



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Hardin County Extension News Release

For Further Information Contact:

Mark Badertscher

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator

Phone – 419-674-2297

E-Mail – badertscher.4@osu.edu

For Immediate Release – October 26, 2016

Soybean Quality Concerns

Hardin County – Unlike corn, quality is generally not an issue for soybeans at harvest time. Soybeans may be more susceptible to physical damage if the farmer does not use the correct threshing settings in the combine that may result in split and broken beans. However, moldy beans at harvest are generally not a problem since the few molds that may occur do not produce toxins that are harmful to livestock. They may be a serious problem if used for seed, since they may not germinate or produce poor seedlings.

Discoloration of the bean is the most common quality issue and this is only a concern for food grade soybeans. Diseases and some weeds may cause the beans to be white, purple or speckled rather than yellow, making them undesirable for human consumption markets such as tofu. Since most of our farmers are not raising soybeans for human consumption or seed, quality is generally not a major concern. However, the elevator will lower the price a farmer receives if there is a high percentage of discolored or damaged beans. Also, diseases and weeds may have lowered the overall yield by decreasing the size of the beans.

The problem of weeds and insects are locally present every year, but the diseases that affect soybean seed quality generally are more of a problem in the southern U.S. However, the recent hot and dry summer created an environment more like the southern soybean region causing quality issues that generally do not occur in the soybeans grown in our area. Farmers for the most part have been diligent in keeping their weed control in check. Bean Leaf Beetles have caused both pod and seed damage in some areas. Insects such as Stink Bugs suck fluids from the bean, causing seed damage while creating entry points for diseases. Their populations have been increasing the past several years and may become more of a problem in the future. Despite some quality issues, farmers have been pleased with this year's soybean crop overall.

Written by Ed Lentz, OSU Extension-Hancock County, and revised by Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension-Hardin County.