



# PARTNERSHIP PERK

June 24, 2005

## **Asian Soybean Rust Spores Possibly Found in Louisiana.**

Louisiana State University sent out a press release yesterday (June 23, 2005) announcing that three spores that appear similar to those of the Asian soybean rust fungus were recently recovered from a spore trap located in the northeast part of Louisiana, near the Mississippi River. Absolute identification of the spores cannot be accomplished because 100 spores are needed for identification with molecular techniques.

Some might believe that the risk of soybean rust arriving in Iowa has increased as a result of the discovery of these spores because of Louisiana's location directly south of Iowa. However, no spores have been recovered from spore traps in four other locations in Louisiana or from spore traps located in other states. Also, the detection of spores does not necessarily mean that infection has occurred or will so in the future. In many areas of the country, the weather conditions during the early part of this growing season have not been conducive for the development of Asian soybean rust.

**Long story short:** To date, soybean rust has only been found in Florida (on kudzu) and extreme southwest Georgia (on volunteer soybeans). IF the spores recently trapped in Louisiana do prove to be from the soybean rust fungus, there is still no evidence at this time that there has been a large influx of rust spores into the central or northern states or that the disease is beginning to expand its range throughout the US.

We believe the Iowa soybean growers and agribusinesses are well prepared for the possible arrival of this disease, and this possible spore detection simply means that we must continue to do what we are already doing; waiting, watching and scouting.

Attached to this e-mail message is the press release from Louisiana State University on which this Partnership Perk is based.

Source: Greg Tylka, ISU Department of Plant Pathology