

Key Highlights

Found It First, Weeks Early

Predictive Disease led to Indiana's first confirmed tar spot of the season on June 9—well ahead of when the disease is normally seen.

Knew Exactly Where to Look

A list of roughly 90 at-risk fields focused scouting on the highest-risk acres instead of blanket-checking every field.

Caught Across Five More Counties

Used as a scouting filter, the list confirmed tar spot in five additional counties—early enough for consultants to get ahead of it.

Predictive Disease

Predictive Disease Finds Indiana's First Tar Spot

Background:

AGMRI Predictive Disease flagged the season's first confirmed tar spot in Indiana in early June, then narrowed roughly 90 at-risk fields into a scouting filter that uncovered the disease in five more counties—giving crop consultants a head start.

Difficult weather at planting—cold and wet—led to rough emergence and reduced plant health across the region: the kind of stressed start that can set corn up for disease. It set the stage for something nobody expected this early—the first confirmed case of tar spot in Indiana. Tar spot is rarely on anyone's radar in early June; in a typical year it isn't found until late in the month, which made an early-June confirmation genuinely unusual.



Ground-truth confirmation: an early tar spot lesion—a small dark stoma ringed in yellow—easy to walk right past on a single leaf.

Challenge:

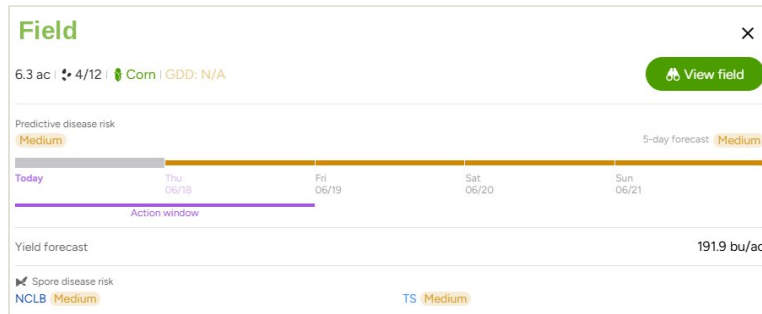
Finding tar spot early is hard. The first signs are tiny lesions on only a handful of plants, easy to miss—and no one can put scouts in every field checking every leaf. In a year when stressed corn and unusual weather raised the risk, the disease could establish and start spreading before anyone confirmed it was present, and once it's spreading the window closes fast (tar spot can cost on the order of 35 bu/ac in a bad year). The real challenge was knowing where to look—early, before the calendar said tar spot should be a concern.

Instead of checking every leaf in every field, Predictive Disease pointed scouts straight to the acres most likely to have tar spot.

Predictive Disease Finds Indiana's First Tar Spot

Solution:

Predictive Disease answered the hardest question first: where to look. Rather than blanket scouting, it produced a list of roughly 90 fields across Indiana where the combination of weather, hybrid, and tillage made conditions conducive to tar spot spore growth.



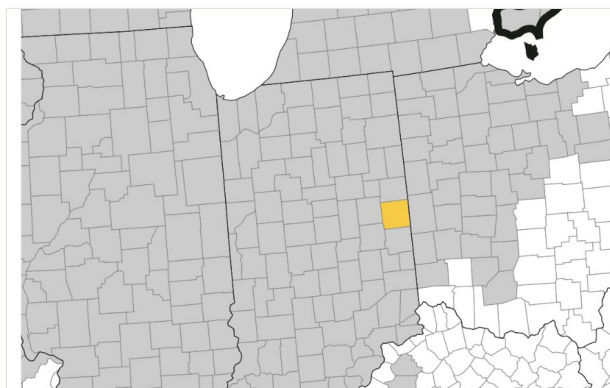
A Predictive Disease field card: weather, hybrid, and tillage combine into a medium tar-spot risk with a defined action window—one of roughly 90 fields flagged statewide.

That list pointed scouts at the highest-risk fields first—and it's how the season's first confirmed Indiana case was found, on June 9, in a single field the model had flagged. The find didn't just confirm one case; it validated the model and turned a list of at-risk fields into a working scouting plan for the rest of the season. The platform surfaced where to look; the scouting call and confirmation stayed with the agronomy team.

Results:

Building on that first find, the crop consultants used Predictive Disease as a filter for scouting. Working from the list of at-risk fields, they confirmed tar spot in five additional counties—early. That head start mattered: it let consultants get ahead of disease-containment conversations with their growers rather than reacting after the disease had already taken hold. With the model validated by an early-season confirmation, the team can keep focusing limited boots-on-the-ground time on the fields most likely to need it.

June 9 INDIANA'S FIRST CONFIRMED TAR SPOT	~90 fields FLAGGED AT-RISK STATEWIDE	5 counties WHERE SCOUTING THEN CONFIRMED IT
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Crop Protection Network tar spot map (June 10): the single orange county marks this season's first confirmed positive in the Midwest.