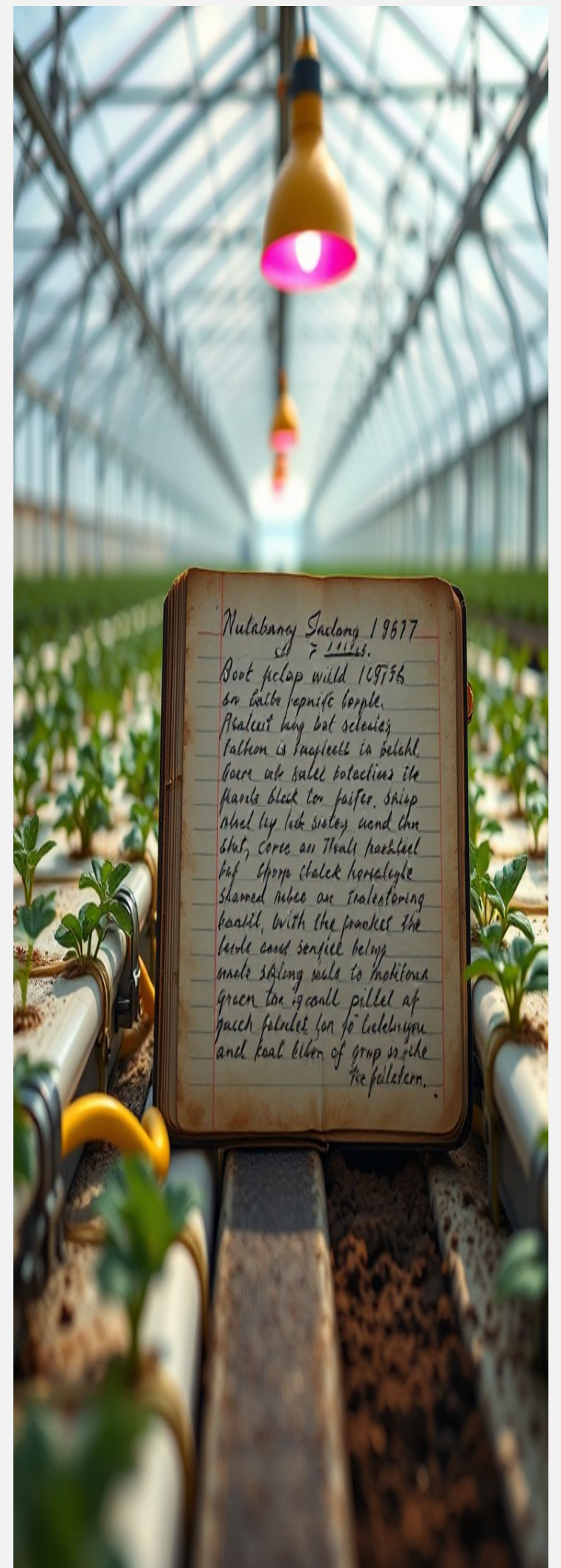
150

Years of Continuous Research

The Morrow Plots at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign are the longest-running agricultural experiment in the U.S.

Since 1876, the Morrow Plots have tracked soil health, crop yields, and farming practices without interruption. This unbroken dataset—spanning over a century and a half—offers a rare, longitudinal foundation for training agricultural AI models to predict long-term environmental and yield outcomes.

Source: University Archives, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign · Published October 07, 2026
<https://news.illinois.edu/university-archives-exhibit-highlights-history-impact-of-morrow-plots-on-its-150th-anniversary/>



01

Data Legacy as AI Training Ground

AgTech AI models trained on such data learn to recognize subtle, long-term patterns—like how soil degradation from continuous corn planting affects yield decades later—far beyond what short-term sensor data can offer.

02

Historical Data as Climate Resilience Blueprint

For AI in AgTech, the Morrow Plots demonstrate that resilience isn't just about hardware or algorithms—it's about data integrity over time. Future AI models for climate adaptation must be trained on data that has weathered real-world disruptions, not just idealized simulations.



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