

AGRICULTURAL BEET

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2021: Maintaining the Momentum

Importance of field scouting to assist with end-of-season CLS fungicide application decisions.

Congratulations SMBSC shareholders! You stand on the threshold of a remarkable season of CLS control in 2021. As we enjoy this good fortune, it isn't difficult to recollect where we found ourselves in 2016 through 2018 when we were not certain how (or even if) we could control CLS in SMBSC fields.

Following 2018, fully recognizing that there weren't any new "Silver Bullet" fungicide active ingredients available to assist with CLS control, there were a lot of new ideas and concepts generated. Many of these ideas and models have since been revised and improved. One particularly important concept involved obtaining a universal mindset to begin our collective fungicide program earlier in the year to prevent CLS from obtaining a foothold in SMBSC fields. This strategy promoted early success in order to "earn" an opportunity to save time, money, and resources at the end of the season.

Your outstanding level of CLS control in 2021 sets the stage to reap the rewards of early program success. To assist you making this important upcoming decision, our shareholder database as well as a couple of shareholder demos provide a few clues to the importance of continued field scouting. Two years of data from a special CLS database suggests that CLS infections do **NOT** possess a single economic threshold. Rather, losses incurred from CLS in SMBSC fields exist as a sliding curve starting as early as Category 3 and escalating through Category 5 to 6 (see table below). Additionally, two shareholders were willing to leave an untreated check in their field in late August of 2020. This portion of the field was not sprayed for the rest of the season. They were able to maintain the whole field rating at 2.5 to 3.0, whereas the untreated strip advanced to a 5.0 rating. Harvest data on these strips indicated a consistent \$70/Acre penalty by allowing CLS in the untreated portion of the field to advance.

2019 / 2020 Combined Yield Parameters Related to Mid-September CLS Rating

Field Ct	Rating	Tons/Acre	Sug %	Purity Avg	ESA	EST	Financial penalty for each incremental increase in CLS Rating
89	2.0	29.97	16.55	90.69	8407	279	
85	3.0	29.62	16.51	90.77	8320	279	\$34/Acre
68	4.0	28.99	16.59	90.61	8143	280	\$63/Acre
51	5.0	26.53	16.34	90.66	7361	276	\$224/Acre
15	6>	26.68	16.15	90.56	7349	272	\$13/Acre

Bottom Line: Financial penalties from CLS exist at lower ratings than once thought. Make fungicide program termination decisions carefully to avoid losses that can exceed the cost of another application.

Steve Roehl – Ag Strategy Manager