

Texas Soybean Board Research

- Finding Better Drought and Insect Tolerant Soybean Varieties for Texas; Jim Heitholt (Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University-Dallas); (\$6,000).

This project evaluates MG4 and MG5 entries from the USDA-ARS Southern Soybean Uniform Program as well as other experimental strains in North Texas. The plots will be planted at different dates to assure the entries are tested under drought conditions. A second objective is to grow out and propagate segregating progeny from the crossing program and experimental lines.

- Agronomic Factors Involved in Soybean Production Along the Texas Gulf Coast; W. James Grinchar, Joe Janak and Brent Batchelor (Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University-Dallas); (\$4,000).

The objective of this research is to investigate various production management alternatives. The treatments will involve developing information on date of planting, recommended maturity groups, row spacing, and herbicide and fungicides recommendations for the Texas Gulf Coast environment.

- On-farm Soybean Demonstrations of Irrigation Technology, Water Management and Pest Monitoring in the Texas Panhandle; Rob Robinson and Ordie Jones (Texas Cooperative Extension-Amarillo); (\$1,000).

The objectives of this project are: 1) to conduct soybean irrigation and cropping demonstrations on cooperator farms and test improved farming and irrigation practices, genetics and other new technologies; and 2) provide farmers and consultants information on weekly water use, crop

development and growth, and pest status in efforts to improve the management of the soybean crop.

- Integrated Pest Management of Stinkbug in Soybean; Stephen Biles (Texas Cooperative Extension-Port Lavaca, TX.); (\$2,000).

The objective of this research is to: 1) determine if the current economic threshold for stinkbugs is accurate for soybean producers in South Texas; 2) evaluate the timing options for effective economic control of stinkbugs in South Texas; and 3) compare sampling methods used for sampling stink bugs in soybeans.

FY 2007 FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Beginning Balance August 1, 2006	\$33,830.93
Income	
Collections	\$81,266.86
Late Fees	\$117.69
Checkoff returned to neighboring states on soybeans sold in Texas	(\$10,003.17)
50% of collections transferred to USB	(\$40,803.40)
Total Income	\$30,577.98
Total Funds	\$64,408.91
Expenses	
Administrative (staffing, collection expenses, office expenses, election, audit, board travel, etc.)	\$22,381.12
Education (farm show exhibits, grower communications, field days, etc.)	\$6,043.87
WISHH	\$1,000.00
Research	
2006 final payment	\$11,735.80
2007 first payment	\$10,400.00
Total Expenses	\$53,428.79
Bank Balance July 31, 2007	\$12,747.12

Lonestar Soybeans Page 4

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See How Your Checkoff Investment Is Benefiting Texas

Our soybean checkoff.
 Effective. Efficient. Farmer-Driven.



Texas Soybean Board

Lonestar Soybeans

Keeping you up to date on your checkoff investment

Issue 3-February 2008

Welcome to the third edition of the *Lonestar Soybeans* newsletter! Your Texas soybean checkoff has created this newsletter to keep you informed about what's happening at the state and national levels. Covering the latest issues in the soybean industry, *Lonestar Soybeans* is just one more way your checkoff is working for you.

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From the Chairman



On behalf of the volunteer farmer-leaders of the Texas Soybean Board (TSB), I'm proud to report to you that our soybean checkoff investments are making progress in production research, new uses development, international marketing, domestic marketing and more. And we've created this newsletter, *Lonestar Soybeans*, to share that progress with you.

Now is an exciting time to be a soybean producer. Acres were down in 2007, but with the exceptionally strong current price of soybeans, 2008 acres are expected to increase. The TSB farmer-leaders will continue to invest our checkoff dollars in ways to keep prices high.

Half of our checkoff funds are invested by TSB at the state level. Most of this goes toward production research designed to decrease the threat of yield robbers, such as soybean rust, insects and drought. We also provide free soy educational materials to Texas schools, county agents and other organizations. The TSB supports the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH), an organization that works to incorporate U.S. soy in fulfilling the protein demands of people in developing countries.

The other half of our checkoff funds are invested by the United Soybean Board (USB) on a national level. USB focuses on building both domestic and international markets, as well as developing new uses for soy and funding production research.

This year we saw record soybean exports reach 1.4 billion bushels. We expect sales of soy biodiesel to top 300 million gallons. Scientists have identified two genes that could lead to rust resistance in the near future. Ford Motor Company is including soy foam in the seats of the 2008 Mustang. Thanks to your soybean checkoff investment, we're accomplishing great feats geared to keeping demand for U.S. soybeans strong.

The TSB consists of nine soybean growers elected by you, the producer, to serve six-year terms. Elections are held every two years with the next one scheduled for December of 2008. If you are interested in serving on this board or have any questions or ideas about our soybean checkoff, please contact me, one of the current board members or the TSB office. We are here to represent all of you and ensure that our checkoff remains effective, efficient and farmer-driven.

Sincerely,
 Tom Rotello

Chairman, Navasota



Research Under Way to Develop Beans to Brave Texas Weather

Over the last few years, the Lone Star State has seen periods of both hot weather and little rain. This can be an issue for soybean farmers trying to grow a consistent crop that will be profitable. For this reason, the soybean checkoff will be funding research efforts within the agricultural research agency of Texas A&M focused on searching for lines of soybeans that can brave Texas weather. Knowing that swings in rainfall and temperature have affected Texas soybean farmers' bushels per acre in the past, producing soybeans with drought and heat tolerance traits is top of mind for the Texas soybean checkoff. By creating new lines of soybeans and making them available to the public, the checkoff is helping make Texas soybean farmer's profits less dependent on year-to-year weather conditions.

What's Being Done?

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station researchers are currently combing through USDA's collection of soybean lines looking for traits that will make a soybean line grow successfully and productively in Texas weather conditions. For example, researchers are searching for lines of soybeans that can endure 100 degree Fahrenheit temperatures for extended periods. But drought and heat aren't the only two challenges researchers are trying to beat. Stinkbugs have



Your Beans Are Wanted Across the Border

When you deliver your soybeans to the elevator, it's just the first leg of travel for many of those beans. Nearly half of the soybeans produced in the United States are exported to foreign countries. And with that kind of market share for our soybeans, international customers play a huge role in the profitability of U.S. soybean farmers. Because of this, the farmer-leaders of the soybean checkoff are working hard to ensure that countries around the globe remain satisfied customers.

One of the most important international customers is just across the border from the Lone Star State. Mexico is the second-largest international customer for U.S. soy in the world, importing 141 million bushels of U.S. soybeans in the last marketing year.

The checkoff is working to continue to build demand in Mexico through programs designed to add value and build consumer preference for U.S. soybeans. Some of these programs include working to increase the uses for soybean meal in specialty animal feeds and alternative meal uses. Programs are also being established to show comparison tests between U.S. soybeans and other sources of meal/protein to better position U.S. soy as a quality product and further drive demand.

Long-term prospects for exports to Mexico look promising as consumption of soy in Mexico is expected to increase in the future. This will largely be due to an increase in inclusion rates in animal feed formulations for poultry, swine, livestock and aquaculture. Increased consumption of oil in the hotel and restaurant sector is also expected to drive demand for U.S. soybeans in Mexico.

historically wreaked havoc on soybean crops near the upper Gulf Coast, and checkoff research is under way to beat these destructive pests.



Commercial Breeders Tap Texas Researchers

The soybean seed industry is also taking advantage of Texas research. Commercial breeders have tapped Texas Agricultural Experiment Station researchers to help them test commercial lines. This collaboration allows the seed companies to compare experimental lines among themselves and for the researchers to see how the lines they develop stack up against commercial lines that may soon be available to farmers.

With continued checkoff-funded research, more and more lines of soybeans will be studied for characteristics that will produce a soybean custom-designed to thrive in Texas and help make Texas farmers more profitable.

Ford Looks to Soybeans for 2008 Mustang



You have probably heard of automobiles that run on crops such as corn and soybeans, but a new innovation you might not have heard of yet is automobile interiors made from soy. Thanks largely to U.S. soybean farmers' efforts

and a long-standing partnership with Ford Motor Company and Lear Corporation, it was recently announced that soy foam will be used in the seat backs and cushions of the 2008 Ford Mustang.

Farmers actually had a big role in the development of the new Ford seats. Soybean checkoff dollars were invested to help research and commercialize the technology that is used to produce the seats. And soybean farmers partnered with Ford for the commercialization of the seat with the checkoff providing \$230,000, leveraged against \$3 million in funding from Ford and tier suppliers.

The seats in the Mustang will feature 5 percent soy foam. This may not seem like a lot of soy foam, but 20 pounds of petroleum-based foam is used on average in each automobile produced. That means that with each Mustang produced in 2008, approximately one pound of soy oil will be included in the foam seat. Ford is looking at ramping up to over 40 percent soy foam in the Mustang seating as well as expanding soy foam to all vehicle lines. Future opportunities for soy foam include dashboards, armrests and sound deadening. Plus, there's talk that other automotive companies will be adopting this technology.

Most automotive manufacturers today are using a 100 percent petroleum-based polyol foam. The annual demand for petroleum-based polyols in the United States is 3 billion pounds; the demand worldwide is 9 billion pounds. With petroleum topping nearly \$100 a barrel, new ingredients like soybean oil could make a real difference for manufacturers. Besides potential cost savings for manufacturers, there is a huge potential for developing a profitable new market for U.S. soybean farmers. This is a significant success for U.S. soybean farmers and their checkoff, but it doesn't end there. Thanks to checkoff support, a total of 26 new soy-based products and applications were introduced in fiscal year 2007.