



*Farmers
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Soybean
Checkoff
Dollars to
Work for
You*



Georgia Soybean News

SUMMER 2016

Georgia Checkoff funds educational booklet

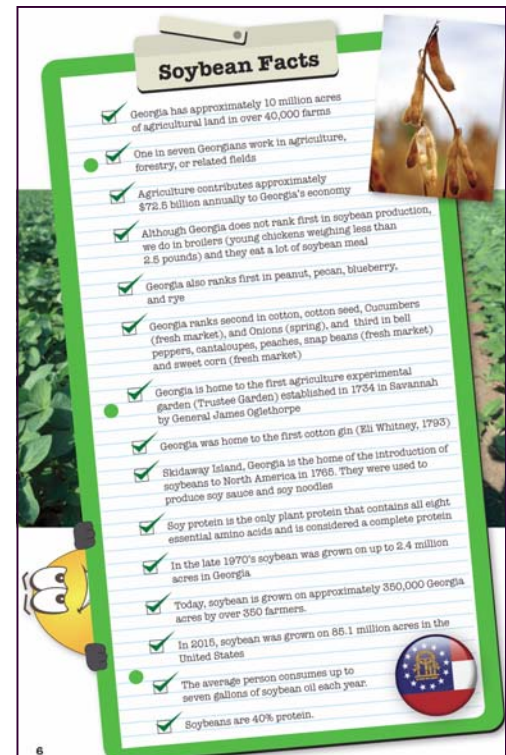
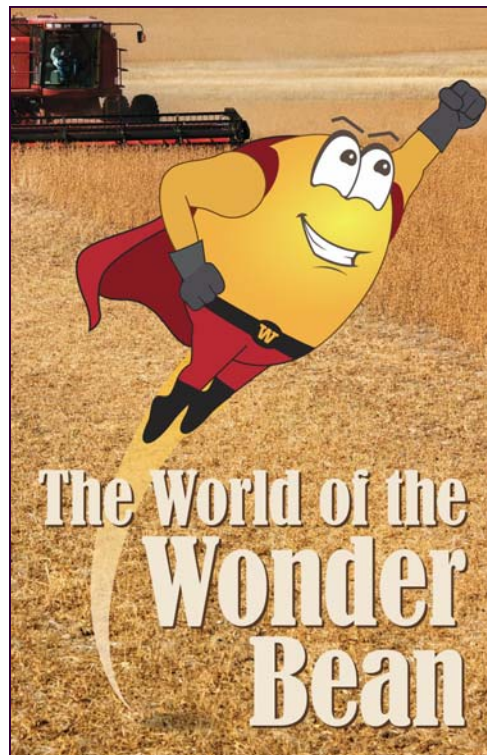
In early 2016, the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission met to review grant proposals and award funding for the year. One exciting initiative funded by the Commission was a new educational brochure targeting elementary school students.

Billy Skaggs, Commission Executive Secretary, headed up this project and worked with Laser Letters, Inc. and Agri-Media Services to bring to life “World of the Wonder Bean”. Mr. Bud Loscomb and his team at Laser Letters, Inc. did a phenomenal job, and the Commission is very appreciative of their efforts. Special thanks also goes to the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association whose original publication served as the template for the Georgia version.

We’re hopeful this booklet will be utilized by teachers and farm groups across the state. “World of the Wonder Bean” will be available this fall. To request copies, contact the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission, 2425 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605; gasoybean@gmail.com; 706-542-2351.

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Earlier this year, the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans approved over \$240,000 in funding for twelve separate research projects and promotional activities.

The research projects funded included: soybean production research, soybean stem canker research, the continuation of soybean IPM sentinel plots, development of RR2Y/LL soybean varieties, soybean variety evaluation, continuing research on kudzu bug resistance, and development of irrigation strategies specific to soybeans.

In addition, the Commission approved funding in support of the Georgia Environmental Weather Network, the Georgia / Florida Soybean Association, the publication of a new soy educational guide for schools, and support for the World Soybean Research Conference which comes to Savannah in 2017.

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.

Sunbelt Field Day July 14: a morning to make your farm more profitable

- Brad Haire, Southeast Farm Press

The farm economy is as volatile now as ever. There is neither time nor money to waste on unnecessary inputs. Sunbelt Ag Expo continues its mission to be a premiere location for on-farm research and a place that yields information farmers can use to produce their crops more efficiently. The Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day is about the South's top row crops and is the best time and place to see the latest crop technologies, products and research taking place at the farm.

Sunbelt Ag Field Day will be July 14 at the Darrell Williams Research Farm, located at the Expo show site at Spence Field in Moultrie, Ga. Registration is free for anyone who works in agriculture, and the day starts at 7:15 a.m. with breakfast followed by quick welcomes and comments from the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Georgia Farm Bureau.

"Again this year, as it has for many years, we're focusing on our core agronomic crops for the field day, and those are corn, cotton, soybean and peanuts, the backbone of most Southeast cropping farms," said Michael Chafin, who manages the Sunbelt Expo farm.

UGA researchers and Extension specialists conduct numerous trials at the Sunbelt farm for all major Southern agronomic crops. UGA Cooperative Extension specialists for cotton, soybeans and peanuts will be at the field day to talk strategies to better use fertility, manage disease and pests, and the best varieties to use when and where on a farm.

"Inputs, you have to have them and they cost a grower time and money to apply. But we really can't skimp on them, especially in our region, or disease, insects, weeds or weather will eat you up. But what a grower can do, and what the experts who conduct research here have done, is find ways to more precisely use and time our inputs to make the highest quality yields we can and try not to go broke doing it," Chafin said.

The Expo farm has several large-plot soybean OVT variety trials each year. Chafin says Monsanto and their AsGrow brand soybean seeds will be planted and company representatives will discuss production of soybeans in the Southeast. Pioneer will have some of their soybean varieties in the test program at the Expo Farm. The company's Y series of soybean varieties have shown promise in recent years for enhanced pest resistance and adaptability to a number of yield-limiting factors common in the Southeast. DeWitt, an Arkansas-based company now with Bayer, will have soybean varieties there as well.

Source: Southeast Farm Press

Georgia's Brian Ogletree Completes DuPont Young Leaders Program

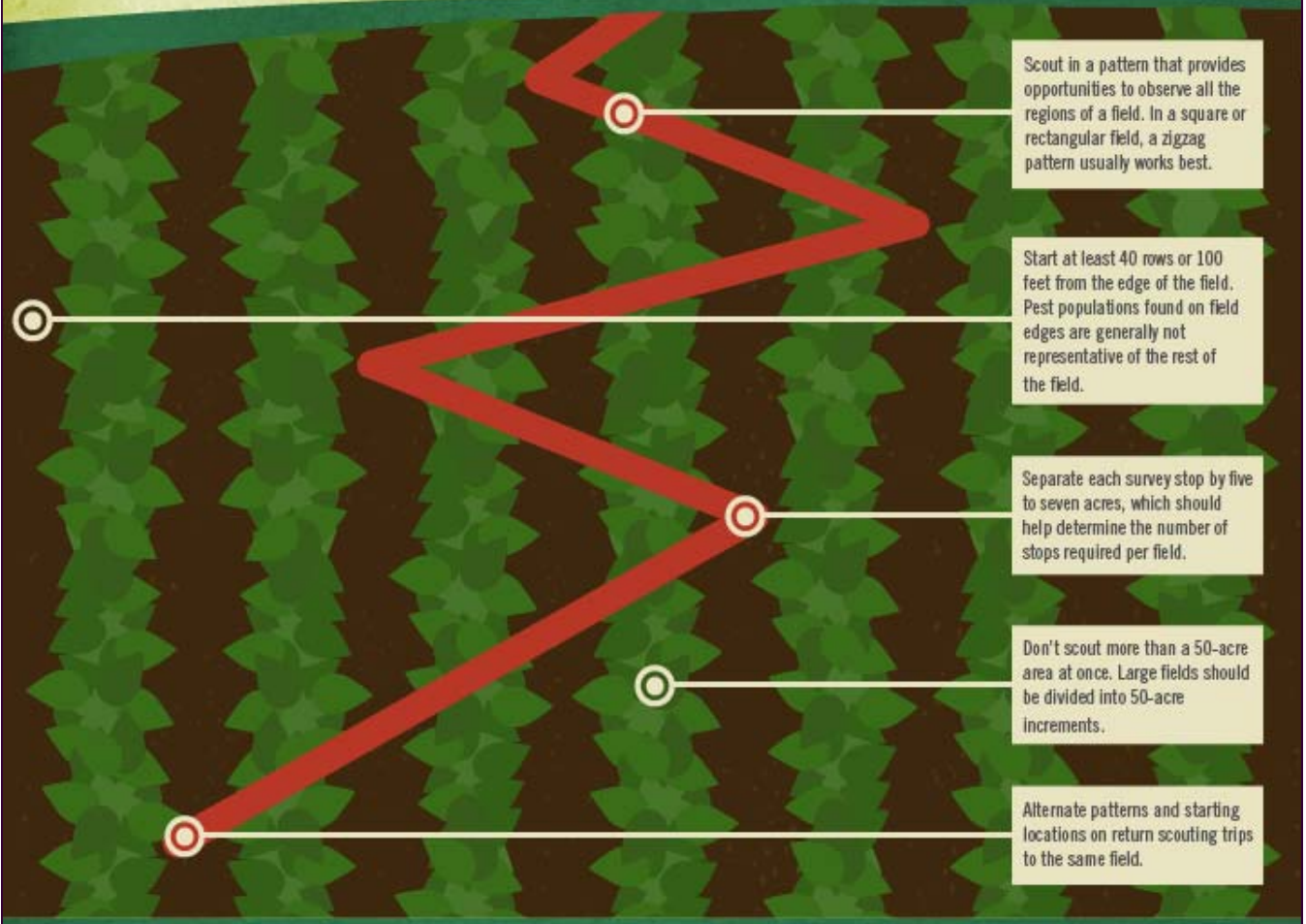
The 32nd class of American Soybean Association (ASA) DuPont Young Leaders completed their training, March 1 – 5, 2016 in New Orleans, La. in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show.

Brian Ogletree of Milner, Georgia participated in the 2015-2016 class of the ASA DuPont Young Leaders program. Pictured with Ogletree (center) are Kevin Diehl, Director of Regulatory Strategy and Industry Affairs, DuPont Pioneer and Richard Wilkins, ASA President.



SCOUT IT OUT: FIVE TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE PEST MANAGEMENT

Scouting is one of the most important things you can do to identify issues in the field and choose the most cost-effective course of management. To get it done right, follow these easy steps:



3 ways to boost soybean profits by using less water



Farmers' efforts to get water to their crops date back more than 8,000 years, when ancient Mesopotamians first diverted waters from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to their fields. Irrigation technology has developed exponentially since then, but the concept has remained the same over the past eight millennia: use available water as efficiently as possible to optimize production. Here are three modern-day tools that would surely make those Mesopotamian farmers envious.

1. Free, online programs to help irrigation planning: Programs like PHAUCET (available at www.deltafarm.org) and PipePlanner.com can help you create efficient irrigation systems so you're not wasting water. By inputting farm-specific details, such as row lengths and elevation, these programs give recommendations and evaluate different layout options. Delta Plastics, an irrigation polytube manufacturer, estimates that computer-based furrow-irrigation planning can result in 25 to 50 percent water savings and an average of 25 percent reduction in energy costs.

2. Soil-moisture sensors: The European Space Agency has been tracking soil-moisture content since the late 1970s via satellite. Lucky for you, you won't need to invest in a spacesuit to monitor water availability for your plants. Handheld soil-moisture probes give you an instant snapshot of plant stress due to over- or under-watering. Since soybeans have different water requirements at different growth stages, soil-moisture sensors can help you decide exactly how much additional irrigation your plants need at a given time.

3. Sub-irrigation: Although the first documented sub-irrigation system dates back to the 1800s, many farmers are only now experimenting with sub-irrigation techniques. Installing a system that irrigates from within the soil has its pros and cons. It comes with a substantial initial price tag, but the process delivers water directly to the roots, decreases the amount of water needed and prevents soil and nutrient runoff, all contributing to lower costs in the long run. With some systems providing both irrigation and drainage, farmers using sub-irrigation have unprecedented control over field moisture content.

Irrigation system manufacturers are delivering new technologies to help farmers manage water resources and increase productivity. For a list of companies providing equipment and monitoring systems for soybean farmers, visit www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources.

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Farmers Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work for You.

Upcoming Agriculture Industry Events

- July 14 Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day, Moultrie
www.sunbeltexpo.com
- July 10-11 Georgia / Alabama Seed Association Annual Meeting
King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort, St. Simon's Island
- July 21-23 Southern Peanut Growers Conference
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort
www.southernpeanutfarmers.org/spgc.asp
- July 21 Cotton Scout School
Southeast Research & Education Center, Midville
http://extension.uga.edu/calendar/event.cfm?pk_id=10240
- July 29-30 GA Cattlemen's Association Summer Conference
Callaway Gardens; <http://tinyurl.com/gcasumconf>



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/.