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### **Gene Editing is a New Tool to Combat Virulent Nematodes: Transcript**

**Waukesha, Wis.** (May 3, 2021) – Media can use the following transcript to personalize the accompanying “gene editing is a new tool” press release issued by The SCN Coalition.

#### **The following quotes can be attributed to University of Georgia Plant Geneticist Wayne Parrott:**

“When a breeder makes a cross and starts selecting for the gene they want, they always get all the genes on that chromosome, and many times, the genes from a wild species gives you unwanted traits. CRISPR eliminates that, which is why we are excited to use this technology.”

“Gene-editing tools have been around for quite some time. We’re glad to have a tool like CRISPR because it’s by far the simplest, most versatile and cheapest. It’s the Swiss Army knife of gene-editing tools.”

“Introducing a new trait into a soybean variety requires a wealth of different expertise. That’s the philosophy at the University of Georgia. We have people that know how something works, then people who translate it, like me, into something that we can give to the breeder to put in a variety that will be delivered to soybean growers.”

“Industry and private partnerships work in many different levels. At the end of the day, the university is not in the business of marketing. For the varieties that we develop to get onto the market, they have to go through private industry.”

#### **The following quotes can be attributed to University of Georgia Nematologist Melissa Mitchum:**

“Composite plants give us a very quick readout on whether or not the gene editing construct that we’ve designed to target our gene of interest is actually effective at the modification. We want to know if the modification has been made. We want to do that first before we invest a year in developing a whole plant. Using composite plants, we can quickly modify soybean roots, test to make sure the modification has occurred, and then test them for resistance to nematode infection.”

“To get more modes of action on the market, we need to partner with industry. I’m very happy The SCN Coalition is a partnership with industry. The Coalition is bringing awareness to the fact that 95% of the SCN-resistant soybeans have PI 88788, which is a source of resistance that we want to protect, make better and rotate with to keep in growers’ toolboxes. We also need our industry partners to bring new modes of action to our growers.”

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