

## Report to the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board

**Title:** Educating Growers and Consultants on Insect Monitoring and Control

**Investigators:** Gus Lorenz

**Production System:** All Soybean Production Systems

**Status:** Year 2 of 3

### What We Said We Would Do:

#### **Planned Milestones:**

1. Put the sampling tools needed in the hands of our growers and other decision-makers to promote effective and economical control of insects.
2. Educate our clientele on the proper management techniques for insect control and increase awareness of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This should promote the use of thresholds, proper insecticide choices, and conservation of beneficial insects that are so important in the soybean ecosystem. Conduct scouting schools as needed and requested by clientele (5-10/ year).
3. To document these milestones we would like to conduct a survey of growers to monitor, increased awareness of soybean insect management, what growers are spending on insect control, how decisions to control insects are made and increased adoption of IPM in soybean production in Arkansas.

### What We Have Done

1. Over 200 sweep nets were purchased and logos with UA Division of Ag and Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board were affixed to the handles and passed out at scouting schools in 6 locations. Additionally sweep nets were handed out at field days, IPM meetings and in-service trainings for county agents, grower fields, etc.
2. Six scout schools were conducted in various locations around the soybean growing region covering thresholds, insect ID, and sampling technique. Updates on insect pests were provided at IPM meetings, field days and on the UA blog, as well as SoyFax and the Pest Patrol Hotline and twitter: @guslor77.
3. We are developing a survey for growers and consultants on soybean insect management now. We plan to share those results when compiled. Insecticide usage, pest infestations and losses have been documented in publications.
4. We also do Podcasts one from this season can be found at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrlrnkBcTjo>
5. Survey conducted in Arkansas reported in Midsouth Entomologist are shown below (Table 1.) with a comparison to combined southern producing soybean states. These statistics show that Arkansas is above average for soybeans scouted and seed treatments. We are below average for foliar applications. Percent yield loss, particularly for 2011, reflects the huge bollworm flight we experienced.

**Table 1.** Soybean management and losses in surveyed states, 2004-2012.

Year	% soybeans scouted	% soybeans with insect. seed treatment	No. foliar insecticide applications	% yield loss to insects	\$ loss + cost/acre <sup>1</sup>
Combined States					
2011-12	58	53	1.64	6.57	58.36
2013	61	66	1.46	3.86	48.70
Arkansas					
2009	65	40	1.37	4.34	35.03
2010-12	67	60	1.61	11.27	80.13
2013	75	80	0.74	5.52	56.71



Sweep nets provided to growers and consultants at scout schools.