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On-farm Research in Western Iowa

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Abstract

In 2010, the Western Research Farm networked with Iowa State University's Corn and Soybean Initiative to conduct 11 on-farm trials with participating local producers.

Keywords

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Disciplines

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Wayne Roush, farm superintendent

Introduction

In 2010, the Western Research Farm networked with Iowa State University's Corn and Soybean Initiative to conduct 11 on-farm trials with participating local producers.

Background

Since its inception in 1946, Iowa State University's (ISU) Western Research Farm (WRF) has fulfilled its original stated objective of "careful research giving definite answers to specific problems" in western Iowa. In continuing with that tradition, in 2010 the WRF joined the On-farm Research Network of the ISU Corn and Soybean Initiative (CSI).

The mission of CSI is "to provide science-based crop production information to Iowa corn and soybean growers and their advisors to increase their productivity and global competitiveness while also conserving the environment." Their two stated ways of fulfilling that mission are through extension education and production research, and it is here that the WRF has joined the CSI team.

The WRF coordinated with CSI business partners, ISU Extension field specialists, and local producers to help identify specific local crop-based research needs and to identify local producers willing to participate in on-farm trials. On-farm production research trials were then set up with producers providing the equipment and land base, while WRF and Extension staff provided trial planning and plot lay-out, data collection and analysis, and assistance in planting and harvesting.

Materials and Methods

The following is a list of the on-farm network trials coordinated by WRF during the 2010 growing season with producer participation. There were six corn trials and five soybean trials.

Corn Population Trials

38-in. split-row vs. 38-in. single row at 28, 33, and 38,000 populations

30-in. single row at 25, 28, 31, and 34,000 populations

30-in. single row at 25, 30, 35, and 40,000 populations

Corn Fungicide

early application at V5 vs. both early and late applications at V5 and tassel

Corn Rootworm Control Comparison

SmartStax vs. VT3 vs. in-furrow insecticide

Corn Foliar Fertilizer

"N-Pact" application at V6 to V8

Soybean Population Trial

30-in. row at 100, 125, and 140,000 populations

Soybean Treated vs. Non-treated Seed

by two planting dates (early vs. normal)

Soybean Foliar Fertilizer

applications at early, late, and both early + late

Foliar Manganese on Round-Up Soybean

Soybean Foliar Fungicide

Results and Discussion

Results of the various trials are currently undergoing statistical analysis. Results will be published in a booklet format and should be available in February 2011 at the WRF and county Extension offices. Please stop in for a visit and pick one up.

If you have a crop related production question, or would be interested in participating in an On-farm Network trial, please stop in or call the WRF at 712-885-2802. We will assist you with the plot and display (optional) an official CSI On-farm Network participant sign at your plot location.

Acknowledgements

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Rich Rosner
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Lyle Rossiter
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Maria Swafford

