

Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee



CHECKOFF CHRONICLE

Farmers are Stewards of Michigan's Land

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BIODIESEL PLANT OPENS IN MICHIGAN

On August 18, 2006, Ag Solutions, Inc., in Gladston, Michigan, held their biodiesel plant open house. Richard Vande Vusse, President invited distinguished guests which included the Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Mitch Irwin, Michigan Dept. of Ag, and MSPC's Keith Reinholt, Field Operations Director and Gail Frahm, Executive Director, to name a few.

"Our initial biodiesel production design capacity is 5 million gallons per year (mgy). Due to the greater than anticipated local interest in biodiesel, we will be expanding the plant to around 10 mgy in the near term, hopefully by year end," said Richard. "The overall design capacity is approximately 15 mgy. We anticipate hitting this production rate before mid 2007."



Congressman Bart Stupak who was also present at the open house said, "We know we can't outgrow energy needs, therefore we need to create alternatives such as biodiesel. This plant will certainly help availability of alternative fuels."

Congratulations to Richard and his staff for being entrepreneurs and starting Michigan's first commercial biodiesel plant.



Above are representatives from Capital Hill in Washington, Michigan Government, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, President and Employees of Ag Solutions, Inc., and Agriculture Industry Representatives.



MEET THE DIRECTORS

In a continuing effort to introduce your seven fellow soybean farmer Governor appointed Checkoff directors to you, this issue features Mark Bierlein.



I'm Mark Bierlein, soybean producer from Reese, Michigan in Tuscola County. I have served on the soybean checkoff board since 2004 representing District 5 which covers Arenac, Bay, Saginaw, and Tuscola Counties. I'm currently serving as Treasurer. My brother Wayne and I work together on our 2,500 acre,

fourth generation farm. Our crops consist of white wheat, soybeans, edible beans, and corn. We also manage Bierlein Seed, Inc. which raises and processes seed.

Serving on the MSPC board has been gratifying. One of the projects I have been able to be a part of is the licensing agreement on a soybean aphid resistance germplasm. The MSPC is working hard to secure the farmers' best interest in the germplasm which was created from research paid for by our soybean checkoff dollars. Protecting our research is vital to the farmers and their future profits. I look forward to watching our industry continue to grow.

Have a safe harvest,
Mark Bierlein
MSPC Treasurer



MICHIGAN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Michigan Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) has cooperated with the soybean checkoff program since its inception on soybeans being sold as certified seed. MCIA assesses the checkoff based on bushels of tagged certified seed product. MCIA is the seed certification agency for the state of Michigan and performs field inspections and laboratory testing of seed to verify certified seed meets the standards set in regulation by the State. Along with these duties, MCIA works closely with Michigan State University on the increase of new varieties and the production of foundation class seed. For more information on MCIA check out our web site at www.michcrop.com or contact us at 517.332.3546.

Special Note: Earthrace's Michigan venue has been cancelled due to scheduling issues. To stay up-to-date on Earthrace's journey using biodiesel visit www.earthrace.net.

MAEAP CONFERENCE JANUARY 30TH

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks, and it teaches farmers how to identify and prevent environmental risks, and comply with state and federal environmental regulations.

Farming has always been an uphill climb, but today, it seems as if the hill's getting steeper. Forces outside agriculture, which often know little about farming, want to make that slope icy, too. Environmental regulations, emerging markets, and changing consumer tastes can make that slope even steeper, unless you're prepared.

Agriculture's Conference on the Environment- Managing Today for Tomorrow, January 30, 2007 will include educational sessions about environmental regulations and how to deal with them; marketing in changing local and global markets; the challenges of alternative energy, including ethanol and biodiesel, and much more.

Featuring an all-star lineup of experts, the ACE conference isn't just for the classroom types. It's designed to give farmers practical, dirt-under-the-fingernails advice that can be applied in the barn or on the field. Register today at www.MAEAP.org. You'll be glad you did.

MSPC is a sponsor of MAEAP and encourages soybean farmers to go through the MAEAP certification process.

DATES OF INTEREST

- November 10 Soybean Yield Contest Harvest Forms are Due
- December 12 Yield Contest Awards Program
- December 14 MSPC Board Meeting

GO PAPERLESS

If you would like to receive your copy of *Checkoff Chronicle* by e-mail please send your request to kmaurer@michigansoybean.org.



USING 2006 SOYBEAN APHID AND SOYBEAN RUST RESULTS TO PLAN FOR 2007

Two of the newer challenges facing Michigan soybean producers in the last five years are managing for soybean aphid (SBA) and for soybean rust (SBR). Fortunately, considerable research has been conducted for both of these challenges to allow for proper management. As we review SBA and SBR occurrence in 2006, the presence or lack thereof should be considered in your 2007 management plans. The "take home message" is still the same to be AWARE but not ALARMED.



Inside MSU's aphid cage

The SBA populations in Michigan have been in a cycle pattern since their initial

find in S.W. Michigan in 2000. The years 2001, 2003, and 2005 experienced populations well above threshold levels in much of Michigan necessitating control measures. Even though we did not experience threshold populations in much of Michigan in 2002, 2004, and 2006, research has continued to better predict a subsequent year infection level.

Cooperative research, coordinated in part, by Dr. Christina DiFonzo, entomologist at Michigan State University, developed a method for assessing and predicting potential population levels for the next cropping year. Data in the fall of 2004 indicated increasing population levels in 2005 which Michigan producers experienced. A fall 2005 assessment indicated low population levels in 2006 which, in general, was accurate. While appreciating the predictive model is somewhat dependant on weather patterns, what can we expect in 2007?

One measurement for predicting is to observe the flight of the SBA gynoparae (winged females) from soybeans to buckthorn. An update received from Dr. DiFonzo in late September '06



Soybean Aphid

indicated a need to be aware saying, "I found females with tiny newly-deposited nymphs on every buckthorn shrub I examined around MSU. Many were ant-tended (i.e. being protected) and I didn't see any ladybugs or other predators. These nymphs will mature into oviparae and lay eggs in early October." She indicated these early indications point to higher SBA populations in 2007. Research continues as we evaluate suction trap catches throughout Michigan to evaluate the flight of winged females back to their host plant buckthorn.

In planning for SBA management in 2007 – be AWARE but not ALARMED.

2007 plans for managing the potential for SBR are different than SBA since Michigan has not experienced SBR infection in soybean. A [key message](#) here is to remain vigilant for the potential of SBR infection.

Dr. Monte Miles, research plant pathologist at USDA Agriculture Research Service, who has extensively researched SBR, offers the following actions to be taken:

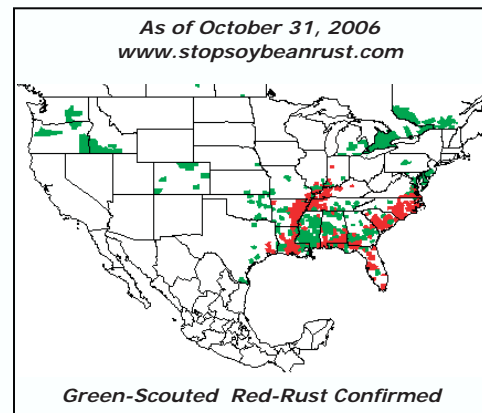
- 1 Know which fungicides you will use, even though you don't have to have them on hand you should understand fungicide use.
- 2 Look at web sites, talk to crop consultants and/or your local extension service to know specific fungicide use for your unique situation.
- 3 Use all available services for tracking SBR movement, infection levels and spray timing for your individual situation.

Miles states, "I am worried that some growers might ignore the threat next year because of all the 2005 warnings and two seasons without rust moving beyond a confined area in time to do serious crop damage."

In the face of a Southern drought in the lower Mississippi River area, SBR occurrence was late in arriving but surprising in its vast area of spread. Weather experts expressed that the Southern drought experienced in 2006 was atypical.

Even though no known SBR infections occurred in Michigan in 2006, SBR incidence on soybean and/or a host plant in the South was at a surprisingly high level. This incidence level with resulting damage was mitigated with the late season infection.

A review of the web site www.stopsoybeanrust.com at the time of this article indicated SBR identification in 15 states representing 241 counties/parishes. As further examination of occurrences indicates far more infections in the lower Mississippi River area which most likely would be the inoculum source brought to Michigan based on summer months wind currents.



In summary, Michigan growers should be AWARE but not ALARMED when reviewing SBR for 2007 management plans.



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IN THIS ISSUE

Fall 2006

- Biodiesel Plant Opens
- Michigan Crop Improvement
- Soybean Aphid and Rust
- Biodiesel Heat
- Soy Inks Birthday



New Uses

FIRE UP THE FURNACE WITH BIODIESEL

Heating your home is getting even more unpredictable. The average price of No. 2 heating oil is in constant flux with the continued change of the cost of petroleum-based products. More than 9 million Americans use No. 2 heating oil to warm their homes, consuming 6.7 billion gallons of No. 2 oil per year. No. 2 heating oil mixed with 5% - 20% biodiesel, is giving consumers a green alternative for heat. Benefits of using a biodiesel blend are:

- Completely miscible with middle distillate fuels
- Higher than average cetane (50 vs. 40)
- Virtually sulfur-free which is more clean-burning

Storage of biodiesel blends of heating oil is the same used for conventional heating oil. Blends up to 20 percent may increase the cold-flow properties 7-10 degrees Fahrenheit and can be enhanced by blending the fuel with kerosene.

Biodiesel heat is meeting the accelerating demand for a homegrown, environmentally-friendly heating product. Ask your fuel supplier today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SOY INK

The success of soy ink in the United States is two decades in the making, with support from the soybean checkoff coming since 1987. Rising petroleum prices in the 1970's brought awareness of soy ink, and the environmental friendliness of the product kept it popular through the 1990's.

Soybean oil's clarity gives soy ink bright colors, and an increasing number of newspapers today are taking advantage of using color based on this property. Soy ink has longer usage life than traditional ink, is renewable and reduces the amount of rub-off from newsprint. Today, more than one-third of all daily newspapers and over 90 percent of all newspapers use soy-based ink, thanks in part to the checkoff's support of soy ink.

Other potential applications of soy ink include sheet-fed inks, heat-set inks, cold-set inks, business-form inks and flexographic ink. Research for future uses of soy ink include toner cartridges and ink in ballpoint pens.



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