

## St. Clair Scouting Report 7-26-17

### Spider Mites

Due to the variation in amount of rain specific areas have received over the last 2 months Spider Mite concerns may or may not apply in your farming business. Spider Mites were found in a soybean field south of Mascoutah this morning. Spider Mites become a problem during times of drought for the following reasons.

As permanent vegetation dries out and roadsides or waterways are cut Spider Mites moves into soybean fields.

Dry conditions improves the food quality of soybeans to Spider mites

Drought diminishes or stops the fungal diseases that attack mites.

Lack of rain speeds up Spider mite reproduction so that predatory insects and mites can't keep up.



To check for Spider mites take a white piece of paper, set it down between the rows and shake the soybean plants over the paper. Spider mites are small and slow moving, but if you have a serious infestation the paper will be covered with little orange dots the size of a pin head.

### Southern Rust



After last weeks report went out, had an text from my son Trevor who works for Wabash Valley stating that Southern rust was also confirmed north of Metropolis in Southern Illinois. Scouted some fields south of 64 and up through the Alhambra area this morning. Plenty of Common rust present, but no Southern rust as of today. Hope it doesn't get this far, but if it does following are some guidelines if you are going to consider spraying a fungicide. Corn that is two weeks from physical maturity (black layer) man not benefit from a fungicide treatment. Corn that is projected to yield less than 150 bushels may not have a positive response. Spraying may increase yield if more than 10% of the leaf area is damaged.