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Continuing instructional courses for spring 2006

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Abstract

All certified applicators receive a small postcard in the spring and in the fall listing commercial applicator programs and dates. Applicators also receive a large postcard for the categories they are certified in. The large postcard gives the date, time, and list of counties offering the program.

Disciplines

Agricultural Education | Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences | Entomology | Weed Science

In the past season, the national soybean rust sentinel plot program was successful in providing producers with early warning information. At the National Soybean Rust Symposium, the general message was that we should continue to monitor the development of soybean rust using the program. A monitoring system is being developed for the next growing season with funds from the federal government, industry, and check-off dollars.

What is the risk for next season? With our current knowledge of soybean rust, the way to assess the risk next season should be similar to what was recommended last year (refer to the February 28, 2005, special issue of the *ICM Newsletter*). The analysis is in three phases: (1) March or early April, check the overwintering status of soybean rust in the Gulf Coast region. Overwintering in regions west of the Florida Panhandle increases the risk of spores spreading to the

North. (2) April to June, watch for outbreaks of soybean rust in regions from west of the Florida Panhandle to Texas. If they occurred, the risk for spores to move north is high. (3) July and August, if the weather conditions in the northern soybean production region are cool and wet, make sure you monitor the crops because these conditions are suitable for the disease to occur.

What is different this year is that we should pay extra attention to Texas. If the disease can overwinter there, the risk for spores to move to the northern region increases. However, keep in mind that whether the spores can establish and develop in soybean fields is yet to be determined by seasonal conditions.

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Announcements

Continuing instructional courses for spring 2006

by Keven Arrowsmith, Extension Communications

Iowa State University's Pest Management and the Environment (PME) program provides training and certification for commercial applicators in Iowa through its Continuing Instructional Courses (CIC). Pesticide use in Iowa is regulated under the "Pesticide Act of Iowa," Chapter 206 of the Code of Iowa. Commercial applicators are divided into categories. An applicator must be certified in each category he or she will be applying pesticides under. Four CICs are scheduled for spring 2006:

Commercial Ag Weed, Insect, and Plant Disease Management—February 15, 2006
Categories 1A, 1B, 1C, 10

Seed Treatment—February 22, 2006
Categories 4, 10

Ornamental and Turf Applicators—March 9, 2006
Categories 2, 30, 3T, 30T, 10

Certified Handlers—March 17, 2006
Category Handlers, 10

All certified applicators receive a small postcard in the spring and in the fall listing commercial applicator programs and dates. Applicators also receive a large postcard for the categories they are certified in. The large postcard gives the date, time, and list of counties offering the program.

If you would like more information about the available CICs or would like to obtain a CIC registration form, visit the PME program Web site at www.extension.iastate.edu/PME or visit your local county ISU Extension office. If you have specific questions about the PME programs, please contact Beth Minner at (515) 294-0397 or by e-mail at bminner@iastate.edu.

Keven Arrowsmith is managing editor of ICM Newsletter and extension communications specialist with responsibilities in pest management and the environment.