

# AGRICULTURAL BEET

June 5th, 2020

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## Foresight is 2020

### Observations from a 2019 special shareholder cooperators database on Cercospora Leafspot (CLS) inputs.

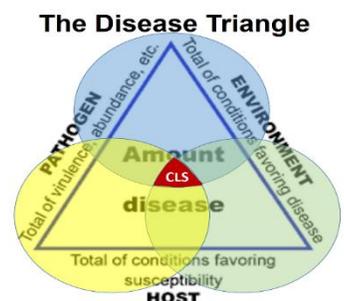
In 2019 a group of about 35 SMBSC shareholders agreed to fill out an additional database that went above and beyond their population of the SMBSC Main Agronomic Practice Database. This database specifically dealt with detailed examination of their CLS fungicide program and techniques in the interest of uncovering specific inputs or practices with potential for providing CLS disease control to economically acceptable levels in SMBSC production fields.

Warning, **CAUTION AHEAD!** We intend to release a series of AgBeet newsletters as well as a corresponding set of videos of data in presentation format to provide a summary of accumulated shareholder database inputs. However, database info is inherently variable and difficult to interpret. Additionally, caution should be observed in that this data represents only one year of shareholder inputs thus far. A concerted effort will be made to provide you the data while refraining from implications that the information is field-test-ready to be considered a full-fledged SMBSC recommendation. Rather, we ask that you the shareholders of SMBSC respect the data for what it is (or isn't) and make your operational decisions only after significant discernment of the information.



I am also excited about the grower-based ideas and trends that are summarized for you in this series having the potential to make a difference with your 2020 crop. Pathologists utilize a disease triangle to symbolize the conditions necessary to facilitate disease occurrence and progression. Though, too often the interpretation of the disease triangle is depicted through the use of a 3-legged stool... (1. Favorable Environment, 2. Susceptible Host, and 3. Viable Pathogen) ... where in order to obtain the upper hand on a disease, one of these legs must be significantly altered or removed altogether.

In reality, the disease triangle legs probably interact similarly to the figure found to the right. Interpreted this way, relative CLS severity is related to the combined favorability to disease infection coming from an overlap of all three factors taken as a whole (see red in figure). When the disease triangle is observed in this fashion, it is easier to understand that disease avoidance can be achieved through relatively small improvements to any one of the legs. This includes increasing activity of our current fungicide products or anything that takes the fungus out of its comfort zone.



This AgBeet series along with corresponding videos of the information in PowerPoint presentation format will be released over the next week. It is going to focus on shareholder database observations relating to three primary categories of opportunity for your fungicide spray program; Spray Day Environment, Spray Equipment, and Spray Technique. Please be looking for information relating to where you can access these releases and consider making a few adjustments to your program as you see fit.

Steve Roehl – Ag Strategy Manager

