



Agronomy Notes

Capital Region

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Capital Region Extension Agronomy Team

Mark Goodson, Editor



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Crop Insurance News

Risk Assessed Management (RAM): RAM suggests using a combination of CRC crop insurance coverage and forward pricing tools to maximize income in good and bad years. With February 2004 CBOT corn prices averaging \$2.83 per bu. for the harvest time contract and fall prices in the low \$2.00 range, growers who practiced RAM are expected to realize a reward of about \$0.60 or more per bushel. A nice reward for practicing RAM.

Reminder to Report Notice of Damage or Loss: The policy requires notice within 72 hours of discovery of damage, before the destruction of the crop and within 15 days after the earlier of harvesting completion (by crop by farm unit) or the end of insurance period (12/10 for corn and soybeans). The purpose is to give a loss adjuster the opportunity to help producers document the yield, quality and causes of loss to support a claim. **Remember too that with CRC (Crop Revenue Coverage) a loss payment can result with a near normal yield because of the decline in fall prices (see illustration in RAM). IF IN DOUBT – FILE NOTICE!**

Planning for 2005

As harvesting is being completed, its time to begin to make management decisions on next year's crops. It's a good time to make early decisions on seed brands/varieties, fertilizer and chemicals, while the 2004 performance results are still fresh in your mind. It also

prepares you to make early orders for maximum discounts.

If you're considering insuring your crops/animals on a whole farm gross income basis, now is the time to contact a crop insurance agent for details. The **Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-L)** insurance plan provides protection from reductions of income from natural disasters and market price fluctuations at up to 80% of the previous 5 year average based on your IRS schedule F. 1040 forms.

CONTACT A CROP INSURANCE AGENT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE ITEMS.

**Gene Gantz,
RMA\USDA
717-497-6398**

Regional & State Extension Programs – Mark Your Calendars!

Keystone Farm Show

York Expo Center

- January 4,
 - 11:00-1:30 – Transportation Issues and Bunker Silo Management
 - 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, & 2:00 – Pesticide Education Credit Opportunities
- January 5
 - 11:00-1:30 – Transportation Issues and Contract Requirements
 - 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, & 2:00 – Pesticide Education Credit Opportunities

89th Pennsylvania Farm Show

Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg
January 8-15

Pennsylvania Agronomic Education Conference

Penn State Conference Center
January 18-19

Contact Mary Johnston (814) 234-8771

CCA Credits

Regional Conferences For Producers and Professionals

Feeding High Forage Diets to Dairy Cows

January 20, 2005 - 10:00 –2:00 Shady Maple Restaurant, Lancaster County

January 21, 2005 - 11:00 – 2:00 Franklin County Dairy Day

Fee: Yes

Contact Ken Griswold (717) 394-6851

Pennsylvania Corn, Soybean and Mid Atlantic No-till Conference

February 4, 2005 – Holiday Inn, Grantville

Fee: Yes

Contact Lisa Crytser (814) 865-2543

Pennsylvania Grazing Conference

March 2 & 3, 2005 – Holiday Inn, Grantville

Fee: Yes

Contact Lisa Crytser (814) 865-2543

Professional Pest Managers' School

March 15, 2005 – Eden Resort Inn Best Western, Lancaster

Fee: Yes

Contact Mark Goodson (717) 840-7408

Diverse pesticide core and category opportunities

County Corn Clinics and Crop Days

Franklin County Corn Clinic

January 25, 2005 - 9:00 – 3:00

Kauffman Community Center

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category; Fee: Yes

Contact: Jere Wingert (717) 263-9226

Cumberland Crop & Pesticide Update

January 27, 2005 9:00 – 12:00– Penn Township Fire Hall

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category; Fee: Yes

Contact: John Rowehl (717) 240-6500

Perry County Corn Day

January 28, 2005 9:00- 2:30

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category; Fee: Yes

Contact: Dave Schwartz (717) 582-5150

York County Corn Clinic

February 1, 2005 9:00 – 3:00

York County 4-H Center

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category; Fee: Yes

Contact: Mark Goodson (717) 840-7408

Dauphin County Crops School

February 8, 2005 – 5:30 to 9:00 PM,

Upper Dauphin Area High School, Elizabethville

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category; Fee: Yes

Contact: Paul Craig (717) 921-8803

Lancaster County Pesticide Updates **-Get Your Points Here-**

When and Where?

Feb 3	Millersville	Bolger Conference Center, Millersville University
Feb 9	Mount Joy	Acorn Lodge
Feb 18	New Holland	Garden Spot Elementary School
Feb 23	Quarryville	Hoffman Building, SOLANCO Fairground

Sessions are held three times each day: 10am-12 or 1pm-3pm or 7pm-9pm

Each session will provide 2 core and 2 category (01) credits

Tentative Program

Core

Safe Handling and Managing Crop Chemicals

Category

New Weed Threats, New Herbicide Products

Core

Insect Biology; Why Should I Care?

Category

New Emerging Insects, New Insecticide Products

The cost to attend is \$5.00 payable at the door, to cover the cost of the meeting room and refreshments. Pre-Registration is requested. Please call the Lancaster County Extension Office 394-6851 to register for the session you want to attend.

County Pesticide Education Update Opportunities

York County Pesticide Education Update

February 28, 2005 – Pleasant Acres York County Annex

- Morning: 10:00 – 12:00
- Evening: 7:00 – 9:00

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category 1; Fee: Yes

Contact: Mark Goodson (717) 840-7408

Cumberland County Pesticide Update

March 9 at the Extension Office.

- Morning 10:00-12:00
- Afternoon 1:00-3:00
- Evening 7:00-9:00 PM

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category

Contact: John Rowehl (717) 240-6500

Adams County Pesticide Update

March 16 at the Extension Office.

- Afternoon 1:00-3:00
- Evening 7:00-9:00 PM

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category 1; Fee: Yes

Contact: John Rowehl (717) 240-6500

Dauphin County Pesticide Applicator Meeting

- **March 29, 2005** – Evening 7:00-9:00 – UDA High School, Elizabethville
- **March 30, 2005** – Evening 7:00-9:00 – Dauphin Ag Center, Dauphin
- **March 31, 2005** – Evening 7:00-9:00 – Hummelstown Area

Credits: 2 Core + 2 Category 1

Contact: Paul Craig (717) 921-8803

York County Pesticide Education Update

March 31, 2005 – Pleasant Acres York County Annex

- Morning 10:00 AM – 12:00
- Evening 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Contact: Mark Goodson (717) 840-7408

Soybean rust found in Alabama, Georgia fields; on kudzu in Florida

USDA - Nov. 19, 2004 - Researchers at USDA's National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., said today that soybean leaf samples collected in Alabama and Georgia on Wednesday tested positive for *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, or soybean rust, and a kudzu leaf sample taken in Florida was also infected with the disease. Kudzu is an invasive plant that can serve as a "host" for the fungus that causes the disease.

The number of confirmed soybean rust cases in the southeast United States now stands at 10. USDA soybean rust experts have been dispatched to Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi to assist with assessment activities in those states, while the Florida Department of Plant Industry continues to conduct surveillance and sample

collection activities in high-risk areas.

Since the first U.S. discovery of soybean rust in Louisiana last week, state agriculture officials and Louisiana State University Agriculture Center Extension specialists are planning to hold meetings with all the state's soybean growers over the next couple of months to discuss new recommendations concerning soybean production in Louisiana.

Although the soybean harvest is more than 95 percent completed nation wide, the information gathered in the ongoing Gulf Coast regional assessment this year will help researchers, Extension specialists and regulatory officials determine the distribution of the fungus here. The data collected in the coming weeks will be made available to help state departments of agriculture and extension specialists prepare soybean growers across the country for the spring planting season.

While surveying areas in southwest Georgia on Wednesday, agriculture officials there collected a soybean leaf sample with lesions consistent with soybean rust from a field in Seminole County.

Meanwhile, Alabama crop specialists pulled a suspicious soybean leaf sample from a field in Mobile County. Both samples were sent to the NPGBL where they tested positive using polymerase chain reaction and morphological testing.

Growers have several months to prepare rust mitigation plans for next year's growing season. Soybean rust can be managed with the judicious use of fungicides. USDA encourages growers to contact USDA's Extension Service, their State Department of Agriculture, and their crop consultants to obtain information on what fungicides are registered for use in their states, as well as when these fungicides should be used.

Main message to Mississippi growers: Don't panic, wait and see

Edited from Mississippi State University news release
November 18, 2004 -- University extension specialists are telling soybean growers not to panic, even though officials confirmed the existence of soybean rust in the state Nov. 16, after the fungus was found in one field.

Billy Moore, plant pathologist emeritus with Mississippi State University's Extension Service, said the rust was found in a soybean field about 10 miles south of Natchez. It is the only rust confirmed in the state as of Nov. 17.

After soybean rust was confirmed near Baton Rouge, La., officials concentrated their search around that area. Officials searched the path Hurricane Ivan took in the state, and Moore said the rust found was in the wind path of the hurricane suggested by a computer model.

"Do not panic. That's the main message right now. We do

have rust, and yes, we can do something about rust," Moore said. "If they can do something about rust in South America and Africa, we can, too."

While no one in the business wanted rust to arrive, Moore said its arrival at the end of the growing season gives scientists and producers all winter to plan the course of action. A main tool in the upcoming fight will be another round of sentinel plots, or fields of soybeans planted well ahead of any normal planting date and aligned across the state. Weather permitting, Moore said, these will be planted March 1.

"We'll monitor these at least once a week, perhaps even more. We'll also monitor soybean fields once farmers start planting," Moore said. "If we find rust, we'll trigger fungicide applications in our soybeans."

Early planted varieties should give growers an advantage in the fight against soybean rust. The fungus cannot overwinter in much of the country, which means it must move in from southern regions each year. Early soybeans might be able to stay in large part ahead of the disease each year.

Alan Blaine, Extension soybean specialist, said the only thing producers can do now is wait.

"We're gathering additional information every day. We have all winter to keep folks tuned to what they need to do," Blaine said. "They probably will hear a lot of

mistruths, so they should stay tuned to what's coming out of local universities that are working with state departments of agriculture, the USDA and APHIS."

Alan Henn, Extension plant pathologist, said he and Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce representatives submitted paperwork earlier this year to the Environmental Protection Agency seeking a special use exemption for certain fungicides that battle rust. Mississippi was one of a group of states that applied together for these permits.

"The approvals for these have been dribbling in over the summer. As EPA gets their data, everyone who applied gets the special use exemption," Henn said.

To date, the Mississippi state can use approved Section 18 exemption materials, including propiconazole, sold as Tilt and Propimax EC; tebuconazole, sold as Folicur; and myclobutanil, sold as Laredo EC. Henn said the state still awaits exemption to use a fungicide mix of propiconazole and trifloxystrobin, sold as Stratego. Other fungicides that have soybean rust on their regular labeling include azoxystrobin, sold as Quadris, and chlorothalonil, sold as Echo. BASF expects their active ingredient, pyraclostrobin, sold as Headline, to receive full label status by December.

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Cumberland (717) 240-6500
Dauphin (717) 921-8803
Franklin (717) 263-9226
Lancaster (717) 394-6851
Lebanon (717) 270-4391
York (717) 840-7408

Landisville Research and Extension Center, Lancaster County (717) 653-4728

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