Asian Soybean Rust (ASR) has now entered the U.S. and section 18 quarantine exemptions have been granted for use of a number of fungicides on soybeans. Soybeans have been the main focus and concern; however, there is also concern for the impact of ASR on specialty legume crops like snap beans, lima beans, dry beans, and their foliage that is sometimes fed to cattle, and for non-grass animal feeds like alfalfa and clover. Most of the food crops that will be affected fall into crop group 6 legume vegetables, crop group 7 foliage of legume vegetables and crop group 18 non-grass animal feeds.

A group of plant pathologists and state regulators were brought together by USDA’s Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) with the common interest of ASR on specialty legumes and the goal of providing adequate fungicide tools.

OPMP provided a list of known host crops for Phakopsora pachyrhizi that was used to determine vulnerable specialty legume crops.

IR-4 summarized the registration status of potential ASR fungicides. Many uses are either registered or their registration is in progress.

These fungicides include: three triazole fungicides: propiconazole, myclobutanil and tebuconazole, three strobilurin fungicides: azoxystrobin, pyraclostrobin and trifloxystrobin and mancozeb, maneb, chlorothalonil and ballad (Bacillus pumilis, strain 2808). A fourth triazole fungicide, tetraconazole, is not presently being considered for specialty legumes although it is in the soybean section 18.

The University of Tennessee and the Florida Department of Agriculture worked together with the U.S. EPA to write a generic quarantine exemption that each state could join in on. The section 18 quarantine exemption requested the use of tebuconazole (Folicur, Orius), myclobutanil (Rally 40W, Nova 40W), propiconazole (Tilt, Bumper, Propima) and mixtures of propiconazole + tebuconazole (Stratego), azoxystrobin + propiconazole (Quilt) on crop group 6 (excluding soybeans) and crop group 7.

IR-4 initiated magnitude of residue trials in 2005 to support the use of propiconazole on edible pod beans - crop subgroup 6A and succulent shell beans - crop subgroup 6B.

Crop Group 18 is presently of less concern due to crop value and expected disease development; however, registration of azoxystrobin is in progress.

Efficacy trials were initiated on snap beans at three sites: Florida, Tennessee and Alabama; however, no ASR was observed in the trials. Efficacy data from the Florida site is presented for the control of common rust (Uromyces appendiculatus) and powdery mildew (Erysiphe polygoni).