



# SOYBEAN SCENE

NORTH CAROLINA SOYBEAN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

## SOYBEAN RUST PREPAREDNESS UNDERWAY

After Asian soybean rust spread from overwinter kudzu infestation sites in Florida and Texas to soybean fields throughout states in the Southeast and mid-South in 2005, scientists throughout the nation have redoubled their efforts to prepare for northward spread of the disease in 2006.

Rust had occurred in nine states in 2004 after the disease was brought into the country from South America by Hurricane Ivan. The introduction was too late in the season to cause any economic losses to the '04 crop. However, the disease did overwinter on kudzu in Florida and Texas which became the source for spread of rust in 2005. North Carolina thus had the disease identified here for the first time on October 28, 2005 which was too late to cause any economic loss.

Extension soybean scientist, at N.C. State University, including Dr. Jim Dunphy and Dr. Steve Koenning, have worked diligently to take all prudent steps known to date in order to prepare the state's soybean farmers for the possibility of a early and economically threatening appearance of the disease in 2006. Their (Dunphy and Koenning) recommendations for identification and reaction to the disease threat is contained in this issue of *Soybean Scene*. You are encouraged to hold on to this newsletter and refer to it from time to time in order to react to any pending threat from soybean rust.

We want to give special recognition and thanks to the United Soybean Board for underwriting the cost of this edition of *Soybean Scene* in its nation-wide effort to assist soybean farmers in dealing with the threat of soybean rust.



### PREPARING FOR RUST

*By: Jim Dunphy, Crop Science Soybean Extension Specialist and Steve Koenning, Plant Pathology Soybean Extension Specialist*

Our first suggestion is not to panic. We may or may not get enough rust early enough to cause serious yield losses in North Carolina, and we do have some tools (namely fungicides) to deal with the disease if it does come to the state early enough to be an economic problem. It didn't cost our farmers much last year, even though it was discovered in 18 counties in the state (all on or after October 28).

Seriously consider insurance. This is the kind of situation (not necessarily likely to happen, but a very real potential for serious consequences if it does) for which insurance was developed. Don't forget to document what you did to deal with rust, and whose advice (if any) you were following.

Correct pH and nutrient deficiencies. A healthy plant can withstand stress better than an unhealthy plant can. Adding a little extra lime or fertilizer is probably of no value, either to yields or rust management.

Increase the acreage of your earliest maturing variety, at the expense of your latest maturing variety. Don't go overboard on the shift, since we don't know when it will and won't rain, but the earlier maturing variety has less time in the field for rust to find. Don't put rust management (a problem we may or may not have) ahead of yield in importance.

If you haven't already checked to see how early a variety can reliably and comfortably grow, try (on a small acreage, not a big acreage) a variety 1/2 a maturity group earlier than what you're used to growing. You may need to know how early you can grow, and at what cost in yield and headaches, in the coming years.

Be sure a sentinel plot is nearby, preferably to the south of your acres. The 24 sentinel plots in North Carolina (see map of locations elsewhere in this newsletter), plus the ones in South Carolina and Georgia, should have this suggestion covered pretty well. For some reason, rust seldom shows up on soybeans before they start blooming, and more frequently after pod set has started. The sentinel plots all include a planting that is maturing earlier than any other soybeans in the county, so would be most likely to develop rust symptoms before yours do. You thus have some advance warning that rust is likely to develop soon.

Have a sprayer lined up and ready, whether yours, a neighbor's, or a custom applicator's. After rust gets into the county, it will likely be a poor time to be looking for a sprayer, parts, or a custom applicator.

Scout diligently. We're not sure how diligently, but it makes more sense to increase scouting intensity than to decrease it. Unfortunately, rust is most likely to show up on the underneath side of the lower leaves. That just makes scouting that much more difficult, but if that is where the rust will most likely be, that's where the scouting should be focused.

Follow confirmed sightings, with emphasis on the word "confirmed". Rumors may abound again this year, but so will reliable reports of where rust is and is not. As we were last year, we're again set up to make sure our county Extension agents, CCAs, licensed consultants, NCDA&CS agronomists, Certified Professional Agronomists, and research station superintendents are promptly informed of any rust developments. Or, you can check for yourself anytime at <http://sbrusa.net/>.

Now that you've had a year or more of listening to various sources of advice on rust, decide now (before your soybeans get out of the ground and available to rust spores) whose advice you want to pay attention to (and whose you don't). Write the list down, and give it to your wife (or farming partner). Give them permission to remind you of who is on the list, and in which category.

Continue to grow your soybeans for profit, not for rust management. Keep aware of what's going on, and where, with regard to rust, and what your own soybeans look like (especially on the bottom of the lower leaves). Spray if, and only if, the risk of rust and/or other diseases gets greater than you're willing to gamble on. (see our suggestions for deciding when to spray elsewhere in this newsletter).



**Soybean Scene** is an official producer communication, published quarterly by the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, designated by USDA as the Qualified State Soybean Board to administer the soybean checkoff in North Carolina. One-half of check-off funds collected in the state are invested in research, market development and producer communication projects to benefit North Carolina soybean growers. The remaining 50% is forwarded to the United Soybean Board, whose 62 farmer-directors oversee checkoff investments on the national level.

Comments, questions and suggestions are welcomed. Address changes are appreciated. Call 1-800-839-5775, or 919-839-5700. FAX 919-839-5775; E-Mail [ncsoy@ncsoy.org](mailto:ncsoy@ncsoy.org). Visit our web site: [www.ncsoy.org](http://www.ncsoy.org)

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## Fungicides for Management of Asiatic Soybean Rust

With the arrival of soybean rust in the United States, emergency registration of additional fungicides went into effect through the 2007 growing season (Table 2). In general the recommendation will be to make an application if infection is likely and a second application 14 to 21 days later if conditions are favorable for disease development. Late season sprays (after stage R5, or early seed fill) have not been effective in South America unless they follow an earlier spray.

The primary classes of fungicides that will be used for rust are the strobilurin and triazole fungicides. Chlorothalonil (a nitrile fungicide) is also effective in protecting against rust but has less residual activity and may require more frequent applications than strobilurin or triazole fungicides. Also, chlorothalonil cannot be applied within 42 days of soybean harvest.

### Types of Fungicides and Rates of Application

The triazole type fungicides have curative and preventative activity, whereas strobilurin fungicides and chlorothalonil are preventative. If a soybean field has already been exposed to the rust fungus, and especially if active sporulation is observed, a triazole type fungicide is preferred since it may eradicate some infections. If infection has occurred, higher rates of a triazole or a combination material may be needed. This may reduce the necessity of a second spray since higher rates in general will give longer residual. Some data suggest that strobilurin type fungicides may provide better protection from many of our typical late season diseases (anthracnose, cercospora blight, brown spot, frogeye leaf spot, and target spot) whereas the triazoles work best on powdery mildew and rust. This may explain the popularity of combination products in Brazil.

### Number of Applications

This past year the number of fungicide applications for soybean in South America ranged from less than one in Argentina to as many as five in parts of Brazil and Bolivia. How many applications will be required in our situation is not known and will probably vary with years. Only three applications of Section 18 materials are allowed in a year and no one chemical can be used more than twice.

### Method of Application

Coverage is the key! In general, higher spray pressure, higher water volume, and different nozzles will be needed to obtain smaller droplets that will penetrate the canopy.

### Yield Boost from Fungicides?

Will the strobilurin fungicides Headline or Quadris provide a yield boost in the absence of disease? We have relatively little data in North Carolina on the effects of these materials on soybean yield. They are certainly excellent products for managing several serious foliar diseases in soybean, such as frogeye leaf spot (on susceptible varieties) and several other common diseases. Some areas where large yield increases occur also have an environment more conducive for disease, including some diseases that have not been identified or are rarely a problem in North Carolina. A yield boost from strobilurin fungicide is most common in high yield (often irrigated) environments.

*Table 2. Fungicides currently cleared, or likely to become cleared, for management of soybean rust.*

Brand Name	Common Name	Use Rate (fl oz/a) <sup>b</sup>	Fungicide Class <sup>a</sup>	Type Label <sup>c</sup>
Bravo	Chlorothalonil	24-38	Nitrile	Section 3
Quadris	Azoxystrobin	6.2-15.4	Strobilurin	Section 3
Headline	Pyraclostrobin	6.0-12.0	Strobilurin	Section 3
Tilt, PropiMax, Bumper	Propiconazole	4.0-8.0	Triazole	Section 18
Folicur, Uppercut, Orius,	Tebuconazole	3.0-4.0	Triazole	Section 18
Laredo	Myclobutanil	4.0-8.0	Triazole	Section 18
Domark	Tetraconazole	5.0-8.0	Triazole	Section 18
Stratego	Propiconazole + Trifloxystrobin	4.0-6.0	Triazole	Section 18
Headline SBR	Pyraclostrobin	7.8 oz	Strobilurin + Triazole	Section 18
Alto	Cypraconazole	2.75-4.0	Triazole	Section 18
Quadris Xtra	Azoxystrobin + Cypraconazole	4.0	Strobilurin + Triazole	Section 18
Caramba	Metconazole	8.2-9.6	Triazole	Pending
Headline Caramba Copack	Pyraclostrobin + Metconazole	9.64	Strobilurin + Triazole	Pending
Operetta	Pyraclostrobin + Metconazole	8.9-10.75	Strobilurin + Triazole	Pending
Punch	Fluzilazole	4.0	Triazole	Pending
Charisma	Fluzilazole + Famoxodone	9.0	Triazole	Pending
Topgaurd	Flutriafol	7.0	Triazole	Pending

<sup>a</sup> Combinations of a strobilurin and a triazole may provide increased control and residual activity.

<sup>b</sup> Higher rates provide greater residual activity and may reduce the need for later sprays.

<sup>c</sup> Section 3 labels are for general use and not contingent on emergency conditions. Section 18 labels are temporary and expire in November 2007 unless renewed or replaced by Section 3 labels. Pending indicates that these materials may be labeled as section 3 or section 18 materials. Fungicides labeled as Section 18 materials are restricted use pesticides when used on soybean, regardless of what the accompanying label material may say and, you must have the section 18 label in your possession if using these materials.

# Asiatic Soybean Rust in 2006

Steve Koening – Department of Plant Pathology & Jim Dunphy Department of Crop Science, NCSU

## SENTINEL PLOT SYSTEM

A sentinel plot system will be used for early detection of Asiatic soybean rust during the 2006 growing system. Currently soybean sentinel plots have been planted in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, and Florida; and, more will be planted throughout the South in the next several weeks. Soybean rust is being monitored on kudzu at the current time.

You can obtain information on the sentinel plot system at <http://www.sbrusa.net/> and, the North American Plant Disease Forecast Center has started forecasts for soybean rust for 2006 and can be accessed at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/soybeanrust/>.

A total of 35 states will have sentinel plots for monitoring soybean rust (SBR) in 2006. Sentinel plots have been funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United Soybean Board (USB), North Carolina Soybean Producers Association Inc., and the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) for 2006. The USDA program involves 35 states and the USB/NCSRP program includes 15 states.

Five Canadian provinces are also involved in the monitoring effort this year. Some states will have a single leader for the sentinel plot program while in other states the responsibility may be shared among multiple individuals. A single SBR monitoring protocol has been developed for the USB/NCSRP, USDA, and Canadian plots. Data from all sentinel plots will be uploaded to the USDA - Legume Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE) website.

There are three important functions of the sentinel program for monitoring soybean rust. The primary function is to serve as a warning network for tracking the spread of the disease in North American soybean production regions. For this reason and because the pathogen can only over-winter in subtropical regions, southern and Mississippi Valley states have higher numbers of sentinel plots relative to their soybean acreages than states in other regions.

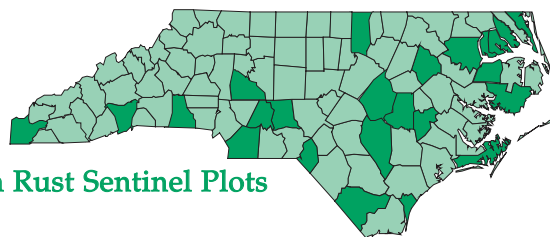
The second function is to quantify the timing and amount of spore production in over-wintering and growing season source areas, an important input for the soybean rust aerobiology prediction system.

A third function of the sentinel plot system is to collect data for epidemiological research. For this reason, sentinel plots should be maintained after first detection unless other considerations dictate otherwise. States are encouraged to establish sentinel plots above the USDA and USB/NCSRP allotments. Non-soybean hosts, including other legumes and kudzu, may also be planted in sentinel plots.

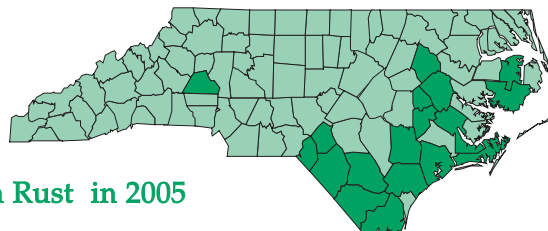
• Table 1 provides the counties where 24 sentinel plots for North Carolina are located and the name of the plot coordinator.

Table 1. Location of 2006 rust sentinel plots.

County	Cooperator
Hyde	Gibbs
Columbus	Marshall
Perquimans	S. Winslow
Carteret	Onorato
Lenoir/Cunningham	P. Winslow
Johnston	Evans
Cherokee	K. Wood
Wayne	Pitzer
Chowan	Williams
Cleveland	Gibson
New Hanover	Rorem
Sampson	Brogden
Henderson	Thompson
Pasquotank	A. Wood
Bertie	Corbett
Rowan	Hampton
Montgomery	Chandler
Scotland	Morrison
Washington	Barnes
Union	Pegram
Edgecombe	Bogle
Granville	Smith
Stanly	Braswell
Currituck	Grandy



NC Counties with Soybean Rust Sentinel Plots Planned for 2006



NC Counties with Soybean Rust in 2005

## Resources for Managing Asiatic Soybean Rust: Disease Monitoring and Decision Making Aids

There are several resources available to farmers, agents, and consultants to monitor the progress of rust in the United States. Electronic resources are currently in place that will aid in the decision making process as to whether it is necessary to apply fungicides for management of soybean rust.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has a public web site (<http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust/>) that soybean managers can access. Among the useful information at this web site is recent news about Asiatic soybean rust, information on fungicides, management practices, and most importantly a series of maps that show the location(s) of current rust findings so that the progress of disease can be tracked. The maps also show which areas have been scouted.

Areas where no rust has been found are marked in green.

The web site will rely on information from active scouting of locations where rust is likely to have begun, sentinel plots that were planted early in order to detect rust, and from positive samples that come from diagnostic labs. Later in the season counties will be color coded as to a recommendation to spray preventively, curatively or not to spray.

A second web site is the [Soybean Rust Forecast Center](http://www.soybeanrustinfo.com/) located at North Carolina State University. This web site is updated three times weekly and shows where rust spores from locations where soybean rust has been found and are likely to travel over a given time period. The forecast will soon contain information along the trajectory path concerning the likelihood of infection. Old forecasts are archived at this web site and can be accessed as well as links to other useful web sites.

From the rust forecast site the Tobacco Blue Mold and Cucurbit Downey Mildew web sites can also be accessed. Several other web sites sponsored by various organizations include:

- American Growers Association**  
<http://www.soygrowers.com/members/sbrgg/>
- BASF**  
<http://www.soybeanrustinfo.com/>
- DTN**  
<http://www.dtnsoybeanrustcenter.com/>
- SYNGENTA**  
<http://www.farmassist.com/soybeanrust/>
- BAYER**  
[http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/mc\\_home.asp](http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/mc_home.asp)

The book *Foliar Fungicides for Management of Soybean Rust*, is available from County Cooperative Extension offices and is now on the Web at: <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/SoyRust/index.htm>. This book is an excellent resource for soybean growers and pesticide applicators should soybean rust become a problem in 2006. It deals with a number of topics related to special requirements for fungicide application.

# SOYBEAN RUST SPRAY GUIDELINES

By: *Jim Dunphy, Crop Science Soybean Extension Specialist*  
and *Steve Koenning, Plant Pathology Soybean Extension Specialist*  
May, 2006

If soybeans are not blooming, do not spray unless rust has been identified in the field.

If soybeans have started blooming but do not yet have full sized seeds in the pods, and rust is not within 100 miles, do not spray unless frogeye leaf spot, target spot, or cercospora is present. We would increase this 100 mile threshold by up to 50 miles if rust is moving fast, conditions favor rust, and your acreage is large. We would decrease it by up to 50 miles if rust is moving slowly, weather is dry and hot, and your acreage is small.

If spraying for both rust and one of the above diseases, and rust is not yet within your threshold mileage of your farm, we prefer a strobilurin for the first application. If spraying for both rust and one of the above diseases, and rust is within your threshold mileage of your farm, but not on your farm, we prefer a combination of a strobilurin and a triazole for the first application. If rust is on your farm, we prefer a triazole or a combination for the first spray.

Three weeks after the first fungicide application, assess the need for another application. Consider the development of the disease to date, the stage of growth of the soybeans, and how favorable the weather appears to be for rust development.

If soybeans are at stage R6 (full sized beans) or later, do not spray. It's too late in the season to do much good and, at this stage, illegal for use of many of the available fungicides.

Check specific product labels for use guidelines and precautions, including at which growth stages the fungicide may and may not be sprayed; how many times it may be used on the same field in the same season; how close to harvest it can be sprayed; and, in the case of section 18 cleared fungicides, whether it is cleared for use in our state. **The label is the law.**

Higher rates generally provide longer residual activity, and will probably delay need for subsequent applications.

Growth stage descriptions (e.g. stage R1, R6, etc) apply to the top 4 nodes on the main stem. This is a critical distinction for indeterminate varieties. Stage R1 is first bloom, R2 is full bloom, R3 has small pods, R4 has full sized pods, R5 has small beans in the pods, and R6 has full sized beans in the pods in at least one of the top 4 nodes.

**Avoid using the same chemical alone in two consecutive applications.** No fungicides with a section 18 clearance (emergency, cleared-for-rust fungicide) should be used more than twice in the same year. No more than 3 applications in one season can contain a section 18 cleared fungicide.

If the soybean crop is insured, producers are required to follow good farming practices, and to document their actions to deal with rust. Good farming practices are considered to be the recommendations of Agricultural Experts, including employees of the Cooperative Extension system, of state and university agricultural departments, Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs), Certified Professional Agronomists (CPAs), and Certified Professional Crop Consultants (CPCCs). If a producer chooses not to spray for economic reasons, and the crop is insured, notice of damage or loss should be given to the crop insurance agent, and the amount of damage associated with the uninsured causes of loss assessed against the insurance guarantee. In some cases, no indemnity may be payable to the insured.

"Not all producers or advisers will want to assume the same risks, treatment capabilities, and fungicide performance as these recommendations assume, and may thus want to modify these recommendations. That's OK with us. They now have the benefit of our thinking on which to base their own recommendations," Dunphy and Koenning said.

## Prudent Use of Soybean Rust Fungicides Recommended

Soybean rust, a potentially devastating disease of soybeans, was first discovered in the continental United States in 2005 in Louisiana. Shortly after this first detection, the disease was also confirmed in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, and Tennessee. In 2005, Asiatic soybean rust is estimated to have caused a 7% loss in Georgia and a 1% loss in South Carolina. Although found in 18 North Carolina Counties in 2005, no yield loss is estimated to have occurred because it arrived so late.

Several fungicides have been approved for use against soybean rust. Some are to be applied prior to disease detection to help prevent disease development, while others have some curative qualities to help check the disease after it has already infected the plant. While it is the growers decision as to when to begin application of these fungicides, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service recommend that applications of the preventative products not begin until there is a reasonable threat of the disease in North Carolina.

Prudent use of these fungicides is important for several reasons. First, the number of applications that can legally be applied to soybeans is limited. Therefore, every application needs to count. Second, just like with any other pesticide, unnecessary use needlessly increases pesticide levels in the environment and can encourage resistance development (shortening the useful life of the product). Third, fungicides can be expensive.

There are several web sites devoted to providing soybean rust information. Topics such as disease tracking, scouting, identification, control options and contact information can be found at these sites. The information provided at these sites can help growers make informed decisions regarding fungicide applications. Some useful soybean rust web sites include:

[http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/mc\\_home.asp](http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/mc_home.asp)

<http://www.sbrusa.net>

<http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust>

[http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb\\_page/updates/soybean\\_rust.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/soybean_rust.htm)

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/soybean-rust/index.php>

In addition to these web sites, growers can also obtain information from their local Extension office and from Extension personnel located at North Carolina State University. Drs. Steve Koenning and Jim Dunphy of the Plant Pathology and Crop Science Departments at North Carolina State University have been, and continue to be, greatly involved in scouting for this disease in North Carolina and providing growers guidance on how to be prepared should it reach our state. Dr. Koenning can be reached by electronic mail at [stephen\\_koenning@ncsu.edu](mailto:stephen_koenning@ncsu.edu) or by telephone at 919-515-3905.

## BREEDING BEANS FOR YIELD, HEALTH AND SPECIALTY MARKETS

Today's market demands more than a high-yield soybean. It needs to be good for your health, too. Developing a bean with oil that is low in linolenic acid and higher in oleic acid, which can help eliminate trans fats, have traditionally been stymied by trait characteristics that cut into yield. That is, until recently.

Linolenic acid causes foods to become spoiled or rancid and requires hydrogenation for use in some food products. Unfortunately, a byproduct of hydrogenation is trans fats, which have been linked to increased blood cholesterol and heart disease. Most soybean varieties are "high" in linolenic acid. Oleic acid is also vital to the stability of soybean oil for use in frying and other cooking methods and is believed to have health benefits as well.

Dr. Joe Burton, a research geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service at NCSU, leads checkoff-funded research into development of a soybean trait that not only contains lower amounts of linolenic acid but nearly three times more oleic acid (termed mid-oleic) than other varieties. Separately, researchers have made significant progress in the yield arena.

Dr. Burton's research team has recently identified molecular markers that enable them to be more efficient in their breeding of the new mid-oleic low-linolenic acid bean trait. "We're using molecular marker-assisted selection to help move mid-oleic genes rapidly into high-yielding cultivars," Dr. Burton explained.

Identification of these markers represents a milestone for Dr. Burton's research team. "Short term, we have a niche market, thanks to the health aspects we can address," he said. "This could be very beneficial. Then, in the long run, this can become a much larger domestic market with export opportunities."

Burton's co-worker at N.C. State, Dr. Tommy Carter, has also received grants from the NCSA to develop improved traits for drought tolerance and also niche market varieties. One standard, high-yielding variety developed by Carter is NC Raleigh; and, two of his latest materials now being increased at USDA's winter nursery in Puerto Rico are earmarked for Asian food products in Korea, Japan and China.

Burton quickly acknowledged that these research efforts would have been handicapped without the soybean checkoff. "The state and national soybean checkoff investment not only means we have the resources to conduct this work, but it also focuses a team of scientists on a special problem, and this is a significant advantage," Burton said.



Dr. Joe Burton (left) is pictured in a plot of soybeans with Victor Torres at USDA's winter nursery at Isabela, Puerto Rico. The plot of beans, which is financed by the NCSA, is being increased to gain a year-sooner availability by farmers. The two lines have special appeal to **Ever Fresh**, a Korean-owned export company located in Whiteville, N.C.

## Current Status of Soybean Rust in the United States in 2006

This spring, Asiatic soybean rust has been found overwintering on kudzu in Alabama and Florida. These are still isolated finds and pose little threat to North Carolina at this time. Thus far many kudzu sites where rust was found have been destroyed and, repeat visits to these sites have found no infections on new foliage.

Nevertheless, vigilance is the key word. Last year we gave soybean rust a 30% chance of causing yield loss in soybean. Based on the fact that soybean rust is likely surviving in more locations in 2006 than in 2005, the relatively mild winter makes the chances of a rust epidemic seem greater. Thus far however, dry weather has affected many of the locations (where we know rust is alive and well) which has prevented spread. Currently, there is a moderate to severe drought in Mississippi and Louisiana which may be inhibiting development of the fungus in many areas.

As in 2005, the key word is vigilance. Monitor the web sites and be informed! Having no loss from rust in 2005 does not mean we will not have a loss in 2006. Remember, rust most likely will have to arrive before or shortly after the initiation of flowering to cause severe yield losses, and soybean should not be sprayed beyond R5.



Pictured above (left to right) are James Yoo, Ward Shaw, Representative Dewey Hill, Jim Wilder, Senator R.C. Soles, Jim Hinkle, Anthony Lee and Dan Weathington who were at an Open House in early May for the Korean-owned Ever Fresh company located in Columbus County. Yoo and Lee are owners of **Ever Fresh** and Weathington is Commodity Director for the company that is underway with construction of facilities in Columbus County Industrial Park to export soybeans, soybean products, cotton seed, sweet potatoes, corn, peanuts and other products to Korea and other Asian markets. Shaw is a director of the ASA, Soles and Hill are members of the General Assembly, Hinkle is Columbus County Economic Development Director, and Wilder is Executive Vice President of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association.

## Jim Wilder Announces Retirement HALL WILL LEAD SOYBEAN STAFF

Charles Hall, of Raleigh, has been chosen to lead the staff of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association. He will assume his duties as Chief Executive Officer on September 1, 2006.

Hall will succeed Jim Wilder, who has been the organization's executive director since February of 1972. Wilder submitted his end-of-August retirement notice to the Board on April 20.

"We are extremely fortunate and pleased to have a person of Charles Hall's background and experience to succeed Jim Wilder," said James Fletcher, NCSPPA President from Elizabeth City. Hall currently is Assistant Director of Marketing for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and is manager of the Department's international export trade office.

Hall formerly has been employed in leadership roles with the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, and the North Carolina World Trade Center, all located in Raleigh. He earned a B.A. degree from the University of North Carolina and advanced degrees from the University of South Carolina. He was a Fulbright Fellow for one year with the European Union in Brussels, Belgium in the mid-nineties; and, speaks German, French and Spanish.

In addition to his professional achievements, he has held leadership roles as a Director on the boards of the N.C. World Trade Association and the N.C. Farm Transition Network. He and his wife, Sharon, are parents of two young daughters.

Hall will begin his employment with the N.C. Soybean Producers Association on July 1, 2006 for familiarization with the many aspects and duties of the organization before taking the reins of CEO on September 1.



Charles Hall

## THOMAS ATTENDS ASA ADVANCED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Jimmy Thomas, director and Treasurer of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, attended Part II of the ASA "Leadership At Its Best" program, sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection. The activity was held in Washington, D.C. in mid-March in conjunction with the ASA National Board Meeting. He joined association leaders from 13 states to complete advanced leadership training that provides skills necessary to be an effective voice for the U.S. soybean farmer. Part II specifically focuses on key legislative issues affecting the U.S. soybean industry.

Thomas, a farmer in Person County, produces soybeans, wheat, tobacco and corn and has a 250-sow farrow-to-finish hog operation. He is vice president of Person County Farm Bureau and President of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Swine Advisory Committee. Thomas is an advocate for helping communities and political leadership understand the importance of agriculture to rural America.

"The goal of the ASA national leadership development program is to help soybean growers become more dynamic leaders and spokespersons of the agriculture industry," says Bob Metz, ASA President. "In the face of challenging times, strong leadership is critical to defining agriculture's future."

The American Soybean Association and Syngenta Crop Protection have partnered for this important leadership program for the past 14 years and have graduated over 270 farmer-leaders.



Pictured (left to right) are ASA President Bob Metz, NCSPPA Treasurer Jimmy Thomas, and Neil Strong of Syngenta. The three were in Washington, D.C. in mid-March to attend a "Leadership At Its Best" Seminar sponsored by ASA and Syngenta.

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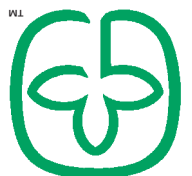
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