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Jennifer:

The following is my final report for the project “**A sentinel plot program for detection of insect pests and diseases in Pennsylvania soybeans,**” which the Soybean Board generously funded for 2017-2018.

This is the sixth 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.

Sixteen extension educators around PA are participating in this effort, tracking populations in 31 fields in 20 counties (eight more fields than last year; Table 1). Half 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. Seven educators hired interns to handle scouting and reporting, so Soybean 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
Lebanon	Del Voight	5
Lancaster	Jeff Graybill	5
Elk, McKean, Potter	Nicole Santangelo	3
Union, Centre, Northumberland	Chris Houser	3
Clinton	Don Woodring	2
Bradford	Mark Madden	2
Blair	Zach Larson	2
Perry, Dauphin	Liz Bosak	2
Franklin	Kelly Patches	1
Montgomery	Andrew Frankenfield	1
York	John Rowehl	1
Armstrong	Rachel Milliron	1
Crawford	Joel Hunter	1
Schuylkill	Dwane Miller	1
Berks	David Wilson	1

Fields used in the project were established in May to mid June and scouting began upon emergence. We began reporting pest populations on 6 June and have made eight reports thus far. We have reported our findings in the Field Crop News (<http://extension.psu.edu/field-crop-news>), which during the growing season is published online weekly and announced via an email list that reaches about 7000 agricultural professionals.

For the 2017 season, as in past years, our scouting efforts have discovered a fairly narrow range of insects and only a few diseases, but importantly, none of the pest populations exceeded economic thresholds, thus none of the fields required pesticide treatments. This was also the case the last five years, and this is an important message for growers to hear: *pest populations are not pervasive and always threatening soybean yield.* In fact, in many locations and in 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,



John Tooker  
Associate Professor & Extension Specialist