



30 August 2010

Dr. Christopher J. Anderson
Assistant Research Professor
Assistant Director, ISU Climate Science Program

Dear Christopher:

The Iowa Soybean Association would like to participate in the activities of the proposed Midwest Consortium for Climate Change (MiCCA). As Director of Contract Research and Strategic Initiatives, I provide strategic direction for the Iowa Soybean Association and oversight of soybean research at land grant universities. Ultimately, my concern is improving the profitability of soybean producers.

The Iowa Soybean Association strategic plan identifies climate change as a potentially detrimental impact on soybean production. Climate forecasts of wetter and warmer conditions might mean environmental conditions will become favorable for diseases and pests, cutting into soybean yield unless effective management options are developed. In fact, the cool, wet spring this year might be the prime culprit for the onset of widespread Sudden Death Syndrome visible this August that could cut into yields by 10-30 bushels per acre. Our strategic plan calls for an integrated research effort among breeders, geneticists, plant physiologists, plant pathologists, agronomists, and climate change researchers to help soybean producers prepare. Consistent with our plan, we are particularly interested in climate scenarios generated by MiCCA, and welcome the opportunity to participate in the process to identify objectives of these scenarios.

The Iowa Soybean Association also recognizes potential value in improved use of seasonal weather forecasts. With the recent run of years having wetter spring soil, early spring temperature outlooks could become critical tools in risk management for diseases such as Sudden Death Syndrome.

We support this proposal and look forward to attending MiCCA workshops.

Sincerely,

David L. Wright, PhD