



North Central Soybean Research Program

Disease Study Group: Focus on new and emerging soybean diseases

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Changes in crop production practices and environment impact disease severity and prevalence each year. Many diseases are sporadic, new, or emerging in the North Central Region and are concerning to farmers due to the lack of Extension information available when outbreaks occur. In a traditional system, research is conducted and Extension materials are developed and disseminated at the end of the project. This creates a “gap” in industry and farmer awareness for emerging diseases, and prevents stakeholders from obtaining the most current information about emerging issues until research projects can be completed.

It is critical to provide stakeholders with information to prevent unwarranted management practices, and improve awareness of disease. The main goal of this project is to identify emerging diseases, compile available resources and create Extension materials to provide information to farmers.

Project objectives

- Provide information on emerging diseases at multiple levels of Extension interface (print, web, video, etc.) to reach diverse groups of stakeholders;
- Create a platform to host and brand Extension material developed in conjunction with the North Central Soybean Research Program to facilitate updates and allow users to identify trusted sources of material through this branding partnership; and
- Provide current research summaries on emerging diseases to direct and coordinate future research priorities thereby minimizing duplication, maximizing resources and increasing response time.

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The Soybean Extension group drafted a publication on soybean seed treatments (fungicide, insecticide, nematicide, and inoculants) and another publication was drafted on factors to consider for variety selection. These publications combine information across plant pathology, agronomy, entomology, and weed science to create comprehensive multi-disciplinary resources for farmers. The publications are currently being reviewed by all Extension specialists in these disciplines across the NC region, and should be published in early 2018.