

Production threats

If Ohio soybean growers want to maximize yields, they need to pay attention to some important numbers, says Laura Lindsey, Ohio State University Extension's soybean and small grains specialist.

One of those critical numbers is the population level of soybean cyst nematodes in their fields. Lindsey has been collecting field data for two years and has found that 80% of the state's soils have SCN, mostly at low levels. However, most farmers say they don't have the yield-robbing nematodes, or they don't know if they do. Knowing these levels is important so farmers can manage fields to keep levels low, limiting yield losses.

Farmers also need to be aware of their soil fertility levels, Lindsey says. She found that one in four Ohio fields is low in phosphorus, and one in five or six is low in potassium. Without soil testing, farmers can't provide their crops with the nutrients they need while avoiding overapplication, Lindsey explains.

Ohio State University is in the process of updating the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations. This effort, partially funded by the Ohio soybean checkoff, will help farmers save money by being as efficient as possible with fertilizer applications, explains Kirk Merritt, Ohio Soybean Council executive director. "The idea is to update them to reflect modern farming."

urated-fat content and tolerates higher frying temperatures. High-oleic soybeans are already being grown in parts of Ohio, and varieties adapted to more growing regions are being introduced.

The second major component of soybeans — protein — is also important for market growth, Corcoran adds. While soybean yields have been increasing, protein content has been decreasing. This could put U.S. growers at a disadvantage in world markets if customers can find better quality elsewhere.

Voices from history

THE first person on record to grow soybeans in Ohio was Andrew H. Ernst of Cincinnati, according to records assembled by the SoyInfo Center. The source of the seed was some Japanese sailors shipwrecked near San Francisco. The sailors gave some soybeans to a physician from Illinois who treated them. The physician gave some to a friend in Illinois, who passed seeds on to Ernst.

Soybeans had been grown in Eastern states as early as 1765, but a letter from Ernst to the New York State Agriculture Society in 1853 is the first record of them in Ohio. In the letter, Ernst describes the plant, saying "In growth and leaf it neither resembles the bean or the pea; yet the grain or seed very strongly resembles the former, when in a green or forming state, assuming the round form of the latter at maturity."

Ernst shared some seed with T.V. Peticolas of Mount Carmel, who described them to a popular farming magazine of the day, saying, "They grow from 2 to 3 feet high with stiff, branching stems, and look beautiful in the garden. They stood last season's drought remarkably well, not dropping a single leaf until frost." However, he wasn't so impressed with soybeans as a food, writing, "With respect to its qualities for the table, there is not much to say in its favor."

Ohio News Watch

"We need to be increasing the protein as we look toward becoming that bean of choice," he explains. "We're not just producing beans, we're producing protein and oil."

Overseas experience

Nathan Brown, who farms in Highland County, traveled this summer to China and Vietnam as part of the United Soybean Board's See for Yourself program. The program gives farmers a chance to see how their checkoff dollars are being spent and helps them form relationships with other farmers and soybean customers.

"We see those dollars at the bottom of our check being taken off, but don't always see how it's spent," he notes.

Brown, who is a first-generation farmer, began farming in 2002 with the help of neighbors Jim Granger and Roger Earley. This year he planted 700 of the 1,050 acres he farms to soybeans. Nearly all the soybeans he sells travel down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River, and then to the Gulf of Mexico and on to export markets.

Visiting Shanghai, which has a population of 24.5 million, helped Brown visualize the tremendous demand for food in that part of the world.

"Everything that was not asphalt was growing something to eat," he recalls. "There were soybeans growing in the road ditch."

Both China and Vietnam need to import soybeans to provide protein for food use and to feed fish and livestock, Brown explains. As the middle class expands and populations continue to grow, demand for soybeans will grow as well. U.S. farmers will be competing with South American growers for those markets.

"This international export market is a big deal," he stresses.

Keck writes from Raymond.

News Briefs

Hamlet Protein expands U.S. factory

Following the successful completion of its latest expansion in October 2014, soy protein manufacturer Hamlet Protein announced the next expansion of its U.S. facility in Findlay, due to be commissioned during the first quarter of 2016. Since its first line in the U.S. was commissioned in early 2012, Hamlet Protein has seen a major increase in its North American sales. "We are proud of how our products have been received in a demanding market like North America, and this increasingly competitive market is today one of our fastest-growing ones," says Soren Munch, CEO of Hamlet Protein. Hamlet Protein manufactures a specialty, highly digestible soy protein for young-animal diets, and is actively selling its product in over 50 countries through its own sales team and via a network of distributors.

Ohio Farm Bureau makes appointments

Haley Davis of Bucyrus has joined Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's field staff to help support county Farm Bureaus in their operations, while Tim Hicks of Lexington has been named OFBF's business development field director. Hicks will develop and implement programs, business development projects and activities designed to retain and increase Farm Bureau membership and member use of Nationwide financial and risk management products. Nationwide started as an insurance company for Ohio Farm Bureau members and continues to be a strong advocate of agriculture. Previously, Hicks was OFBF's organization director for Crawford, Delaware, Marion, Morrow, Richland and Wyandot counties. Davis' duties will be helping leaders strengthen county Farm Bureaus through program development and implementation, and identifying ways to serve members and their communities. Davis is a 2013 graduate of West Virginia University, where she majored in animal and nutritional sciences and was vice president of the Collegiate FFA. Previously she worked at Hord Livestock Co. in Bucyrus as a farrowing technician/manager and at Southern States Morgantown Ag as a sales associate.

OSU studies cost of foodborne illnesses

Foodborne illness costs some states more than \$350 per resident every year, according to a new study in the Journal of Food Protection. The Ohio State University study also provides an updated estimate of the total national cost of foodborne illness, up to \$93.2 billion a year, an increase from \$77.7 billion in 2012. The economic analysis is the first peer-reviewed study that provides comprehensive estimates of costs borne by individual states as a result of specific foodborne illnesses. It is designed to offer public health authorities localized information to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of food-safety education efforts and other interventions, says investigator Robert Scharff. "It will give policymakers a tool to determine whether a particular intervention they're using makes sense," Scharff says. "It can also be used to determine what are the biggest food-safety problems in a state, and how to prioritize resources accordingly." The new study, State Estimates for the Annual Cost of Foodborne Illness, is in the journal's June 2015 issue. It is accompanied by an online appendix with state-by-state estimates of the incidence of illness due to specific pathogens, as well as the state's total cost, cost per resident and cost per case for each type of illness.

Volume 311 | Number 10

CONTENTS

Ohio News Watch	1
Opinion & Mailbox	12
Crops	14
Machinery & Technology	32
Farm Management	38
Livestock	42
Marketplace/Classified	45
Buckeye Living	53
Marketing	54

CONTACT US

Editor: Jennifer Kiel,
jennifer.kiel@penton.com,
710 W. Park St., St. Johns, MI 48879
989-224-1235

Contributing Editors: Tom J. Bechman,
Bryce Knorr, Fran O'Leary, John Vogel
and Mindy Ward

Senior Editor: Holly Spangler,
309-926-6082; holly.spangler@penton.com

**Executive Director, Content
and User Engagement:** Willie Vogt,
willie.vogt@penton.com

Sales: Jeff Smith, 217-877-1662

Subscription questions: 800-441-1410

For additional sales and company information, see the last page of the Marketplace or Classifieds section.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to Ohio Farmer, 255 38th Ave., Suite P, St. Charles, IL 60174-5410.