Slug Management in No-Till Corn and Soybean

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• 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 #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).