

# Delaware reports '81 soybean checkoff results

NEWARK, Del. — Results of last summer's check-off supported soybean projects at the University of Delaware have now been evaluated. It's too soon to draw conclusions from the single year's work, but those involved in the studies noted several promising trends, the University reports.

The 1981 soybean check-off funds helped support a total of nine projects at the University, including varietal screening for soybean cyst nematode resistance; a comparison of suggested soybean fertilizer programs; a study of the use and placement of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium on soybeans; evaluation of soybean varieties for no-till double-cropping; varietal performance trials; a study of interactions of varieties, row spacing and planting dates, an evaluation of post-emergence spray pressures, volumes and tip patterns; a soybean seed germination study; evaluation of

soybean varieties for insect pest resistance; and a study of the response of soybean varieties to the herbicide 2,4-DB. There was also a report on the activities of an agronomy assistant supported by check-off money. Here are a few highlights from those projects:

- Scientists evaluated 16 experimental and eight named soybean varieties in a field heavily infested with the soybean cyst nematode and found good resistance in a number of varieties now available for use in Delaware fields. Some of the experimental lines also did well in spite of this pest. These should be helpful in developing resistant varieties even better suited to Delaware growing conditions.

- In a demonstration aimed at comparing the effectiveness of fertilizer recommendations from four soil testing services used by Delaware farmers (three commercial labs and the U. of D.), actual soil analyses were very

consistent, but the amount of fertilizer recommended as a result of the analyses varied considerably among laboratories.

- The yield per acre from soybeans grown at two field sites — Georgetown and Smyrna — was similar in spite of a range of \$8.50 to \$30.30 in cost of fertilizer applied per acre. The University laboratory recommended fertility levels involving phosphorus and potassium that resulted in the least cost per acre at both locations.

- Narrow row spacing brought higher yields in one part of another study on the effects of variety, row width and planting date on soybeans. Researchers reported that the average yield of all varieties was nearly seven bushels higher when row widths were closed from 28 inches to seven inches in an early planting at Georgetown. Results were less conclusive in a late planting there, and in two plantings at Newark.

Investigators felt that available

soil moisture may have been the main reason beans planted July 3 at Georgetown failed to respond favorably to close spacing of rows. They also suggested that improper variety selection and late plantings were partly to blame for the disappointing production record of Delaware soybean growers over the past six to eight years. Several varieties in the later planting at Newark did not mature before killing frosts last fall.

- Except for spider mites, the 1981 season lacked significant pressure from major soybean insect pests. Even so, two entomologists involved in another check-off supported study were able to establish a rating system for evaluating insect injury on this crop. Their preliminary work showed that: soybean varieties grown in Delaware exhibit some injury even under low pest levels; certain varieties appear to be tolerant to low levels of the insects encountered last summer; and row

spacing influences populations of certain insect pests.

Funds to support these and the other 1981 projects came from a one-cent-per-bushel assessment paid by each soybean grower in the state. The fund is administered by the Delaware Soybean Check-Off Board.

## Franklin District hosts tour

CHAMBERSBURG — The Franklin County Conservation District and Clugston's Implements are co-sponsoring a no-till seeding demonstration on April 1, on the farm of J. Wilbur Burkholder, 3095 Grand Point Road, Chambersburg. Actual seeding will get underway at 1 p.m. The raindate is April 5, 1982 at 1 p.m.

Dale Clugston from Clugston's Implements will be donating the HAYBUSTER, a no-till planter, for the demonstration. The main purpose of the demonstration is to supply information and operating procedures of area farmers in the county interested in renting a no-till planter.

Information on renting the HAYBUSTER and rental rates are available by contacting the Franklin Conservation District office, phone 717-264-8074.

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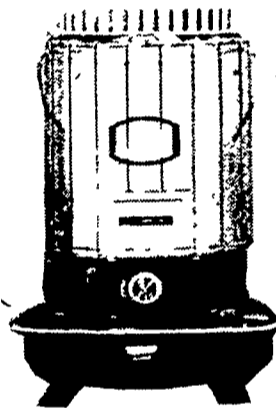
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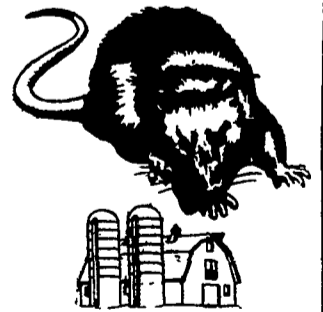
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