

NCERA-137 Soybean Disease, Pensacola Florida, February 27, 2025

Project No. and Title: NCERA_old137

Period Covered: 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024

Date of Report: 04/10/2025

Annual Meeting Dates: 02/27/2025

Brief Summary of Minutes of Annual Meeting

The 2025 NCERA-137 meeting, held in Pensacola, Florida, focused on soybean disease research, collaboration, and strategic planning. Key updates included administrative guidance from Dr. Loren Giesler, advancements in Crop Protection Network initiatives, and discussions on disease loss estimates. Participants explored spending options for a \$15,000 award, including educational trips. Presentations covered topics like soybean field stressor patterns, best practices for university-industry research collaboration, and standardizing soybean pathology protocols. Updates on red crown rot and fungicide trials were provided, with future research directions proposed. The meeting concluded with the approval of 2024 minutes, election of future secretaries, and a unanimous decision to reconvene in Pensacola for the 2026 meeting.

Accomplishments

Short-term outcomes: Continued collaborative efforts of the NCERA 137 multi-state working group are advancing recommendations for managing soybean diseases.

Outputs: Within participating states, information was shared through multiple platforms including winter meetings, research publications, extension publications, social media, and other web platforms. Coordinated efforts of this multi-state project enabled data exchange for regional and national recommendations for example:

- Soybean Disease Loss Estimates from the United States and Ontario, Canada – 2024. Crop Protection Network. CPN 1018-24. doi.org/10.31274/cpn-20250317-1
- Crop Protection Network recommendations for Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Foliar Diseases. CPN 1019. doi.org/10.31274/cpn-20190620-014
- Crop Protection Network recommendations for Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases. CPN 1020. doi.org/10.31274/cpn-20190620-015

Impacts

1. Objective 1: Foster collaborative research and information exchange on new and emerging soybean diseases among scientists in the North Central Region including soybean breeders and entomologists that will lead to improved disease screening protocols, additional sources of disease resistance genes and ultimately, improved host plant resistance. Project participants work on diverse systems including *Xylaria necrophora*, pathotype diversity of *P. sojae*, *Cadophora*

gregata, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *Heterodera glycines*, among others. Mapping of *Calonectria illicicola* has been initiated to track this reemerging threat to soybean production

2. Objective 2. Compare findings on the impacts of changing production practices such as earlier planting dates, new sources of host plant resistance, increased use of fungicide seed treatments and foliar fungicides, and other new or improved crop production technologies on soybean diseases that could be adopted for other production areas in the region. Project participants are evaluating several seed-applied nematicides to the southern root-knot nematode, seed treatments for management of sudden death syndrome, red crown rot and soybean cyst nematode, facilitating submission of soil samples for SCN testing in individual states, evaluate the sensitivity of *Cercospora sojina* and *Diaporthe* collected from multiple U.S. states to DMI, MBC, and SDHI fungicides, among others. A consensus fungicide efficacy data is prepared by the NCERA 137 group members at individual institutions in concert with Crop Protection Network to build the foundation for fungicide guidelines published annually for farmers.
3. Objective 3. Compare data from studies of the ecology and epidemiology of soybean diseases important in the North Central Region. Project participants are coordinating efforts to conduct epidemiology trials to understand *Cercospora*-associated diseases in soybean. This includes spore trapping efforts and disease rating efforts among numerous states who participate in coordinated foliar fungicide trials. In addition to *Cercospora*, the project participants are also involved in assessing yield losses associated with soybean diseases in the NC region. As an example, red crown rot was added to the list of soybean diseases as this disease is being found in more states. Yield loss data is compiled to track disease impacts annually by region, nationally and across years.
4. Objective 4. Improve knowledge transfer about soybean diseases and their management in the North Central Region to researchers, Extension faculty, producers and the agribusiness community through the use of web sites, podcasts, social media (X/Twitter and Facebook) and other new technologies as they are developed. Knowledge transfer is being conducted via CPN-TV (recorded webinars), I See Dead Plants podcast, A Penny for your thought podcast, extension meetings, trade shows, field days, webinars, newsletters, podcasts, blog posts, newspaper articles, radio spots, YouTube videos, program webpages, public media interviews, ag media (DTN Progressive Farmer, MoSoy, AgWeek, etc.), leveraged partner media (agrochemical companies), and twitter. Multi-state reports, including yield loss estimates and fungicide efficacy charts are housed with the Crop Protection Network. Many participants are also active in the SCN Coalition.
5. Objective 5. Continue to monitor and share information for any new or reemerging pathogens of soybean in the North Central Region and develop appropriate responses to their emergence as they occur. Participants work with extension agents, stakeholders, farmers, industry, university researchers, and respective diagnostic clinics to monitor for potential new or emerging and re-emerging diseases. Many states are supporting testing of soil for SCN, monitoring for red crown rot, taproot decline, *Cercospora* leaf blight, *Diaporthe*-associated diseases, soybean cyst nematode, soybean rust, and spread of fungicide resistant *C. sojina*.

Milestones: In year (10/1/23-9/30/24) of this project, collaborative research projects continue to advance understanding of soybean disease management options and providing management

recommendations to farmers. Annually, the NCERA 137 participants support yield loss estimates associated with soybean diseases in individual states, which are used to develop the CPN disease loss calculator. This group also develops publications to report trends in regional and national disease development to inform evaluations of soybean germplasm and chemical product efficacy screening.

Impacts: Diseases in soybean can greatly impact yield potential. To facilitate data driven management recommendations, NCERA 137 participants performed research to address regionally significant diseases, conducted fungicide efficacy trials, and supported disease forecasting efforts. Research results were shared through extension programming (field days, grower meetings, publications, newsletter, blogs, YouTube videos, radio. and social media) to maximize effectiveness of disease management strategies and improve grower productivity and profitability.

Publications

1. Barro, J. P., Del Ponte, E. M., Kelly, H. M., Bissonnette, K. M., Telenko, D. E. P., Ames, K. A., and Bradley, C. A. 2024. Profitability of foliar fungicides in double crop soybean under low-disease pressure. *Plant Health Progress*. 25: 4. 418-426. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHP-01-24-0001-RS>
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4. Bissonnette, K.M., Barizon, J., Adey, E., Ames, K.A., Becker, T., Biggs, M., Bradley, C.A., Brown, M., Byamukama, E., Chilvers, M.I., Faske, T.R., Harbach, C.J., Jackson-Ziems, T.A. Kandel, Y.R., Kleczewski, N.M., Koehler, A.M., Markell, S.G., Mueller, D.S., Sjarpe, D.A., Smith, D.L., Telenko, D.E.P., and Tenuta, A.U. 2024. Management of soybean cyst nematode and sudden death syndrome with nematode-protectant seed treatments across multiple environments in soybean. *Plant Disease*. 108:1729-1739. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-02-23-0292-RE>
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8. Cai, G., Lopes da Silva, L., Piñeros-Guerrero, N., and Telenko, D. E. P. 2024. Population structure and mating-type distribution of *Cercospora sojina* from soybean in Indiana, United States. *Journal of Fungi*. 10: 802. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jof10110802>
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10. Check J.C., Harkness R., Heger L., Chilvers M.I., Mahaffee W.F., Sakalidis M.L., Miles T.D. 2024. It's a trap! Exploring the application of rotating-arm impaction samplers in plant pathology. *Plant Disease*. doi: 10.1094/PDIS-10-23-2096-FE. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38411610. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-10-23-2096-FE>
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Extension articles

1. Betts A.K. Scouting for Soybean Cyst Nematode. Delaware Weekly Crop Update. 6.14.24
2. Betts A.K. Soybean Updates. Delaware Weekly Crop Update. 7.11.24
3. Betts A.K. Big Rains and Soybean Disease. Delaware Weekly Crop Update. 7.26.24
4. Betts A.K. Diseases in Soybean. Delaware Weekly Crop Update. 8.16.24
5. Betts A.K. Soil Sampling for nematodes in soybean. Delaware Weekly Crop Update. 9.13.24
6. Chilvers, M. McCoy, A., Ochi, S. 2024. Red crown rot: A new threat to soybean production. MSUE News <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/red-crown-rot-a-new-threat-to-soybean-production> Reposted in Morning Ag Clips <https://www.morningagclips.com/red-crown-rot-a-new-threat-to-soybean-production/>
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