

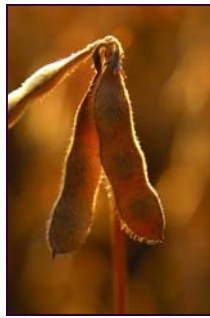
**GEORGIA  
SOYBEAN  
COMMODITY  
COMMISSION**



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

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# Georgia Soybean News

**SPRING 2021**

## **Georgia Soybean Commission Announces 2021 Funding**

Earlier this year, the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans approved \$125,000 in funding for nine research and extension projects as well as promotional activities.

The research projects funded included: soybean production research, the continuation of soybean IPM sentinel plots, development of high yielding soybean varieties, extension programming in applied agronomics, support of the Southern Soybean Research Program, building new export markets, support of the Georgia Farm Monitor television program 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, 70% of checkoff funds collected go to fund research and extension – 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 [gasoybean@gmail.com](mailto:gasoybean@gmail.com). For more information on the national soybean checkoff, visit [www.unitedsoybean.org](http://www.unitedsoybean.org).

## Thoughts for the 2021 Soybean Season

*By: Dr. Corey Bryant, UGA Extension Grains Agronomist*

It is once again time to start preparing for this year's soybean crop. I am looking forward to this year's crop and with that wanted to share a few thoughts going into the season. As I write this, soybean prices are near \$13/bushel for soybeans delivered in August and September and \$12/bushel delivered in November. These prices are encouraging many growers to include soybean in their rotation when normally they would not have. I encourage all of our growers to manage their soybeans for top yields regardless of reason for planting them. In many instances top yields or near top yields can be achieved by following a few agronomic principles and do not require super intensive management systems.

The three keys to achieving top yields in soybeans are timely planting, proper fertility, and timely harvest. Regardless of early or full-season production system, planting in the optimum planting window can boost yields by as much as 30%. If you are planting indeterminate soybean varieties then your optimum planting window will be the first two weeks after your historical last frost, in much of South Georgia this will be between April 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and can be as late as the last two weeks of May in the mountain region. However, if you are planting determinate varieties we do not want to plant them before May 1<sup>st</sup> throughout the state as this could have detrimental effects on yield. Either way, do not wait until you have all of your other crops planted before starting soybean planting as waiting a period of even two weeks could potentially have a significant negative effect on yield.

When planning your fertility program, it is important to remember you must inoculate your soybean seed if this is the first time in three years that you have had soybeans in the field. Many of our growers will inoculate every time soybean is planted in a field just to make sure they have plenty of N available to the crop. Failure to achieve good nodulation will lead to poor yields due to inadequate N availability or will require additional costs in N fertilizer to make up for the lack of N fixation by the plant. Beyond inoculating soybean seed do not skimp on the potassium fertilizer in soybean. Soybeans require plenty of K to achieve sufficient plant growth to produce top yields. It is possible to achieve yields of 70-80 bushels/acre by simply planting at the right time and applying 2-tons/acre of chicken litter.

The last key to top yields is timely harvest. This is especially important when planting indeterminate soybeans. When growing indeterminate soybeans, you will need to plan for a desiccant application in order to get a timely harvest and preserve seed quality. If you are unsure of when to apply your desiccant please contact your county agent and they will help you or contact me if they are unsure as well. While desiccant applications are not necessary in determinate soybeans as they will mature after September rains and hurricane threats have passed, it is still important to harvest them as soon as they are ready. Soybean seed is extremely fragile and allowing them to get to dry in the field will increase combine yield losses from shattering as well as increasing splits which will incur a dock at the elevator.

Again, I am excited for this year's soybean season and hope that these thoughts will aid you in obtaining your top yields. If you have any questions contact your county agent and between them and myself, we will help you as best we can.

Dr. Corey Bryant

UGA Extension Grains Agronomist

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## 2021 Georgia Soybean Production Guide Available NOW

The 2021 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 2021 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.

# Soybean Production in Georgia



# 2021



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## Collaborative Checkoff Partnership Leads to Commitment from Goodyear

ST. LOUIS (March 25, 2021) — Soy checkoff research funding and partnership with The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company has led to a multi-decade commitment by the tire manufacturer to source sustainably produced U.S. soybean oil, phasing out petroleum-derived oils from its products by 2040.



The initial research led to the discovery that soybean oil could not only improve tire flexibility across temperatures but also provide enhanced grip on road surfaces, making it an ideal choice for Goodyear's all-weather tire line. Goodyear commercialized this innovation in its Assurance® WeatherReady® consumer tire line in 2017, the Eagle® Enforcer All Weather™ in 2018 and the Eagle Exhilarate™ in 2019, and announced the Goodyear Assurance ComfortDrive™ in 2020. Building upon that success, Goodyear recently announced a new sustainable soybean oil procurement policy that reflects its strong commitment to the responsible sourcing of raw materials.

End users continue to increase demand for sustainably produced products. The nation's 515,000 soybean farmers are unified in their effort to grow market opportunities by providing the best raw materials to support partners such as Goodyear. U.S. farmers are leaders when it comes to using new leading-edge technologies and best management practices to increase economic and environmental sustainability.

"We are pleased to partner with Goodyear for their award-winning innovation with U.S. soy in tires and are ready to meet their current and future needs for the sustainable procurement of soybeans," said United Soybean Board farmer-leader Ed Lammers, who serves as the Oil Target Area coordinator. "U.S. soybean farmers offer a safe and reliable source of sustainably grown soybeans that provide versatility in the areas of food, feed and fuel, and also deliver high-performance products for industrial use partners, such as The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company."

Goodyear increased its use of soybean oil in 2020 by 73% over 2018, making progress toward its long-term goal of full petroleum replacement. The new procurement policy features a variety of components, including provisions across the supply chain for responsible land use, growing, harvesting and processing. With its goal to be a global leader in sustainability, the U.S. soy industry is well-positioned to meet this demand. U.S. soybean farmers employ sustainable farming practices such as crop rotation, reduced tillage and nutrient management to improve soil health, reduce inputs, boost crop productivity, conserve water and enrich the quality of soil.

"Goodyear's use of soybean oil is growing, and we want our actions to make a difference in the lives of soybean farmers and others in the supply chain," said Maureen Thune, vice president and chief procurement officer of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. "Our new policy will help guide us as we work with processors, farmers and others to strengthen the sustainability of the global supply chain."

Goodyear's new soybean oil procurement policy is effective immediately and applies to all soybean-based materials sourced by its operations worldwide.

### Sources:

Paul Murphy-Spooner at [United Soybean Board](https://www.unitedsoybeanboard.org), 515.975.6584.

Mace Thornton at United Soybean Board, [mthornton@unitedsoybean.org](mailto:mthornton@unitedsoybean.org).



## Soy Checkoff Research Shows Strong Trust in U.S. Farmers

ST. LOUIS (March 11, 2021)— The United Soybean Board released the results of a consumer survey, shedding light on the needs and perceptions of people nationwide about their food supply. Farmers' dependability in regard to nourishing the world has not gone unnoticed. U.S. farmers rank as the most trusted members of the supply chain when it comes to ensuring its safety, taking the top spot in 78% of consumer responses.

“As the organization representing soy — the second largest crop grown on U.S. soil, one of the only widely available complete plant proteins and the most widely used edible oil in the country — we knew it was vital to understand the values of the very people who purchase the products our farmers grow,” said Mace Thornton, USB vice president of communications and marketing strategy. “The results not only reinforced the importance of current sustainability strategies our farmer-leaders put in place, but also revealed some key perceptions and desires among consumers that will help guide the way we communicate and engage on the benefits of sustainable U.S.-grown soy.”

Here are some key takeaways:

- The vast majority of consumers, 79%, have a very/somewhat positive view of U.S. farmers who grow crops, including soybeans.
- Consumers are united in their support for domestic agriculture, with 70% saying it's somewhat/very important to purchase food made with U.S.-grown crops.
- Soy is seen as healthy (60%) or neutral (26%) by most consumers, but less than half (44%) are aware that the soybeans used to make their favorite products are grown sustainably.

The good news is that education seems to be valuable, as two-thirds (66%) of consumers felt more positive about soy protein and soybean oil as an ingredient in many food products after reading about the sustainability of soybeans.

With heightened demand for both nutritious and sustainable ingredients, paired with a growing interest in plant-based proteins, it seems to already be resonating with consumers that soy protein is unique from most other plant-based protein sources. What sets it apart is its high-quality “complete” protein, comparable to the protein found in meat, poultry and seafood. The soy checkoff continues to focus on ensuring that all forms of U.S. protein, whether animal- or plant-based, remain the preferred global choice to meet future demand and nutritional requirements of a growing population.

The way in which food is grown also makes an impact on food-purchasing decisions. The conversation about soy sustainability is an area of opportunity, as consumers are less familiar with it but rank it high in importance. This makes it a key area for the checkoff to educate, with high potential for positive impacts on consumer perceptions.

“This data made clear just how essential it will be to increase awareness that U.S. soybeans are sustainably grown,” noted David Iverson, USB Sustainability Target Area coordinator and soybean farmer from South Dakota. “We have successfully reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 38% per metric ton since 1980 but recognize that our contribution cannot stop there. We employ new production practices to continuously advance sustainability efforts, with a goal of growing 70% more food by 2050 to feed our rising population, expected to increase by 2 billion people over the next 30 years.”

Sources:

Paul Murphy-Spooner at [United Soybean Board](#), 515.975.6584.

Mace Thornton at United Soybean Board, [mthornton@unitedsoybean.org](mailto:mthornton@unitedsoybean.org)

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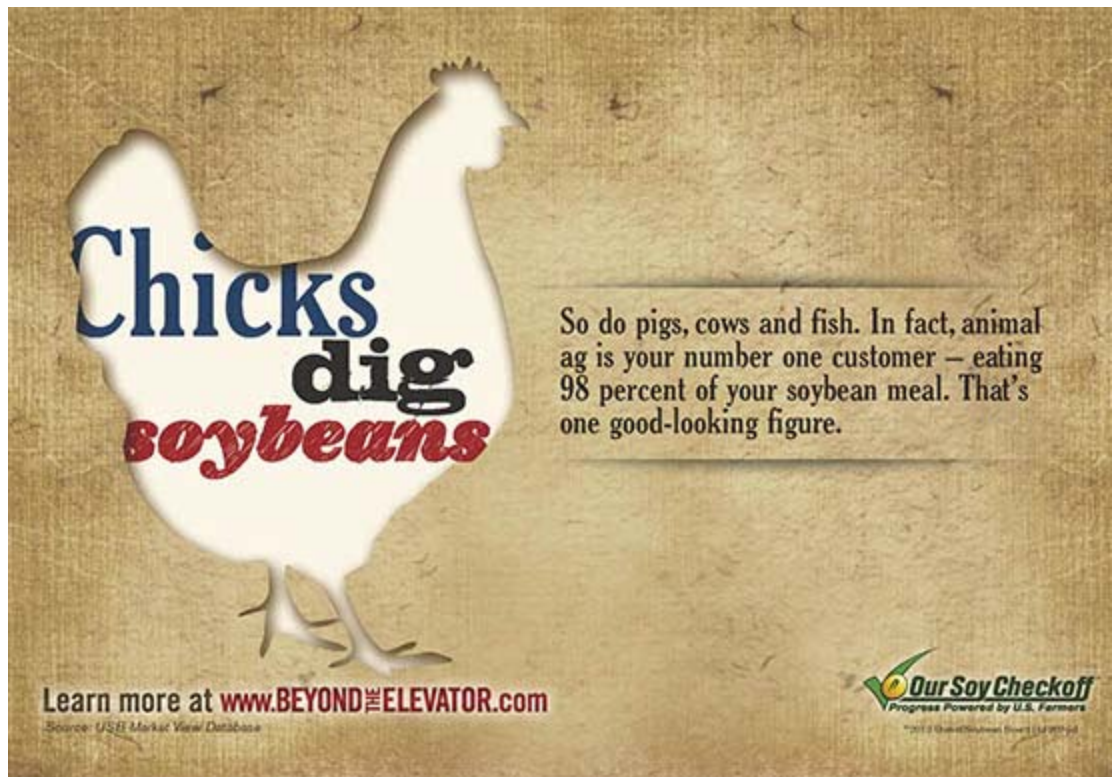


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**Georgia  
Soybean  
Commodity  
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*Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work*

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/](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/).

