



Resolution #7, Elgin SCIA - Intensively Managed Corn Hybrid Trials (OCC)

WHEREAS availability of relevant corn hybrid information is critical to making best hybrid selection; and,

WHEREAS “managed” (fungicide applied) trial data in cereals has proven to be the most important data to the grower; and,

WHEREAS a significant proportion of corn acres now receive fungicide and insecticide applications to control disease and insect infestations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA propose and support that the Ontario Corn Committee follow the Ontario Cereal Crop Committee lead and conduct both managed and unmanaged trials and post the data from both separately to facilitate best hybrid decisions by growers.

Moved by Don Oliver, Seconded by Adam Pfeffer (Elgin).

Carried

SENT TO Chair of the Ontario Corn Committee

RESPONSE FROM ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE

ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE

c/o David Morris

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Andrew Graham
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Dear Andy

At its meeting on November 13, 2018, the Ontario Corn Committee (OCC) considered the two resolutions from your 2018 Annual Conference as listed in your letter of April 11, 2018.

Re: Resolution #7 – Intensively Managed Corn Hybrid Trials

The OCC conducted a project in 2015-16 comparing the relative performance of a group of hybrids under two management regimes. Although the results of those trials showed some hybrid X management interactions, they were relatively rare and appeared to be largely the result of differences in hybrid tolerance to leaf disease rather than to population or N rate. Based on the above, the OCC concluded that the additional information that might be gained from continuing to conducting “intensive” trials did not justify the cost at this time. That is still the opinion of the OCC. In 2018, the OCC increased the number of sites for regular performance trials using a higher population than in the past and other management practices that it believes to be representative of current growing practices on the majority of farms in Ontario.

Re: Resolution #8 – Corn Quality Trials

The Ontario Corn Committee (OCC) spent much time at its meeting discussing how best to respond to the current Gibberella ear rot outbreak that is resulting in the high levels of DON in corn this year. The OCC is deeply concerned about the impact this is having across all sectors of the corn industry in Ontario, especially for the many farmers who are most directly affected.

Regrettably, the OCC does not have data indicating the relative susceptibility of hybrids to infection by Gibberella and the production of DON. However, the committee is undertaking two initiatives that it hopes will allow the committee to give more guidance to farmers in the future.

1) Samples were collected from each plot in several OCC trials across south-western Ontario during harvest this fall. These samples will be analyzed for DON in the lab and the results will be reviewed by the committee as soon as possible. These results may assist the committee, industry and crop advisors in providing growers with more information about:

- the factors associated with DON production,
- the range in tolerance among hybrids to mycotoxin accumulation
- the consistency of hybrid tolerance across environments and
- what growers can do to reduce their risk for next year.
- research or testing that the OCC could undertake to improve our knowledge about hybrid response to Gibberella and/or management practices to reduce the risk of DON accumulation.

2) The OCC also established a working group, consisting of growers, plant breeders, seed companies, extension and pathologists, charged with recommending actions and/or research that the OCC can implement beginning in 2019 to assist the industry in reducing the risk of a similar crisis in the future. This will include investigating a system to develop hybrid ratings.

The OCC understands that these actions do little to ease the devastation and desperation currently being experienced by corn growers across Ontario. However, OCC is committed to doing all it can to help find solutions for the future.

Yours truly,

David Morris

Secretary, Ontario Corn Committee

cc: OCC members