

Wisconsin Soy Scoop

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

May 2006

Field trials support state production

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.

From aphids, white mold, rust and nematodes to weed control, stem health and grain composition, 15 unique, production research projects cover the gamut of soybean problems plaguing state growers. An estimated \$300,000 in state grower checkoff funds is allocated the 2006 field trials that zero in on genetic, agronomic and economic factors.

Oil, protein measured

One ongoing study measures the oil and protein composition of Wisconsin-grown soybeans from plots established at 13 different locations. Results are published each winter, along with comparative yield data, by the University of Wisconsin, Department of Agronomy and UW-Extension.

Free SCN kits offered

Another continuing research project concentrates on soybean cyst nematode (SCN) monitoring and management. As part of this program, free kits are available for submitting soil samples to be tested for SCN. These kits include sampling instructions, postage-paid envelopes for mailing the soil samples, and other SCN information. If SCN is a concern, now is a good time to take soil samples and submit them for SCN evaluation. They are available upon request through the UW agronomy office via E-mail at clsmith8@wisc.edu or by calling 608-262-7702.

Specialty beans evaluated

One exciting, new research project evaluates production of specialty soybeans and considers economic factors, along with yield and composition performance. Nearly 30 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 are conducted at 13 different locations; two of which are certified organic. 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.

Soybean stem health, response of soybean varieties to aphids, insecticides and viruses and the efficacy of 17 different soybean inoculations required for nodulation also are topics for this season's soybean plant field research.

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. Additional funding will help tracking and identify rust and provide timely public notification should problems arise, through a rust detection hotline and plant health website. The rust detection web site is up and running at www.sbrusa.net and the UW Plant Pathology web site at 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.

For more information on the soybean production field trials and other Wisconsin soybean programs call the office in Madison at 608-274-7522 or look on the website at www.wisoybean.org . ###