

# Microfungus Claims Deemed Uncredible

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**H**ighly speculative claims appeared in the blogosphere and media in late February concerning a “new life form”, a “microfungus”. This “microfungus” is claimed to be causing substantial and widespread problems in both crops (corn and soybean) and livestock. It is also claimed that this “microfungus” is “found in high concentrations in Roundup Ready soybean meal and corn, distillers meal, fermentation feed products, pig stomach contents, and pig and cattle placentas”.

The science behind these claims, based on my knowledge of this situation, appears to be very, very limited. Furthermore, these claims have not been presented to scientific audiences nor published in a scientific journal. These are critical omissions. “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof,” wrote Carl Sagan. Based

on my knowledge, these extraordinary claims about a “microfungus” have not received even ordinary scrutiny by knowledgeable experts. Until they have, there is no reason to think these claims are credible.

Here are two useful resources (a web link and a series of newsletter articles), should producers and others in your county have questions about this issue.

<http://www.btny.purdue.edu/weed-science/2011/GlyphosatesImpact11.pdf>

Agronomic Crops Network: C.O.R.N. Newsletter, <http://corn.osu.edu/>, March 11-18 issue, with the following titles:

- Glyphosate Effects on the Occurrence and Development of Soybean Diseases
- Glyphosate’s Impact on Animal Health?
- Trying to Sift Through the Current Wealth of Information (and Misinformation) About Glyphosate
- Glyphosate Application Effects on Soybean Manganese Nutrition

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