

What's bugging you?

Is something eating at your crops? Or your neighbors'? We're all curious about what might be lurking out there in the corn, bean or hay fields. And between savvy growers, independent crop consultants, commercial crop production specialists, seed and chemical company agronomists and ISU Extension, we generally have a pretty good idea of what's happening in our own area.

That doesn't always give growers ample time to make the most efficient and cost effective insect and disease control decisions, however.

Enter, the Iowa Soybean Association On-Farm Network™ Crop Scouting Network. What's that?


Well, if you have access to the Internet, go to www.isafarmnet.com/scouting. This address will take you to last year's crop scouting results, where you'll find scouting reports from 41 agronomists who monitored more than 200 corn and soybean fields from all across Iowa.

With information like this from all over the state, anyone with Internet access can watch as Bean Leaf Beetle, Western Bean Cutworm, and Soybean Aphid populations come ... and go ... in every part of the state. If Asian Soybean Rust surfaces, this network will find it early.


What's in store for 2006?

We hope to have weekly reports from scouted sites in all 99 counties in 2006. There's a lot of potential for growth, but funding is limited. If you're a Certified Crop Advisor and now scouting your fields or your neighbors', or if you have a commercial or independent agronomist scouting for you, we'd like to talk to you about contributing information to the network.

The On-Farm Network may be able to provide additional services for scouted sites. Specifically, we've collected aerial imagery on scouted fields and have conducted guided stalk sampling on scouted cornfields.



Growers involved in the Scouting Network may be provided with aerial imagery of the monitored fields.




WebScouting Notes-site	Scouting Date	Scouting Notes	Pesticide Applied	Growth Stage	WK
ARND06	8/13/2005	Field was sprayed for aphids on 8/8 05 with Warrior. Control looks excellent.	Warrior	R5	15
ARND06	8/6/2005	Field shows "hot spots" for aphids 150/plant, but are small areas.		R4	14
ARND06	7/30/2005	Approx. 8-10 aphids were noted/plant. We will check again mid-week for an update.		R3	13
ARND06	7/22/2005	Signs of leafhopper feeding.		R2	12
ARND06	7/15/2005	Some plants showing 5-6 aphids/plant; Other plants are not showing any. Some areas of SCN stunted beans and some bacterial blight noted.		R2	11
ARND06	7/8/2005	Few aphids		V6	10
ARND06	7/2/2005	There are a few aphids present, but not at a damaging level. They are not present on all plants, and only a couple aphids on the plants where they are present. There is also some iron chlorosis showing up in some of the high pH areas. Overall, the beans are coming along nicely.		V5	9
ARND06	6/23/2005			V2	8
ARND06	6/18/2005			VC	7
ARND06	6/10/2005			VC	6
ARND06	6/3/2005	Not emerged		np	5
ARND06	5/27/2005	Not yet planted		np	4
ARND06	5/20/2005	Not yet planted. Field conditions remain wet.		np	3
ARND06	5/13/2005	Not yet planted. Very wet.		np	2
ARND06	5/6/2005	Not yet planted		np	

Top, screen view of the scouting network home page. Bottom, a typical season-long scouting report for one location.

For information on how you can participate, contact Mick Lane (mlane@iasoybeans.com) or call 800-383-1423.

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