



Soybean Aphid Education

Controlling a new pest in Wisconsin

The soybean aphid, a new pest insect in Wisconsin, can cause significant damage to an economically important crop. Crop scouting, timing and balancing the costs and benefits of using pesticides are key to effective control of this pest. Applying pesticides at the wrong time or when insect populations are low, for example, can cost more than the potential loss in value of the crop.

Extension's Response

Team Grain worked with Extension specialists in Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota on regional workshops targeting crop consultants and agricultural supply company personnel and other agricultural professionals. Extension entomologists from the four states, linked to sites by Internet and phone connections provided a five-hour live, interactive workshop on soybean aphid biology and control.

Outcomes

100 to 130 agricultural professionals and farmers participated at 13 Wisconsin sites.

Participants in the workshop learned about soybean aphid biology, control tactics and guidelines for deciding whether or not to treat affected crops.

A sub-sample of crop consultants (N=6) who participated said the workshop made them more confident that they could help growers with treatment decisions.

These six respondents shared what they learned with about 1,272 growers. These growers made management decision affected about 377,500 acres.

Contact: Laura Paine, 608-742-9680, lkpaine@facstaff.wisc.edu

February 15, 2005