



*Farmers  
Putting  
Soybean  
Checkoff  
Dollars to  
Work for  
You*

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# Georgia Soybean News

**FALL 2020**

## Georgia Soybean Crop Update

- Dr. Corey Bryant, UGA Grains Agronomist

As of the writing of this article the Georgia soybean crop is looking good based on fields I have personally walked and feedback I have received from county agents and industry partners who have been walking other fields. Most recently, I spent time walking a field of indeterminate soybeans (MG 4.6) in Screven county that if yield estimates hold through harvest should finish in the 90+ bushel range. This is great news, considering total soybean acreage in the state has continued to drop and we are currently at approximately 90,000 acres statewide.

However, we are not finished with the crop yet and still need to ensure sound management decisions are made along with some help from mother nature to realize maximum yields and seed quality. For growers with indeterminate soybeans a properly timed desiccant application will go a long way in maximizing seed quality, while timely harvest is important for both determinate and indeterminate soybean varieties. My recommendation to growers is to start setting up the combine for soybean harvest as soon as the last ear of corn has been pulled from the field. Waiting until soybeans are ready for harvest to start making sure the combine is ready only opens the door for delays which provide time for weather events that are detrimental to yield and seed quality. My hope on the weather front is that we can finish this season without any direct hits from tropical storms or hurricanes. The last thing I want to see is soybeans, ready for harvest, laying on the ground. Speaking from experience, I know that seed quality will deteriorate quickly when this happens and it is never fun harvesting at 0.5 mph, or slower, while trying to pick-up soybeans off the ground.

There is one last positive note regarding soybean prices. As of August 31, 2020, #1 soybean cash price, at central states grain, is \$9.11/bushel with a -0.45 basis. While the basis is still not as good as growers would like it to be current prices are much better than the late April early May low of \$7.91/bushel with a -0.50 basis. Cash prices have been trending up since this time frame and futures pricing is looking even better with prices reaching \$9.60/bushel depending upon delivery time. Overall, should we see the continuation of favorable weather, crop progress, and climbing prices, Georgia soybean growers could have a very positive year.

## Paying attention to combine details pays off

*Where to make minor adjustments for major yield gains*

Farmers spend an entire growing season caring for their soybeans with the goal of producing the best possible crop. Whether it's a bumper crop or something less, too much is riding on those soybeans to do an inefficient job of harvesting. To get the most out of your crop, pay attention to the little things.



“The biggest thing is setting up the combine properly so you're as efficient as you can possibly be,” says Dalton Deling, combine service technician with Martin County Implement in Truman, Minnesota. “For combining soybeans, that means sharp sickles, that concaves and shoe sickles are set right and fans are set properly. If fans are set too high, you're going to blow beans out the back end so you're growing to lose profit right there.”

While today's combines are complex technological wonders, several basic observations make a big difference in harvest efficiency and grain condition.

“The first rule of thumb we tell farmers is you want the front sharp, the center dull and the back end sharp again,” adds Travis Bach, also a combine service technician at Martin County Implement. “You want a sharp sickle. A little bit of wear on your feed accelerator, concaves and threshing elements is better than having them sharp because sharp will damage and break the beans. Then you want the chopper sharp so the residue is getting chopped up and spread across the field.”

Deling says observing grain loss at the sickles, between the header and combine and then again at the tailings elevator will help farmers determine if the combine is properly set.

Regardless of the brand or age of the combine, taking the time to get it set right will increase efficiency and preserve grain quality. Fewer broken beans and fewer pods in the grain means U.S. soy customers will get a high-quality product and farmers will capture more value.

Source: [United Soybean Board](#)

## RFD-TV: New reports show positive demand for US soybeans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released two important market reports: the September World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report as well as the latest U.S. Export Sales report. This newly available data reflects production challenges in the United States and improved demand for U.S. soy. USB and USSEC Vice President of Market Intelligence Mac Marshall broke down what the reports mean and explained that they indicated great movement in the first week of the new marketing year.

[Hear Marshall's market update on RFD-TV here.](#)



## Moisture rates can make harvest timing tricky

Wet conditions can leave many soybean farmers with difficult decisions over when to harvest.

“Varying growing conditions can result in various maturities, with some soybeans at a lower-than-desired moisture content,” says Ken Hellevang, North Dakota State University extension specialist and ag engineer. “We’re typically shooting for a 13 percent moisture rate – lower than that, farmers will have less product to haul to market.”

While it’s often easiest to leave soybeans in the field to dry down to a 13 percent moisture rate, leaving them in the field too long can dry them too much – when this occurs, they are prone to damage. However, soybeans are also susceptible to damage from splits and breakage when running through a dryer, so Hellevang encourages farmers to carefully measure grain moisture to determine whether to dry their soybeans in the field or to invest in high-temperature drying.



“This decision needs to be made on a farm-by-farm, or even a field-by-field bases,” he advises. “Farmers should look at how many beans are in the field and how much damage is occurring, along with looking at their specific dryer’s cost per bushel and per-moisture-removal basis.”

While there is no “one-size-fits-all” tip for drying soybeans to the ideal moisture content, Hellevang does have some other advice for farmers.

“Make sure to test a representative sample,” he says. “Most fields have a variance, and something as simple as dew on the seed could affect the accuracy of the measurement – so sample different locations and get as uniform a product in the moisture metering as possible.”

Source: [United Soybean Board](#)

## Southern Region October Crop Report - USDA, NASS

ATHENS, Ga. — Corn production in the United States is forecast at 14.7 billion bushels. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average a record high 178.4 bushels. Soybean production is forecast at 4.27 billion bushels, with an expected record high yield of 51.9 bushels. All cotton production in the United States is forecast at 17.0 million 480-pound bales, with an expected record high yield of 909 pounds per acre.

Key findings for the Southern Region from the October Crop Production report:

**Alabama:** Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 340,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the previous estimate. Production is forecast at 54.0 million bushels, up 20 percent from 2019. Cotton production is forecast at 890 million bales, down 2 percent from last month and down 13 percent from last year. Peanut production is forecast at 710 million pounds, down 5 percent from last month but up 36 percent from 2019. Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 280,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the previous estimate. Production is forecast at 11.3 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month but up 20 percent from 2019.

**Florida:** Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 100,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the previous estimate. Cotton production is forecast at 170,000 bales, down 6 percent from last month and down 17 percent from last year. With yield forecast at a record high 4,000 pounds per acre, peanut production is forecast at 660 million pounds, down 5 percent from last month but up 12 percent from 2019. Sugarcane for sugar and seed production is forecast at 18.1 million tons, up 3 percent from 2019.

**Georgia:** Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 430,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from the previous estimate. With yield forecast at record high 182 bushels per acre, corn for grain production is forecast at 69.2 million bushels, up 24 percent from 2019. Cotton production for 2020 is forecast at 2.40 million bales, down 12 percent from last year. Peanut production is forecast at a record high 3.60 billion pounds, unchanged from last month but up 31 percent from 2019. Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 100,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the previous estimate. Production is forecast at 3.63 million bushels, up 45 percent from 2019. Tobacco production, at 16.6 million pounds, is unchanged from last month. Pecan production is forecast at 125 million pounds, an increase of 71 percent from last year and if realized, the highest production since 2007.

**South Carolina:** Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 400,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the previous estimate. With yield forecast at record high 136 bushels per acre, corn for grain production is forecast at 50.3 million bushels, up 36 percent from 2019. Cotton production is forecast at 310,000 bales, down 6 percent from last month and down 38 percent from 2019. Peanut production is forecast at 312 million pounds, unchanged from last month but up 32 percent from last year. Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 310,000 acres, down 60,000 acres from the previous estimate and the lowest acreage since 1956. Production is forecast at 9.44 million bushels, up 15 percent from 2019. Tobacco production, at 9.6 million pounds, is forecast to be the lowest production since 1906.

To view the complete report, click here [2020OCTOBERCropProduction](#).

—USDA, NASS

## Post-Harvest Soil Sampling - United Soybean Board

Every farmer knows that fertilizer inputs can be of the biggest crop expenses on the farm and are essential to the vitality of crops. Yet, each year, farmers spend thousands of dollars adding inputs to their fields without sampling their soil first and knowing what those fields need when it comes to fertility.

Without regular soil testing, farmers may be throwing away money on unnecessary inputs or neglecting the soil by not adding essential nutrients that may be deficient in the soil.

Farmers should remember these recommendations to get the best sample and test results:

- Use only stainless steel or other non-reactive metal equipment and clean plastic buckets to gather samples.
- Soil probes or augers are the best tool for sampling because they ensure a consistent depth and the correct amount of soil is gathered.
- Gather core samples at random in a zigzag pattern in the area being tested and mix well.
- In tilled fields, gather soil samples from a depth of six inches. In minimum- or no-till fields, take samples from a four-inch depth. And in pasture and hay fields, take samples from a two-inch depth.
- Consistently sample during the same season from year to year.
- Maintain accurate records with field maps, sampling points and timing, crop and fertilizer history and other management activities.

Check out other [articles](#) for more resources on soil sampling.

## The USB Mission: To Maximize Profit Opportunities For All U.S. Soybean Farmers



This is the mission of your soy checkoff. The U.S. soybean industry is coming off several years of record volume soybean production. We've proven that we can be a stable supply of soy. Now we need to make sure we're the best provider of soy globally. Your soy checkoff is working to achieve this by bringing more innovation to the U.S. soy industry than ever before, and making sure that U.S. soybean farmers benefit from it. We're looking at the value of soybeans and the meal and oil inside those beans. We know that our end users want a high-quality sustainable supply of soybeans. Your soy checkoff is making sure that we're meeting these demands and that U.S. soybean farmers will be rewarded for doing so. The 73 volunteer farmer-leaders of the United Soybean Board are dedicated to responsibly investing each checkoff dollar to the greatest return on investment for all U.S. soybean farmers. We are honored by the opportunity to work on behalf of and represent our fellow farmers. Thank you for your continued support of the soy checkoff, and we look forward to a future filled with innovation and opportunities.

For more from the United Soybean Board, [visit www.unitedsoybean.org](http://www.unitedsoybean.org).

## 5 POST-HARVEST PRACTICES TO BOOST YIELD SUSTAINABLY



Following harvest, collect soil samples to test soil fertility and for nematodes.



Increase the productivity of a poorly drained soil by installing drainage improvements.



Check soil for compaction or rutting to determine need for fall tillage.



Keep soils covered through the winter and during vulnerable times of the year to retain nitrogen and soil on farm fields.



Make fall herbicide applications to control winter annual weeds and scout for weeds that survived herbicide application to prevent resistance.

\* Courtesy of Beyond the Bean

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The soy checkoff empowers U.S. soybean farmers with tools that will help them maximize their profitability. Whether it's a database of high-protein-and-oil soy varieties, the results of soy-checkoff-funded research or interviews with experts, the checkoff spreads the word about cutting-edge tips and tricks you can put to use on your farm.

For more information, check out USB farmers resources online at:  
[www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/tools/](http://www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/tools/)

To view past issues of the Georgia Soybean News, visit  
[www.georgiacrop.com/resources/newsletters/](http://www.georgiacrop.com/resources/newsletters/).

