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Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) and ILeVO seed treatment update:

As the excessive June and July rains came into our area, many of us agronomy “types” predicted that SDS was going to be a major threat to soybean yield production again; two years in a row. Luckily for all of us growing soybeans, **SDS did not amount to the same intensity as last year.** However, it is visually present in almost every soybean field in our area. ILeVO seed treatment became registered to use this spring as the first ever seed treatment labeled for SDS control. SDS is caused by the soil borne fungus, *Fusarium viguliforme*. ILeVO is able to block most of the upward movement of *Fusarium viguliforme* into the soybean plant which expresses the SDS symptoms. The picture below was taken by a drone on 8/26/15 in Hancock County, IL in a field that was planted to the same soybean variety, but was split by the planter with ILeVO treated vs no ILeVO. The dark strips are the ILeVO treatment.



ILeVO expectations and labeled pests:

- As I mentioned above, ILeVO seed treatment is able to block most of the SDS causing fungus from progressing through the soybean plant. The fungus, *Fusarium viguliforme*, is a pure numbers game in the soil. As you can see in the picture, there are areas in the soil where SDS is higher (front ½ of picture) vs. low presence / pressure (back ½ of picture). In the high pressure areas where the untreated soybeans are, there is also some SDS present in the ILeVO treated soybeans. In my observations, some of the SDS fungal strands in these high pressure areas are “able to slip past the catcher’s mitt” and still effect the vascular system of the soybean plant. However the severity of the disease is MUCH LESS in the treated area with the seed treatment.
- ILeVO is NOT ABLE to make a soybean plant 100% immune or resistant to SDS. Good base soybean genetics are still needed for natural tolerance to SDS. ILeVO will make a good tolerant bean become exceptionally tolerant to SDS.
- ILeVO also kills nematodes in the initial seed treatment root zone: After talking with growers, many people don’t realize (or forgot), but ILeVO is also labeled for control of the following soil borne nematodes:
 - **Soybean cyst nematodes**
 - **Root-knot nematodes**
 - **Reniform nematodes**
 - **Root lesion nematodes**
 - **Lance nematodes**

The seed treatment root zone is a very small area of protection. As the soybean’s roots grow and expand, new roots will be outside of the area of protection and will be susceptible to all nematodes. But none the less, a small zone of nematode protection is a nice bonus to the SDS protection that this seed treatment provides.

I have lived in West Central Illinois since 1998, from which I lived prior in South East Wisconsin. Since 1998, I have worked in corn and soybean production agronomy roles as my career. I have seen first-hand how devastating SDS is to soybean yields. I have told myself many times over the last 17 years the need of a product to provide protection against SDS. As you can tell from my enthusiasm, ILeVO is the first labeled SDS product that appears to be delivering exactly that.

Over the years, we (Chem Gro Inc.) have implemented ideas to capture higher soybean yields. We have purposely burned/stunted soybeans at early growth stages with “burner herbicides”. We have applied \$60/acre “throw the kitchen sink at it” liquid foliar applied fertilizer programs at soybeans. We have side-dressed soybeans with Anhydrous Ammonia (yeah...., that one will get a few heads to turn cock-eyed at you.) We use high rates of residual herbicides to prevent weeds from competing with the soybean crop. We routinely apply fungicides with insecticides at R3 pod formation growth stage. All of these attempts in achieving higher soybean yields all goes to vain if areas of your soybean fields die prematurely from SDS. Again, I cannot express my excitement enough to have a product that will help complete the entire package of tools that are available in attempting high yield soybean production.

That’s my 2 cents worth.....the choice and decision is always yours.

Lonne