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 PA Soybean Board
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Jennifer:

The following is my interim report for the project “**A sentinel plot program for detection of insect pests and diseases in Pennsylvania soybeans,**” which the Soybean Board generously funded this year.

This is the tenth year in a row that we have conducted this project, the goal of which is to track insect and disease pest populations in typical soybean fields around the state and share this information with growers.

Fifteen extension educators around PA are participating in this effort, tracking populations in 28 fields in 21 counties (Table 1). Most of the educators are scouting fields themselves and reporting the data to me. For these educators, Soybean Board funds are paying for travel to sites and any supplies they needed. Four educators hired interns to handle scouting and reporting, so Soybean Board funds are paying the wages for these scouts and their mileage to fields.

Table 1. Penn State Extension Educators committed to scouting soybean fields.

County	Extension Educator	No. of fields
Zach Larson	Blair, Cambria, Bedford	3
Justin Brackenrich	Butler	2
Adriana Murillo-Williams	Centre	2
Joel Hunter	Crawford	1
Brittany Clark	Franklin	1
Jeff Graybill	Lancaster	1
Del Voight	Lebanon	5
Joseph Akins	Mercer	1
Andrew Frankenfield	Montgomery	1
Liz Bosak	Perry, Dauphin	2
Nicole Santangleo	Potter, Elk, McKean	3
Dwane Miller	Schuylkill	1
Leanna Duppstadt	Somerset	1
Anna Busch	Union, Northumberland	2
Heidi Reed	York	2

Fields used in the project were established in late May to mid June and scouting began upon emergence; due to wet weather during planting fields were established later than usual, but many farmers suffered from the same challenges. We began reporting pest populations on 1 June and have made 12 reports thus far. We have reported our findings on the recently updated Penn State Extension website, under the pest section:

<https://extension.psu.edu/forage-and-food-crops/agronomic-crops/pests-and-diseases>

Our articles are published online weekly and announced via an email list that reaches about 10,800 agricultural professionals.

Thus far, and as in past years, our scouting efforts have discovered a fairly narrow range of insects and only a few diseases and pest populations have mostly remained low thus far, as was the case for the nine previous years. This is an important message for growers to hear: *pest populations in soybean fields are often not economically damaging and may not threaten yield.* In fact, in most locations and most years, pest populations do not develop and thus pesticide use should provide no advantage.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Tooker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Tooker
Professor & Extension Specialist