Louisiana

SOYBEAN & FEED GRAIN REVIEW

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SOYBEAN UPDATE

SAMPLING SOYBEANS FOR INSECTS

Dr. Jack Baldwin, LSU AgCenter Entomologist

The importance of regular and thorough soybean insect scouting can not be over-emphasized. The absence of such scouting can result in crop damage when damaging insect populations are not detected, or unnecessary expenses when fields are treated without damaging insect infestations.

Insects should be scouted at least weekly after soybeans begin to bloom, but earlier scouting can also be helpful. Treatments for insects prior to bloom are normally not needed,

but detection of "seed populations" of pests can alert producers of potential problems that could develop later in the season.

There are two methods or tools that can be used for scouting insects in soybeans. The first is the sweep net and the second is the drop cloth or shake cloth. Each tool has it's own threshold for a particular insect pest, and most pests have established thresholds for both sampling tools.

A heavy duty, 15 inch sweep net is necessary for sampling soybeans. The sweep net should strike the row so that the bottom edge of the net rim passes through the top 12 to 15 inches of the plant canopy. A good sample is 25 consecutive sweeps down the row with the sweep net being swung in a figure eight pattern. The number of samples required will depend on the size, shape and uniformity of the field, but 25 sweeps in four or five locations is generally recommended. Insect infestations are not always uniform, so it requires thorough sampling to provide an accurate assessment of the pest populations in the field as a whole. Sampling in multiple locations can also detect "hot spots' or areas of the field where pests such as stink bugs might develop treatable infestations before spreading over the entirety of the field. Field margins near over-wintering habitat and alternate host crops should always be included in the areas sampled.

Drop clothes or shake cloths should also be used in multiple areas of the field. These cloths are usually three feet long and wide enough to cover the space between the rows. The plants on both sides of the row should be vigorously shaken onto the cloth. Drop cloths provide a more absolute measurement of the insect population, but they also sample less area (less row length). Therefore, it may be necessary to take more than one shake sample in each area.

CORN UPDATE

STALK DISTRUCTION-CORN BORERS

Dr. Jack Baldwin, LSU AgCenter Entomologist

Post-harvest stalk destruction in corn is an important component in a corn borer control program, but there is a tendency to relax or ignore this practice following light infestation years. The stalk destruction practice reduces the over-wintering borer populations in the fall, which in turn reduces the emerging corn borer moth population in the following spring. If stalks are allowed to stand over the winter, a light population in the fall could develop into a heavy population before the following season is over.

The stalk destruction recommendation has been a fixture in corn borer recommendations for many years. The best method of stalk destruction is cutting or mowing the stalks followed by disking, preferably twice. Stalks should be cut as close to the soil surface as possible. Cutting the stalks alone is not completely effective, because over-wintering borer larvae will often locate in the plant crown or brace root area of the stalk near the soil surface. Stalk cutting can be supplemented by disking, which can uproot or dislodge and bury the remainder of the stalk, either killing the larvae or exposing them to environmental factors.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON...

2007 LOUISIANA SOYBEAN RESEARCH VERIFICATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. David Lanclos, LSU AgCenter Specialist

As of Friday October 12, 2007 we have seven out of the nine LSRVP fields that have been harvested. The current average of the seven fields is 54.8 Bu/A. The Avoyelles parish field is being harvested today and we should have some preliminary numbers by this afternoon.

Overall, we had a tough growing year in some of the fields with drought, excess water, three-cornered alfalfa hoppers and aerial blight. Fortunately, the genetics that we have available today are continuing to improve and soybean producers are reaping the benefits.

I often get asked about the LSRVP program and how it works and why the LSRVP fields generally yield more than the parish averages and state yields. That answer is fairly simple but before I get into that let me explain a couple of things about the program. In the midsouth, the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi are very fortunate to have the opportunity to have these on-farm verification programs available to growers. All three state's verification programs are funded by their respective state's grain promotion boards. Without the funds from the respective promotion boards, these programs would cease to exist.

I was at a meeting in Iowa a couple of weeks ago with other extension soybean specialists and my counterpart to the north (Jeremy Ross) and I had the opportunity to share some of our verification program successes with our colleagues. The conclusion to these discussions was that these programs work and producers are paying attention and profiting from the information generated from them. This information can then be used to study trends by state, region and cultural practice. In addition many times, these verification fields spawn research objectives as well. The Mississippi and Arkansas programs parallel our LSRVP program in regard to increasing yields over the county and state averages. The reasons are numerous as to why the yields are enhanced. However, keep in mind, there are lots of producers who are harvesting higher yields than we are able to generate.

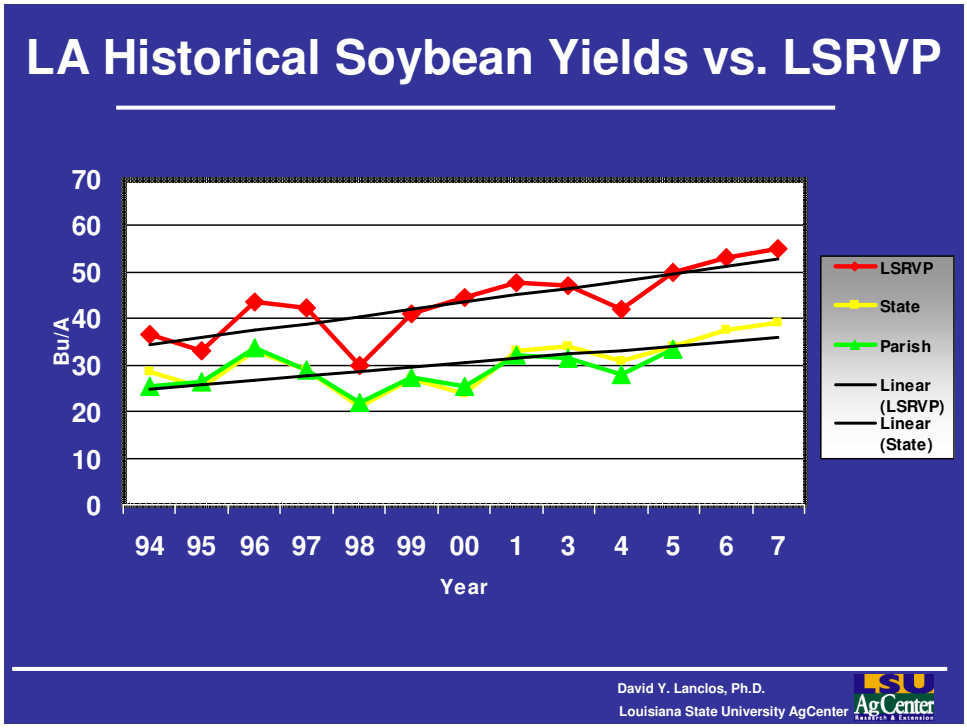
This brings me to my first point. When the parish agent and the producer select a field, they are not choosing the best or the worst field that the producer has to offer. More often than not it is an "average" field. The first thing that we do is get the selected field soil sampled and get a fertility recommendation via J Stevens to the producer as soon as possible. The next most critical decision is that of variety selection. Without the proper fertility and proper variety there is no reason to waste people's time checking these fields on a weekly basis. After the crop is planted, the selected fields are visited every week by LSU AgCenter personnel whenever possible. Recommendations during the year consist of insect, weed control, irrigation, fungicides, desiccation options and overall IPM strategies. These recommendations are given to the producer personally or via e-mail or phone communication. In my opinion, behind fertility and variety selection the reasoning for enhanced yields in these LSRVP fields is proper product selection, rate and timing of application.

Following the growing season, Dr. Kurt Guidry runs an economic analysis on each field. This data is then made available to Louisiana Soybean and Feedgrain Research and Promotion Board as well as being posted on the LSU AgCenter soybean web page. This economic analysis allows producers and others to evaluate how much money was spent in

the crop and what the overall profit per acre was. Yield is extremely important but how much you profit an acre is ultimately more important.

The objective of the LSRVP is to make producers better producers all the while demonstrating in the field that the recommendations generated from the research stations on how to grow soybeans productively in Louisiana are sound and have merit. Recommendations are continually being updated within the LSU AgCenter and remaining current on the changes will increase a producer's profitability. Some examples of changing soybean recommendations for 2008 include selected varieties, planting dates (especially what to plant behind wheat and MG V's), seed treatments (insecticide), row spacing and row configuration, fungicide application and timings as well as new and improved crop desiccation strategies. For profitability to be maximized it is imperative that this "new and updated" information be available to county agents, consultants, dealers and ultimately producers.

Some parishes have already been selected for the 2008 growing season because we generally try to work with a producer for two or more years, but if you are interested in participating in the 2008 LSRVP please contact your local county agent. They will be able to provide additional information.



2007 LSRVP Information

PARISH	PRODUCER(S)	AGENT	YIELD (VAR)
Acadia	Charles/Pat Reiners	Barret Courville	(45) Terral 45R15
Avoyelles	Lyle Decuir	Carlos Smith	(NA) Asgrow 5903
Concordia	Noble Guedon	Glen Daniels	(56) Delta King 4967
Concordia	John Lecke	Glen Daniels	(39) Delta King 4868
E. Carroll	Ken Fairchild	Donna Lee	(62) Pioneer 94M80
Iberville	Clayton Hurdle	Louis Lirette	(62) DKC 46-51
Rapides	John Lewis Van Mol & Kenneth Andries	Matt Martin	(55) DPL 4651
St. Landry	Fred Lavergne	Keith Normand	(NA) DPL 5634
W. Carroll	Vendall Fairchild	Myrl Sistrunk	(64.7) Delta King 4967
AVG.			54.8

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LSRVP Keys to Success

- Producers willingness to adopt and use recommendations effectively
- Timely “correct” pesticide applications
- Willing to spend some money in a crop
- Time spent wisely on variety selection among other cultural practices such as irrigation and raised beds and narrower row spacings
- Timely scouting of fields

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EXTENSION CROP DEMONSTRATION POSTINGS

At this time the most of the extension crop demonstrations have been harvested. A page has been set up on the LSU AgCenter website to access the demonstrations templates. As the demonstrations are harvested the templates are being completed, then posted. If you have any questions or difficulty downloading the information contact Rob Ferguson referguson@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Corn:
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/corn/Extension+Demonstrations/

Grain Sorghum:
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/Sorghum/Extension+Demonstrations/

Soybean:
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/soybeans/Extension+Demonstrations/

2008 CORN HYBRIDS FOR GRAIN

The following table lists the results of the 2007 Corn Commercial Variety Trials. This information will be posted on the LSU AgCenter website and available at the local Extension offices.

Table 1. Highest Yielding Corn Hybrids in 2007 Among five Louisiana Locations[1]

Corn Hybrid	DLRS[2]	MRRS[2]	NECL[2]	NEL[2]	RRRS[2]	2007 AVG	2yr AVG
Croplan 6831 RH	174	168	197	138	231*	182	-
Croplan 731 HX/LL	183**	162	212**	123	230*	182	162
Croplan 799 RR	172	143	191	150**	209*	173	163
DEKALB 63-62 (RR2)	174	170	210	133	225*	182	-
DEKALB 67-87 (RR2/YGCB)	185	198*	213	146	200	188	-
DEKALB RX715RR2/YGCB	170	164	199	140	218*	178	149
Dyna Gro DG 57K58	182**	172	188	144	221*	181	164
Dyna Gro DG 57N96	178	172	204**	137	197	178	160
Dyna Gro DG 58K02	177**	174	187	142	215	179	162
Dyna Gro DG 58K40	183	165	179	126	218*	174	-
Dyna Gro DG 58P59	183**	172	205	134	241*	187	168
Dyna Gro DG 58P60	179**	184*	196	143**	222*	185	165
Garst 8247YG1	181**	185*	198	128	234*	185	172
Garst 8295YG1/RR	174**	180	204	158	210	185	166
Golden Acres 2831RRB	171	174	195	123	222*	177	155
Golden Acres 2841RRB	166	185*	210	145	206	182	162
NC+ 5402RB	180	163	183	129	226*	176	-
NC+ 6361RB	177	189*	205**	153	219*	188	167

NK 77-P5	181	167	194	146	218*	181	-
NK N70-C7	155	149	163	121	223*	162	-
Pioneer 31G71 (HX1/LL/RR2)	184	161	198	129	224*	179	-
Pioneer 31P41	181**	182*	205**	150	212	186	164
Pioneer 32B29 (YGCB/RR2)	182**	169	208**	143	228*	186	165
Pioneer 33M53 (RR2)	174**	170	200	132	218*	179	167
Pioneer 33R81 (YGCB/RR2)	172	161	212	139**	238*	184	165
Terral TV25BR23	175**	167	198	147	210	179	163
Terral TV25R31	172	176	197	141	218*	181	161
Terral TV26B34	174**	155	206**	149	170	171	157
Terral TV26BR41	187**	177	212**	146**	204	185	170
Terral TV26BR61	171	176	192	131	222*	178	164
Terral TVX23BR701	167	144	199	120	220*	170	-
Terral TVX26BR601	166	153	194	144**	222*	176	159

[1] One- and two-year yield data are reported for all hybrids listed at all locations, irrespective of yield performance level.
[2] Data from Dean Lee Research Station, Alexandria (DLRS); Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro (MRRS), Northeast Research Station, St. Joseph Clay (NECL) and Loam (NEL) and Red River Research Station, Bossier City (RRRS). All yields are expressed in bushels per acre.
* Highest yielding (P = 0.10) at this location in 2007 (no data for 2006).
** Highest yielding (P = 0.10) at this location in both 2006 and 2007.

Louisiana Soybean Association (LSA)

LSA is a producer-based soybean organization affiliated with the American Soybean Association (ASA) and the United Soybean Board (USB). This organization has many roles, including updating statewide soybean producers on current legislative and environmental issues. The LSA has representatives on the ASA and USB boards. This allows Louisiana issues to be brought to a national audience. As a member of LSA, you support local, state, national and international promotion and use of soybeans. Membership is available to anyone involved in production agriculture. Agribusiness personnel are strongly encouraged to join.

When you join the LSA, you become a member of ASA, which is the collective voice of 25,000 U.S. soybean producers and other agbusiness personnel that are members of the association. By making the choice to become a member of ASA you make that collective voice even more powerful.

ASA is your advocate in Washington D.C., on issues like biodiesel legislation, the Farm Bill, transportation infrastructure and market access. This important policy work is paid for by your voluntary membership in ASA, and cannot come from checkoff dollars. As your number one advocate, ASA testifies before Congress, lobbies Congress and the Administration, provides written comments on key issues, helps develop key legislative language on soybean initiatives and relays information about the importance of ASA issues to the media.

ASA's commitment to policy development begins with the grower-members. They elect state Board members and voting delegates who establish the policy goals for ASA. For more than 85 years, ASA has been working on behalf of its members to build demand, enhance profit opportunities and protect the soybean industry. ASA is proud to represent its soybean grower members, and is looking forward to another 85 years of success.

To increase its representation on the national level, the LSA is seeking new members to be a part of their organization. By purchasing a three year membership to the LSA for $155.00 the new or renewing member will receive credit for four bags of seed at their respective seed dealership. After paying for a three year membership and purchasing your seed as you normally do, send in a copy of the receipt and where you purchased your seed back to LSA by June 30th, 2007. Your account at that seed dealership that you choose will then be credited for four bags by the respective seed representative.

The seed companies participating in the LSA membership drive are: Asgrow/DeKalb, Croplan Genetics, Delta Grow, Delta King, Delta & Pine Land, NK/Syngenta Seed, Pioneer and Terral. If you have any questions on joining LSA call Charles Cannatella 337-207-4730 or go online at www.SoyGrowers.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

01/04 Tri-State Soybean Meeting – Dumas, AR for details contact Rob Ferguson referguson@agcenter.lsu.ed

01/09 Evangeline Parish Grower Meeting – Ville Platte, LA for details contact Keith Fontenot kfontenot@agcenter.lsu.ed

01/10 Acadia Parish Grower Meeting – Crowley, LA for details contact Barrett Courville bcourville@agcenter.lsu.edu

01/24 Natchitoches Parish Grower Meeting – for details contact Hubert Wilkerson hwilkerson@agcenter.lsu.ed

February

02/06 Louisiana Agricultural Technology and Management Conference Alexandria, LA for details contact Denise Wright glpblues@bellsouth.net

02/27 Commodity Classic – Nashville, TN for details contact Rob Ferguson referguson@agcenter.lsu.edu

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