2020 NW Minnesota Soybean Research and Tech Transfer
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COVID-19-related restrictions related to in-person interactions and travel, meant that members of the Extension crops team were unable to respond in a timely fashion to requests to help diagnose causes of poor soybean growth and development. These delays can be quite costly should pests or diseases surpass treatment thresholds or a crop outgrows specific treatment options. Consequently, this project aimed to stand up a distance diagnostics system easy to use by both ag professionals making submissions and Extension personnel providing preliminary diagnoses.

A webpage called Digital Crop Doc (DCD), on the UMN Extension site was developed so that anyone can provide up to 10 photos along with other information that can aid in diagnosis (**Figure 1**). DCD is set up to route submitted information to members of the UMN Extension crops team (A. Peltier, D. Malvick, R. Miller, L. Stahl, L. Behnken, B. Potter, J. Goplen, J. Wiersma & A. Chanda) while populating a spreadsheet to keep track of new and emerging regional pests/diseases. A later than desired launch date and no funds for paid ads are likely responsible for few submissions in 2020. Funding granted from both the MSRPC and the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council in 2021 will provide funding earmarked for advertising.
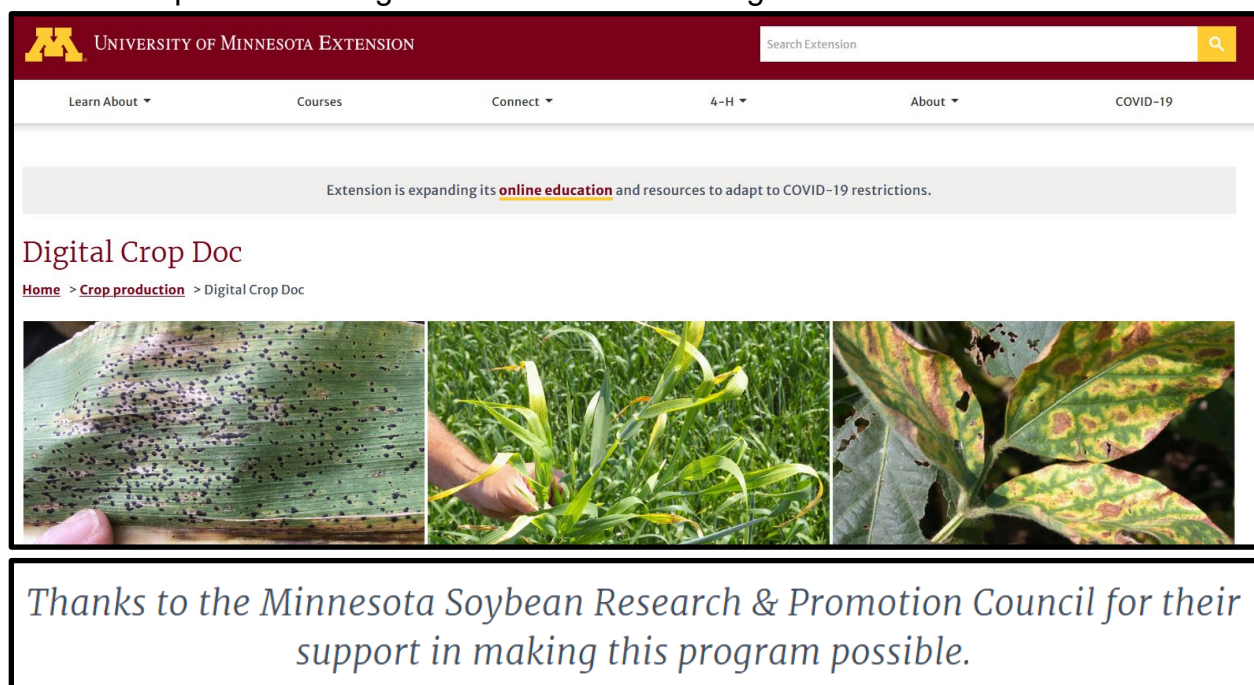

Figure 1. Screen shot of the UMN Extension Digital Crop Doc (DCD) webpage (top) and language thanking the MSRPC (bottom) on the DCD website.

This project also provided funding for Extension efforts geared toward NW MN soybean producers. Twelve soybean-focused articles posted on the Cropping Issues in NW MN newsletter received 14,962 page views. Four summer plot tour programs were held in NW MN in 2020 jointly with county soybean and corn growers' associations and the MSRPC.