

# Integrated Approaches to White Mold Management

Damon L. Smith, Ph.D.

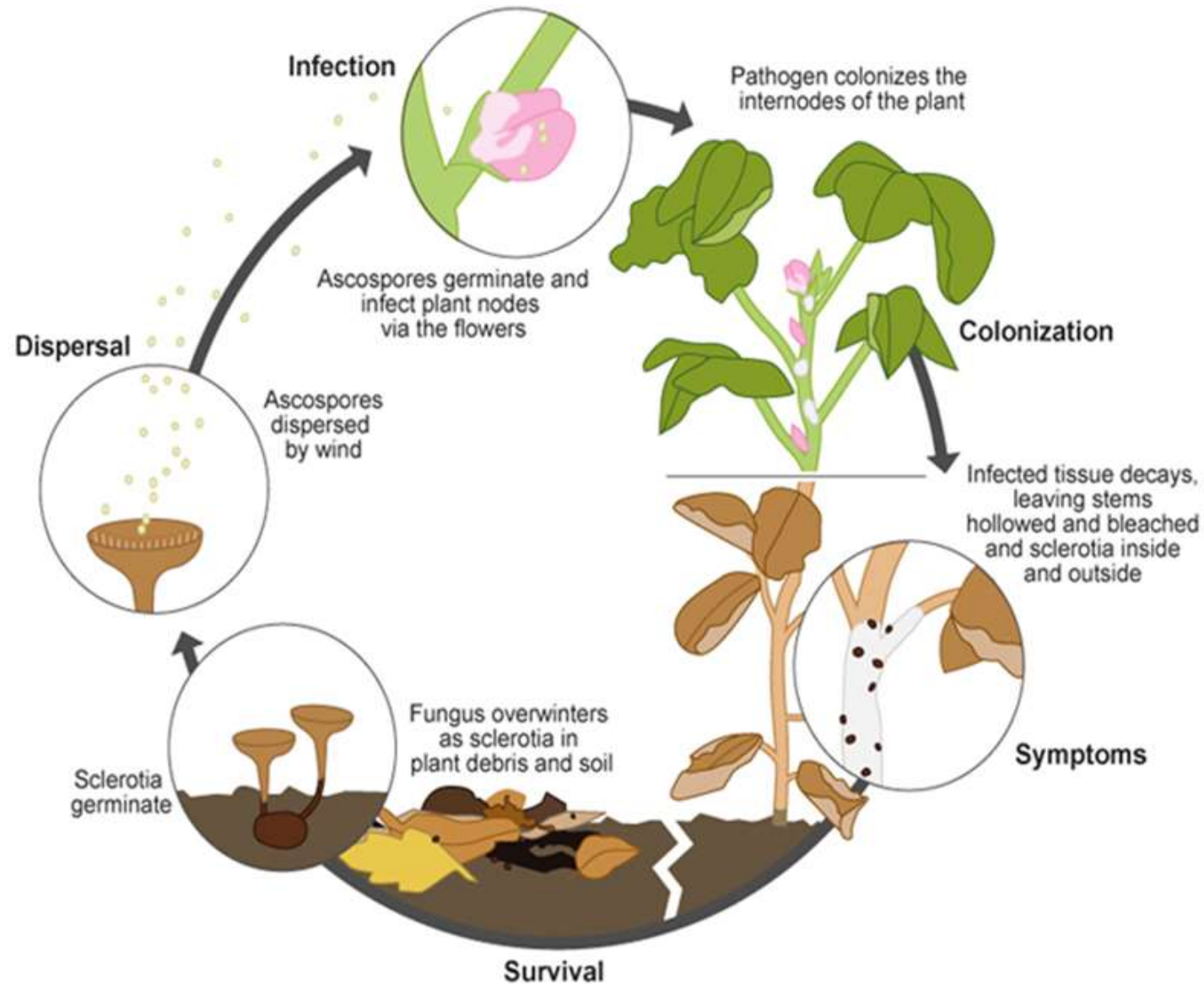
Field Crops Extension Pathologist

Department of Plant Pathology

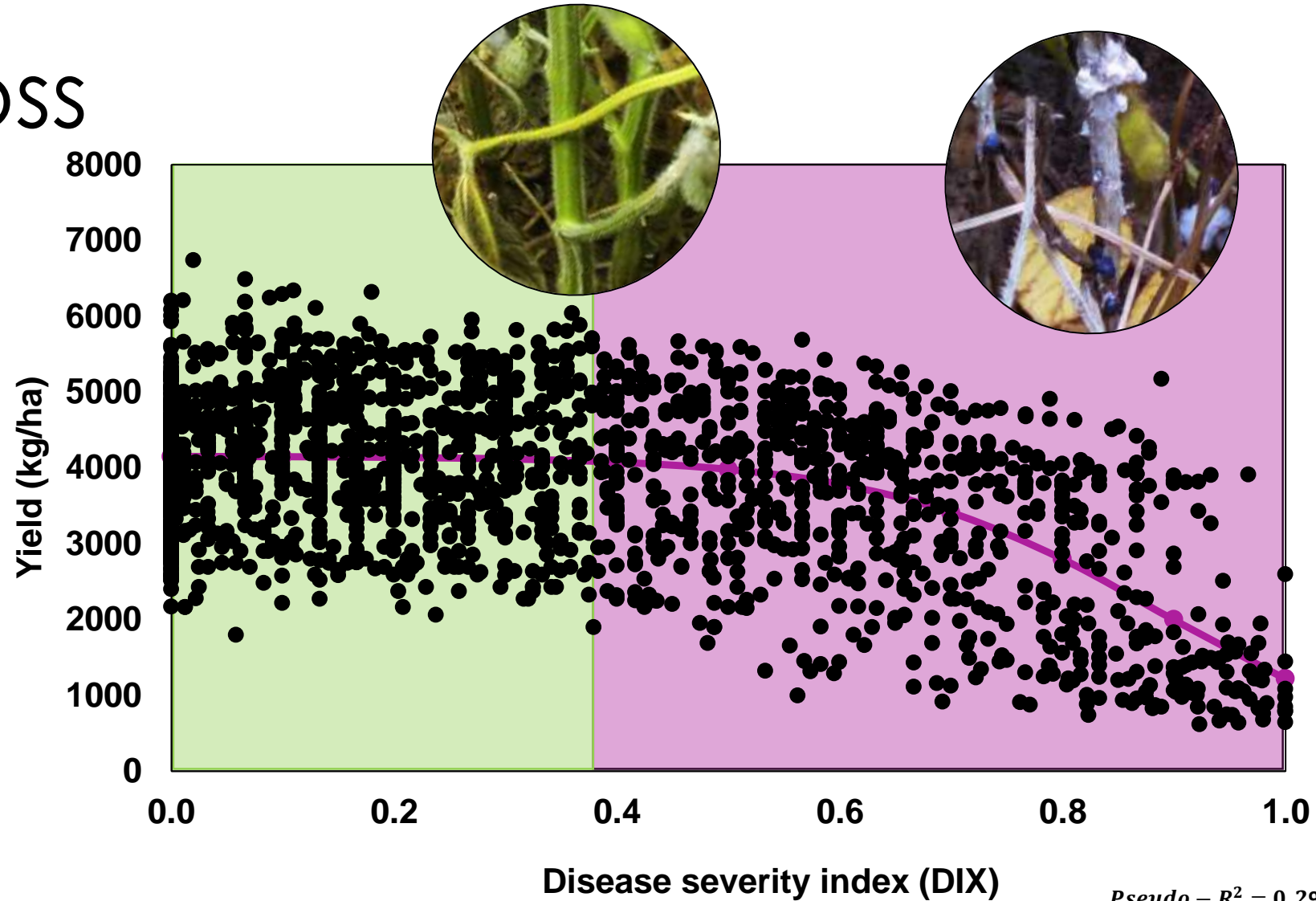
University of Wisconsin-Madison



# White Mold Cycle (Soybean)



# Yield Loss



*Pseudo -  $R^2 = 0.295$*

Willbur, J.F., Fall, M.L., Byrne, A.M., Chapman, S.A., Bradley, C.A., Chilvers, M.I., Kleczewski, N.M., Mueller, D.S., Malvick, D., Mitchell, P.D., Conley, S.P., and Smith, D.L. 2019. *Phytopathology*. Accepted.





# The Main Questions

- Is there genetic resistance to white mold?
- What fungicides work for managing white mold?
- When should I spray for white mold?
- What cultural practices should I use in my integrated management strategy?



# Management

Function of:

- Field history
  - Mapping of field
  - Variety selection
    - Need improved breeding material
- Canopy row width and plant population
- Crop rotation
- Chemical and/or biological control
  - Incomplete control
    - Application issues
  - Timing of application critical
  - Need better disease predictions



Photo Credit: Daren Mueller, Iowa State University





# Efforts to Improve White Mold Resistance in Soybean

*Willbur, J. F., Ding, S., Marks, M. E., Lucas, H., Grau, C. R., Groves, C. L., Kabbage, M., and Smith, D. L. Comprehensive white mold screening of soybean germplasm requires multiple isolates of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. 2017. Plant Disease.*

*McCaghey, M. and Willbur, J.F., Ranjan, A., Grau, C., Chapman, S., Diers, B., Groves, C., Kabbage, M., and Smith, D.L. 2017. Frontiers in Plant Science.*



Variety response to white mold can be highly variable – Look for consistency

2017 Glyphosate Tolerant Soybean Trials				
Variety	Yield Arlington (bu/a)	WM Arlington (%)	Yield Hancock (bu/a)	WM Hancock (%)
DSR-1721/R2Y	90	5	67	24
DSR-1870/R2Y	88	13	62	15
GH2230X Brand	85	3	60	20
LS 23X632N	85	6	62	13
S21-W8X Brand	85	10	58	68
S23XT78	84	13	50	53

Conley et al., 2017 <http://www.coolbean.info>



# Variety response to white mold can be highly variable – Look for consistency

2017 Glyphosate Tolerant Soybean Trials				
Variety	Yield Arlington (bu/a)	WM Arlington (%)	Yield Hancock (bu/a)	WM Hancock (%)
DSR-1721/R2Y	90	5	67	24
DSR-1870/R2Y	88	13	62	15
GH2230X Brand	85	3	60	20
LS 23X632N	85	6	62	13
S21-W8X Brand	85	10	58	68
S23XT78	84	13	50	53

Conley et al., 2017 <http://www.coolbean.info>





# Variety response to white mold can be highly variable – Look for consistency

2017 Glyphosate Tolerant Soybean Trials				
Variety	Yield Arlington (bu/a)	WM Arlington (%)	Yield Hancock (bu/a)	WM Hancock (%)
DSR-1721/R2Y	90	5	67	24
DSR-1870/R2Y	88	13	62	15
GH2230X Brand	85	3	60	20
LS 23X632N	85	➡ 6	62	➡ 13
S21-W8X Brand	85	➡ 10	58	➡ 68
S23XT78	84	13	50	53

Conley et al., 2017 <http://www.coolbean.info>





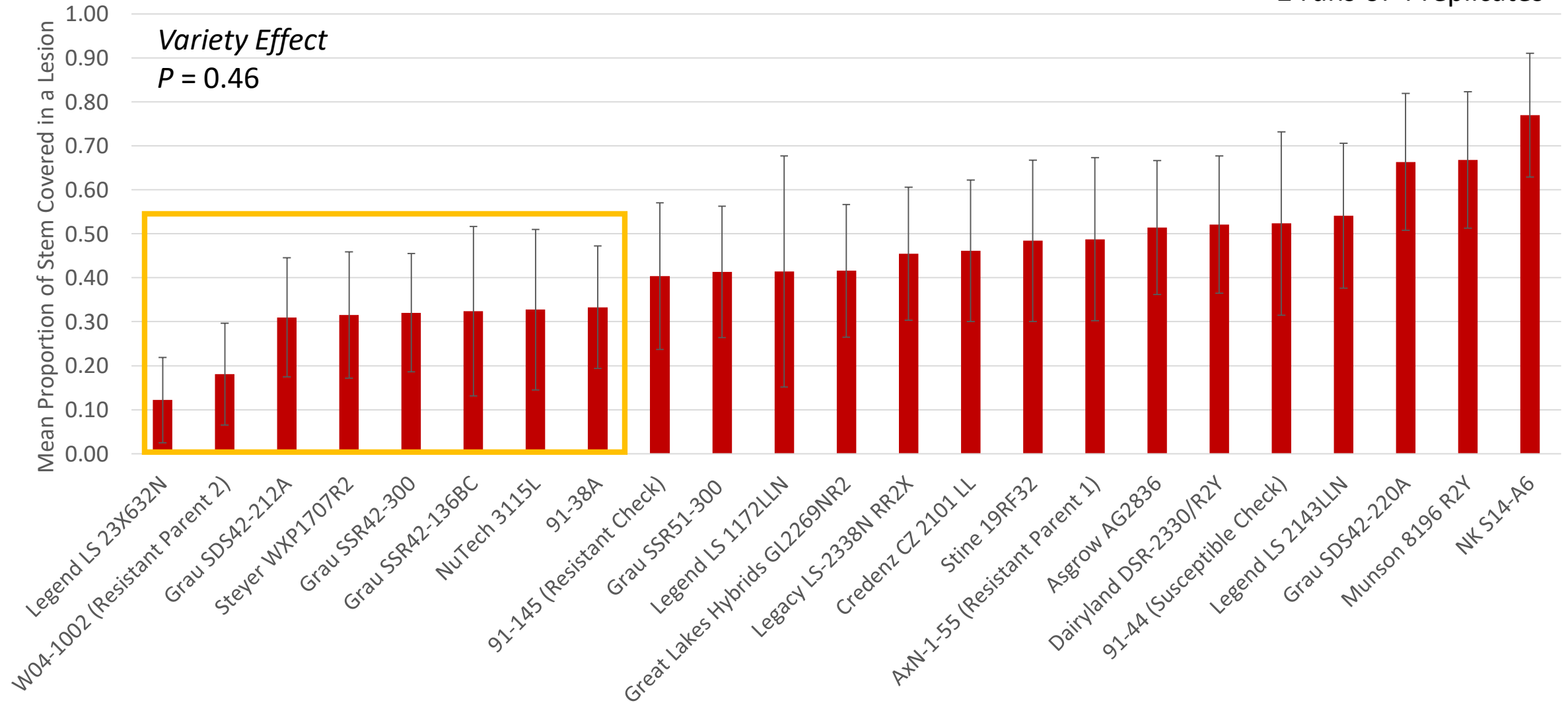
# Commercial Variety Inoculations (February, 2018)





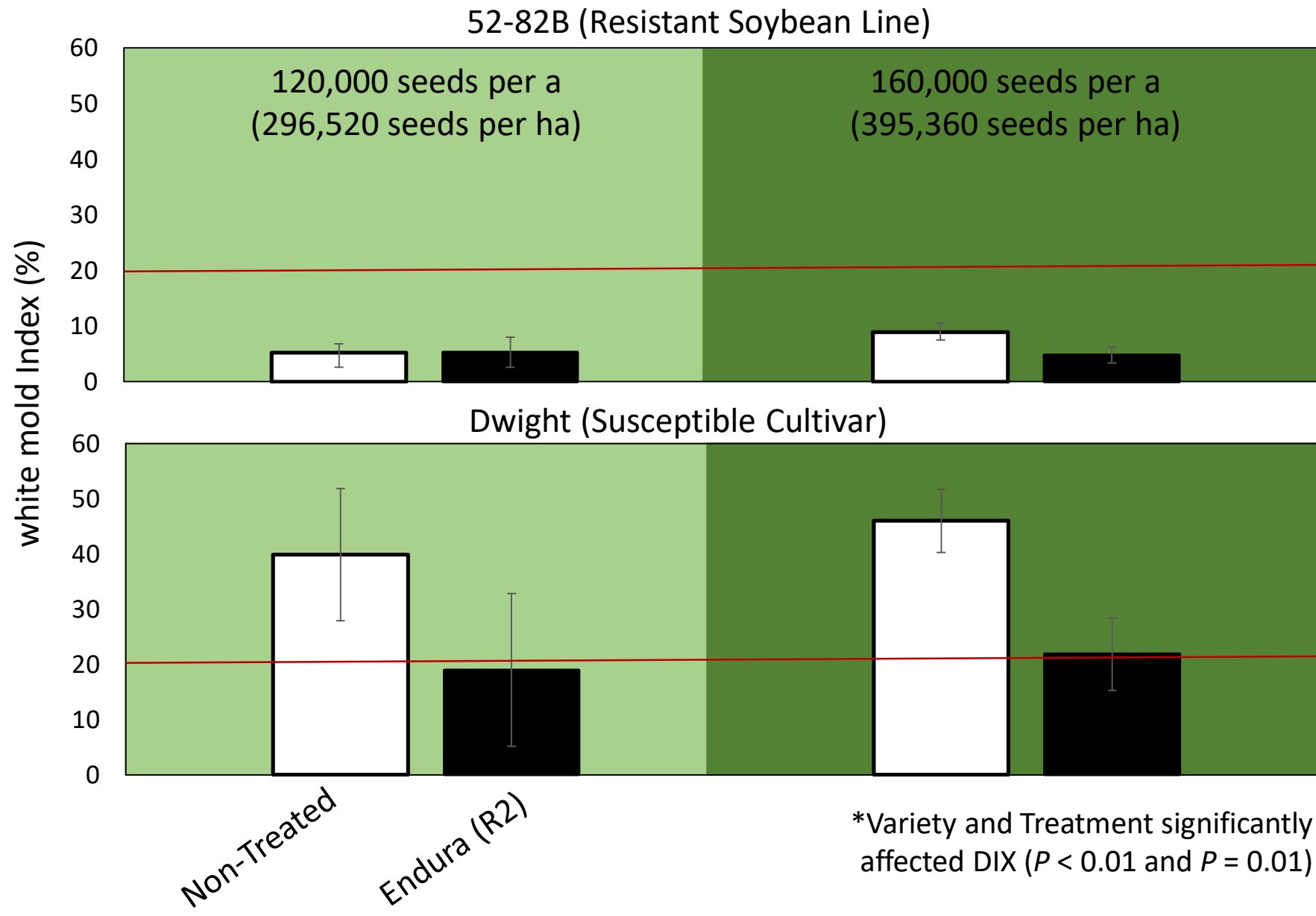
# Greenhouse Inoculations of Commercial Soybean Varieties (February, 2018)

2 runs of 4 replicates

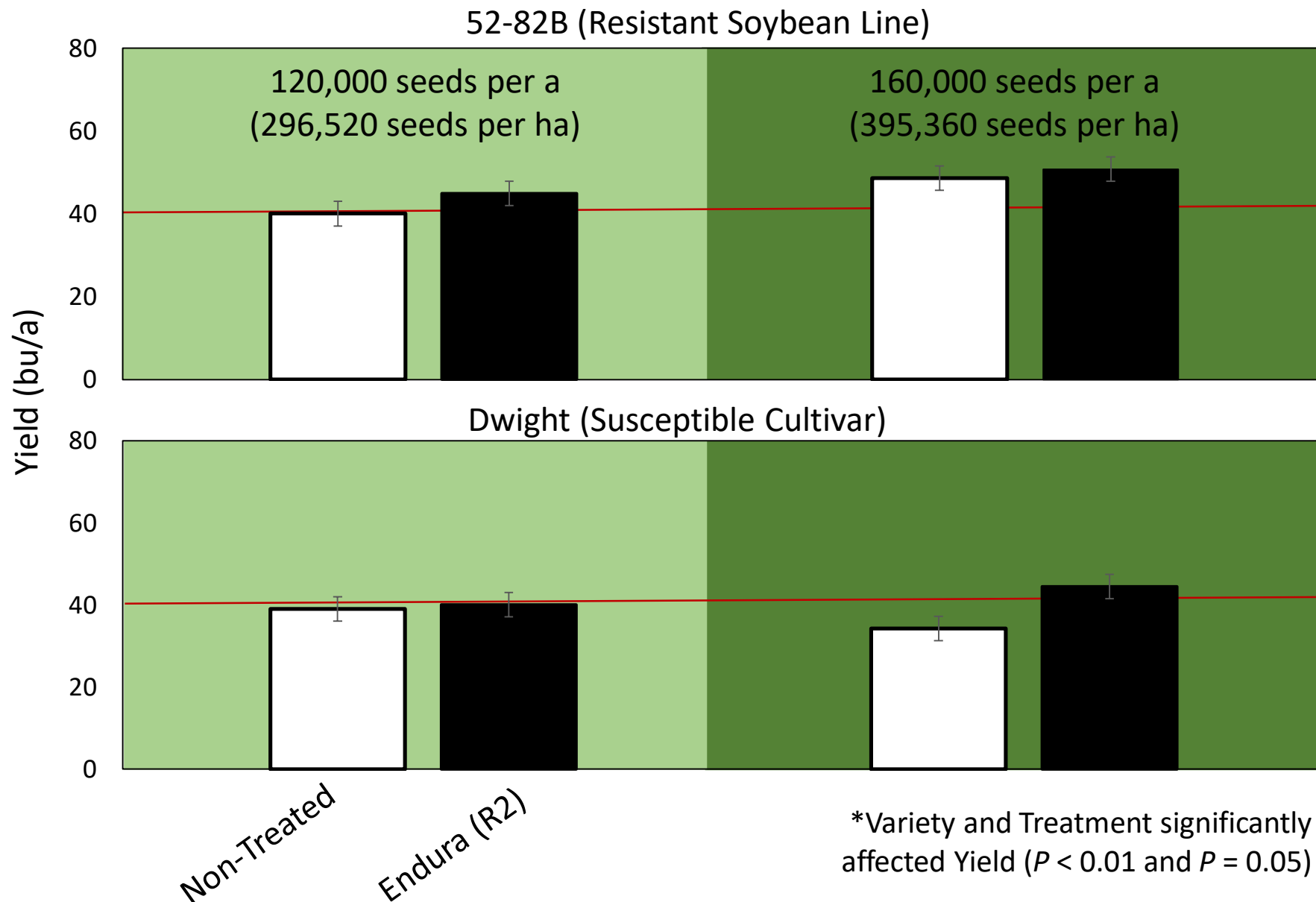




# What is the Real Value of Resistance?



# What is the Real Value of Resistance?



- Endura (8 oz/a) @ R2 = \$40/a
- Application fee = \$7/a
- 160K seeding rate = 4.0 bu/a advantage to 52-82B
- Total Value (\$9/bu) = \$83/a

\*Variety and Treatment significantly affected Yield ( $P < 0.01$  and  $P = 0.05$ )





# What are the Best Fungicides and application timings?

## *A Network Meta-Analysis*

Willbur, J.F., Fall, M.L., Byrne, A.M., Chapman, S.A., Bradley, C.A., Chilvers, M.I., Kleczewski, N.M., Mueller, D.S., Malvick, D., Mitchell, P.D., Conley, S.P., and Smith, D.L.  
2018. *Phytopathology*. Accepted.

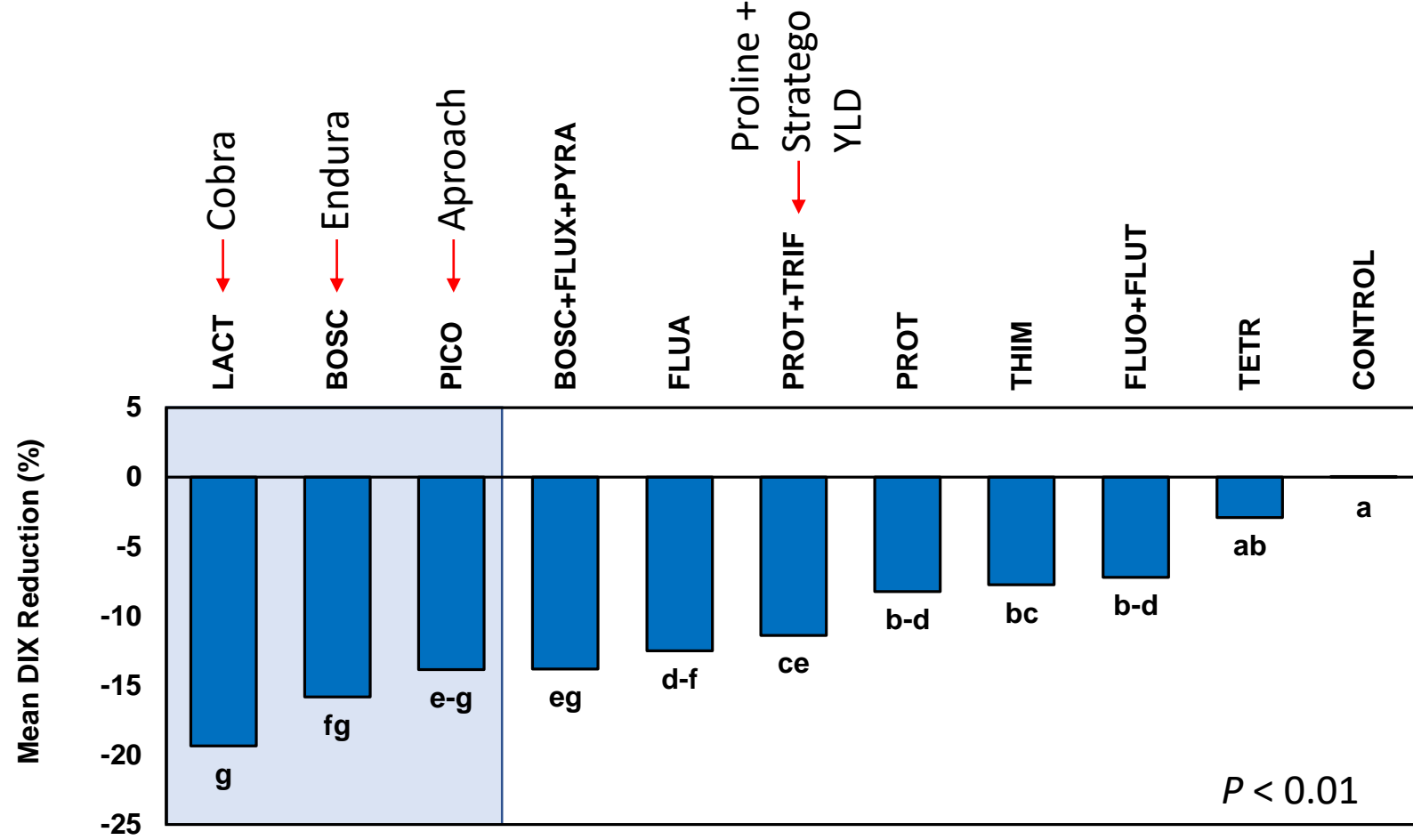


# 2009-16 North Central White Mold Trials

- Fungicide trials were conducted in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Wisconsin from 2009 to 2016
  - **A total of 25 site years (n = 2057)**
- Different products, rates, and timings were evaluated using disease and yield
  - **Focused on 10 common active ingredients and 7 common timings**
- Also, used this data to evaluate the effects of disease severity index (DIX) on soybean yield (**Discussed this earlier**)
  - **$DIX (\%) = \text{Disease incidence} (\%) \times \text{Disease severity of symptomatic plants (0-3)} / 3$**
  - 0 = no disease; 1 = disease on lateral branches; 2 = disease on the main stem; 3 = disease on the main stem resulting in plant death (Grau et al. 1982)

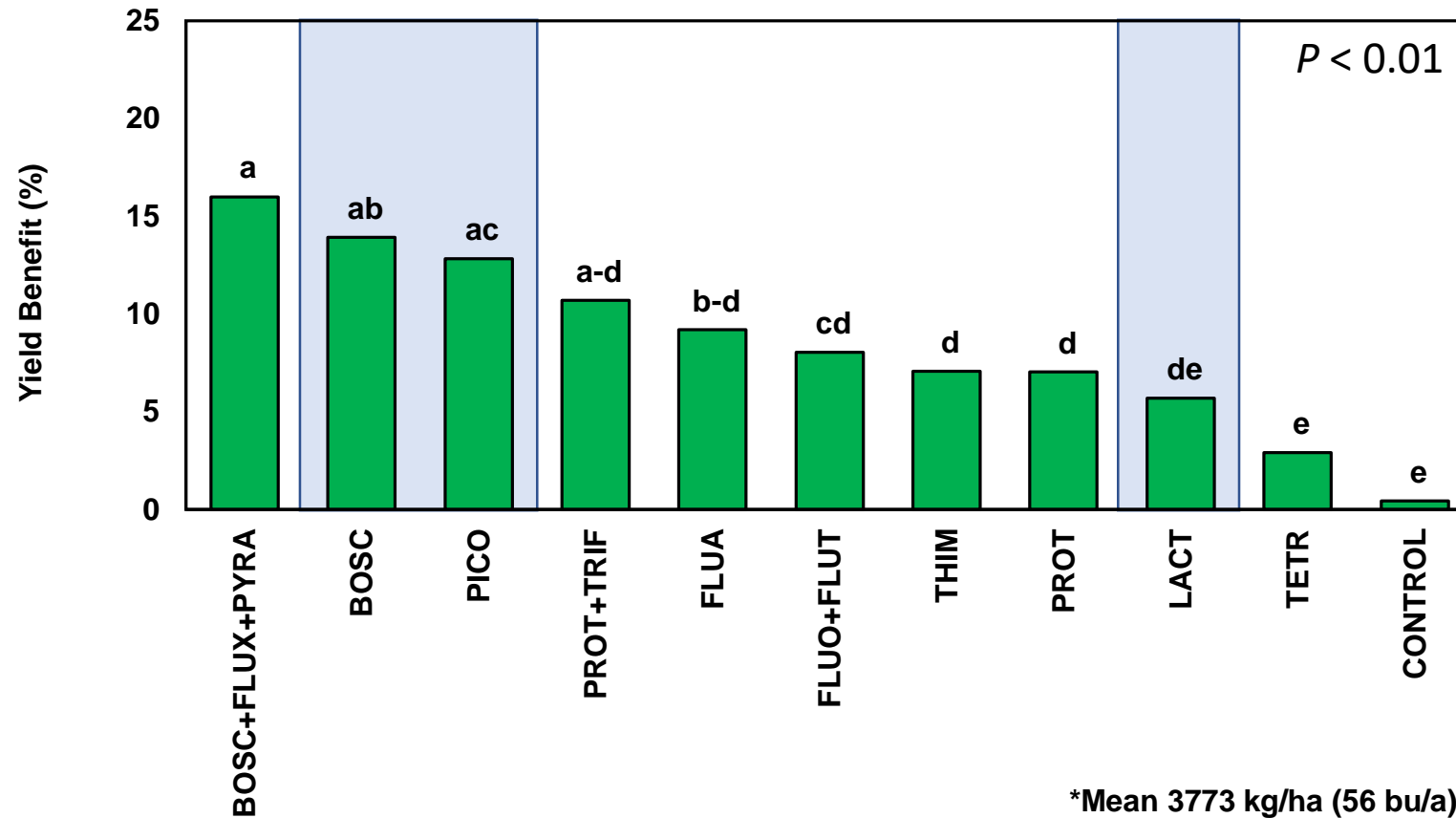


# Common Active Ingredients Provide a Reduction in Disease Severity Index



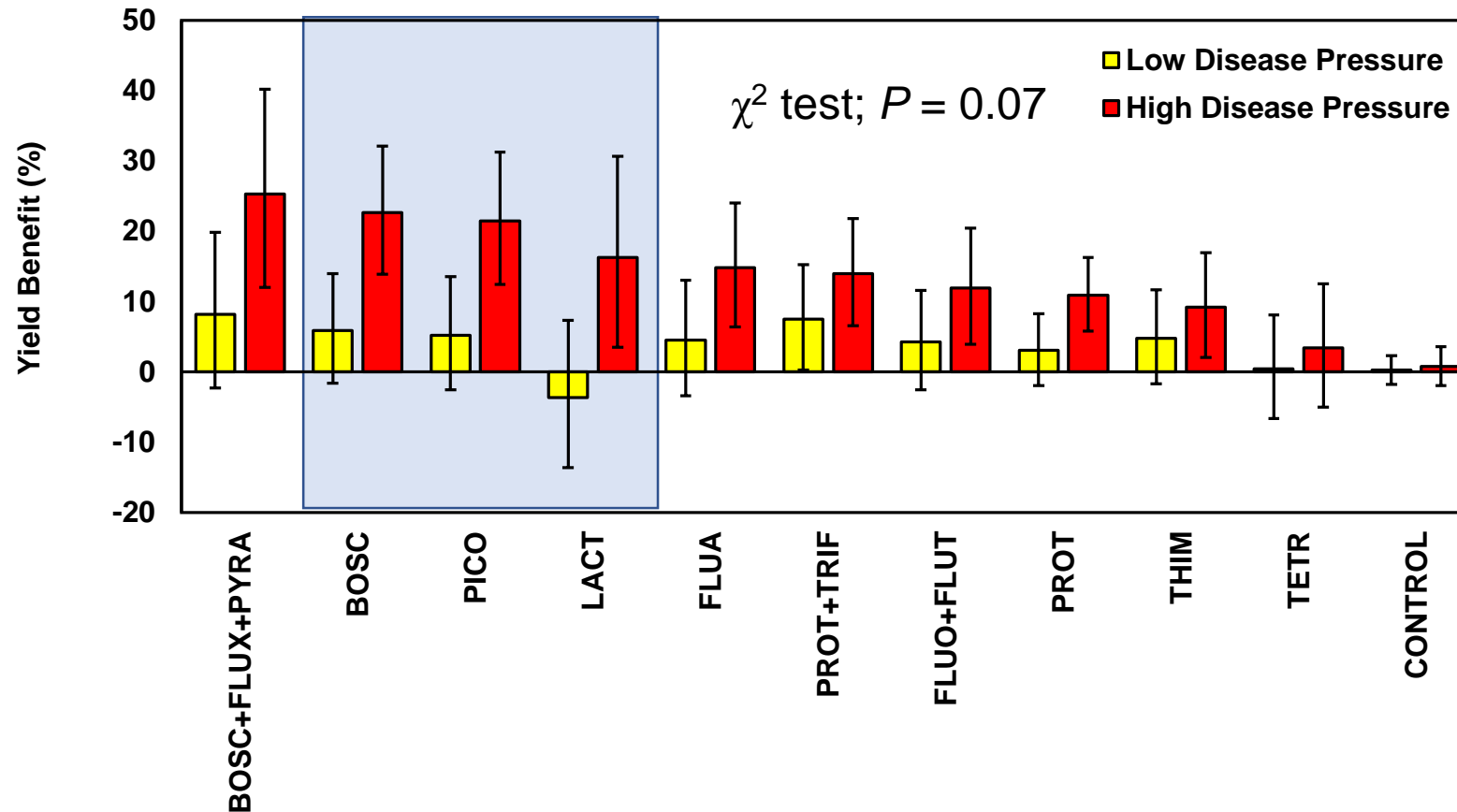
\*Mean Severity Index = 40% (as high as 90%)

# Most Active Ingredients Resulted in a Positive Yield Benefit



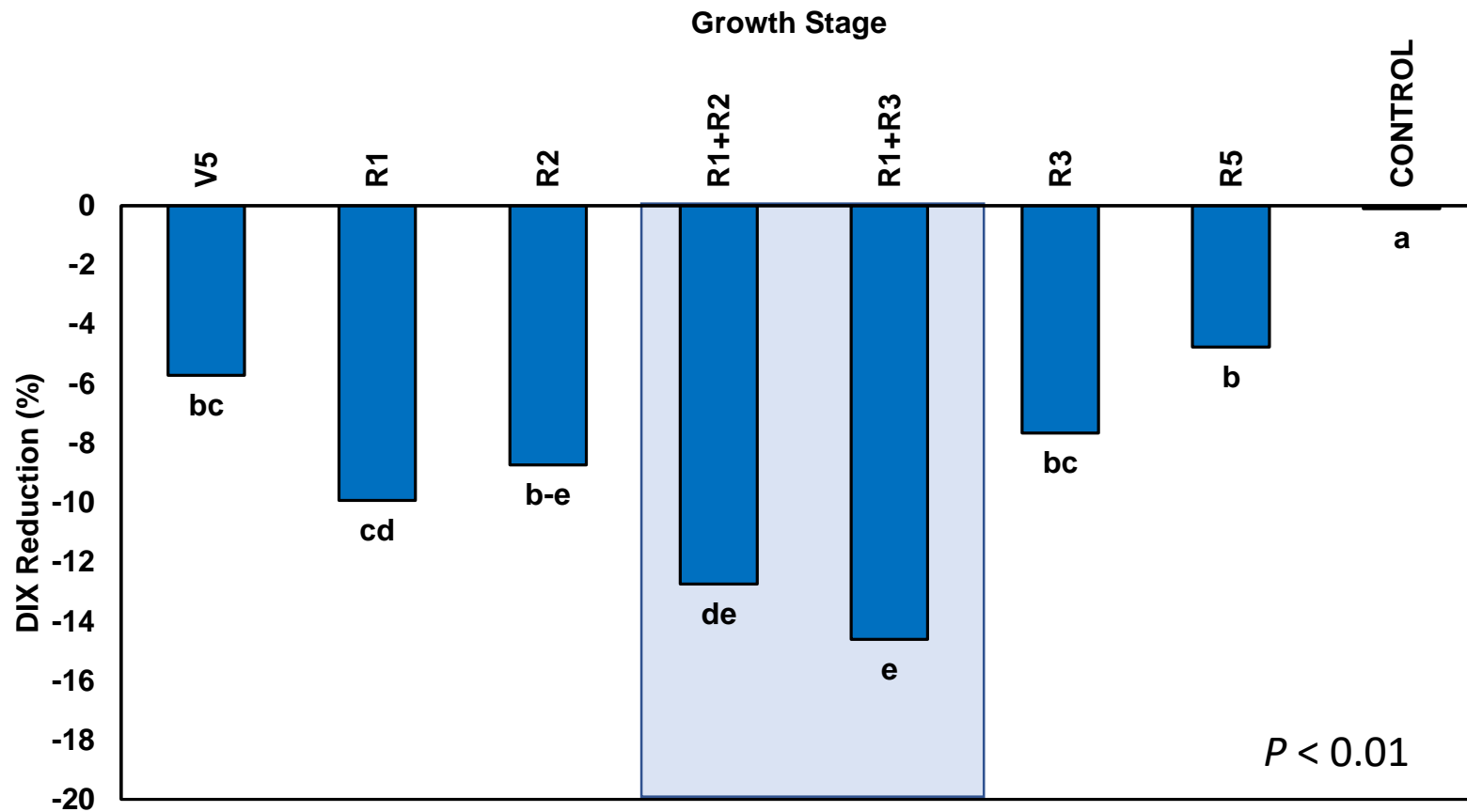


# Evidence Suggests That Disease Pressure May Have a Marginal Influence on the Active Ingredient Effect of Yield Benefit

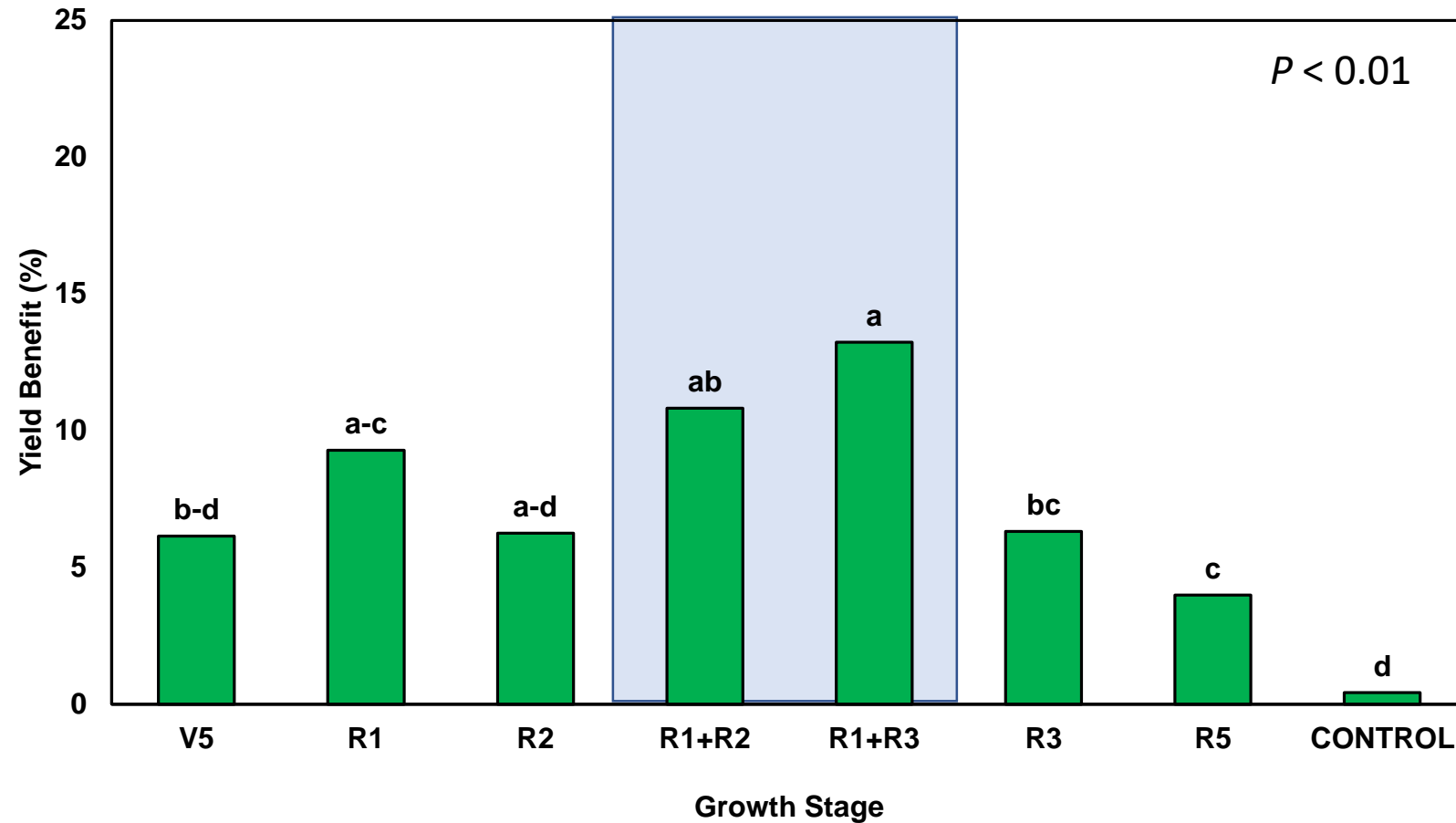


\*Non-treated disease severity index <40% considered low pressure. DIXnt  $\geq$  40% considered high pressure.

# Timing of Fungicide Application Plays a Significant Role in Maximizing Disease Reduction



# Fungicide Applications During the Major Flowering Period Result in the Best Yield Benefits





# Sporebuster: Fungicide Calculator App

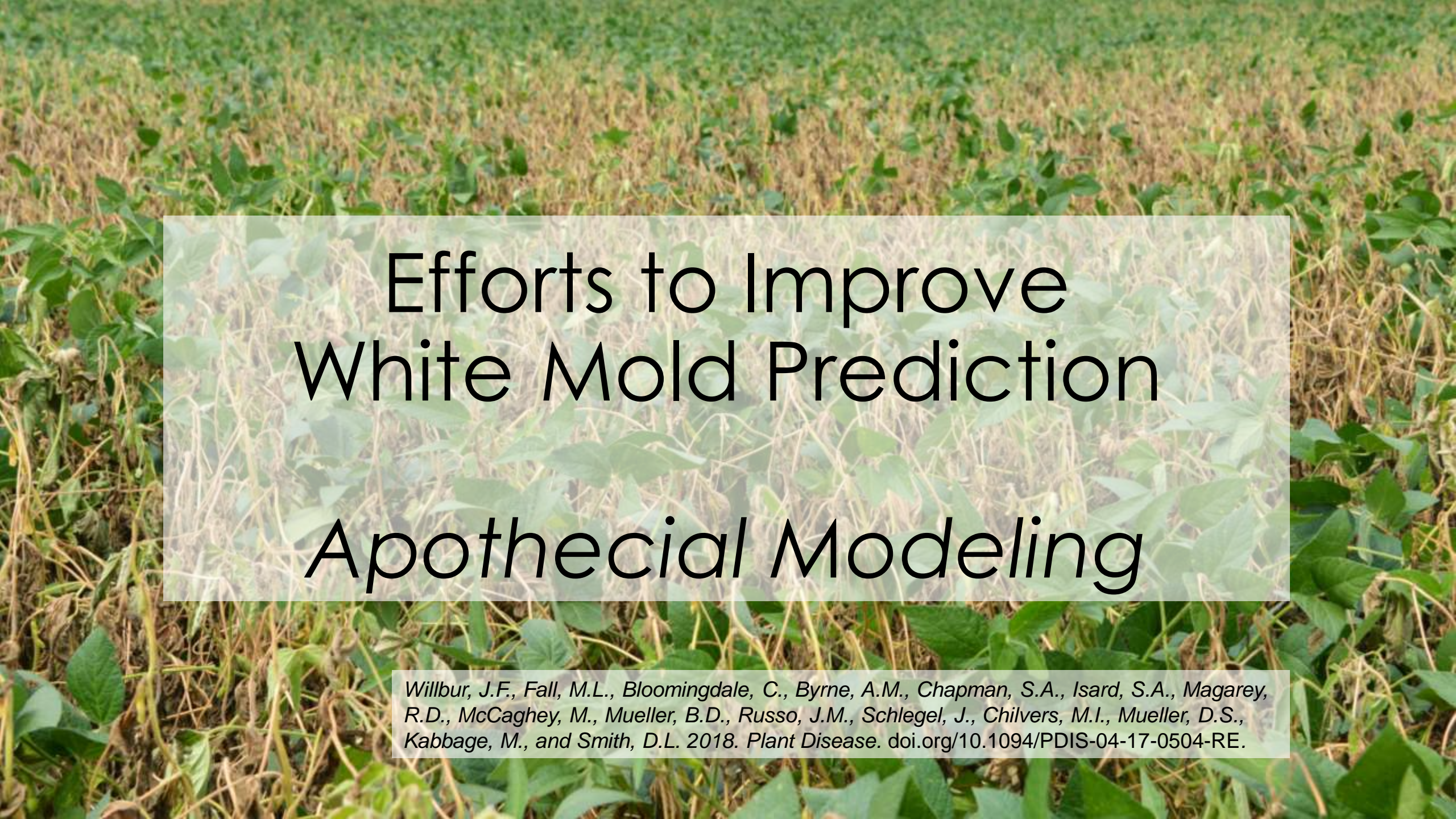
The screenshot shows the Sporebuster app interface. At the top, there's a status bar with the time 16:51 and signal indicators. Below that, a navigation bar has 'Info', 'Sporebuster', and 'List' tabs. The main input section includes 'Expected Price' set to 9.00 \$/bu and 'Expected Yield' set to 60 bu/acre. Below this is a 'Disease Pressure' section with a dropdown menu currently set to 'High', with 'Low' and 'Mod' options also visible. The bottom half of the screen displays a table with fungicide treatment data.

Average Net Gain	Breakeven Probability	Treatment Name	Treatment Cost
\$85.33/acre	72%	thio	14.54 /acre
\$68.43/acre	70%	lacto	16.33 /acre
\$46.04/acre	62%	bosc	46.05 /acre
\$40.86/acre	60%	pro+	43.21 /acre
\$38.27/acre	60%	tetra	20.60 /acre
\$36.07/acre	59%	bosc+	61.51 /acre
\$30.25/acre	56%	pico	54.51 /acre
\$25.62/acre	60%	fluox+	23.40 /acre
\$20.46/acre	55%	fluaz	44.14 /acre
\$9.99/acre	49%	prothio	53.46 /acre

- Now that you know when to spray, how do you know what to spray?
- Sporebuster: fungicide return-on-investment app
- Use economic models generated by Dr. Paul Mitchell to determine breakeven probability, and average net gain when using 10 common fungicide programs
- Data that drives the models was generated by scientists in the upper Midwest

Willbur, J.F., Mitchell, P.D., Fall, M.L., Byrne, A.M., Chapman, S.A., Floyd, C.M., Bradley, C.A., Ames, K.A., Chilvers, M.I., Kleczewski, N.M., Malvick, D.K., Mueller, B.D., Mueller, D.S., Kabbage, M., Conley, S.P., and Smith, D.L. (2018) Meta-analytic and economic approaches for evaluation of pesticide impact on *Sclerotinia* stem rot control and soybean yield in the North Central U.S. *Phytopathology*. *In-review*.





# Efforts to Improve White Mold Prediction *Apothecial Modeling*

Willbur, J.F., Fall, M.L., Bloomingdale, C., Byrne, A.M., Chapman, S.A., Isard, S.A., Magarey, R.D., McCaghey, M., Mueller, B.D., Russo, J.M., Schlegel, J., Chilvers, M.I., Mueller, D.S., Kabbage, M., and Smith, D.L. 2018. *Plant Disease*. doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-04-17-0504-RE.



# How Important Are Apothecia?

- Formation of apothecia critical for white mold in soybean
- Majority of infections in soybean occur due to ascospore release from apothecia within the field

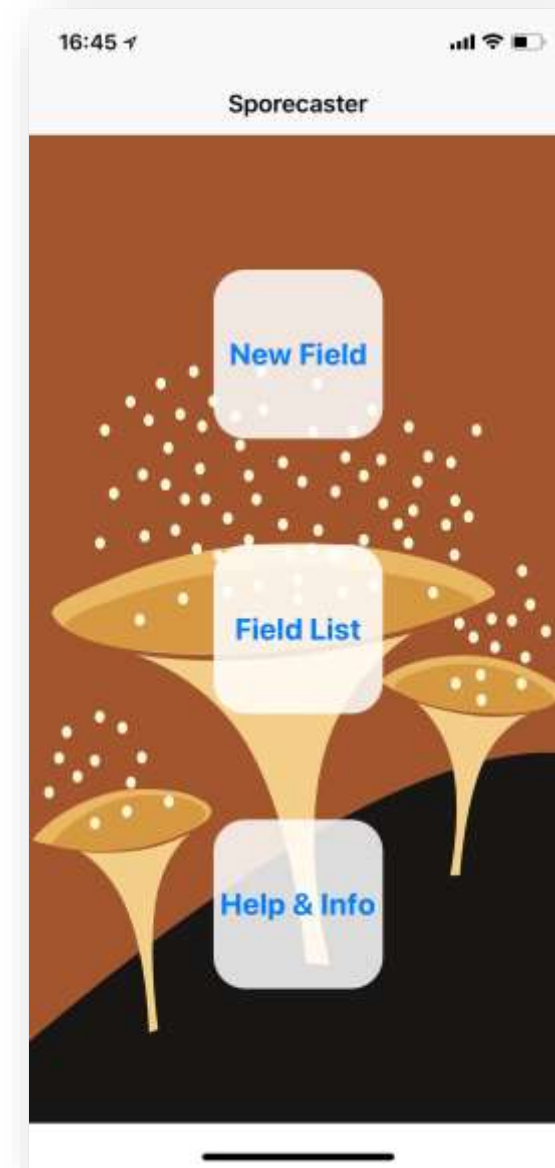


Boland and Hall, 1988, Plant Pathology , 37:329-336

Wegulo, Sun, Martinson, and Yang, Can. J. Plant Sci., 80:389-402

# iPhone and Android App - Sporecaster

- Uses same models as the iPiPE-tested version
- Available for the U.S. and Canada
- Can be run in the field or at the desk
- Uses a combination of user inputs and GPS-referenced weather information (DarkSky API) to provide a risk of white mold so you can make a spray decision
- As of November, 2018
  - Downloaded over 1,600 times
  - Averages 250 active users during the peak season (July and August)
- Awarded the 2018 American Society of Agronomy (ASA) Extension Education Community Educational Award in the category of digital decision aids (software, web-based, smartphone and tablet apps)





# Model Validation Results (60 Farmer Fields – Multiple States)

Accuracy (%) <sup>a</sup>	Success (1) or Failure (0) @ DI 5%				Success (1) or Failure (0) @ DI 10%		
	30	35	40		30	35	40
<b>Action Threshold</b>							
<b>Research trials, 2017 (n=6)</b>	83.3	83.3	83.3		83.3	83.3	83.3
<b>Commercial fields, 2016-17 (n=60)</b>	63.3	76.7	73.3		68.3	81.7	78.3
<b>Total</b>	65.2	77.3	74.2		69.7	81.8	78.8

<sup>a</sup>Binary model successes (1) or failures (0), for each model action threshold (30, 35, or 40%) using disease incidence thresholds of 5 or 10% (Tables 5.9 and 5.10), were used to determine model accuracy across all locations and years. The number of successes were divided by the total number of field validations and multiplied by 100.





# Strip Trial, Marathon Co., WI

56 bu/a  
DI  
12-33%

47.5  
bu/a  
39%  
DI

41  
bu/a  
66%  
DI

55.5  
bu/a  
26%  
DI

58  
bu/a  
27%  
DI

CONTROL  
9oz/ac  
Approach  
Applied at  
R1 - R3

9oz/ac  
Approach  
Applied at  
R1

NO FUNGICIDE

9oz/ac  
Approach  
Applied at  
R3

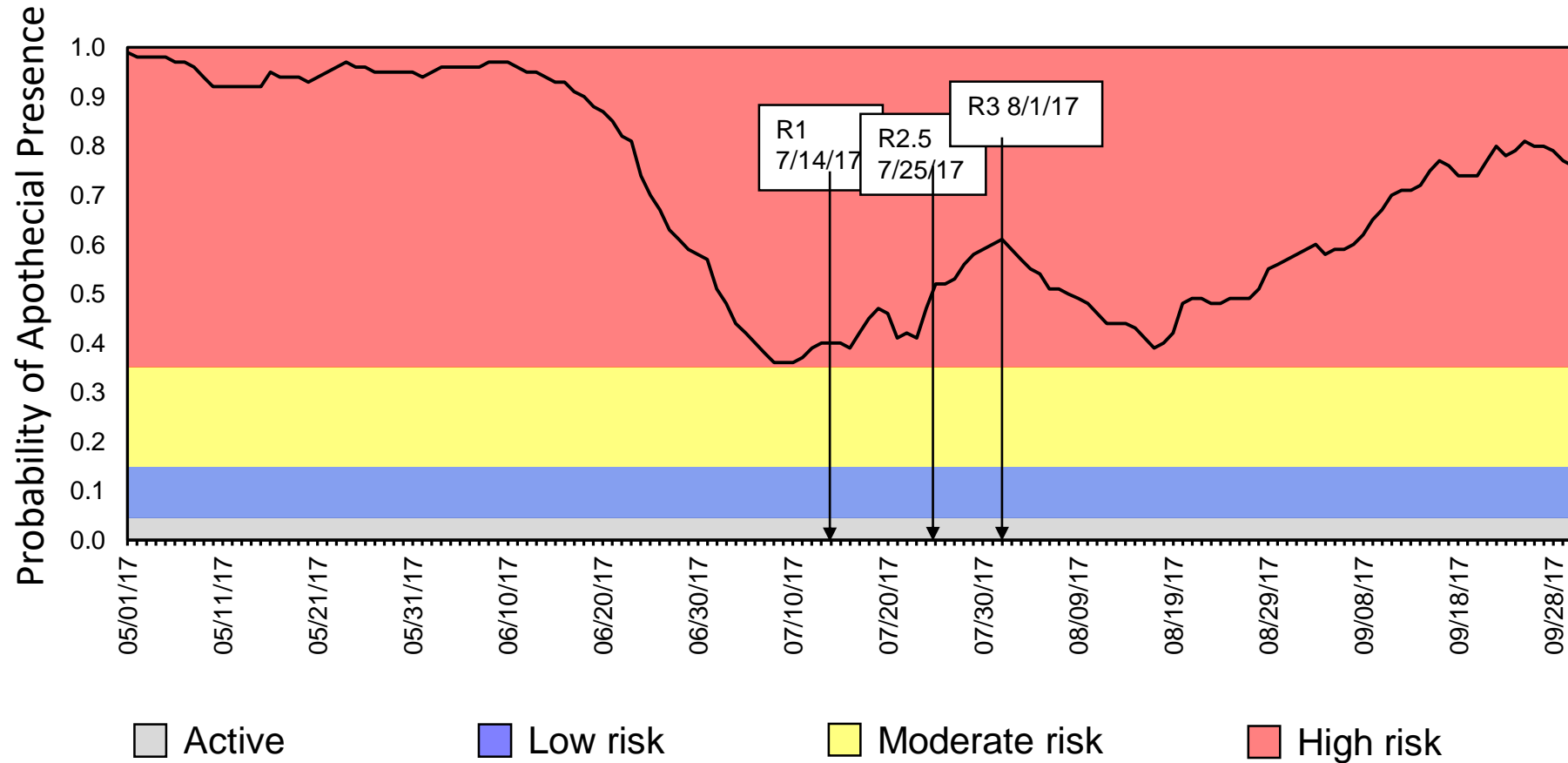
9oz/ac  
Approach  
Applied at  
R1 - R3 - R5

CONTROL  
9oz/ac  
Approach  
Applied at  
R1 - R3

SEPTEMBER 19th 2017



# 2017 Risk Probabilities Based on the Model, Marathon Co. Strip Trial







# The Next Steps: Revisiting Integrated Management

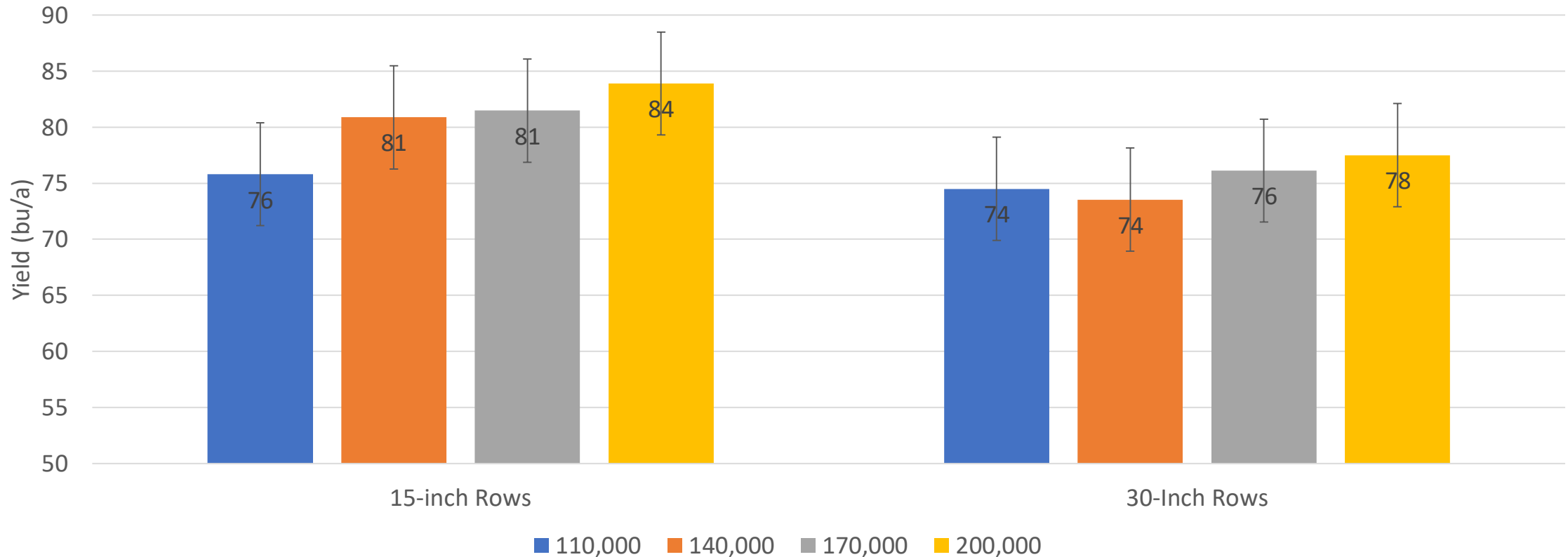


# Integrated Management Trials

- Multiple states (WI, IL, MN, IA, MI) and Years (2017 and 2018)
- Susceptible commercial cultivar
- Row Spacing (15" vs. 30")
- Planting Population (110,000 seeds to 200,000 seeds/a)
- Applying fungicide based on the prediction model (vs. non-treated or growth-stage applications)



# Yield in Low Disease Environments (DIX<2.5)

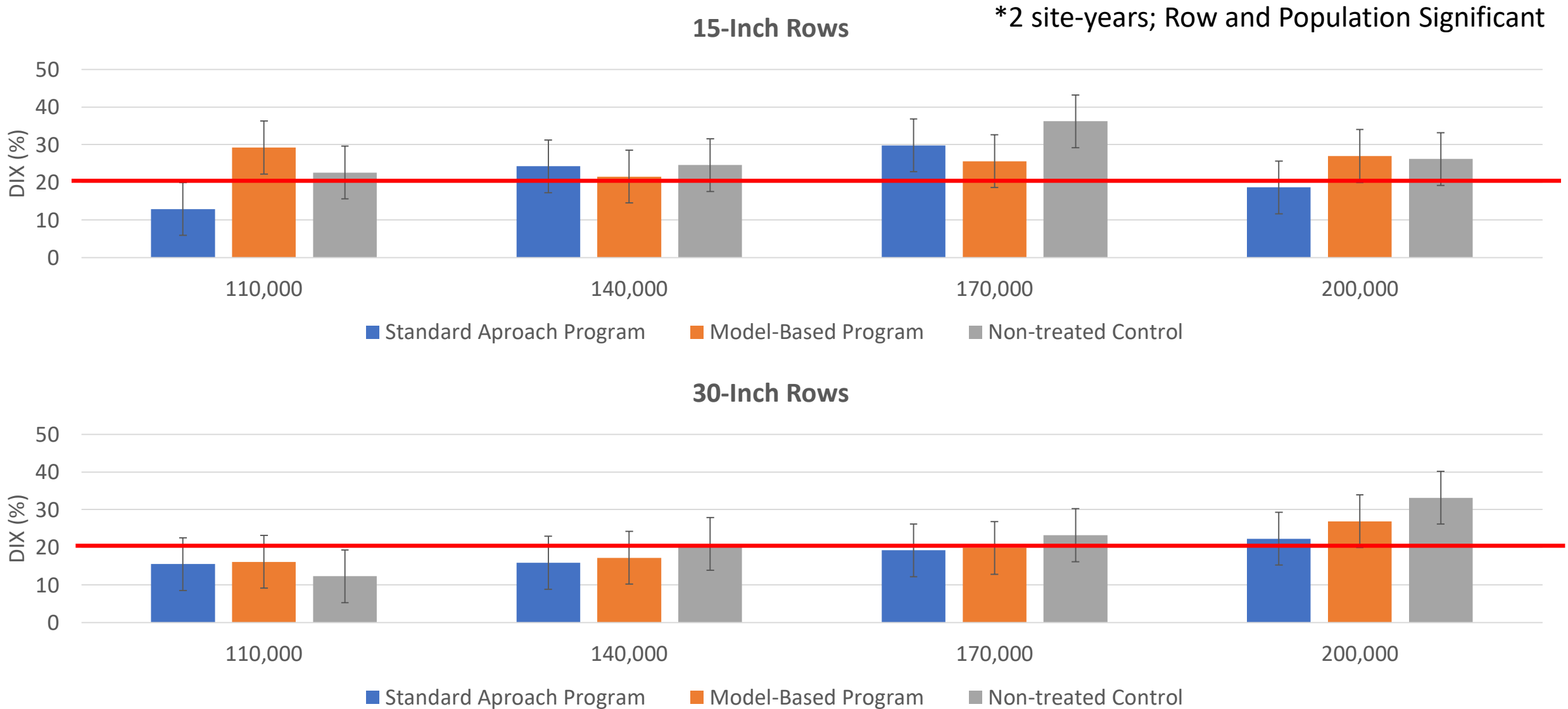


\*5 site-years; Row and Population Significant



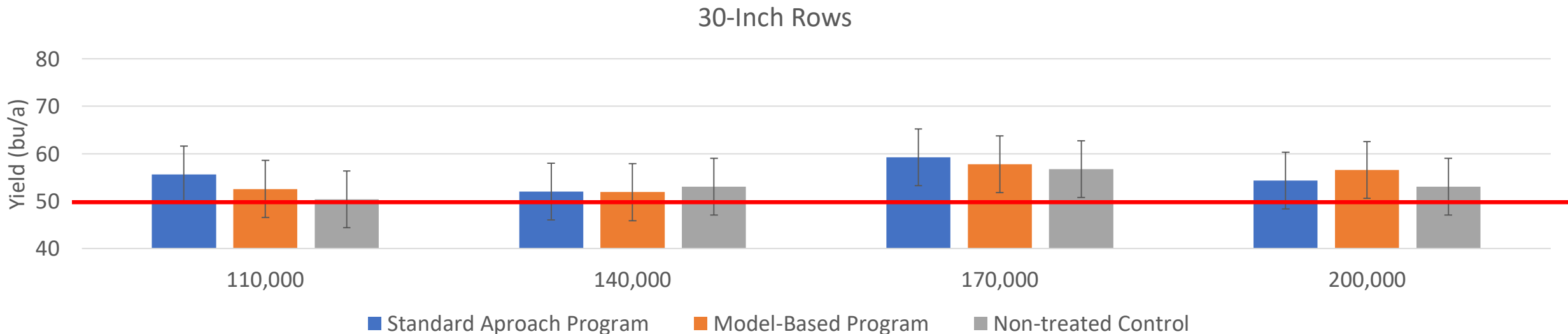
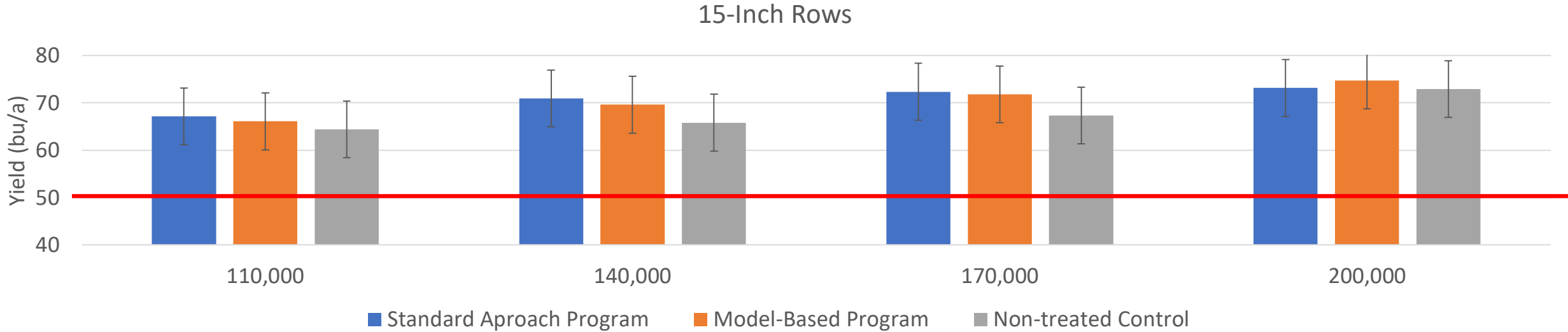


# DIX in High Disease Environments



# Yield in High Disease Environments

\*2 site-years; Row and Population Significant



# The “Take-Home”- Integrated Management is Key to Success

1. Must have better resistance in commercial varieties – Use the most resistant variety you can
  - I. Look at multiple variety trials to find best (most consistent) varieties
  - II. Breeding efforts must focus on stable physiological resistance
2. A few fungicides offer some control; choose the right one and resist the "silver bullet" temptation
  - I. Reduce the expectation (over-reliance) of fungicide performance
  - II. “Fungicide only makes a bad situation, less bad”
  - III. Applications should be focused between R1 and R3 growth stages

## **IV. Don't Forget Resistant Varieties!!**

3. Use predictions models to improve the use and efficiency of fungicide products
  - I. Fungicide application timing is critical!
  - II. Epidemic initiation and duration isn't the same each season!

## **III. White mold Apps.- Download Sporecaster and Sporebuster!**

4. Must adjust cultural practices to manage white mold
  - I. Wider row spacing ? (more work needed)
  - II. Lower planting populations ? (more work needed)

## **III. Don't Forget Resistant Varieties!!**





# Acknowledgements

## Lab Personnel

- Jaime Willbur
- Megan McCaghey
- Cristina Zambrana-Echevarria
- Brian Mueller
- Chris Bloomingdale
- Dr. Carol Groves
- Dr. Craig Grau
- Dr. Scott Chapman
- Hannah Lucas
- Maria Weber
- Jourdan Blackwell
- Theresa Blackwell
- Kelsey Azzolino
- Danielle Holtz
- Miranda Young
- Patrick Beuthe
- Brenden Peppard
- Nate Westrick

## UW Collaborators

- Dr. Paul Mitchell
- Dr. Shawn Conley

## UK Collaborator

- Dr. Carl Bradley

## ISU Collaborators

- Dr. Daren Mueller
- Brian Anderson
- Rachel Kempker

## MSU Collaborators

- Dr. Martin Chilvers
- Dr. Mamadou Fall
- Adam Byrne

## UD Collaborator

- Dr. Nathan Kleckzewski

## Penn State Collaborator

- Dr. Scott Isard

## IPM Center – NCSU & ZedX, Inc.

- Dr. Roger Magarey
- Joe Russo
- Jay Schlegel



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



# Questions?



Damon Smith, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Extension Specialist  
Field Crops Pathology

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of Plant Pathology  
1630 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1598

Phone: 608-286-9706  
Twitter: @badgercropdoc  
e-mail: [damon.smith@wisc.edu](mailto:damon.smith@wisc.edu)  
Website: <http://badgercropdoc.com>

