



## Free Testing for Soybean Cyst Nematode is Now Available for Farmers Across PA

Join Penn State Extension, the PA Soybean Board, and the SCN Coalition in the search for this soybean-thirsty pest.

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Soil samples can either be taken with a soil probe, a spade or a trowel at 8 inches deep. Photo credit: Adriana Murillo-Williams, Penn State.

**Plant parasitic nematodes** reported to feed on soybeans include the lance, sting, lesion, root knot, and cyst nematodes. However, Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) causes yield losses greater than losses caused by other pathogens in the United States. Once SCN is established in the field, it becomes difficult to manage because it survives in the soil for many years in the absence of a host, it has high

reproduction rates, and it is easily spread through anything that moves soil and infected plant parts (flood water, tractor wheels, wind, humans, and animals). In addition, the nematode has overcome the most common resistance traits available in soybean varieties.

Soybean cyst nematode was first reported in Lancaster County in 2002. However, preliminary results from a survey in PA (n=54) indicated that 83% of the participants (farmers, crop consultants and agronomists) had never scouted/soil sampled for

SCN and 81% were not aware of the source of resistance in the varieties they use. Therefore, a free nematode testing program was started in 2019. In 2020, we will continue to offer the program thanks to the collective effort of Penn State Extension, the PA Soybean Board, and the [SCN Coalition](#).

## How does it work?

During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and while we observe social distancing, nematode soil samples bags will be available in one of two manners:

1. Pick up outside the Agricultural Analytical Services Lab Building at 111 Ag Analytical Services Lab, University Park, PA 16802, phone 814-863-0841.
2. Request sampling bags directly from Adriana Murillo-Williams by writing to her at: [axm1119@psu.edu](mailto:axm1119@psu.edu) (phone number 814-355-4897/814-360-5517). In your request, please provide your name, the number of bags requested, and mailing address where you would like to receive the bags.

All sampling bags will contain [sampling instructions](#) and a field history form that needs to be filled out and sent back with the samples.

We will also accept samples submitted using other types of bags as long as they come with the following basic information: name, address, county, phone number, email, field address or GPS coordinates, and field acreage. We will contact you to get additional information.

**Also, in the interim, we are requesting that all samples be sent to the following address:**

*Dr. Alyssa A. Collins  
Southeast Agricultural Research & Extension Center  
The Pennsylvania State University  
1446 Auction Road  
Manheim, PA 17545*

In case SCN is found, we will be working with farmers to select the most appropriate management practices that best fit their operations.

Go to our [Agronomy Highlight with Penn State Extension Discussion](#) website to ask a question about this week's issue of FCN before the Agronomy Highlight discussion.

You can join us on [zoom](#) or by calling +1-646-876-9923, and when prompted enter the webinar ID: 210 945 454. The discussion will also be live-streamed Mondays at 8:00am and stored for later viewing on the [Field and Forage Crops Facebook page](#).

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