

David G. Hallauer  
District Extension Agent  
Crops & Soils/Horticulture

### ***Soybean Weed Control – Is It a Big Deal?***

Ever wonder about the losses caused by weeds in soybeans? A 2016 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Weed Loss committee report summarized a couple of different studies on losses due to a lack of weed control. One report estimated a two to twenty percent loss of soybean yield due to weed pressure even when Best Management Practices with herbicides were used. A second study noted that yield losses can reach fifty percent when no herbicide is used at all. Bottom line? Soybean weed control matters.

We've definitely improved soybean weed control efforts over the years, but it hasn't come without challenges. New products are great. New resistances are not. While we've done a good job of controlling some species, others remain a challenge.

Labels have changed. Changes in the Xtendimax, Engenia, and FeXapan labels from 2018 to 2019 are one example. Changes include purchase and application only by certified applicators (no application under direct supervision), annual mandatory dicamba or auxin applicator training, treatment time frame restrictions, and updated postemergence treatment wording. These labels even include consultation of a website for the list of counties requiring additional protection measures along with guidance for specific areas that can be included in the buffer distance calculation for fields in affected counties. It's taken label reading to a whole new level, with the hope that good products can be retained over time and sensitive crops protected.

Fortunately, great resources are available to help you make the best weed control decision you can. One resource for any herbicide selection process is the K-State 2019 Chemical Weed Control Guide, available online at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/SRP1148.pdf>. In addition to soybeans, this publication provides herbicide suggestions for several major crops, pastures, and range. Hard copies of will be available from District Offices in late January.

Rather hear from someone first hand? Plan to attend the KSU Soybean School on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at the NEKS Heritage Complex south of Holton. In addition to multiple speakers covering topics from markets to fertility, K-State Research & Extension Weed Specialist Dr. Dallas Peterson will be the keynote speaker during a sponsored supper by the Kansas Soybean Commission. He'll share information on the new dicamba labels as well as weeds to watch for and other soybean weed control options. Doors open for registration at 3:00 with the program from 3:30 to 7:00. There is no cost to attend, but RSVP's are requested by January 9th for meal arrangements. You can do so via any Meadowlark Extension District Office (Holton: 785-364-4125; Oskaloosa: 785-863-2212; Seneca: 785-336-2184) or e-mail me at [dhallaue@ksu.edu](mailto:dhallaue@ksu.edu). Register online at <http://bit.ly/KSUSoybean>. Hope to see you there!