

**GEORGIA
SOYBEAN
COMMODITY
COMMISSION**



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

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Georgia Soybean News

SPRING 2020

Georgia Soybean Commission Announces 2020 Funding

Earlier this year, the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans approved \$185,000 in funding for thirteen separate research and extension projects as well as promotional activities.

The research projects funded included: soybean production research, the continuation of soybean IPM sentinel plots, support of the statewide variety testing program, development of high yielding soybean varieties, development of irrigation strategies specific to soybeans, sponsorship of the annual soybean & small grain expo, support for the Georgia Grown exhibit at the Georgia National Fair, and continued support of the Georgia Automated Weather Network.

Like producers of other commodities, such as corn, cotton and peanuts, 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, 75% of 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 in Georgia or to receive the Georgia Soybean News, contact Billy Skaggs at gasoysbean@gmail.com. For more information on the national soybean checkoff, visit www.unitedsoybean.org.

Georgia Soybean Progress Report & Update

By: Dr. Corey Bryant, UGA Extension Grains Agronomist

Soybean production in Georgia is ramping up as I write this article with 18% of the State's acreage planted as of May 11th. The majority of this acreage is planted to indeterminate varieties utilizing the early soybean production system with some South Georgia producers who were able to begin planting full season maturity group (MG) V and VI varieties on or near May 1st. I expect to start seeing the number of planted acres increase over the next few weeks as South Georgia enters the optimum planting window for full season soybeans and temperatures in North Georgia continue to warm. I would like to take this opportunity to present a few reminders and discuss some of the issues already presenting themselves.

As soybean planting increases make sure you are planting the correct MG for your planting window. Based on research conducted in GA and other states, we have passed the optimum planting window for indeterminate soybean varieties. If you are still going with an indeterminate variety expect yields to be reduced. If you are utilizing the early soybean production system or planting indeterminate varieties remember that use of a harvest aid, while not mandatory, is crucial for obtaining your best seed quality. There are several products listed for use as harvest aids and growers should select the one they think best fits into their system. Just remember to follow the label.

University of Georgia Extension recommends planting MG V & VI determinate varieties in the May 10th to June 10th planting window and planting MG VII & VIII varieties later in the same window or after June 10th. When planting occurs after June 10th growers should expect yield reductions of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a bushel per acre per day.

Unfortunately, there is already a potential problem on the horizon for soybean. Asian soybean rust overwintered in kudzu in the southern part of the state. The good news is that so far Asian soybean rust has not been found in any soybean fields. Should conditions remain favorable timely scouting will be critical to making sure any outbreaks in soybean are caught early. The good news is this disease can be managed with foliar fungicides should it present itself in the soybean crop.

Let's do everything we can to make this year the best soybean year we can.

Dr. Corey Bryant

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2020 Georgia Soybean Production Guide Available NOW

The 2020 Georgia Soybean Production Guide is now available online or from your local county Extension office. To view online, go to <https://gasoybeans.caes.uga.edu/>. The 2020 Guide includes information and recommendations from the UGA soybean team; it was edited by Dr. Corey Bryant, UGA Extension Grains Agronomist. Thanks to Dr. Bryant and all those who contributed to this important publication.

GEORGIA SOYBEAN PRODUCTION GUIDE



2020



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UGA SOYBEAN WEBPAGE

www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/soybeans/

Finding Optimal Soybean Seeding Rates

Farming requires many complex decisions throughout the year. One such decision is seeding rate – the number of seeds planted per acre. The best seeding rate for soybean fields is one of the most debated topics for those involved in agriculture.

Researchers have long tried to help farmers find a clear answer. A recent study by soybean scientists at Corteva Agriscience and universities across the U.S. might provide the most complete answer yet. They set out to determine what is called the optimal seeding rate for soybean growers.

"The optimal soybean seeding rate is a commonly discussed topic with many opinions, based on individual experience and regional experiments," says Adam Gaspar of Corteva Agriscience. "Our study is the largest soybean seeding rate study ever conducted. We hope to provide help to soybean growers based on where they are farming to help reduce risk and optimize yield potential."

Optimum seeding rate is the ideal amount of seed to use to maximize production and minimize risk. "Farm margins are very tight," Gaspar explains. "Growers are looking for ways to most efficiently use resources and control associated expenses, while not unnecessarily increasing their risk. Their seed purchase is a large investment, and one that has big implications. If they don't get it right, they are putting profitable returns at risk."

This collaborative research project is the first to determine seeding rates in different environments with low, medium, or high productivity. Medium productivity is an average yield with low and high being below or above average. The productivity is influenced by factors like soil type, topography and climate.

Researchers gathered data on the effects of seeding rate on soybean yield in 12 states plus Ontario, Canada from 2005 to 2007 and 2012 through 2017. The seeding rates, productivity and yield were analyzed. Overall, the results showed that farmers should increase seeding rates in areas of lower productivity and reduce them in areas of higher productivity. As farmers know, these areas may vary in different parts of the farm. The productivity can even vary within different areas of each field.

Farmers can use this information to guide their decisions regarding how many seeds to plant per acre to maximize yield. Their seeding rate decisions may change from field to field, based on soil type, topography and previous yields. The seeding rate can even be changed within each field using variable rate planter technology.

"These findings will ultimately help growers use the optimal seeding rate between and within each field to optimize production, while limiting their risk of adverse yields due to seeding rates that are too high or too low," Gaspar says. "Also, it will emphasize the importance of establishing and maintaining an adequate plant stand until harvest. This is especially true in fields or areas of a field with low to medium productivity."

"The annual seed purchase is one of the farmers' larger costs," says Gaspar. "It is critical for their success to make sure their seeding rate maximizes production and limits their downside risk. Our work will help soybean farmers manage their seed investment by being able to accurately adjust their seeding rates."

Source: American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Crop Science Society of America, which is solely responsible for the information provided and is wholly owned by the source. Informa Business Media and all its subsidiaries are not responsible for any of the content contained in this information asset.

Soy Checkoff Continues to Provide Return on Farmer Investments

Provided by: United Soybean Board

ST. LOUIS (February 06, 2020) — According to a recent independent economic study, the soy checkoff continues to translate farmer investments into significant benefits for U.S. soybean farmers. The results of the 2019 return-on-investment (ROI) study, which is required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, found that U.S. soybean farmers received \$12.34 in added value for every dollar they invested in the soy checkoff.

“These have been some of the toughest years to be a soybean farmer,” said USB Chair Jim Carroll III, a soybean farmer from Brinkley, Arkansas. “We have to be wise and careful with our investments in this business, and I’m proud that our soy checkoff continuously adds value to our industry.”

The ROI study analyzed the demand and supply enhancing activities funded by the soy checkoff between 2014 and 2018 and was conducted by Dr. Harry Kaiser, a leading research expert at Cornell University in the field of agricultural economics and its application to commodity checkoff programs.

“The study finds that USB’s activities have had a positive and significant impact on soybean demand between 2014 and 2018,” Dr. Kaiser said.

Key findings included:

- U.S. soybean farmers received \$12.34 in added value for every dollar they invested in the soy checkoff over the last five years.
- Every dollar U.S. soybean farmers invested in international promotion activities produced \$17.95 in return value.
- Soy checkoff investments made toward demand-enhancing research and promotion returned an average value of \$18.18.
- Collaborative soy checkoff investments in production research that leverage industry and academic partners continue to provide promising returns to U.S. soybean farmers, returning an average value of \$9.42.

These estimates were reached using econometric models of domestic and international soybean markets that allowed the research team to net out the impacts of other important factors — such as other crops, substitute commodities, income, exchange rates and economic conditions in importing countries — to determine the estimated impact of the soy checkoff’s work and investments.

USB’s 78 volunteer farmer-directors work on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers to achieve maximum value for their soy checkoff investments. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds in programs and partnerships to drive soybean innovation beyond the bushel and increase preference for U.S. soy. That preference is based on U.S. soybean meal and oil quality and the sustainability of U.S. soybean farmers. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff.

For more information, visit www.unitedsoybean.org.

**GEORGIA SOYBEAN
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**Georgia
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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/
www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/beyond-the-bean/

To view past issues of the Georgia Soybean News, visit
www.georgiacrop.com/resources/newsletters/.

