

## Views from VanDeWalle

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### Introductory Crop Scout Training

A May 21 Nebraska Extension training course is scheduled for industry representatives and corn and soybean growers wanting to learn how to better manage corn and soybean pests. The introductory level crop scout training is designed for entry-level scouts who are working for crop consultants, industry agronomists or farm service centers in Nebraska and neighboring states. The training is also ideal for growers who scout their own fields or are interested in improving productivity, as well as for students being employed by agribusinesses.

The course, which will be held in-person, is from 8:55 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. with registration at 8:30 a.m. at the University of Nebraska's Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center, which is located at 1071 County Road G, Ithaca, NE 68033. Nebraska Extension Educator Aaron Nygren emphasizes that this is a hands-on, in-person experience for participants focusing on important crop scouting skills.

Topics covered during the day include:

- Scouting Tips and Understanding Corn & Soybean Growth & Development
- Crop Diseases & Quiz
- Scouting Techniques – Soil, Tissue, Disease Samples & Drone Best Practices
- Identifying Weeds - Morphology, Using a Key to Identify Weed Seedlings
- Corn & Soybean Insect Scouting, Identification, Management
- Nutrient Deficiencies in Corn & Soybeans
- Hands on Practice

Some of the benefits past registrants stated the training provided included practical/working knowledge and better accuracy in field scouting. Other participants appreciated the hands-on, practical format. Past participants have consistently given the training high marks and state that the knowledge gained from attending improved their scouting skills.

Cost for the program is \$100, which includes lunch, refreshment breaks, workshop materials and a 3 ring binder instruction manual. The take-home instruction manual includes a variety of reference materials that provide resources for crop scouting. For those attending the daylong training that don't want a copy of the instruction manual, the fee is \$60. Attendees should preregister to reserve their seat and to ensure workshop materials are available the day of the training session.

Certified Crop Advisor continuing education credits are being applied for with 6 credits in pest management, 1 in crop management and .5 in fertility/nutrient management.

To register or for more information, go to <https://enreec.unl.edu/fieldcropscouttraining>, contact Nebraska Extension at (402) 624-8030, or e-mail Aaron Nygren at [anygren2@unl.edu](mailto:anygren2@unl.edu). Preregistration requested by May 17 for meal planning purposes.

*(Source; IANR News)*