

SCN COALITION URGES FARMERS TO “KNOW THEIR NUMBERS”

Research shows soybean cyst nematodes are becoming “resistant to the resistance”

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Waukesha, WI

After a 20-year hiatus, the SCN Coalition is back encouraging soybean farmers to “Take the test. Beat the pest.” Like the predecessor, the new SCN Coalition is a public/checkoff/private partnership formed to help the agricultural industry speak with one voice about soybean cyst nematode management.

THE DIFFERENCE this time:

SCN is adapting and reproducing on SCN-resistant soybean varieties – and yields are decreasing. Managing SCN is becoming more complicated than planting a resistant variety and assuming the problem is solved.



“Twenty years ago, most soybean growers had never tested their fields for SCN,” says Greg Tylka, Ph.D., nematologist at Iowa State University and veteran of the first SCN Coalition. “So we encouraged growers to test, and if they had it, to plant a variety that’s resistant to SCN.”

That simple solution from 20 years ago is becoming a problem today because greater than 95 percent of all SCN-resistant soybean varieties contain the same source of resistance from the PI 88788 breeding line.

“It’s much like how the herbicide resistance problem developed,” Tylka adds. “After two decades of using the same source of SCN resistance, we’re seeing natural selection in action. The nematodes are adapting.”

A resistant soybean variety should allow less than 10 percent reproduction versus a susceptible variety. In other words, a resistant variety should stop 90 percent of the SCN in a field from reproducing. Currently, researchers are discovering that on some farms, one out of every two nematodes can reproduce on a variety with PI 88788 resistance (that’s 50 percent reproduction).

As SCN reproduction increases
YIELD decreases



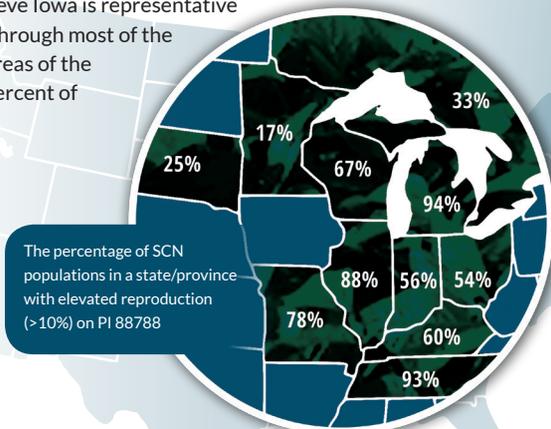
Data from 25 years of Iowa State University variety trial experiments shows that as SCN reproduction increases on PI 88788, yields of resistant soybean varieties decrease by as much as 14 bushels per acre.

“One of the problems is that SCN can cause yield loss without the plants and the crops looking sick,” Tylka says.

Coalition leaders believe Iowa is representative of what’s happening through most of the soybean-producing areas of the Midwest, where 70 percent of soybeans are grown.

And according to Tylka, “Other states might be farther along in this problem than we are.”

The percentage of SCN populations in a state/province with elevated reproduction (>10%) on PI 88788



WHY GROWERS NEED

to know their numbers

That’s why the SCN Coalition is back, sounding the alarm over increasingly aggressive SCN populations and encouraging growers to actively manage SCN. That starts by testing your fields for SCN so you know what your populations are doing.

“You’ll need those numbers to understand the severity of the problem,” Tylka continues. “The higher your numbers, the greater your chances of yield loss, and the higher that yield loss will likely be. It’s important for farmers to understand that they’re never going to get rid of soybean cyst nematode once they find it’s in their fields. But it’s not a death sentence. It’s similar to finding out you have high blood pressure – you learn to manage it as a chronic health problem,” he says.

more

SCN COALITION NEWS

For immediate release

What's your number?

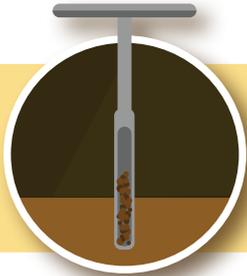
Take the test.  Beat the pest.

The SCN Coalition™

Funded by the soybean checkoff

SCN COALITION MANAGEMENT recommendations

Because each grower's SCN numbers, situation and available management options will be unique, the SCN Coalition recommends that soybean farmers work with their advisors and develop a plan to actively manage SCN:



- Test your fields to know your numbers.
- Rotate resistant varieties.*
- Rotate to non-host crops.
- Consider using a seed treatment nematicide.

* SCN populations can adapt to individual resistant varieties as well as to sources of resistance such as PI 88788 and Peking. So, rotating to a different resistant variety - even if it's still PI 88788 - may help slow the buildup of SCN populations.

THE SCN COALITION, Take 2

By turning up the volume on SCN resistance management, the Coalition's goal is to increase soybean farmers' profit potential and realize higher yields.



"SCN is the No. 1 yield-robbing pest in soybeans," says Ed Anderson, Ph.D., executive director of NCSRP. "There's a clear need to raise awareness and re-elevate urgency among farmers and the soybean industry to understand SCN threats and the short- and long-term management strategies. The impact that a coalition of companies, universities and grower

organizations can make when working together is far greater than what we could do if we were working alone."

THE COALITION RELAUNCHED

after 20 years, thanks to funding from:

NCSRP NORTH CENTRAL SOYBEAN
RESEARCH PROGRAM



AND IN-KIND SUPPORT from Coalition partners

Partners currently include university scientists from 27 states and Ontario; NCSRP, USB and several state soybean promotion boards; corporate partners BASF, Bayer, Growmark, Monsanto, DuPont Pioneer, Syngenta and Winfield United; and media partner Corn+Soybean Digest.



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Visit www.TheSCNcoalition.com for:

- State-specific SCN management recommendations from your university SCN experts.
- Contact information for public and private SCN testing labs.
- Links to new SCN management tools and technologies available from SCN Coalition partners.

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