By evaluating results of a network of standardized fungicide trials over time, we hope to develop a system that provides MN corn farmers:

- data to better understand odds for a return on fungicide investments
- information on yield impacts by plant disease
- evidence that disease populations or corn susceptibility has changed

Corn yields were not significantly affected by fungicide at any site. For the most part, foliar disease appeared late, after pollination and fungicide application.

Disease pressure varied by hybrid. At the Lamberton site, initial differences in stalk rot disappeared as corn continued dry-down. Gray leaf spot was present but only at low severity levels.

Corn farmers should not assume an economic benefit from insurance applications of foliar fungicides, nor count on them to overcome hybrid and other agronomic decisions. Although these 2017 studies in rotated corn showed no yield effect, fungicides appropriately targeted to yield limiting disease can provide a positive return.

Disease and insect pressure varies by year and location. In time, this type of data can lead to better understanding of preventable corn yield loss.

Find out more at: https://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/ag/pest-management

Bruce Potter, Dr. Dean Malvick & Travis Vollmer
Funding provided by MN Corn Research and Promotion Council

University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
European corn borer (ECB) populations were greatly reduced when Minnesota farmers adopted Bt corn on a majority of acres. In recent years, efforts to reduce production input costs has prompted some farmers to experiment with fewer acres planted to Bt.

Corn borer populations are expected to increase if a shift to less Bt continues; when and where is less certain. This project begins to improve the ability to detect changes in corn borer populations and their impacts on Minnesota’s corn industry.

Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council funding allowed an increase in the number of fields surveyed for overwintering borers and their damage (202 fields in 78 counties). It encouraged inclusion of fields without Bt (52 fields in 47 counties) to better assess ECB risk associated with spatial and temporal changes in Bt plantings.