

Five easy steps

by Kory Glover
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KEMPTVILLE – ACCORDING TO HORST BOHNER FROM THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (OMAFRA), THERE ARE FIVE STEPS THAT EVERY FARMER NEEDS TO FOLLOW TO ACHIEVE 80 BUSHELS PER ACRE OF SOYBEANS.

Last year, the record for bushels per acre was surpassed from 48 bu/ac in 2012 to 53 bu/ac; this record came from three different factors.

Early dry conditions in the season that reduced root rots, white mould and plant stands. The dry conditions encouraged root development and appears to stimulate flowering.

And lastly, the wet summer increased the nutrient uptake, the pod set and seed size.

But how can these high bushel counts per acre be not only maintained but also possibly increased to 80 bu/ac?

The first step that Bohner addressed was establishing an even plant stand, seed relatively early and with a full season variety.

“I’m not saying that this is the perfect and only way to grow soybeans, this is just what has worked for me in the past. For the past few years, I kind of liked the idea of rolling with a smooth roller,” said Bohner. “Corn stalks break down at around

winter time, so what I found is that when I roll the corn stalks after the beans come up, I can avoid crusting.”

In a chart of yields gained from rolling, he found that not rolling achieved 62.6 bu/ac and that post seeding rolling gained an additional 0.9 advantage. He also found that rolling during the first trifoliate achieved an advantage of 1.8 with 64.4 bu/ac but rolling during the second trifoliate only achieved an advantage of 1.2 with 63.8 bu/ac.

The second step to 80 bushels per acre was controlling diseases, nematodes and insects.

Bohner showed that two applications of Foliar Fungicides significantly increased yields in his study.

Untreated yields produced only 49.1 bu/ac and Priaxor (in furrow) and V6 produced even less; however, Priaxor (R2) with Acapela (R4) produced a huge spike in bushels with 54.3 bu/ac, a 5.2 advantage.

This also directly affects step three in the presentation: feeding the soybeans with good soil fertility.

A study was conducted for how soybean yields responded to both background and starter fertilizer from 2014 to 2017.

When no fertilizer was given to soil with phosphorous (P) greater than 20 and potassium (K) greater than 120, only 51 bu/ac was produced, however, in soil that had less than 20 P and 120 K, 59 bu/ac was produced.

Continued on page 9

Horst Bohner from OMAFRA took the audience through a five-step program on the important factors necessary on how to achieve 80 bushels per acre.
Glover photo

Where did the record yield come from?

- 1) Early season dry conditions reduces root rots, white mould and plant stands
- 2) Early dry conditions encourages root development and appears to stimulate flowering
- 3) Wet summer increased nutrient uptake, pod set, and seed size

Millennials

Continued from page 7
boxes, some of them even refrigerated, built into their homes. Porch pirates be gone!

When it comes to palate preferences, millennials are regarded as ‘flexitarians’ meaning they don’t follow only one dietary regime. In a constant search for new tastes, flavours and culinary experiences, millennials are eating more organic, less animal protein, more vegan and are more likely to follow a Ketogenic diet – but not because they believe in the philosophy behind each, but rather for the varied taste experience.

Quoting Eve Turov from her book *A Taste of Generation Yum*, Coletto noted, “millennials are actively, purposefully integrating food into their lives and giving it daily attention and value in a different proportion than any previous

generation.”

In closing, Coletto suggested the food industry, “throw the old rule book out!” Instead, the agriculture and agri-food sector should change their poli-

cies, processes and attitudes to meet the need for millennials to have transparency, control, choice and a relationship with their food. After all, millennials are soon going to be the bosses.

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