



***Farmers
Putting
Soybean
Checkoff
Dollars to
Work for
You***



Georgia Soybean News

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Georgia farmer juggles multiple growth stages and strategic delivery timeframes (courtesy of unitedsoybean.org)

Harvest is a challenging time of year for farmers. It demands attention to detail, calculated execution and long hours. And that's just with your typical crop. Walter Godwin, a farmer from Pelham, Georgia, has additional variables to manage this fall.

"This year, I participated in soybean research with the University of Georgia to study the effects of various planting dates on yield," says Godwin, who grows soybeans and several other crops as well as raises chickens. "I have three age groups of soybeans growing for the project—early beans, mid beans and late beans."

The early plot, which he planted around April 20, challenged Godwin's plans to keep a schedule this year. "The earliest plot had soybean plants with green stems and green pods, as well as plants that were mature, dried-down and ready to be harvested," Godwin says. "I needed to delay harvest by about a week to avoid having a high moisture level in the beans, which slowed down the start of our soybean harvest this year. It has been a challenge."

While Godwin has since been able to start harvest, it's going to be a long ride. His mid beans were planted around May 15, along with the majority of his soybean crop, and his late plot for the research project was planted in three sub-groups across several weeks in August to test the incremental effects on the plants. He expects his harvest to last from late-September through November this year.

To avoid the long wait times at the elevator, Godwin stores as much of his crop as possible on the farm. Whatever he can't store, he'll sell to ADM in Valdosta, Georgia. The stored beans stay on his farm until December and January so that he can avoid the wait at the elevator, and receive a better basis.

After Godwin's beans make it to ADM, they don't go too far. "After the beans are crushed, they go to our local poultry-feed mill," Godwin says. "The feed mill is just north of me, and it produces feed for our chicken houses. So some of my soybean crop will come back to the farm." Godwin's 45,000 chickens will then be able to enjoy local soybean meal as a part of their feed rations.

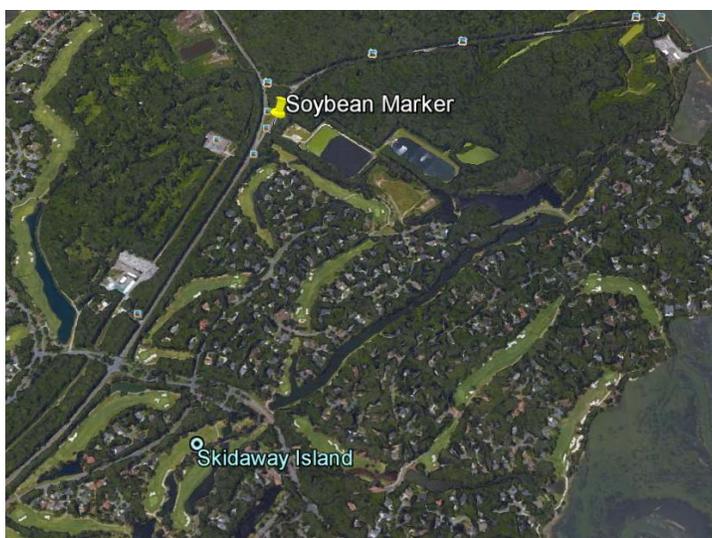
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Dedication & Unveiling of Soybean Historic Marker at Skidaway Island

Roger Boerma, former UGA Soybean Breeder & current Executive Director - Georgia Seed Development

The Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission and the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association are pleased to announce the formal dedication ceremony of the Georgia Historical Marker describing soybean's first planting in North America. The program will commence at 2:00 PM on Saturday, 9 January 2016, at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography's McGowan Library Auditorium. The program will include short addresses by Dr. Ted Hymowitz on soybean's introduction into North America via Skidaway Island and the Georgia Historical Society on Georgia's Historical Marker Program.



Immediately following the formal dedication ceremony the soybean marker will be unveiled at the site where soybean was first planted in 1765 on Henry Yonge's Orangedale Plantation. A number of Henry Yonge's descendants will be in attendance. Please plan to join us to recognize Georgia's critical role in the development of the U.S. soybean industry. If you want to receive additional information on the dedication, please contact Billy Skaggs at (billy.skaggs@georgiacrop.com) or 706-542-2351.

Get Involved in the Soy Checkoff

The soy checkoff is looking for leaders. The 70 U.S. soybean farmer-volunteers who serve on the national soy checkoff and the many others who serve on their state checkoff boards are just like every soybean farmer — they invest one half of 1 percent of the net market price of the soybeans they sell each year in research and promotion programs that help their industry thrive. Half of those dollars go to their own states' checkoff programs, the other half funds programs to grow and promote the industry on a global level. Now, the United Soybean Board and the 31 state boards are taking a renewed focus alongside USDA to engage farmers from diverse backgrounds in the soy checkoff family. There are many ways to get involved – either a little or a lot – as a board member or in other checkoff activities. If you are interested in learning more about how to get involved with your state soybean board, call Ginger Merritt at 314-236-6906 or toll-free at 888-235-4332. You can also [contact your state directly](#). Also, find out more by visiting <http://unitedsoybean.org/about-usb/get-involved-in-the-checkoff/>.



(Courtesy of United Soybean Board)

Forage Soybeans

Rome Ethredge, County Extension Coordinator, UGA Cooperative Extension in Seminole Co.

(September 18, 2015) I was surprised this week when asked to look at some soybeans, I got to the field and the grower, Brad Trawick, said he was growing them for forage. They look real good. We have some photos here.

Forage soybeans are typically harvested for hay or silage; however, they can be used for late summer temporary grazing. Since they do not regrow once defoliated, strip-grazing (or frontal grazing) is the most efficient use. Soybean forage is fairly digestible (up to 60 percent) and moderately high in CP (17 to 19 percent). Stem size can be reduced, thus increasing digestibility, if seeding rates of 90 to 120 lbs. per acre are used.

Planting late-maturing varieties (maturity groups 6, 7 or 8) from early May to early June will result in forage soybean production best suited for high yields. Shorter periods of growth, such as part of a double- or triple-crop system, can be accommodated with early-maturing varieties. However, productivity is expected to be substantially less.

Dr. John Bernard, UGA Scientist, has the following advice. Forage soybean can work as silage and the leaf loss is significantly reduced, but the sugar content is limited making it harder to get a good fermentation. Certainly would benefit from using an inoculate when ensiled.

Soybeans has been one of those crops that gets some attention and then seems to fade away. Some have had good yields but others have not been satisfied with the yield compared with millet or sorghum.

If used for hay it make a good hay that's high in protein. It's a challenge to let it dry enough so that it doesn't go through a heat and even catch fire, but you need some moisture in it or you will lose the leaves and not get them into the bale. If it's baled too quickly after cutting then it can heat up and the proteins can be bound and it won't be as good a feed. A hay preservative such as Potassium Sorbate may be used to help with this problem. Using a mower that crimps the stalk will help, too. The stalk is often the hardest thing to get dry. Perhaps mixing an annual grass with the soybeans at planting to help get the leaves into the baler without losing them on the ground may help.



High Yield Soybean Field Day Held July 30th

Dr. John Woodruff, retired University of Georgia Extension soybean specialist, and Eddie McGriff, Southern States Agronomist, have been working with growers on early production system soybeans (EPSS) and producing 100 bushels per acre. On July 30th, Johnny & Billy Sanders of Vienna hosted a High Yield Soybean Field Day on their farm which provided growers an opportunity to learn more about EPSS.

According to Dr. Woodruff, all the growers utilizing EPSS that they have been working with have 85-90+ bushel per acre potential and look as good as any soybeans he has seen in the mid-West or Delta. Johnny Sanders shared some of his production practices with attendees and Ronnie Barentine, Dooly County Extension Coordinator, provided an update as well.

“Our objective is to make as many beans as we can per acre, and this was just a new way of approaching beans from the production end. In the Delta area, they have been doing really good with this approach (reaching average yields between 80 bushels and more than 100 bushels per acre), and we wanted to see if it could be adapted here on our farm,” said Sanders.

After lunch and a short program on Southern States’ aerial imagery services and the Sanders’ variable rate irrigation system, Dr. Woodruff and McGriff took interested attendees on a tour of other EPSS fields using different tillage systems and row patterns.



Attendees gathered at Johnny Sanders’ soybean field to begin the day.



Eddie McGriff (center)



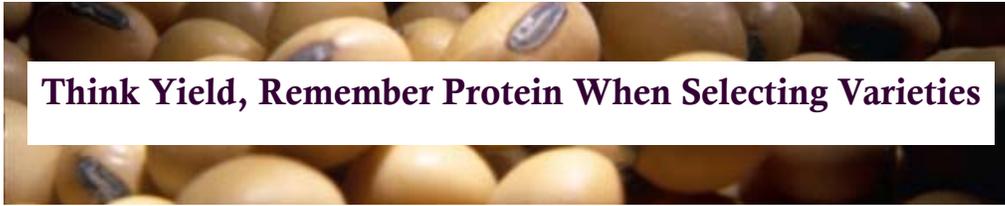
Johnny Sanders



Dr. John Woodruff



Ronnie Barentine



Think Yield, Remember Protein When Selecting Varieties

When thinking about their seed selections, most farmers focus on achieving higher yields. While they know that better varieties can lead to more yield and profit, they may not realize how easily they can improve their competitiveness by looking a few columns to the right in their seed guide, at the “protein and oil grain quality” ratings.

“We all know that selecting varieties is the best way to achieve higher yields, says Mike Staton, a soybean educator at Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. “But it’s also the best way to achieve higher protein.”

The protein content in U.S. soy is important to maintain market share within animal agriculture. According to Staton and the MSU performance reports, protein content can vary by as much as 7 percent from one variety to another.

“Seven percent is absolutely huge,” says Staton. “The magic is finding a variety with the best yield that also provides higher protein.”

Some farmers may wonder why protein is important, since they are paid for bushels not protein. “While soybean farmers are not paid for protein, they need to think about our buyers,” Staton explains. “International buyers are asking for more protein. If farmers don’t pay attention to their protein, they may lose markets. China has established a 35 percent protein, 19 percent oil standard. If U.S. soybean farmers are not meeting their needs, they will get their soybeans from elsewhere.”

Animal agriculture remains the No. 1 customer for U.S. soybean farmers, using 97 percent of U.S. soybean meal. And the food industry, the second-biggest user, uses nearly 70 percent of U.S. soybean oil. Keeping those customers happy is important to long-term profitability.

“Always remember what you’re raising,” said Staton. “You’re raising protein and oil, and you want to raise as much of it as you can. Look for high yield and quality when selecting varieties.”

To find high-quality soybean varieties in your area, ask your seed dealer or reference a free resource, from the soy checkoff, at the [Soybean Quality Toolbox](#).

The bottom line:

- Factor in your soil type, soil fertility and ongoing pest issues when selecting varieties.
- Select a variety capable of performing across a range of environmental conditions, such as excessively dry or excessively wet weather.
- Spread your risk by selecting more than one variety from more than one brand.
- Yield potential is attractive, but consider the historical performance of the variety on your farm and in your area. Don’t sacrifice built-in resistance for a few extra bushels.

(Courtesy of United Soybean Board)

Farmers Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work for You.

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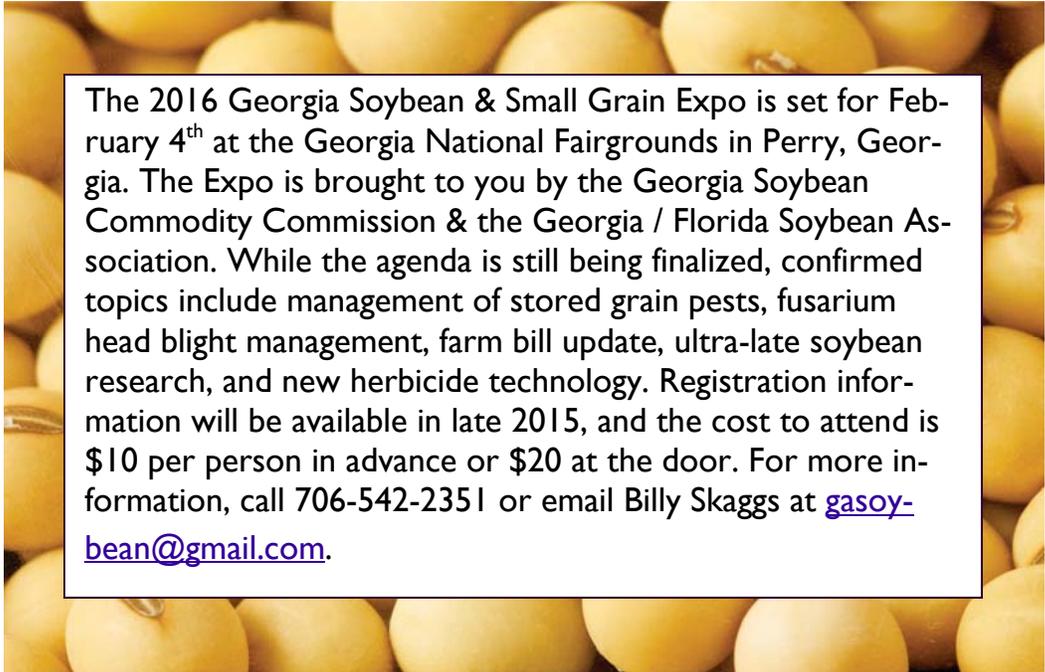
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2016 Soybean & Small Grain Expo set for Feb 4th



The 2016 Georgia Soybean & Small Grain Expo is set for February 4th at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia. The Expo is brought to you by the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission & the Georgia / Florida Soybean Association. While the agenda is still being finalized, confirmed topics include management of stored grain pests, fusarium head blight management, farm bill update, ultra-late soybean research, and new herbicide technology. Registration information will be available in late 2015, and the cost to attend is \$10 per person in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information, call 706-542-2351 or email Billy Skaggs at gasoybean@gmail.com.

