

Slug Management in No-Till Corn and Soybean

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Virginia Conservation Innovation Grant

- Enroll 3,000 acres of no-till Corn or Soybean per year for 2 years.
- VCE to Scout all 3,000 acres
- Evaluated fields using damage rating system
- Notified farmers of fields that needed bait.
- Funds available to pay half the cost of bait and application on 1,500 acres.

Slug Damage Rating System

- A communication tool between me and my scout.
- No data correlating the numerical rating to expected yield or stand loss.
- The origins of the rating system came from other people.

Slug Damage Rating Scale

- **0= no damage**
- **1= only one leaf showing damage
(less than 25% defoliation)**
- **2= all leaves showing moderate damage
(25 – 50% defoliation)**
- **3= all leaves consumed except one remaining
intact (greater than 75% defoliation)**
- **4= seedling completely cut off at the ground
level.**

Injury Rating #1



Injury Rating #2



Injury Rating #2



Injury Rating #3



Injury Rating #3



Injury Rating #4



Injury Rating #4



First Draft NRCS Job Sheet

- Grant Required I develop a Job Sheet
- I developed a first draft along with help from many people.

What Happened in 2011?

- It was real wet in early May and June
- Significant Planting delays
- Overall Slug Damage was not very extensive

Pit Fall Traps

(Unplanned Part of Grant)

- 45 samples taken for presence/absence of beneficial's
- Samples taken from 21 different locations
- Samples are stored for Identification.
- 9 fields were Bean-To-Corn
- 2 fields were Corn-To-Bean
- 1 field was Pasture-to-Corn
- 9 fields were Corn-To-Corn

Slug Scouting

- 3,083 acres enrolled before planting season
- 230 EXTRA acres scouted during scouting season
- 3,102 total acres scouted at this time, a few late plantings still need to be scouted
- 211 acres either not planted or fields were disked
- 244 of the 3,102 scouted acres were authorized for slug bait

Test Plot #1

Corn at Bridgemont Farm: Included three treatments (slug bait, Lannate and check plots) replicated three times.

Installed May 28

- Likely no benefit to plant population
- Slug Bait had less feeding injury than Lannate
- Lannate appeared to reduce slug feeding injury.

Test Plot #2 Corn at Bridgemont Farm: Most of the field was treated with Lannate and two small strips were not treated
Installed Mid June

- Lannate appeared to reduce slug feeding injury.

Test Plot #3 soybeans at
Gochenour Farm: Included two
treatments (slug bait and check
plots) replicated five times
Bait applied July 6, 2011

- No statistical data yet but bait plots have a higher plant population.
- I could not see any difference when looking across the field.

Things I learned this year

- Not sure one person can scout 3,000 acres in a normal planting season.... Might need a four wheeler.
- Independent scouting helps document the percentage of acres that are actually being damaged by slugs.
- Most bait application in 2011 was treating small areas. It cost more than \$8 per acre to spot treat.

Things I learned this year

- Based on visual observation I think it is worthwhile to try Lannate again next year.
- I still want to find a better spreader for slug bait (either a dual spinner or try a Vicon spreader).