



June 24, 2005

NEW SOYBEAN RUST HOTLINE AND WEBSITE

Asian soybean rust, the most talked about crop disease in our nation's farming history, IS NOT threatening the soybean crop in southern states. This is great news for soybean farmers in Nebraska and other states in the North Central Region. University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension crop specialists are not recommending any action in Nebraska to treat and we continue to watch 48 sentinel plots. These plots have early planted soybeans that are very early maturing. The beans are in the 1.9 maturity class and were planted the end of April. In Saline County, I have two plots, one located on the northwest edge of Wilber, with the cooperator being Russ Kovar, and another in the center of the county along Highway 41, with the cooperator being Darin Keller.

Nebraska has a new soybean rust hotline at 1-877-NebRust. This toll-free hotline has a digitally recorded message from Dr. Loren Giesler (Extension Plant Pathologist with the University of Nebraska). This two minute recorded message includes the most updated information about current soybean rust distribution, risk level for Nebraska, and potential impact on Nebraska soybeans. At this time, the message is available by calling (877) 632-7878.

A call-in hotline is a great way to directly address the rumor mill that will occur this summer concerning our bean crop. A scare already happened in Kentucky last week and now Kentucky has a state soybean rust hotline. To stop the rumors in Kentucky, the hotline statement sponsored by soybean growers, included all confirmed and unbiased information about the soybean rust fungus presence.

At the present time, soybean rust finds are restricted to five counties in Florida. The rust is being found only in kudzu in these counties. As of June 24, 2005, Seminole County in Georgia remains the only county with rust on soybean and it was found on volunteer soybean plants in two locations. That is great news for us at this time with a few people predicting clean sailing for the next 30 days in Iowa and Nebraska. Professor X.. B. Yang, Iowa State University, said he doesn't think tropical storm Arlene did much to increase the movement of Asian soybean rust disease in the United States because of the lack of fungus spores to begin with before the storm hit.

Some producers have recently called in to ask about what kind of sprayer tips to have just in case spraying of fungicide is needed for the 2005 crop. Nobody knows for sure what the superior way to go is, but our latest recommendations can be found on the new soybean rust website atsoybeanrust.unl.edu. Click on the link at the top of the website that says rust control products and spraying information. This is an excellent website for Nebraska consultants and soybean crop farmers. Current "hot news" on rust and upcoming meetings are also included. A text version of the weekly Nebraska soybean rust hotline number is also available on this website.

Do not let your guard down. Nebraska in the College World series with a four run 9th inning rally, looked good to go for the next game, clear sailing, right? Remember the following - Asian soybean rust has a broad host range including 35 leguminous hosts, is reported to infect 95 plant species, our soybeans currently have absolutely no resistance to this disease, fungus spores can go airborne and infect a plant and repeat itself under favorable temperature and humidity conditions



to produce over 400 billion spores, per acre, per day, and we have over 74 million acres of soybeans in the U.S. Because of these facts, we cannot let our guard down. Remember to use the hotline or new website or contact your Cooperative Extension Office for updates.

Randy Pryor, Extension Educator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Saline County
306 West 3rd Street, Wilber, NE 68465
Phone (402) 821-2151 • Fax (402) 821-3398 • e-mail: randy.pryor@unl.edu