

# Big Ag's Dependence on Independent Research Farms – Behind the Scenes of Midwest Research Inc.



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**OBJECTIVE:** To gain an understanding of the role and importance of independent research farms, such as Midwest Research Inc., in the agricultural industry.

## CORN ROOT WORM BEETLE COLLECTION

- Trial is being conducted in the hopes of combating Corn Root Worm Resistance
- 42 plots of new varieties of traited corn and controls each contained in it's own tent
- Weekly collections of adult beetles to monitor population



Fig. 1: From left to right, increasing degrees of root damage by the Corn Root Worm



Fig. 2: Beetles trapped in a tent



Fig. 3: Beetles collected from a single tent

## CONFIDENTIALITY

- Midwest must provide privacy for their clients to protect the research being conducted
- All of their clients names are encoded in their files

## CORN POLLINATION

- 3 step process
- Process extends over several days
- Contamination #1 concern

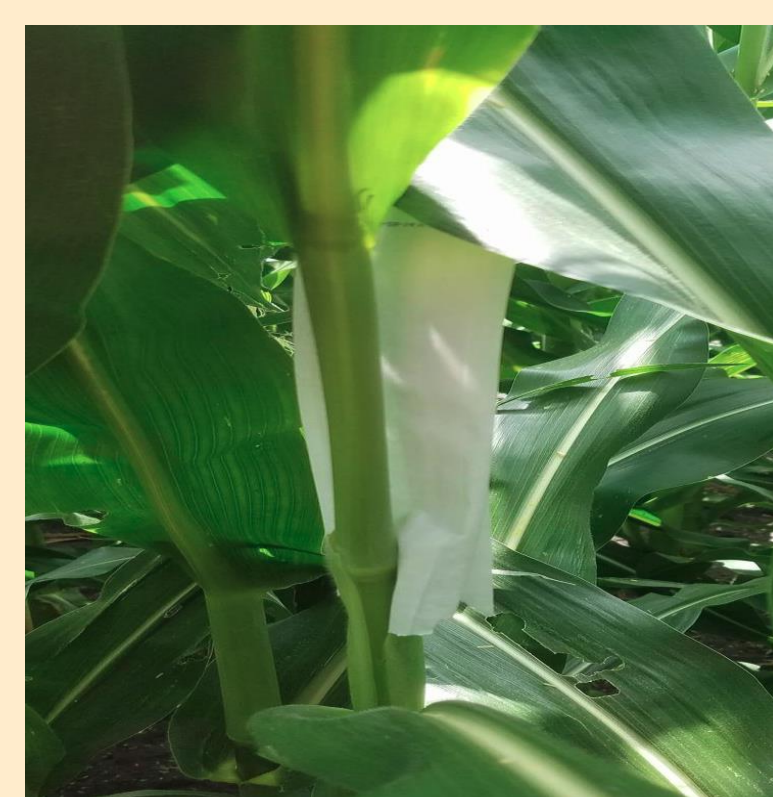


Fig. 4: shoot bagging to prevent contamination



Fig. 5: pollen collection



Fig. 6: completed pollination

## SAMPLING

- Protocol for each trial provided by it's respective client
- Different methods of collection for different plant materials
- Midwest's Quality Assurance agent insures "good laboratory practices" are followed for the entire process as requested by the client.



Fig. 7: sampling trailer



Fig. 8: 50 ml of soybean flowers

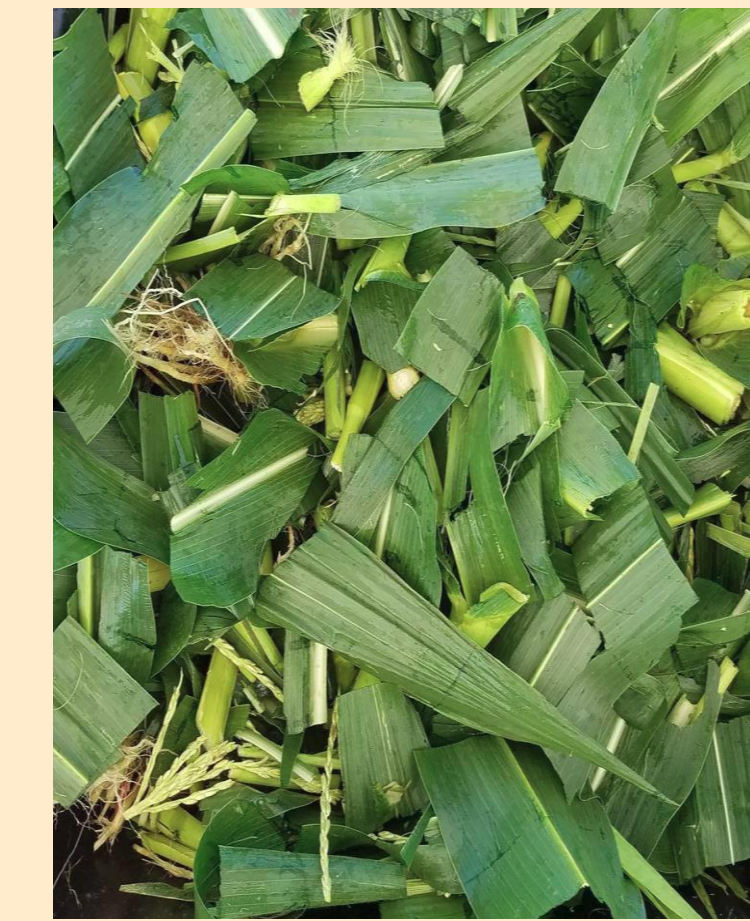


Fig. 9: chopped corn plant

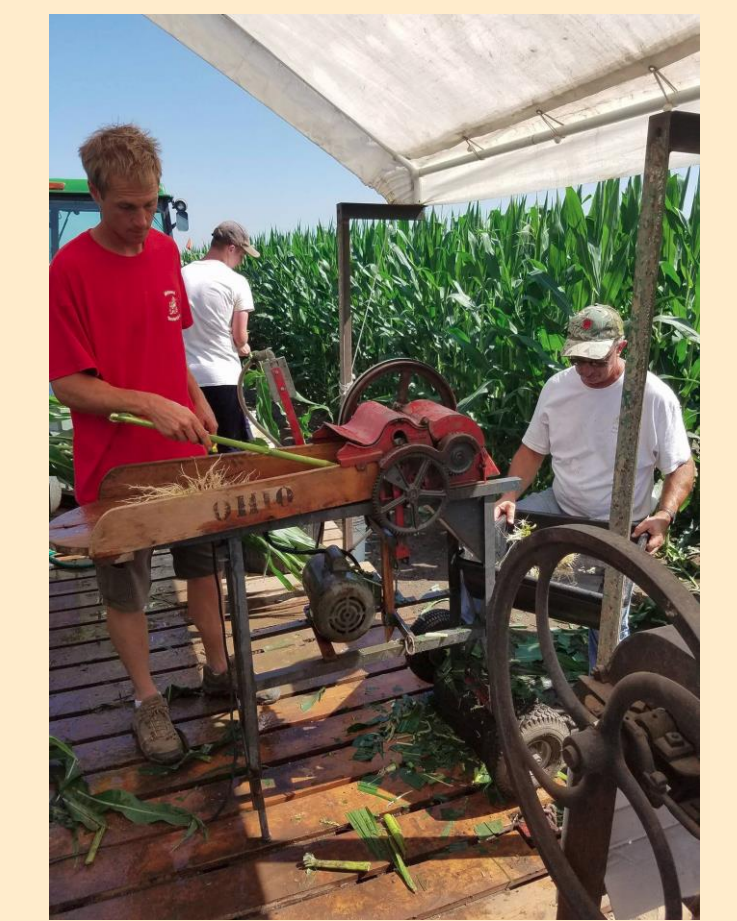


Fig. 10: chopping corn roots

## CONCLUSION:

- Independent Research Farms provide unbiased results
- Provide different environments and soils for a variety of trials



Fig. 11: Google Earth image of main farm

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