

Tennessee Soybean News



SPRING 2011

Welcome to the spring issue of *Tennessee Soybean News*.

Your soybean checkoff has created this newsletter to keep you informed about what's happening at the state and national levels. Covering the latest issues in the soybean industry, *Tennessee Soybean News* is just one more way your checkoff works for you.

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Chairman's Report

Can you believe another spring has arrived? Our farm is gearing up for planting by making sure we put the right variety into the ground with the right amount of moisture. Once we get into the season, we plan to have the resources available to manage challenges quickly. This issue of the *Tennessee Soybean News* touches on soybean checkoff-funded research programs being conducted throughout the state, a way the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board (TSPB) works to make sure you have the necessary resources available to farm profitably.

Research remains a high priority for TSPB. From choosing the right seed to input decisions, farmers need a lot of information. TSPB funds research to help farmers make informed management decisions. Soybean research like this aims to increase your profit potential, giving back to the soybean farmers who fund the checkoff.

TSPB also funds projects focused on expanding existing markets and finding new markets for our soybeans. But to deliver our beans to market, and to our end-use customers, we need a trustworthy transportation system. TSPB invests in efforts to ensure that U.S. infrastructure

continues to provide soybean farmers in Tennessee, and the rest of the U.S., a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Please take the opportunity to read more about checkoff-funded activities in this newsletter. Or visit our recently launched new website, www.tnsoybeans.org. Please have a safe and happy planting season.

Sincerely,

Karl Forsbach
Chairman, Savannah



UT *GoBeans* Program Returns for Second Year

A statewide program promoting on-farm research launched last spring and will continue in 2011. *GoBeans*, a program facilitated through the University of Tennessee (UT) and funded through the Tennessee soybean checkoff, was implemented in eight Tennessee counties last year.

Dr. Angela Thompson McClure from UT manages the *GoBeans* program, which seeks to provide on-farm profitability comparisons for farmers. She plans to expand the program to 10 locations in 2011.

"Each location has a slightly different research focus, depending on the cooperating farmer's interests and management practices," says McClure when discussing the program's setup. "We summarize the objectives and individual trial findings for each location and indicate why one system was more profitable than another."

GoBeans implements a full-season management program for soybeans. The participating fields receive soil sampling prior to planting, as well as an early-season management plan. Participating farmers receive recommendations for fertilizers, varieties, seed treatments, seeding rates and planting dates.

As the growing season continues, fields are scouted as needed for weed, insect and disease pressure. The participating farmers receive mid- and late-season management plans, reflecting specific management decisions.

At the end of the season, an economic analysis compares each farmer's base program to the *GoBeans* management program and assesses recommendations to improve profitability in the future.

In 2010, farmers participating in the *GoBeans* program represented Cannon, Coffee, Dyer, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Lake and Lawrence counties. The 2011 counties are not yet finalized.

The results for the *GoBeans* program will be available at www.utcrops.com.

TSPB Provides New Resource for Soybean Farmers

The TSPB website received a facelift earlier this year. The new site, www.tsoybeans.org, provides information on soybean checkoff activities being conducted throughout Tennessee and other topics relevant to the soybean industry.

Soybean farmers and consumers can find information on soybean research, biodiesel, soybean nutrition, educational tools and much more with the site's new layout.

"Ultimately, we want to create a place farmers can go for information," says Karl Forsbach, soybean farmer from Savannah and chairman of TSPB. "We need feedback from farmers to make the website work for them, so it really is a work in progress."

Educators and farmers alike can use the "Did you know?" section of the site to test their soybean knowledge. The educator tools section provides elementary teachers with a soybean booklet focused on basic farming knowledge and information to help them connect soybean farming to poultry and livestock producers, the number one consumer of soybeans.

Tsoybeans.org brings together the TSPB, the Tennessee Soybean Association and the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council to showcase all things relevant to the Tennessee soybean industry. It provides information on current industry issues, while highlighting the efforts of the soybean checkoff.

Visit www.tsoybeans.org and sign up for print and electronic updates from your soybean checkoff.



TSPB Research Program Takes Comprehensive Look at Soybean Production



Each year, the TSPB evaluates soybean research proposals presented by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UT) and the USDA. The TSPB and the soybean checkoff fund programs

relevant to Tennessee soybean farmers. The projects investigate current challenges in soybean production and look toward future challenges and opportunities for farmers.

A number of projects for 2011 examine current challenges such as pest and disease pressure and weed resistance, as well as the efficiency of currently available varieties. For example, a project conducted by Thomas Mueller, Ph.D., looks at multiple issues affecting soybean farmers.

Mueller's project seeks to confirm glyphosate resistance in weeds using greenhouse conditions. And, he will compare Roundup Ready® varieties to conventional varieties possessing similar genetic backgrounds. Mueller also will

evaluate the off-target movement of dicamba and 2,4-D post-application. And he will analyze atrazine's dissipation from soil, testing to see if soybeans can be planted in bottom-ground fields after flooding.

Other projects funded by TSPB probe into solutions aimed at alleviating pest pressure in soybean fields. Vince Pantalone, Ph.D., works to breed soybean lines that are resistant to emerging nematode populations and yield-limiting fungal pathogens. Improving available soybean varieties now will help soybean farmers manage these pests in the future.

Patricia Donald, Ph.D., John Biggerstaff, Ph.D., and Craig Canaday, Ph.D., also are investigating options to control SCN. Their ongoing investigations have led them to a control agent, *Pasteuria nishizawae*, and they currently are determining at which level it will control SCN.

Information on these studies, as well as other research being funded by the soybean checkoff, can be found at the new www.tsoybeans.org.

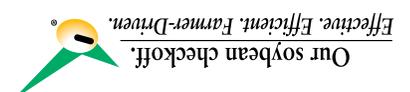
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tennessee soybean news

Look inside for the latest news from
the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board.



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