

**GEORGIA  
SOYBEAN  
COMMODITY  
COMMISSION**



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



# Georgia Soybean News

**SPRING 2018**

## **Georgia Soybean Commission Announces 2018 Funding**

Earlier this year, the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans approved over \$266,000 in funding for fourteen separate research and extension projects as well as promotional activities.

The research projects funded included: soybean production research, greenhouse screening for frogeye leaf spot, the continuation of soybean IPM sentinel plots, development of RR2Y/LL soybean varieties, soybean improvement via insect resistance, development of irrigation strategies specific to soybeans, and continuing support of the Georgia Automated Weather Network.

Like producers of other commodities, such as cotton, peanuts and dairy, Georgia's soybean farmers collectively invest a portion of their revenue to fund research and promotion efforts. This investment is called a checkoff. The soybean checkoff is a nationwide effort supported entirely by soybean farmers with individual contributions of 0.5% of the market price per bushel sold each season.

Success for soybean farmers in today's market takes more than just a good harvest. Increasing demand for soybeans is an essential part of the equation. The soybean checkoff helps facilitate market growth and creation by funding research at land-grant universities as well as promotional efforts. In Georgia, more than 70% of the checkoff funds collected go to fund research – which is crucial in the development of new varieties, improvements in production efficiency, and advancements in insect, weed and disease management.

By investing in research and building demand, the U.S. Soybean Checkoff helps ensure a sustainable and profitable future for soybean farmers in Georgia and across the nation. For more information on the soy checkoff or to receive the Georgia Soybean News, contact Billy Skaggs at [gasoybean@gmail.com](mailto:gasoybean@gmail.com).

For more information on the soybean checkoff, visit [www.unitedsoybean.org](http://www.unitedsoybean.org).

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## Soybean planting checklist

*By: Reagan L. Noland, Extension Specialist for Corn, Soybeans & Small Grains*

Soybean planting season is upon us, and establishing a good stand is the first key to a productive crop. Here are a few important notes to consider before heading to the field, and as you set up the planter:



### Land preparation

Beware of compaction. This is a common challenge in the sandy soils of the Coastal Plain. Running a deep ripper or subsoil shank beneath the row will generally improve the root-growth environment when a compaction layer is present. Keep in mind that soybeans can produce well in no-till and minimum-till environments **if compaction is not an issue**.

### Inoculate

Inoculation is often the most cost effective input in soybean production, especially if soybeans have not been grown in the field in the past 2 or 3 years. Remember that **peanut inoculant will NOT work for soybeans**. These crops require different species of bacteria for proper nodulation. Buy fresh inoculum and store it in a cool or refrigerated place until use.

### Timing

Determine planting time according to soil temperature and moisture. The absolute optimum conditions for soybean germination are planting into moist soil at 77°F. If planting earlier maturity groups such as MG IV, the ideal planting time could be sooner due to changes in day length. In Georgia, this early planting window generally falls in late-April and early-May. Soybeans will germinate with soil temperatures as low as 54°F, **but emergence will be very slow**. Overall, it is recommended that growers in Georgia wait until soil temperatures are at least near 70°F before planting.

### Planter setup

Target plant populations should be in the range of 85,000 to 100,000 plants per acre. Remember **this is not planted seeds per acre**. Actual seeding rates should be higher to compensate for germination rate. Seeding rates should also be increased if planting into cool soils, heavy residue, or dry conditions. Planters should be set 1.0 to 1.25 inches deep in moist soil. Soybeans can be planted deeper (~1.5") to reach good moisture if needed. Also, take time to ensure your planter is distributing single seeds, **not doubles**. Seed is the greatest input cost for soybean production. Excess planted seed will only increase your cost per acre and production cost per bushel, reducing profitability.

*Dr. Reagan Noland is an Assistant Professor - Extension Specialist for Corn, Soybeans and Small Grains at the UGA CAES Tifton Campus in Tifton, Georgia.*

## Economist provides insight on US soybean planting report

*By: John Baize, Baize & Associates*

The Prospective Plantings report provides the first official, survey-based estimates of U.S. farmers' 2018 planting intentions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted from a sample of approximately 82,900 U.S. farmers during the first two weeks of March, prior to the announcement of proposed Chinese tariffs.

The report, published on March 29, was a somewhat of a surprise to the soybean market. The final number on soybeans was 88.98 million acres, which is well below last year's record 90.14 million. Most in the trade were expecting 91.06 million acres, although the lowest trade estimate was 89.9 million. For soybeans, the lower acreage number came as a positive as prices were up about 26 cents per bushel the day of the report.

None of these numbers are set in stone.

The Prospective Plantings report is unique in that it is a survey of what farmers say they plan to do. If the soybean acreage comes out below expectations, then it tends to encourage farmers to actually plant more than they otherwise would have and vice versa. I have seen as much as a two million acre change in actual plantings versus the Prospective Plantings forecast.

There are a variety of reasons that farmers may have reported they plan to plant less than the expected area in soybeans. These include a need to rotate their crops, concern about soybean demand, worry about Brazil having a large crop, or cash flow issues. Some may have planted more winter wheat in the fall and have less land on which to plant soybeans.

Fewer planted acres may initially drive up soybean prices, but price depends on many factors such as outlook for demand, competitor production, the price of other crops that compete for land, and the weather. A reduction in planted soybean acreage will affect all in the value chain from seed and fertilizer producers to processors and exporters. Weather during the growing season and actual production, however, will ultimately have the most impact.

### *ABOUT THE AUTHOR:*

*Analyst John Baize has leveraged his 38 years of working the global markets on behalf of soybeans and other farm products to predict trends and growth.*



(Courtesy of [www.USSoy.Org](http://www.USSoy.Org))

## As manufacturers find new uses for high oleic soybean oil, US farmers stand to profit

With improved functionality, no trans fats and less saturated fats, high oleic soybeans open new markets in the food industry. And with the increased demand, high yields and transparent pricing, high oleic delivers higher profits to soybean farmers. Check out all the new uses your end users will benefit from and market share soy farmers could regain when you plant high oleic.

(Courtesy of [www.unitedsoybean.org](http://www.unitedsoybean.org).)



**Transporting Equipment Safely:** Chip Petrea, researcher in agriculture safety at the University of Illinois, strongly urges all growers to be mindful while transporting equipment on public roadways. Petrea recommends providing the traveling public with many signs to warn them you're moving more slowly than they are. Newer equipment features a wide variety of warning systems, such as flashing lights, extremity markings and slow-moving vehicle signs. He recommends bringing older equipment up to date to meet modern standards.

For more information, check out the United Soybean Board's Farmer Resources page at <https://unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/>.

## 2018 Soybean Tips

*By: Mark Freeman, East Georgia Area Agronomist*

Planting season is finally here and I, just like you all, am itching to get seed in the ground. But how early is too early and is there an optimal time to plant soybeans? In most cases, the optimal period for planting soybeans in Georgia is from May 10 to June 10. However, planting may be done as early as May 1 if soil temperatures are greater than 70°F. Planting date modifications can also be made for the Early Soybean System which uses indeterminate MG IV and early MG V varieties.

Another important agronomic decision a grower makes is what soybean variety to plant. Just like other row crops, variety selection plays a tremendous part in the crop's yield potential and our UGA Statewide Variety Testing program does a tremendous job gathering variety trial information from all the geographical regions of Georgia and delivering that data to the public. This data along with the UGA Recommended Soybean Varieties and Characteristics list can be found at the UGA Soybean website – <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension-outreach/commodities/soybeans.html>

It's not too early to be planning ahead for potential pest management strategies for this year's crop as management of disease and insect pests play a huge role in maintaining crop yields and profitability. One of the most important diseases to Georgia soybeans is Asian Soybean Rust. With funding from the Georgia Commodity Commission for Soybeans, UGA soybean pathologist Dr. Bob Kemeraut oversees the Soybean Rust Sentinel Plots where plots are strategically planted across the state and monitored weekly for incidence of rust. Once rust is confirmed County Extension Agents are alerted so that they can give timely fungicide recommendations to growers in the area.

Early season insect pests can also cause problems. Soybean seedlings can be affected by multiple insect pests like lesser cornstalk borer, cutworms, and three-cornered alfalfa hopper and should be scouted or monitored closely from emergence until plants are 12" tall. Several factors that affect early season insect risk may include: Late planting, planting following episodes of drought, and planting into burned small grain residue as these factors can all increase the likelihood of lesser cornstalk borers. Reduced tillage situations where previous crop residue remains can also have higher populations of cutworms.

For more information on insect control options please refer to the Insect Management chapter of the Soybean Production Guide or contact your local County Extension Agent. To learn more about insect scouting procedures and guidelines please attend one of the two UGA Scout Schools in Tifton and Midville. These scout schools cover insect identification and scouting procedures for soybeans, cotton, and peanuts and are intended for everyone from the experienced consultant to the inexperienced first timer. More information on dates, times, and RSVP information can be found on the UGA Soybean website at [www.caes.uga.edu/extension-outreach/commodities/soybeans.html](http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension-outreach/commodities/soybeans.html).

*Mark Freeman is the UGA Extension Agronomist stationed at the GSU Campus in Statesboro, Georgia.*

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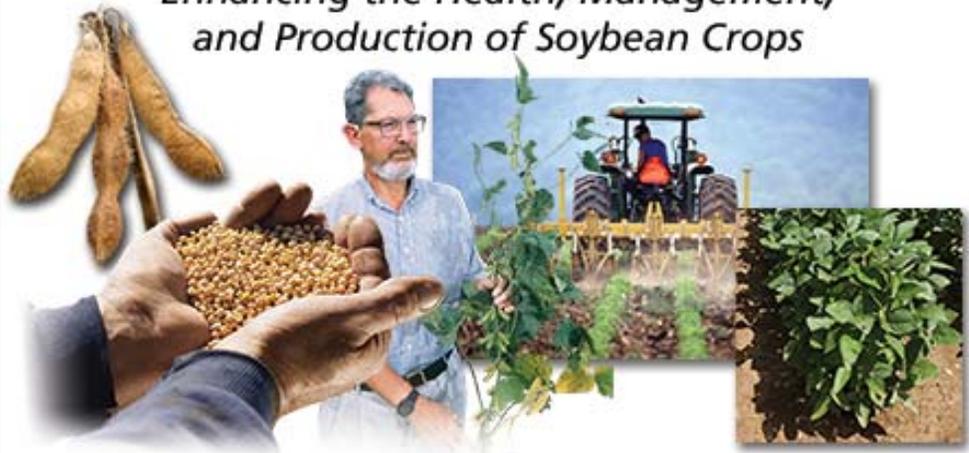
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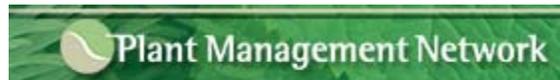
*Enhancing the Health, Management,  
and Production of Soybean Crops*



Check out *Focus on Soybean* Educational Webcasts

<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org>

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## Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission

*Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work*

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/)

[www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/beyond-the-bean/](http://www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/beyond-the-bean/)

To view past issues of the Georgia Soybean News, visit

[www.georgiacrop.com/resources/newsletters/](http://www.georgiacrop.com/resources/newsletters/).

