

Soybean Rust Coalition “Bringing Soybean Stakeholders Together!”

Purpose:



Although we still have much to learn about this potentially devastating disease, soybean stakeholders have come together through the efforts of OMAFRA and the Ontario Soybean Growers to meet the challenge “head on” in the form of the Ontario Soybean Rust Coalition. The Ontario Soybean Rust Coalition is a partnership of these key soybean stakeholders which include extension (government), producer, researcher, equipment and chemical company representatives. These partners are not only committed to collect, compile, disseminate information and resources to tackle this potentially debilitating crop disease but to provide a “unified” voice concerning soybean rust to not only Ontario producers but soybean producers in other provinces and regions as well.

Activities:

The Coalition has undertaken various activities that include:



- 1) The development and delivery of a soybean rust identification pocket card to all 22,000+ Ontario soybean producers in December 2004 which was less than a month after the US confirmation in early November of 2004. Over 500,000 of these cards which OMAFRA helped develop were delivered to producers in the United States, Quebec, Manitoba and the Maritimes. The coalition in conjunction with “Le Bulletin des Agriculteurs” produced a French translation of the ID card which was distributed in Quebec, Ontario and the United States.

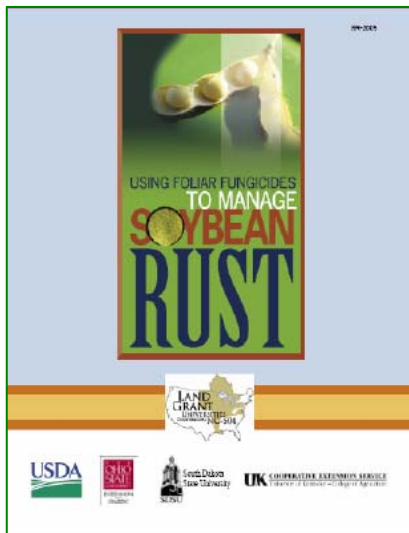
- 2) Soybean Rust Information Workshops throughout the province, grower presentations, rust management seminars / field days, Outdoor Farm Show and others.
- 3) The development of a Soybean Rust Website was added to the Ontario Soybean Growers website at www.soybean.on.ca. The website contains updates on the spread of the disease in North America and sentinel plot scouting information specifically for Ontario including soybean growth stages and if rust treatment recommendations are necessary. Early detection of rust is key to minimizing disease spread and its effect on yields, and this Web site provides timely information. The maps use GPS/GIS technology from Laresco, a London-based land resource

company. A link to the USDA soybean rust Web site (www.sbrusa.net) containing the latest updates in confirmed rust cases in the southern states is included.



- 4) A special soybean rust issue of “Top Crop Manager” was delivered to all 22,000+ Ontario soybean producers in early July, 2006. The emphasis was identification, management and increasing awareness of soybean rusts potential impact on North American soybean production.

- 5) Distribution of “Using Foliar Fungicides to Manage Soybean Rust” Manual to all 22,000+ soybean producers in Ontario will occur in February, 2006 through a special “Soybean Guide” distributed Country Guide magazine. This full-color, 50 page manual is an excellent resource and was developed by experts from 22 US universities, the USDA/Agricultural Research Service and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.



Next Steps:

Continue to provide timely and relevant information to soybean producers through innovative products, services, etc. Plans are being made to distribute "Using Foliar Fungicides to Manage Soybean Rust" Manual to other soybean and possibly pulse growers in Canada. Expansion of the Soybean Rust Coalition website to include other soybean producing areas of Canada is a possibility.

Acknowledgements:

Coalition members include: the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario Soybean Growers, University of Guelph, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, E.I. du Pont Company, Laresco Monsanto, Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited, Syngenta Crop Protection, Syngenta Seeds, and John Deere & Company.



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Project Contacts:

For more information concerning the Soybean Rust Coalition please contact:

Albert Tenuta, OMAFRA, albert.tenuta@omafra.gov.on.ca