

November 17, 2017

## CORN BOARD SUPPORTS NEW SOIL NEMATODE TESTING

In general, irrigated corn yields this year, before the winds the end of October, were outstanding in many area fields. The cooler nights in August enhanced grain ear fill. Even though yields were good, could corn nematodes be limiting some of your yields in dryland or irrigated fields? Target your corn on corn fields for sampling this year. Find out the corn nematode status in your fields through a free soil testing program made possible by the Nebraska Corn Board.

Nematodes are microscopic, wormlike organisms that live in water films and water-filled pore spaces in the soil. Typically, they are most abundant in the upper soil layers where organic matter, plant roots, and other resources are most abundant.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Plant Pathology Professor Tom Powers is providing free nematode analyses for soil samples submitted from corn fields now through spring. The objective of this project is to learn more about the root-lesion nematode species present in Nebraska fields. Unlike some nematodes, root-lesion nematodes are extremely common (in more than 93% of Nebraska fields).

Lesion and other nematodes tend to cause less severe symptoms and injury on corn than sting or needle nematodes, but likely cause greater losses than any others due to their wide distribution. Corn plant symptoms depends on the species. Plants might be stunted or yellow in patches, randomly scattered in the field. Corn roots may show damage with stubby roots and discoloration or damage to root tips. The bottom line is you don't know there are lesion nematodes present in high numbers unless samples are submitted to rule it out. If you're already planning to sample your soils for nutrient content, this would be a good time to take samples for corn nematodes.

Collect at least 2 cups of soil from down to about 8 inches deep in the plant root zone (from within the row). You could target your sampling by going to poorer yielding areas of fields. Tamra Jackson, UNL Plant Pathology, recommends to handle samples by placing in zip lock bags and not allowing the bags to get too cold or too hot. Avoid mailing on a Friday. Other sampling tips can be found at: <https://goo.gl/2YXDqW>

Please package the samples in plastic bags and ship them with a completed sample submission form to the UNL Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic at the following address: UNL P&PDC Corn Nematode Survey, 448 Plant Science Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0722. Be sure to clearly identify that the sample is for the Corn Nematode Survey on the form at: <https://go.unl.edu/63hs> I can also help you or drop samples off on East Campus. For more information let me know at [randy.pryor@unl.edu](mailto:randy.pryor@unl.edu).

### SO, YOU'VE INHERITED A FARM, NOW WHAT?

Anyone that owns farmland may want to participate in the new Nebraska Extension seminar to enhance information and education about that ownership. Participants can learn management strategies for their farm asset by attending a seminar on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 204 South School Street in Wilber. There is no cost to attend. Participants can use this workshop to learn further about



several key points: 1) Am I keeping the farm or selling it? 2) How do I manage a farm? 3) If leasing, what are key lease provisions? 4) What legal considerations do I have with this decision? 5) How do we manage family communications and expectations when other family is involved? Pre-registration is asked by Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> by calling 402-821-2151 or go to: <http://go.unl.edu/farminheritanceworkshop>

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