



# Lonestar Soybeans

**W**elcome to the ninth 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 represents just one more way your checkoff works for you.

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## Letter from the Chairman



While most of the country's fields have been devastated by this summer's drought, I'm happy that Texas didn't catch the brunt of it this year. My beans are producing better yields than last year - not quite as good as the 2010 crop but still a decent yield. I hope many of you have had the same success this year.

Soybean farming in Texas can be a challenge, but I want to encourage you to continue to grow soybeans and remind you that you're not alone when it comes to the challenges of Texas soybean farming. The Texas Soybean Board continues to invest your checkoff dollars into projects that will yield results for Texas soybean farmers. Our top priority is funding research that will have a direct impact on your farm.

National checkoff funds have helped map the soybean genome, establish standards in seed varieties that claim soybean cyst nematode resistance and aid in the release of a new line of drought-tolerant soybeans. All of these checkoff-funded efforts could result in better yields for U.S. soybean farmers and more U.S. soy to meet global demand.

This year, Texas soybean farmers helped fund research to improve yields and fight drought in the Lonestar State. In this issue of Lonestar Soybeans we take a closer look at a research project that could have a big impact on the future of soybean farming in Texas. I'm personally very excited about what's to come from this project, and I want farmers across Texas to know about it.

I wish you a safe and successful harvest!

Sincerely,

Tom Rotello  
Chairman, Navasota

## Three-Year Research Project Kicks Off

To help accommodate the unique challenges facing the region's soybean farmers, the Mid-South Soybean Board is funding research that takes a closer look at the significance of latitude and/or planting date on different soybean maturity groups.



Unfortunately, the significance of latitude and/or planting date and their impact upon soybean production is not well understood. Midsouthern farmers need this information to choose which maturity groups and varieties to plant.

This three-year project aims to produce data that can be used to predict the effects of latitude and planting date on the growth and development of soybean varieties in four different maturity groups. A better understanding of the maturation of the soybean plant will also be useful in determining

environmental effects upon seed composition and quality.

The first year of the project began last spring at the following research locations and latitudes:

| Location               | Latitude |
|------------------------|----------|
| College Station, Texas | 30.6     |
| St. Joseph, La.        | 32.0     |
| Stoneville, Miss.      | 33.4     |
| Rohwer, Ark.           | 33.4     |
| Verona, Miss.          | 34.6     |
| Keiser, Ark.           | 35.4     |
| Portageville, Mo.      | 36.4     |
| Martin, Tenn.          | 36.4     |

Researchers planted at four different dates for each location, starting with “as soon as possible” and extending until mid-June. At each planting date, varieties were planted from maturity groups 3, 4, 5 and 6. Researchers have recorded the growth stage of each test plot weekly and are measuring plant height, lodging, average seed weight and yield as the plots reach maturity. After all of the research locations conclude this year’s study, results will be shared with extension soybean specialists, the United Soybean Board and participating state soybean boards.

To learn more about the study and follow its quarterly reports, please visit [www.MidSouthSoybeans.com](http://www.MidSouthSoybeans.com).



**Mid-South Soybean Board**  
*The Mid-South Soybean Board was created in 2009 by the soybean promotion boards in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas to coordinate soybean research in the four-state area. The goals are to eliminate duplication in research spending and to develop and fund research of importance to our producers.*

## Full Steam Ahead: Soy Exports to China Have Strong Future

Next time you’re out in the soybean field, just think, one out of every four of those rows will travel halfway around the globe to China. Importing 895 million bushels of whole U.S. soybeans last year, China represents the largest international market for U.S. soy. But it hasn’t always been that way. For the past 30 years, U.S. soybean farmers have been investing in activities and programs to help develop this important relationship.

It all started in 1982 with the American Soybean Association and several state soybean checkoffs investing in opening an international marketing development office in Beijing. Since then, the national soy checkoff has been created, and it made expanding and developing international markets one of its top priorities.

Those efforts led to China surpassing the European Union as the largest international market for U.S. soy in 2003. As exports to China have grown, U.S. soybean farmers have been a committed partner in the effort to achieve China’s long-term goal of sustainable food security. This partnership collaborates with the goals China outlined in its 12th Five-Year Plan.

A Chinese delegation highlighted the bright future for this relationship by committing to buy \$6 billion worth of U.S. soy during signing ceremonies in the United States. The commitments total more than 492.3 million bushels of U.S. soy and set a new record for U.S. soybean purchase commitments made in one signing trip.

### U.S. SOY AND CHINA 30 Years of Partnership

#### Timeline of Accomplishments

- '82 • American Soybean Association opens international marketing development office in China.
- '91 • Creation of national soy checkoff helps expand and build international markets.
- '94 • China begins importing U.S. soybeans.
- '03 • China becomes top importer of U.S. soybeans.
- '11 • China approves 12th Five-Year Plan outlining goals for animal production and food security.
- '12 • China sets new record for U.S. soybean purchase commitments.

Source: United Soybean Board

Lonestar Soybeans

See How Your Checkoff Investment Is Benefiting Texas



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