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Restoration of Bat Populations Plays an Important Role in Missouri IPM



Researchers at the University of Missouri and William Woods University are evaluating the usefulness of bat houses as part of an integrated pest management program to reduce pesticide use on small-scale and organic farms. The project was initiated in January, 2003 with funding provided by the University of Missouri Alumni Association Faculty Development Incentive Grant and a Plant Protection Program Special Training Proposal Award. Logistical support was provided by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Missouri. Six of the seven sites used in the bat house study had direct or indirect signs of inhabitation. Data

indicate bats prefer medium and large houses for roosting, while the small and medium houses were used briefly during feeding and nightly forays. For more information on this project, please visit

<http://www.ncipmc.org/success>.

The lead investigator of this project is Matthew Gompper, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. Co-investigators are Robert

Pierce, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, University of Missouri; Mundy Hackett, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, University of Missouri; Mark Yates, Department of Forestry, University of Missouri and Anne Hoylman, William Woods University, Fulton, Missouri. All collaborating scientists believe the preliminary results are encouraging and plan to continue this project for several years, if funding permits.



Soybean Rust: Issues and Facts Evaluations Very Positive

Evaluations from Soybean Rust: Issues and Facts participants are available on-line at <https://webs.aces.uiuc.edu/athome/soybeanrust/overallResults.asp>

Nine of the eleven participating states submitted evaluations from 93 of the 100 sites involved in the training session. The responses from those completing the evaluation forms were very positive.

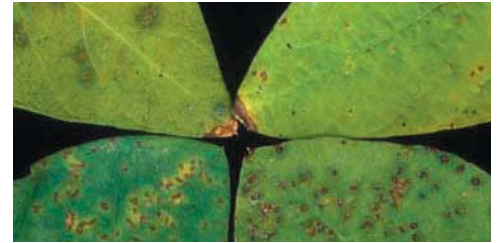
Overall evaluations indicated the majority of those in attendance represented crop consultants and agri-business personnel. These statistics are another indication that many Extension-based programming events reach large numbers of producers, in this instance indirectly.

Attendees' responses are listed below:

Teleconference met my expectations	97.4% agreed
Teleconference increased my knowledge about soybean rust	99.5% agreed
Teleconference increased my ability to identify soybean rust	96.0% agreed
Teleconference increased my understanding of IPM strategies	96.4% agreed

The respondents to the teleconference evaluation represent over 9.17 million acres of soybean production in the North Central Region. Participating states and lead coordinators were:

Illinois:	Dave Feltes, Dean Malvick and Sharon Hough
Indiana:	Greg Shaner
Iowa:	Virgil Schmitt, Greg Tylka and Jerry DeWitt
Michigan:	Ray Hammerschmidt, Pat Hart
Minnesota:	Lisa Behnken, Jim Kurle, Seth Naeve
Missouri:	Laura Sweets
Nebraska:	Loren J. Giesler
North Dakota:	Carl Bradley
Ohio:	Anne Dorrance
South Dakota:	Marty Draper
Wisconsin:	Bryan Jensen



Various stages of soybean rust on soybean leaves. Photo courtesy of Glen Hartman (USDA-ARS).



Charlie Clark, University of Illinois, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, Office of Program Planning and Assessment, developed the evaluation survey and the coordinated development of the web site that contains the results.

The image to the left is a scanning electron micrograph of spores, courtesy of Morris Bonde (USDA-ARS).

Soybean Rust Training Teleconference Presentations Available On-Line

Individuals can now access the PowerPoint presentations with audio overlay from the June 29, 2004 Soybean Rust: Issues and Facts training teleconference. To view these quicktime movie presentations, users need to download Quicktime 6.

The PowerPoint presentations without audio also are available for download.

Following the training teleconference, participants submitted questions for the speakers. The responses to these questions are available for viewing on the Web site.

On-site evaluations of the training teleconference were conducted and are available for viewing by state and regional summary.

To access Soybean Rust: Issues and Facts information, please visit the North Central IPM Center Soybean Rust Web site: <http://www.ncipmc.org/soybeanrust/conference.html>.



North Central Region IPM Grants Program Request for Applications

The North Central Region IPM Grants Program has released the 2004 Request for Applications. The program is open to 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, and State Agricultural Experiment Stations (see RFA for specific eligibility requirements). The program will require electronic submission of Letters of Intent and fully developed proposals. A paper original and two copies of the proposal must be submitted within a week of the electronic submission deadline. Letters of Intent are due Monday, October 4, 2004 and fully developed proposals are due in electronic format on Friday, October 22, 2004. A paper original and two copies of the complete proposal are due by Friday, October 29, 2004. This submission process was implemented to reduce the volume of paper and allow submitters an additional week to obtain the necessary institutional signatures. The Request for Application, Letter of Intent Submission form and Proposal Submission forms are located at www.ncipm.org/ncipm

If you have any questions about this program, please contact:

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Corn Rootworm IPM Guarantee Pilot Program Underway

Agren, Inc., a consulting firm located in Carroll, Iowa has developed a Corn Rootworm IPM Guarantee Pilot Program with funding from an EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Grant. The goal of the project is to increase adoption rates of corn rootworm scouting in both continuous (non-rotated) corn and rotated corn in areas with the variant western corn rootworm. Because of the intense selection pressure of rotating corn with soybean on an annual basis, variant western corn rootworm females have adapted by laying eggs in soybean fields. Historically, soil in corn was the primary egg laying site. The guarantee provides compensation to farmers if enrolled fields were:

1. Scouted the previous year,
2. Beetle densities were below an established economic threshold, and
3. Larval injury exceeded acceptable levels the following season.



Dale Baird evaluates corn roots for larval injury.



A producer examines Pherocon AM sticky traps.

The project leaders enrolled acres in Wisconsin and Illinois that were scouted and found to be under threshold in 2003. In 2004, fields were left untreated, but a “check” strip was established and treated with a soil insecticide or planted with a YieldGard® Rootworm hybrid for comparison purposes.

A field day was held on July 15, 2004 at the Mike Von Bergen farmstead to discuss the expansion of the variant western corn rootworm in to northern Illinois and to evaluate roots from fields in the Corn Rootworm IPM Guarantee Pilot Program. Coordinators of the event were Tom Green, Tom Buman and Stan Buman of Agflex, Inc.; Don Gritmacker, Crop Production Services; and Don Schellhaass, Unit Leader for McHenry County, University of Illinois Extension. Dale Baird, Crop Systems Educator, University of Illinois Extension was a featured speaker presenting the results of the University of Illinois’ Insecticide Performance Research Trials. Sponsors of the field day included Crop Production Services, University of Illinois Extension, and Agflex, Inc. For more information please visit

<http://www.agflex.com/> .