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Abstract
Scouting reports indicate that soybean aphid numbers are increasing in a few Iowa locations—most notably in northeastern Iowa. Brian Lang, extension field specialist, Decorah, notes that a field near Waukon averaged 30 to 40 aphids per plant with some plants more than 200 aphids per plant, but less than 50 percent of the plants were infested.

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Insects and Mites

Soybean aphid counts highest in northeastern Iowa

by Marlin E. Rice, Department of Entomology

Scouting reports indicate that soybean aphid numbers are increasing in a few Iowa locations—most notably in northeastern Iowa. Brian Lang, extension field specialist, Decorah, notes that a field near Waukon averaged 30 to 40 aphids per plant with some plants more than 200 aphids per plant, but less than 50 percent of the plants were infested.

Brian notes that he has observed two general patterns so far. First, earlier emerged fields have a higher percent aphid infestation. Observations that help support this thought is that since the first week in June, he hasn’t found any winged aphids on any soybeans, which suggests the aphids moved to the fields early. Second, fields in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties have a higher incidence of aphids then fields in counties south and west.

In central Iowa, John D. Holmes, extension field specialist, Clarion, has scouted soybean fields in Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Marshall, Tama, Webster, and Wright counties. He has not found soybean aphids in any of these counties. However, soybean aphids have been found at the Field Extension Education Laboratory in Boone County, so they do occur in central Iowa. In eastern Iowa, Virgil Schmitt, extension field specialist, Muscatine, also reports finding aphids in Muscatine County.

Field scouting for soybean aphids should begin either this week or the next. Information on scouting for soybean aphids can be found at www.soybeanaphid.info.

Marlin E. Rice is a professor of entomology with extension and research responsibilities in field and forage crops.