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SCN keeps spreading – there’s still time to test fields this fall

Waukesha, Wis. (November 5, 2019) – Unfortunately for soybean growers, extremely wet weather in many states during 2019 didn’t drown or slow the spread of soybean cyst nematode (SCN). “It’s likely that flood waters moved SCN to new areas,” says Greg Tylka, nematologist at Iowa State University and leader of The SCN Coalition. “That’s one reason we’re recommending soil sampling for SCN during fall fertility testing.”

It’s not just flooding responsible for SCN’s expanding range. Soil moved by wind, birds and other animals and farm equipment have been spreading SCN in all directions since 1954, when it was first discovered in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

“As of 2019, SCN has been confirmed in every county in Illinois and Iowa, and all but two Indiana counties (Monroe and Brown),” Tylka adds. He’s been tracking the spread of SCN for almost 20 years.

About once every three years, Tylka surveys nematologists, plant pathologists and agronomists from soybean-growing states and Canadian provinces to gather updated information on counties known to be infested with SCN.

Newly infested counties

In 2017, the last time he updated the SCN distribution map, it showed that the No. 1 soybean pathogen had spread to new counties in 17 states: Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Tylka will be polling his peers again later this year to update the map in 2020. Until then, here’s a list of the most recent counties and municipalities that have been confirmed as infested with SCN since 2017:

- Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada
- Rural municipalities of Emerson-Franklin, Montcalm, Rhineland and Norfolk Treherne in Manitoba, Canada
- Gladwin County, Michigan
- Franklin County, Pennsylvania
- Sanborn County and Spink County, South Dakota

He cautions that this is an incomplete list: “I don’t want to give the impression that these are all of the new SCN-infested counties. These are just the ones I’m aware of without having done a systematic survey of colleagues yet.”

Test your soils so you know your numbers

“You can’t manage something that you don’t know you have,” Tylka says. “Management starts with sampling. You need to know what fields have it and at what levels. That sets the stage for how you’ll want to approach the battle.
“If you catch numbers when they’re relatively low or moderate, it’s a fairly painless rotation to non-host crops like corn, oats, wheat, alfalfa or sunflower. Or as you get into the southern U.S., cotton and peanuts are non-hosts.

“Then get to know more about the different types of SCN-resistant soybean varieties that are available, which ones are more effective than others and how to rotate them properly. We also have a new tool in seed treatments,” Tylka says. “The SCN Coalition recommends actively managing SCN with all four tools.”

A 45-second video of Tylka discussing SCN management is [here](https://www.thescncoalition.com). For more information about managing SCN in your state or province, visit [thescncoalition.com](https://www.thescncoalition.com).

**About The SCN Coalition**

*The SCN Coalition is a public/checkoff/private partnership formed to increase the number of farmers who are actively managing SCN. Our goal is to increase soybean farmers’ profit potential and realize higher yields. Partners in The SCN Coalition include university scientists from 28 states and Ontario, grower checkoff organizations including the North Central Soybean Research Program, United Soybean Board and several state soybean promotion boards, and corporate partners including BASF, Bayer, Growmark, Nufarm, Pioneer, Syngenta, Valent and Winfield United.*

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Cutline:

This [map](https://www.thescncoalition.com) from Greg Tylka and Chris Marett at Iowa State University shows the counties in which SCN has been discovered between 1954 and 2017. The map will be updated in 2020.