



ONTARIO SOYBEAN GROWERS

Soybean Report

January 2007

ONTARIO SOYBEAN VARIETY TRIALS

Results of the Ontario Soybean variety trials are now available to growers. The variety trials were performed in 17 locations across Ontario. Performance information is available on 225 varieties and the results can now be found on the Ontario Soybean Growers website www.soybean.on.ca and the Ontario Oil & Protein Seed Crop Committee (OOPSCC) website www.gosoy.ca.

SOYBEAN HARVEST SURVEY 2006

OSG would like to extend our thanks to all soybean growers, committee members, and country elevators that helped make the 2006 harvest survey a success. In total, over 350 soybean samples were submitted from Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. All samples will be graded and tested for protein and oil levels at the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) in Chatham. The samples will then be sent to the CGC head office in Winnipeg for further quality tests. Any growers who submitted samples and included their name can contact Michelle McMullen at mmcmullen@soybean.on.ca or at 519-767-2472 to request individual sample results.

A COMMITMENT TO BIOFUELS

Recent federal announcements have committed to regulating the use of renewable fuels in Canada and deliver \$345 million to assist farmers and rural communities to seize new market opportunities in the agricultural bioproducts sector.

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment, announced the Government would regulate an annual average renewable content of five per cent in gasoline by 2010. She added the Government intends to regulate a two per cent requirement for renewable content in diesel fuel and heating oil by 2012.

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced \$345 million for two agriculture programs that will help bolster the development of biofuels and other bioproducts. The Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program and the Capital Formation Assistance Program for Renewable Fuels Production are designed to create new market opportunities for Canada's agricultural producers.

"Advancing Canada's bio-based economy is a priority for Canada's New Government," said Minister Strahl. "These programs are an important step in achieving the government's objective of five per cent renewable content in transportation fuels by 2010, while also creating new economic opportunities for our farmers and agricultural sector."

"This is a win-win-win situation," says Minister Ambrose. "Canadians will reap environmental benefits, our farmers and rural communities will profit, and by continuing to work towards a viable domestic biofuels industry we will secure Canada's place in the growing bio-economy."

Of the \$345 million: \$200 million through the Capital Formation Assistance Program for Renewable Fuels Production will provide producers with incentives for participation in new renewable fuels production capacity; and \$145 million through the Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program will provide support for cross-sector research networks conducting scientific research and development related to the advancement of a Canadian bio-based economy.

Additional information about these Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada programs and how to apply is available at www.agr.gc.ca.

The Ontario Soybean Growers are encouraged by this announcement and our official policy on biodiesel is: *As part of the development of a sound business environment for soybean producers in the province of Ontario, OSG promotes the biodiesel industry and any policies that encourage the use of domestic feedstock.*

SOYBEAN RUST UPDATE

In the fall of 2006, one of the most important questions surrounding soybean rust (SBR) in North America was answered. Over the course of a few months, under the proper weather conditions soybean rust developed over a very large geographical area. From October 1st, 193 new counties tested positive for SBR in the southern and the midwestern United States. The majority of these finds were on late season soybeans and or double crop beans. On October 26th, SBR was found on soybeans in LaFayette, Indiana (home of Purdue University). Lafayette is 165 miles south of Chicago and this represents the most northern find of SBR in the US ever.



Soybean Rust attacks the foliage of a soybean plant causing the leaves to drop early, inhibiting pod setting and reduces yield.

The total numbers for SBR as of December 21, 2006 for this year's soybeans are 231 different counties in 15 states and if you include kudzu (the over wintering host) the number increases to 274 counties over those same 15 states. This late spread of SBR from Louisiana up the Mississippi river and the Ohio River Valley was attributed to the prolonged stormy weather that occurred in late September that brought persistent rain showers and thunderstorms into Ontario and the midwestern United States. A similar situation occurred along the eastern US seaboard following Hurricane Ernesto. The rains that were associated with Ernesto provided the needed moisture conditions necessary for SBR development from Florida through to the Carolina's and the Virginia's.

The good news for Ontario and Canadian soybean producers is that a sentinel plot monitoring system has been established in North America and Ontario has been participating in the system through funding by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's CanAdvance Program, the Ontario Soybean Growers and the Ontario Soybean Rust Coalition. Not only was soybean rust able to be detected at levels as low as one lesion/pustule per 100 leaves examined but the computer prediction models for soybean rust were able to predict the movement of SBR spores out of Louisiana into the upper midwestern US.

This demonstrates the importance and effectiveness of the SBR sentinel plot system and provides an effective decision support tool for producers and advisors when it comes to managing this very destructive disease.

These recent events could have an impact for Ontario growers in 2007 if the weather predictions for a mild winter are true for the southern US. Every winter more and more kudzu is being infected and ultimately the vast kudzu area in the extreme southern US will provide a significant number of spores for potential to spread north. This means that early spring conditions in the southern US will be an important factor in the movement of SBR spores. SBR movement into the north has been delayed so far by hot, dry conditions in the south. The events that occurred in late 2006 have shown us that unfortunately, under favourable weather conditions SBR can move vast distances and cover much of the soybean production areas of North America in a short period of time. Visit the OSG website at www.soybean.ca and the USDA site at www.sbrusa.net for updates throughout the winter.

