

## **Soybean Commission Summary**

### **Monitoring Soybean Sentinel Plots for Early Detection of Soybean Rust**

**Sikora, E. J., D. Delaney, J. Mullen, A. Gutierrez-Estrada, R. Yates, W. Griffin, R. Petcher, L. Kuykendahl and D. Derrick.**

The soybean sentinel plot system was established with additional support from the North Central Soybean Research Program and USDA-APHIS. The sentinel plot system was used for early detection of Asian soybean rust and for epidemiological studies. A soybean sentinel plot was a 50 x 50 ft stand of soybeans planted approximately 2 weeks prior to the standard planting date for an area. Twenty soybean sentinel plots were established around the State. In addition, 15 kudzu patch sentinel plots were also identified. Soybean and kudzu sentinel plots were monitored weekly. Information obtained from the sentinel plot system was used to support the USDA National Soybean Rust Information web site (SBRUSA.NET) and the Auburn University Soybean Rust Hotline (1-800-774-2847). By the end of 2005, soybean rust was detected in 34 counties in Alabama. This included 10 soybean sentinel plots, 17 commercial soybean fields, and 22 random kudzu patches. The system allowed for early detection of the disease and gave growers some lead-time to determine if a fungicide application was necessary for their operations.