

SPECIAL TO AGRI-VIEW FROM THE WISCONSIN SOYBEAN PROGRAMS JULY, 2007

It's cool beans for Wisconsin soybean producers this summer as two new soybean specialists join the University of Wisconsin-Extension staff in supporting roles.

Shawn Conley, Extension soybean specialist, and Paul Esker, Extension plant pathologist both grew up in Wisconsin and both attended college at UW-Madison.

Conley official starts work in Wisconsin August 1. He sports three degrees from the UW-Madison – BS, MS and Ph.D. – and grew up milking dairy cows and growing forage crops on a farm near Monroe, Wis., before majoring in agronomy. While doing post graduate work, Conley spent three years measuring the weeds in soybean fields for a study on the economic thresholds of weeds in soybean stands.

For the last three years, Conley served as Purdue University's soybean and wheat Extension specialist concentrating on ways to improve the economic and environmental sustainability of cropping practices. Prior to that, he spent three years as faculty member of the University of Missouri. A pet project of Conley's, and one he's bringing with him from Indiana, is his website "Coolbean.info" which holds a variety of soybean management material, searchable databases and crop diagnostic information. He's presently in the process of converting this site to a Wisconsin centered one that is accessible by typing Coolbean.info into your web browser.

One of Conley's first official duties as the UW-Extension soybean specialist takes him back home to Green County for Farm Technology Days where he'll host an exhibit featuring soybean crop management. A research project already underway for Conley focuses on the effect of soybean plant populations and seed treatments in Wisconsin.

Paul Esker officially starts work in Wisconsin September 1, but he's likely to get here sooner. Originally from the Wausau area, Esker has PhD's in both plant pathology and statistics from Iowa State University and has worked extensively with ISU Extension agronomist Palle Pedesen on long-term crop rotation studies. Esker is particularly interested in studying the effects tillage and cropping systems have on corn and soybean diseases. For the last six months Esker concentrated on environmental factors that influence soybean rust development in coordination with ISU, Kansas State and a university in Brazil.

Eskar can be reached via email at pde@plantpath.wisc.edu and Conley is reachable at conleysp@purdue.edu to answer your cropping questions.

You're also likely to find both new Extension specialists at soybean field days sponsored by the Wisconsin Soybean Association in August. Extension agents from Chippewa, Dodge, and Grant Counties host these sessions with presentations from the University of Wisconsin- Departments of Agronomy, Entomology, and Plant Pathology. Local

demonstration plots will be used at each site to assist with questions and other soybean pest management topics.

All three field days start at 10:30 a.m., and conclude by mid-afternoon. For more information and to register, contact the following host county agent:

- August 6, Chippewa County, Jerry Clark, 715-726-7950
- August 7, Dodge County, Matt Hanson, 920-386-3790
- August 8, Grant County, Ted Bay, 608-723-2125

The 2007 Soybean Pest Management Field Days are funded by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board. WSA members are admitted free, while non-members will be charged \$10 to cover the cost of training and noon lunch. ###