Changes in 2010 Sentinel Plot System

Don Hershman
Extension Plant Pathologist
University of Kentucky, Princeton, KY
Where It All Began
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Maria and Eric Rund

Photo: R. Schneider

Photo: E. Rund
SBR Assessment Team Dispatched

A. Tschantz
A. Rizvi
G. Hartman
M. Miles
M. Bonde
A. Tschantz
X. B. Yang
R. Bullock
R. Frederick
R. Frederick
“We’re with the government and we are here to help”
We needed a national system to monitor SBR by spring 2005
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Obstacles to Overcome

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- Only basis for developing system was how SBR had been monitored in Brazil and other countries.
- Few people had been trained to identify SBR.
- Many were pessimistic that a national system could be operational by the 2005 growing season (4 months).
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  - Routinely picked up incursions at very low levels.
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  - Near real-time monitoring data have been provided to stakeholders along with state-specific risk assessments (commentary).
  - Estimated to have saved U.S. soybean producers at least $200M/yr.
  - Stakeholder trust in the system is high.
Downside of Sentinel Network

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  - Excess of $1M/yr from all sources needed just to monitor.
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- Very labor and time intensive = burnout.
- Not sustainable, as is, but monitoring is still necessary.
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  - Southern network primarily funded by USDA.
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2009 SBR Network

- Reduced financial resources did not significantly reduce the SBR monitoring in the South.

- Many northern states had significantly fewer plots in 2009.

- 696 sentinel plots in 2009 SBR network, plus thousands of ad-hoc sites.
Situation for 2010

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  - Part of SBR ensemble prediction output.
- Contingencies discussed at NCERA 208 meeting in September (Quincy, FL).
- Path forward was agreed upon, as follows:
Changes for 2010

- Southern focus will continue.
  - The disease overwinters in the South.
  - Must build up in the South before it is a threat to northern soybeans.
  - System must be able to detect northward movement.
Proposed 2010 SBR Monitoring Network
Changes for 2010

- USB/NCSRP grant will fund monitoring in South (supplemented by local check-off boards).
  - Approximately the same level of monitoring as in 2009.
  - Reduced season (April 1 – Oct 15).
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  - Approximately the same level of monitoring as in 2009.
  - Reduced season (April 1 – Oct 15).
  - Monitoring outside the Apr 1- Oct 15 window is voluntary.
    - Very limited or no overwinter monitoring.
More changes for 2010

- Monitoring in northern states will be funded exclusively by local check-off boards.
  - Expect reduced monitoring activities in north.
  - Less reliance on sentinel plots and more ad-hoc observations based on disease model predictions.
More changes for 2010

- Monitoring in northern states will be funded exclusively by local check-off boards.
  - Expect reduced monitoring activities in north.
  - Less reliance on sentinel plots and more ad-hoc observations based on disease model predictions.

- USDA and USB/NCSRP will fund SBR predictive models.
More changes for 2010

- Monitoring in northern states will be funded exclusively by local check-off boards.
  - Expect reduced monitoring activities in north.
  - Less reliance on sentinel plots and more ad-hoc observations based on disease model predictions.
- USDA and USB/NCSRP will fund SBR predictive models.
- [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net) website, with map and commentary will remain largely unchanged.
More changes

- Increased collaboration by SBR modeling community.
  - Enhanced communication with state specialists.
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- No more uploading of negative data.
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- Ed Sikora (Auburn) replaces me as southern coordinator.
ba de ba de ba de........

"That's all folks!"