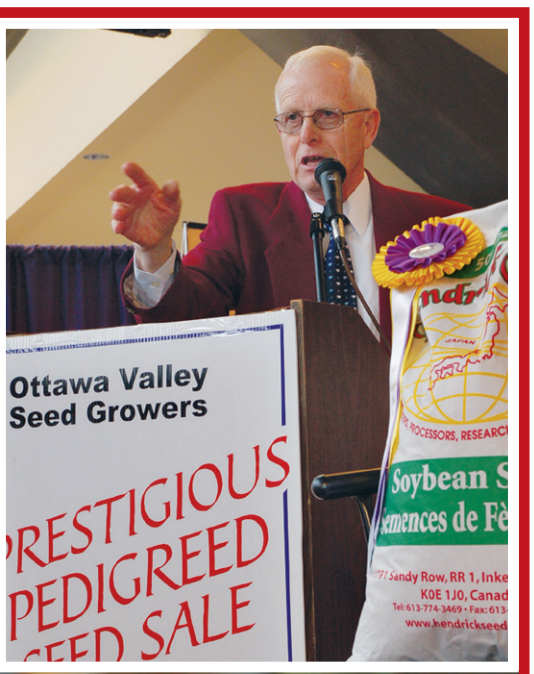






OTTAWA VALLEY FARM SHOW





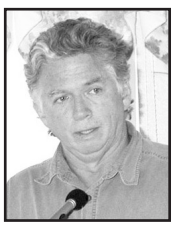
March 11-13

Lansdowne Park, Ottawa

2008 Ottawa Valley Farm Show

General Manager's Message

Ontario's longest-running agricultural trade show marks its 81st year of operation March 11 to 13 — one of the longest continuous records in Canada of farmers organizing for farmers, other rural residents, and businesspeople.



Tom Van Dusen

This time around, more than 320 highly reputable exhibitors will be on hand for the Ottawa Valley Farm Show at Lansdowne Park offering a look at the latest innovations in these goods and services.

Directors of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association, sponsors of the Farm Show, president Robert Dick, secretary-treasurer Mary Joynt, assistant Sue Pascoe and myself, look forward to seeing you at the show.

While the 2008 show is sold out, we still invite late applications for our waiting list. Last minute opportunities do come up. Contact Sue at 613-445-0353 for more information, and forms can be downloaded from the OVFS website at www.ottawafarmshow.com.

Among features of the show is a cattle breed information display located on the Concourse level at the west end of the Civic Centre. The Seed Growers' Hall of Honour exhibit will be located on the Concourse east end as will demonstrations, crafts, and other merchandise.

Show dates coincide with the March Break in Ontario schools; children — the farmers of the future — are welcome at the show, with no admission charge for those under 12 years old.

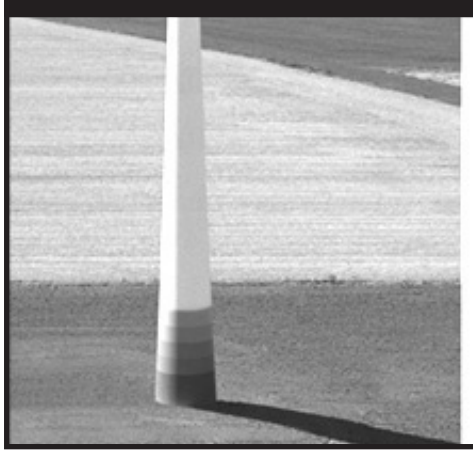
As always, everyone is invited to our official opening at noon Tues., March 11 at the Seed Growers' booth on the Concourse. A guest speaker will be on hand.

The annual Seed Awards ceremony will take place Wednesday (March 12) afternoon on the Concourse and will recognize Eastern Ontario growers judged earlier in the week to have the best entries in several crop categories.

Please join us Thurs., March 13 at noon for the annual Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale in support of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

— Tom Van Dusen

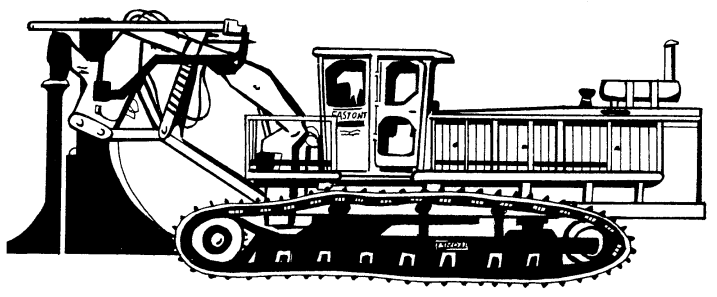
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81st edition

Ottawa Valley Farm Show builds on tradition

Sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association, the 81st edition of the Ottawa Valley Farm Show will take place at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa, March 11 to 13. The daily times are March 11: 9 am to 5 pm; March 12: 9 am to 8 pm; and March 13: 9 am to 4 pm. The show will feature exhibits in the Coliseum, Aberdeen Pavilion, and Civic Centre, including the arena, halls, and concourse. In addition, there will be machinery displays outdoors.



The OVFS is the largest annual exhibition of its kind held in Ontario, east of Toronto. The show features 300 commercial exhibitors offering everything from machinery and equipment, to computer and financial services. Every year, about 12,000 visitors attend the show over the three days.

The Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS) is Ontario's longest running agricultural trade show. From the beginning, it has been organized by farmers for farmers on a non-profit basis. The OVFS traces its humble beginnings back to 1927 in the town of Renfrew.

It was there that the newly formed Ottawa Valley Seed Growers' Association sponsored its first local seed fair at Renfrew Collegiate. The primary objective of that first show was consistent with today's main purpose: to assist in producing, grading, selling and distributing high class and registered seed.

The Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale in support of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario continues to be a highlight of the three-day show. Over 16 years, the sale has raised more than $66,500. In 2001, the Seed Growers initiated a new tradition of auctioning off a piece of rural art as part of the fundraiser.

The annual event has transformed into the biggest seed and machinery show east of Toronto; it grew out of one building into six display areas accommodating more than 300 exhibitors.

Association directors decided to expand the show in 2002 by taking over the Civic Centre arena floor and, in 2003, continued the expansion by adding the Civic Centre Concourse.

"The equipment is definitely one of the biggest drawing cards today," said Seed Growers' past- president Ed Findlay of Kars. "Our show is only a month away from the crop season and people are looking to buy."

In addition to seed and machinery, the OVFS traditionally includes livestock displays, 4-H exhibits, arts and crafts, farm toys and books, tools, equipment, associations, financial institutions, and just about every other product and service of interest to the farm and rural community.

On top of the Pedigreed Seed Sale, other highlights include the annual Awards Banquet and first-day official opening.

In the early days, the Seed Fair rotated each year from community to community throughout Eastern Ontario and West Quebec. Much later, after it had grown too big for rural venues, what became the Ottawa Valley Farm Show found a permanent home at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park where it has remained ever since.

"It was in 1955 that we opened the Championship Feed and Seed Show at Lansdowne," said Mack James of Carleton Place, who was there then and continues to work with the Farm Show. James said he remembers clearly when the original show used to move around the Ottawa Valley.

There are several permanent features to the show over and above the equipment and farming displays of interest to a general rural audience, including: the annual seed competition and display; the new Country Home Centre (crafts and product demonstrations); and the Women's Institute Tea Room, which offers tea and home-made cookies in return for a donation.

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Feeding corn distillers and other by-products possible

by Sarah Kelford
Press staff

As Dairy Day began at the University of Guelph's Kemptville campus on Fri., Feb. 15, the first of five presentations started with information about opportunities to use corn distillers and other by-products as feed.

University of Guelph's Kemptville campus Dairy Day

Ron Lackey, a feed ingredient and by-products feeding specialist from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), spoke to an audience of nearly 70 people about the ethanol industry in relation to livestock feed.

"The quest for renewable energy sources for the bio-fuel industry continues to evolve and expand. So too does the competition for commodities containing starch, sugar, oil, fat, and fibre," said Lackey. "Historically, many of these targeted commodities have been feed ingredients for the livestock industry."

Lackey explained that with crude oil being so expensive, the livestock industry will continue to see high commodity prices, specifically in corn.

Due to this expense it is in the livestock producers' best interest to look into less expensive alternative feeds like by-products, according to Lackey.

There are plenty of feed alternatives available in Ontario, he explained, a main one being corn distillers grains — a by-product of the production of ethanol. With four corn ethanol plants currently in Ontario; in Chatham, Sarnia, Tiverton, and Collingwood, this by-product is presently available.

These corn ethanol plants produce approximately 400 million litres of ethanol, using roughly 40 million bushels of corn, and creating about 280,000 tons of distillers.

There are also presently plants being built in Aylmer and Johnstown. With the addition of these plants, Ontario's production of ethanol from corn will almost double.

Three other plants, in Hensall, Havelock, and Napanee, are in the planning stages and some additional plants are being proposed for the province.

"The evolution of the bio-fuel industry is creating a new era for livestock feeding," said Lackey. "I encourage everyone to think outside the box, consider the use of alternative feeds, work with a trusted nutritionist and be innovative, as farmers are known to be, with their storage and handling."

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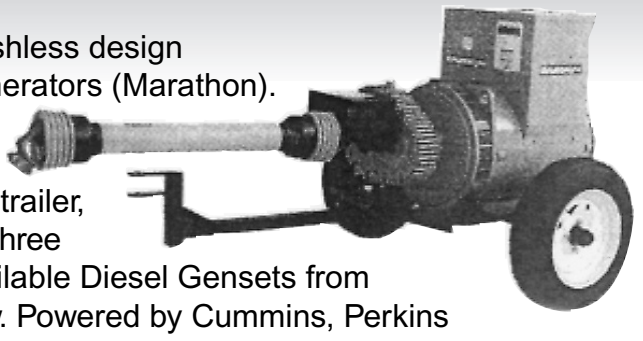
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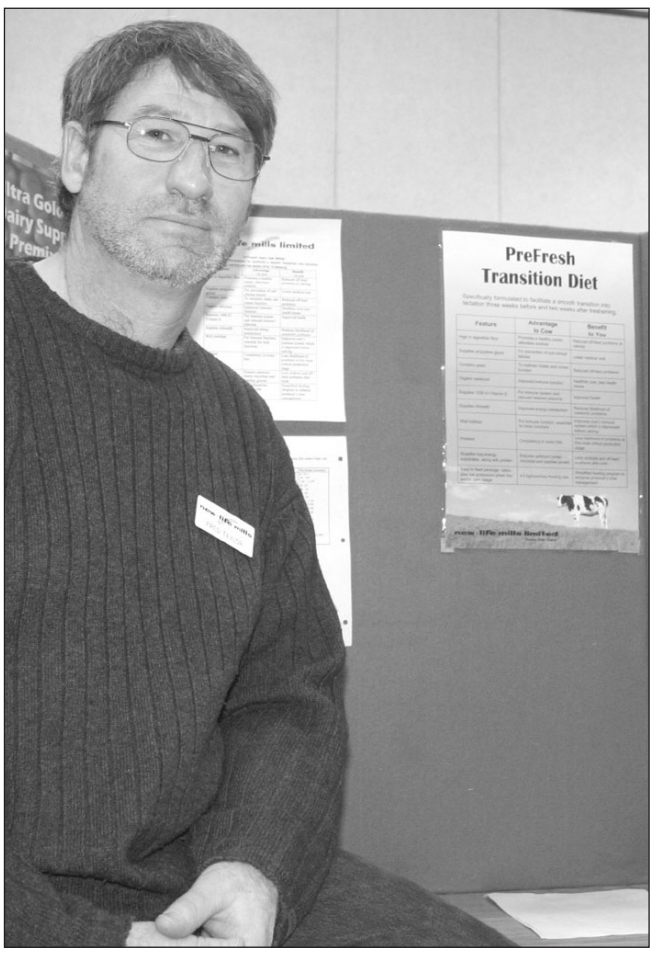


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University of Guelph's Kemptville Campus

Dairy Day



Fred Taylor of the Eastern Ontario Division of New-Life Mills Limited based out of Inkerman was at Kemptville Dairy Day on Feb. 15 promoting nutrition and customizing products for producers' needs. Taylor will be at the Ottawa Valley Farm show on March 11 to 13 at Lansdowne Park.



Lezlee Byers-Smith of Chesterville was one of the first vendors to set up her Byers Farm Equipment exhibit at Dairy Day. Byers-Smith was there promoting a new rubber, self-cleaning water bowl with a large capacity. Byers-Smith will also be at the Ottawa Valley Farm.

Below: *Jerry Cummings of Jerry Cummings Painting from Russell was also at Kemptville Dairy Day on Feb. 15. Cummings was the only farm painter at Dairy Day. He will have a booth at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show.*
Press Photos — Kelford

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Clean Water Act moves forward

Environmental coalition keeps producers in mind

by Meghan Duncan
Press staff

The committees have been formed and Source Protection Plans are slowly being drafted across the province to meet the rules set out in Ontario's *Clean Water Act.*

At the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference on Feb. 21, producers heard the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC)'s perspective on how the act will affect producers.

"The one thing we understand the more this moves forward is that it's locally driven," said Chris Attema, a water quality specialist with the OFEC.

Local farmers and members of Source Water Protection Committees also had their say.

John Williamson, chair of the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee said that Ontario is a leader when it comes to water regulations.

"We may be the first off the mark in some of this stuff, but everyone will be affected," he said, noting that similar regulations will likely be passed across North America in years to come.

"I'm living what you guys are fearing," said the Kingston-area producer. "I'm in the same boat."

Williamson noted there are 16 members on each source protection committee across the province.

"There's a full range of people," he said. "There's a hell of a lot of talent on these committees — it boggles my mind."

Williamson said he got involved in the process because he wanted to see first hand what legislation was being passed.

"I don't think I've ever been involved in a process that's so legislative," he said, noting that each step the committee has to take has already been set out and each document must be open for public consultation. "There's lots of windows built in here to get input."

Williamson said that while each Source Protection Committee will create its own Source Protection Plan, there will be "cheques and balances" to ensure the plans aren't completely variant.

"There's some room for local flavour, but mostly there will be consistency," he said.

Williamson noted that the South Nation-Raisin Region (SNRR) committee has 28 ground water and surface water systems in the combined watershed.

"There's probably going to be a bigger impact on agriculture there from what I gather," he noted.

For Brian Powell of Crysler, who emigrated to Canada 25 years ago, sitting on the SNRR Source Protection Committee was an easy choice.

"I want to try and protect the farmers' interests after seeing what happened in Britain to farmers," he said. "As committee members, we're really just getting started."

He noted that his priority in the process is the committee for well-head protection, and he said that the agriculture industry has been given a "bad rap" so far in the process.

"The general public should stand back and look at themselves — they pollute too," he said. "It's very easy to nail a farmer to the wall."

Attema said it will be three to five years before the act will impact Ontario residents and the way they farm.

"That being said, the things we do now will impact those who are caught in a well-head protection zone three to five years down the road," he noted.

In just over a year, the legislation will reach the assessment report stage, "where it will really hit the road," according to Attema.

Following that will be the submission of local Source Protection Plans to the province for Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources approval.

"It's so easy to get caught up in the process," Attema noted. "You lose sight of what's really going on.

Attema explained that the essence of the act, in simple terms, is that properties will be "rezoned" depending on their proximity to a municipal water intake. Properties then will be subject to municipal authority and restrictions.

There will then potentially be two different "classes" of farmers and subsequently two different legal standings of what they can and cannot do.

"If there is a conflict between a farm and the Source Protection Authority, the farm loses — always," Attema said. "Legally, we will lose. But we can manage it in such a way that there aren't conflicts."

The province has set up funding for landowners through a stewardship fund, however, Attema pointed out that nowhere in the legislation is there a legal obligation that farmers affected negatively by the act will be compensated.

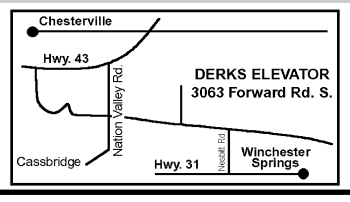
"There's no question that the *Clean Water Act* has the potential to negatively affect farmers," Attema said.

He explained that so far the province has paid out $120 million in the planning process of the act, and will spend $2 million annually on education and outreach regarding the legislation. Another $5 million has been set aside for early implementation costs.

"It seems a little unbalanced," Attema pointed out. "We want to monitor that as we move forward."



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Press Photos — Duncan

Weed classification

Left: *Mike Cowbrough, a weed management specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, led participants through the basics of weed identification at the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference on Thurs., Feb. 21 at the University of Guelph's Kemptville Campus. "The more information you gather, the more likely you'll get the right answer," he said about identification, noting that producers should look at leaf shape, texture, odour, stem shape, and where the leaves come from, among other characteristics.*
Centre: *Allan Dolan of Fitzroy Harbour (left), and Lynne Evenson of Chelsea, Que. take a good look at a plant during the weed identification clinic.*
Right: *Bernie Reinert of Coburg got up close and personal with this weed trying to understand its characteristics.*

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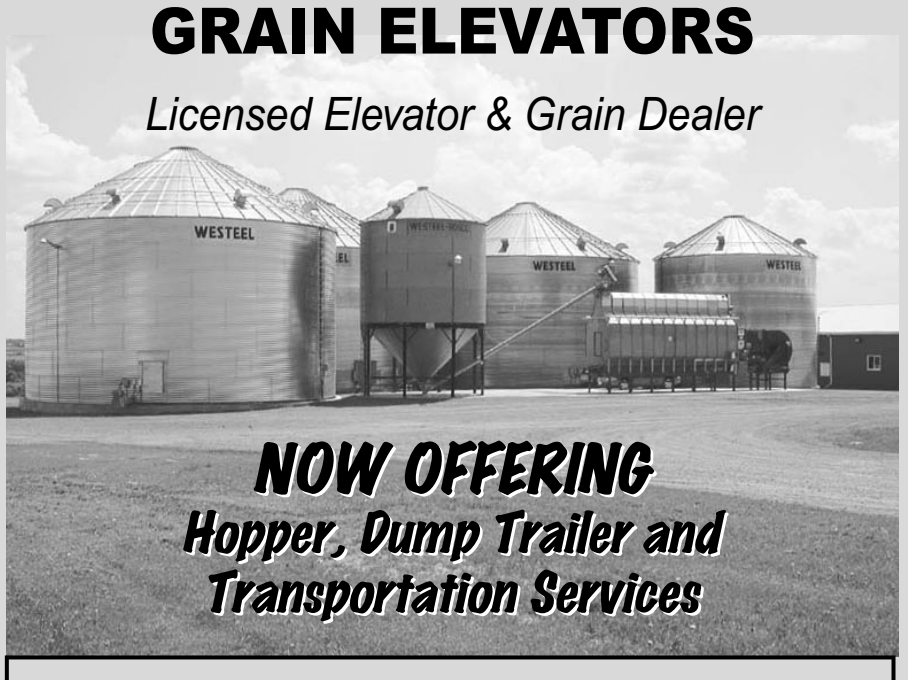
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Feature speaker highlights issues on the family farm

by Meghan Duncan
Press staff

A canoe glides down a peaceful river as its paddlers gaze at the beautiful scenery. Suddenly, relaxation turns to terror as the canoe unexpectedly meets whitewater and its occupants are scrambling to stay afloat.

Don Jonovic, the feature speaker at this year's Eastern Ontario Crop Conference at the University of Guelph's Kemptville Campus, used this analogy in his "Surviving Family Farming Whitewater" presentation.



Don Jonovic

The Ohio-based Family Business Management Services director spoke to the audience on Feb. 21 about what works — and what doesn't — on the family farm.

"The fact is, the world we're facing today is like the rapids in a river," Jonovic said.

His first piece of advice was that producers need to understand who they are — not only as individuals, but as an organization.

"We're not alone in whatever we're facing internally," he said. "Regardless of production, what happens behind the scenes affects the farm."

Jonovic warned producers about the expanding family and how in-laws and other family units can talk amongst themselves.

"It's as natural as aphids on soybean (plants)," he said. "This is just how the family develops."

Second, Jonovic said producers need to decide why they are farmers.

Those involved in the family farm invest capital, time, effort, ideas, their reputation, and put their heart into the operation. In return, they get income, growth, power, and opportunity for future generations.

He said producers sometimes get caught up in the one-line course and fail to look outside the box.

"The dead-reckoning track hardly ever works out — so why even plan?" Jonovic asked. "Why not just throw away the chart and hope?"

Because, he said, everyone needs a goal — it's okay to veer off track a little before finding the way, but that beacon needs to be there to guide the organization.

Next, Jonovic said that producers must combat anarchy on the farm by opening clear lines of communication.

As some family members age, their perspective on investment may drastically differ from that of the younger generation. Father and son turn into "manager" and "investor" and have completely different priorities — one looks at the legacy of their career and their consistent pay, while the other looks to the future and what return they may eventually see from growth.

"People have many different angles and attitudes about looking at business," Jonovic said, noting that clear communication is important.

Jonovic's fourth piece of advice was that producers need to "crack the hermetic seal" on the farm.

"Secrecy is the most common characteristic of any farm owner," Jonovic said, noting that many producers hire advisors who don't understand farming, don't take risks, and don't forget their own "salesperson" agendas.

Jonovic also noted that producers have to prevent procrastination.

"You have to work to come up with a plan that will work for the future," he said.

And lastly, Jonovic said that farmers need to avoid the semi-retirement phase — where they can't give up working on an operation they have passed on to the next generation. Just because their son or daughter has a different way of doing things, it doesn't mean it's wrong — but having too many managers with different ideas will only hinder the operation.

"There are multiple stakeholders with multiple objectives," Jonovic said. "You need to communicate and plan for the future."



Grading grain

Helmut Spieser of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, poured grain into a Boerner-type divider during the grain grading clinic at the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference. Spieser walked participants though tools needed and tricks of the trade in Canadian Grain Commission-approved processes of grading grain. The conference was held at the University of Guelph's Kemptville campus on Thurs., Feb. 21.

Press Photo — Duncan

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Soybean aphid specialist offers speed-scouting tips

by Meghan Duncan
Press staff



Eileen Cullen, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, spoke with producers at the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference on Feb. 21 about counting and treatment options for soybean aphids. *Press Photo — Duncan*

It's early in the season and aphids have appeared on your soybean crop. There aren't as many as last year — is it time to treat, or should you wait and see what happens?

According to Eileen Cullen, an assistant professor and extension specialist at the University of Wisconsin, the magic threshold number is 250 aphids per plant. That's the point when any treatment decisions should be made.

Cullen spoke with producers about soybean aphid research and new ways to track the pest at the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference on Feb. 21.

Studies conducted at the University of Wisconsin have shown that the aphid population on soybeans takes, on average, 6.8 days to double (that number is reduced to a day-and-a-half when the conditions are perfect at one constant temperature).

Cullen said it's crucial for producers to track the development of the pest — they reproduce quickly due to their parthenogenetic makeup (all-female) and their predators need more time to reproduce.

"Aphids overwinter on buckhorn," Cullen explained, noting that the pest uses the plants to lay eggs that hatch in the spring — and they show up early in the season.

Cullen spoke of the different methods to track aphids, noting that in high infestations, it's hard to get a consistent count.

If the infestation is less than 250 aphids per plant, whole-plant counts are critical, according to Cullen. If the infestation is higher, it may be easier to estimate rather than trying to count precise numbers above 1,000 on every plant. Cullen noted, too, that counts should be taken on 20 to 30 plants located throughout the field, and then the average should be calculated.

Scouting should begin in the late vegetative or early flowering stage of growth, and should continue until the "full pod" stage. While repeated, weekly visits are ideal, they are not always practical, so Cullen suggested that producers focus their efforts on certain fields and target their scouting.

The speed scouting method of tracking aphids is based on a binomial — yes or no — mathematical relationship between the proportion of infested plants and the density of aphids per plant.

"The goal is to provide rapid decision aid for estimating pest solutions with reasonable accuracy," Cullen said, noting that the system is based on "an acceptable level of error" over a wide range of pest densities.

The basics of spread scouting: 1) Randomly select 11 plants in a cross section of the field; 2) Score as "infested" (40 or more aphids per plant) or "not infested" (under 39 aphids per plant); 3) Decide to resample in a week's time; treat, and confirm the count in three days; or continue sampling (using five more random plants).

"It's a conservative method," Cullen explained, noting that even if there are only a few plants counted, the numbers employed for treatment options are low.

While the method "failed to identify proper treatment time" in low populations of aphids, it worked well at sites with rapidly expanding populations at or exceeding the 250-aphids-per-plant threshold.

"It can be very cost effective in terms of your time," Cullen said, noting, however, that when the process is incorrect, it yields the "treat" decision too early and producers over-applicate pesticides.

"We know that soybean aphids go down into the canopy mid-season," Cullen said. "We'd love to be able to say, at a certain time, check the node of a plant."

Research regarding node-based sampling is still ongoing, Cullen said.

The biggest factor in controlling soybean aphids is proper timing of treatment, she noted.

She explained the "little white aphids" that appear mid to late season are not soybean aphids, nor are they baby aphids, nor are the diseased aphids.

"We do know they are living, feeding, reproducing aphids," Cullen said. "They should still be included in the total plant population count when you're assessing the threshold."

Cullen noted that research done previously is the biggest asset to producers.

"It's nice to have that treatment-decision support," she said.

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