

# Wisconsin Soy Scoop

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

*June 2007*

Wisconsin soybeans are growing at a record pace across the state and that has producers feeling good about this year's crops.

Conditions can change rapidly this time of year since disease and pest outbreaks are highly dependent on weather, crop progress and field. A variety of on-going research programs funded by the state soybean checkoff focus on soybean disease, insect and other yield-impacting pest problems.

Diseases of most significance in Wisconsin are soybean cyst nematode (SCN), white mold, brown stem rot (BSR) and stem canker. In addition, Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) has risen sharply recently, coinciding with the spread of SCN.

Both SCN and SDS can be managed through a combined program of vigilant scouting, variety selection, and cultural practices. Checkoff-funded research trials are testing varieties for control efficacy and examining the effect crop rotation has on SCN control.

## **Free SCN kits offered**

Soybean producers who suspect a field may have soybean cyst nematodes have access to free SCN screening kits, paid for by soybean checkoff funds. These kits include soil sampling instructions, postage-paid envelopes for mailing the soil samples, and other SCN information.

A limited number of SCN-screening kits are available upon request, on a first-come, first-served basis, through the UW agronomy office via E-mail at [clsmith8@wisc.edu](mailto:clsmith8@wisc.edu) or by calling Colleen Smith at 608-262-7702.

## **Variety evaluation plots**

Production research is the heart of Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board programs and this year's field trials cover a range of research designed to give state soybean producers a competitive edge.

One ongoing study measures the oil and protein composition of Wisconsin-grown soybeans from plots established at 12 different locations. Another project evaluates specialty soybeans and considers economic factors, along with yield and composition performance. Nearly 40 different soybean varieties will be evaluated for various qualities, including specific food uses, such as tofu, miso, and low-linolenic qualities.

The specialty soybean evaluation trials, currently in their second year of testing, are conducted at 12 different locations including one certified organic plot. Some of the

varieties evaluated have established markets, such as organic and food uses, while others hold potential for new market development if they can be successfully grown. Results are published each winter, along with comparative yield data, by the University of Wisconsin, Department of Agronomy and UW-Extension.

### **Rust programs continue**

Controlling Asian soybean rust continues to be a priority for grower-focused funding, with significant money allocated to projects that research the impact and management of this foreign fungus. Spore-monitoring programs to watch for rust development in the state and additional research evaluates the impact of fungicides on soybean health and yield in general. The rust detection web site is up and running at [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net) and information on the fungicide and SCN and SDS studies are available on the UW Plant Pathology web site at [www.plantpath.wisc.edu/soyhealth](http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/soyhealth) .

Maximizing the profitability of Wisconsin's soybean producers by investing Wisconsin's soybean checkoff funds in targeted research projects is one of the most important aspects of the WSMB. Oversight for these field projects, as well as planned marketing and product development programs, is provided by an elected board of soybean producer members.

Soybean program board members will be on-hand at this year's Farm Technology Days, Sept. 18-20, near Albany, Wis., on the Blumer Family's Plain View Stock Farm. Look for more information on this in upcoming columns.

The Wisconsin Soybean Program's annual golf tournament tees off August 1 at the Evansville Country Club. All are welcome to play and registration information is available by calling the office at 608-274-7522. ###