

Appendix B.52

Corn Rootworm Management Training Pre and Post Survey Results

The pre-training survey asked “Are you familiar with the life cycles of northern corn rootworm and western corn rootworm?” Eighty-five percent of the participants indicated they were familiar with the life cycles, but exit survey responses indicated 95% of the participants’ knowledge regarding life cycles improved as a result of the training. These responses show the value of continued, in-depth educational sessions to improve pest management decisions by producers.

Perhaps the most disappointing response was with regard to the lack of scouting and the use of economic thresholds to make decisions on corn rootworm management. Only 51% of the participants indicated they scout and use economic thresholds to make treatment decisions for corn rootworm. Reasons cited for not scouting or using economic thresholds included: 1) confusion about scouting methods (34%), 2) prefer not to be in fields (11%), and 3) corn rootworms create management problems every year (49%).

Overall, participants indicated the training teleconferences were worth their time (98%) and will assist them in making more informed decisions about the management of corn rootworms (98%).