

Summary of Slug Scouting Data for 2011
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This past summer I conducted a pilot cost share program related to slug management in no-till corn and soybean. The heavy spring rain caused significant planting delays. I thought I would do most of my scouting during May. However, we did not finish until about July 6. Overall I rate this past year's slug feeding pressure as low.

Summary of 2011 SLUG SCOUTING Program

- 3,083 acres enrolled before planting season
- 230 EXTRA acres scouted during scouting season
- 3,102 total acres scouted at this time, a few late plantings still need to be scouted
- 211 acres either not planted or fields were disked
- 244 of the 3,102 scouted acres were authorized for slug bait

If you can get a good stand without plowing/disking, is it worth it? This past year less than 10% of the scouted acres had slug damage that even came close to needing slug bait. Let's assume you are a farmer with 200 acres of corn. You make one pass with a disk to minimize risk of slugs (and let's also assume that you can get the same stand no-tilling as following a disk). If the disking costs \$10 per acre then you spend \$2,000 per year disk. It costs about \$30 per acre for slug bait (\$22 for the bait and \$8 for the application). You could afford to apply slug bait to 66 acres and come out financially the same if you disk. Furthermore, you will get all the benefits of leaving the residue on the surface.

New product for controlling slugs in Corn and Soybean - More Testing Needed: This past summer I field tested Lannate for controlling slugs in corn. We installed two different field trials that included Lannate. I will provide the data in my next newsletter. Based on visual observations, the Lannate did reduce slug feeding pressure on the corn (I presume it killed some of the slugs). It did not work as well as slug bait, but it might work well enough (i.e. we don't need to kill every slug in corn, just enough to allow the corn to outgrow the slugs).

We have only installed two field tests with the Lannate so we need more tests to get comfortable. Maybe next time it won't work at all.

Lannate has an extremely short efficacy (i.e. six-eight hours after spraying it no-longer will kill bugs). Our Extension Entomologists have not field tested Lannate for slug control. They suggested that if we wanted to try Lannate that we spray it immediately prior to dark (i.e. 8:00 p.m. or later) or spray it in the dark. The reason for this spray time is that slugs normally feed at night. They speculate that spraying during the daytime when slugs are under residue would have minimal effect on the slugs.