

SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD
April 10-13, 2005
St. Augustine, Florida

RESOLUTION # 2

Soybean Rust Program Oversight

The Southern Plant Board commends USDA APHIS PPQ for their foresight and advanced planning regarding the detection of soybean rust in the United States. This effort has avoided a crisis by developing and implementing a planned management system to deal with this important plant pathogen.

Soybean rust was first discovered in the U.S. in Louisiana in November 2004. In response to the recent introduction of *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, or soybean rust, into the United States, USDA facilitated the development of a federal, state, university and industry-coordinated framework for surveillance, reporting, prediction, and management of soybean rust for the 2005 growing season

The Southern Plant Board believes the status of soybean rust in the U.S. is quickly shifting from a regulatory to an extension program with the de-listing of soybean rust from the select agent list. We urge USDA APHIS PPQ and CSREES to closely coordinate this transition from regulatory to extension and research centered activities. Adequate regulatory protections will be maintained through the 526-permit system for shipping or moving the pathogen for research or educational purposes.

Resolved That the Southern Plant Board, at its annual meeting held in St. Augustine, Florida on April 13, 2005, requests that USDA APHIS PPQ move the soybean rust program from APHIS over to CSREES and away from regulatory activities to extension and research centered activities.

Motion to adopt: Harry Fulton
Seconded by Shashank Nilakhe

Distribution:

Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA
Gus Douglass, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA
Gary Cunningham, Associate Administrator, CSREES
National Plant Board, Board of Directors