


# MESSENGER-INQUIRER

 Cooperative  
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## Farm Update

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES  
EDUCATION

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### Fungicide Timing in Soybean

As usual, there is a wide range of soybean growth across the area. Some fields are well into pod development, while others are just emerging. R3 is the stage at which to consider applying fungicide to protect against foliar diseases. To confirm R3, you will find at least one pod 3/16" long in one of the upper three nodes. Rainfall is an important factor to consider when making a fungicide application decision. High rainfall accumulation is one of the main causes of the increased risk of foliar diseases. Besides rain, the risk of foliar diseases is affected by the disease resistance of the soybean variety planted and the cropping history in a field.

The primary foliar diseases of concern that can cause economic yield loss are frogeye leaf spot and target spot. Both diseases are influenced greatly by the level of soybean resistance. Some varieties are highly resistant to frogeye leaf spot, while others may be susceptible. It is important to revisit the disease ratings of the varieties planted in your fields. Frogeye spots are small, somewhat circular, tan or gray, with dark red to purple borders. They appear in the upper canopy. FLS overwinters on soybean residue so non-rotated fields should be scouted frequently.

Target spot is a relatively new disease. It had an impact on yields in some fields of susceptible varieties a few years ago. More recently, it appears fewer varieties have high susceptibility to this disease, which helps reduce the risk of target spot. Regardless, it is still

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important to continue scouting for this disease. Target spot appears as red-brown circular spots with yellow borders. Concentric rings may develop in the spot, giving the appearance of a “target”. Information on specific varieties’ susceptibility to target spot is limited.

Other foliar diseases that generally do not have an economic impact on soybean but can in certain years are Septoria brown spot and Cercospora leaf blight. In general, septoria brown spot often occurs only on leaves in the lower canopy, which has little impact on yield. But frequent rainfall throughout the season can splash Septoria brown spot spores up into the canopy, causing some upper leaves to prematurely defoliate. When this happens, some yield loss can be attributed to Septoria brown spot. Although Cercospora leaf blight may occur in Kentucky, it usually shows up too late in the year to reduce yield.

A soybean disease “score card” is available on the Take Action website <https://iwilltakeaction.com/resources/know-your-disease-risk/>. This score card can be used on a field-by-field basis to help determine what the risk is for foliar disease development. It can also be used to help make fungicide application decisions. If the decision is made to apply foliar fungicide, it is important to choose a product that has efficacy against the spectrum of diseases that might affect your field. It is also important to choose a product that contains multiple modes of action to help manage the potential of fungicide resistance. There is frogeye leaf spot, Septoria brown spot, target spot, and Cercospora leaf blight resistant to strobilurin, FRAC Group 11, fungicides. Fungicide resistance is an important consideration.

To help make a decision on which fungicide products might work best for the diseases you intend to manage, the “Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Foliar Disease”

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publication on my webpage at <https://daviess.ca.uky.edu/anr> can provide information that will help with that decision.

## **It's Fair time**

The Daviess County Lions Club Fair is next week at the Lions Club Fairgrounds in Philpot. Make plans to spend an evening or two out there viewing shows, displays, and competitions. FFA, 4H, open, and youth entries will be received from 4-7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15. Fairbooks with a fair schedule, exhibit rules, and resources can be found at our office and at locations across town.

## **Kentucky Farm Succession Seminar**

Reminder to register for the July 23 Kentucky Farm Succession Seminar at the Owensboro Convention Center at <https://daviess.ca.uky.edu/events/farm-succession-seminar>. Consider the day an investment in the future of your family farm business and use it as an opportunity to gather family members to hear messages on how to initiate the process or fine-tune an existing plan.

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