Soybean Aphid Survey 2002

As part of a grant from the Kansas Soybean Commission, soybean fields along the Kansas-Missouri border were sampled during the summer of 2002 in an effort to detect the movement of soybean aphids into the state of Kansas. Sampling for the aphid started in eleven fields in two counties the first week of July and continued through the third week in August. Fifty-one fields in ten counties along the Missouri border were sampled weekly during the last 4 weeks of sampling. No soybean aphids were found in any of these 283 field samples. However, the Kansas Department of Agriculture did discover low levels of the aphid in four counties the second week of August during routine plant pest survey and detection activities. Ironically only one of these four counties is on the Missouri border and thus these fields may indicate isolated introductions of the aphid rather than a gradual westward spread. These fields are continuing to be monitored for the presence of the aphid and over-wintering hosts. -- P. E. Sloderbeck, R. A Higgins, and D. J. Hopper