



October 16, 2015

SAMPLE FOR SCN

After harvest is a very good time for farmers to soil sample their soybean fields for a hidden yield robber. It's called soybean cyst nematode or SCN. The reasons why to sample for SCN have not changed. They are just as important today as they were five or ten years ago. SCN can rob 5 to 7 bushels per acre without you even noticing visual symptoms in your soybean field.

Yield maps or areas of fields that didn't do as well are fresh on farmer's minds this time of year. Sample these areas where yields didn't meet expectations and there seems to be no other easier explanation. If corn yields continue to increase in the same area but soybeans are not, that's another good reason to sample. Entry areas to fields, creek or river bottoms, areas that had brown stem rot or sudden death syndrome, and low areas in fields are all prime targets to take two samples to compare.

Take a minimum of 15 cores from the sample area up to 25 from 1 to 6-8 inches deep and mix the sample together. From this soil take a composite sample representing the area or field and submit it for analysis. If you have a problem area, take two samples in the same field. In this case you would sample problem areas in a field separate from normal yielding areas and compare SCN egg counts. If you don't have yield variations and are just trying to determine if SCN is present, sample areas up to 80 acres in size.

Talk to your co-op or crop consultant or field scout. Ask them to pull soil samples in the fall for nutrients and SCN. Both need topsoil samples 6 to 8 inches deep, making fall an opportune time to do both samples in one trip. Take a few extra cores in the field, mix them all together, and then split the sample, using half for fertilizer recommendations and half for SCN analysis.

It's really a no brainer because the Nebraska Soybean Board promotes sampling by covering the cost of the SCN analysis. Normally there is a \$20.00 fee for soil samples submitted to the University of Nebraska Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic for SCN analysis. Commercial labs will charge \$15.00 to \$30.00. If you submit five samples from your farming operation, you will receive the equivalent of \$100.00 of checkoff dollars you have paid. Special sample bags for this free analysis are available at the Extension Office in Wilber.

I am suspecting we have SCN in 20% to 30% of our soybean fields in Saline County. About 98% of the SCN-resistant soybeans varieties available to farmers all use the same source of resistance (PI88788). The reason for this is simple: It was easiest to breed in this source of resistance and still maintain yields.

The downside to this is that there is a lot of variability in the genetics of the SCN in any field and no source of resistance is going to control all of the SCN present. Just like using the same herbicide, insecticide, or fungicide year after year will lead to resistance, using the same source of SCN resistance will eventually allow a portion of that SCN population to survive and reproduce on soybeans with that genetic source of resistance. That is why it is important for soybean growers to rotate varieties and check their fields periodically (every six to seven years) to see if the SCN population is increasing or decreasing.



Long-term it will be worth it to keep the SCN population in check in your field. It is much easier that way than the other. I hope to be taking some random samples this fall to step up the number of samples from this area. If you see me in a soybean field this fall taking some samples, that's what it is about. The results will be shared February 12, 2016 at our Wilber Crop Clinic. For more information go to: <http://ow.ly/TrvHi>

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