Texas Soybean Board

Lonestar Soybeans

Keeping you up to date on your checkoff investment

Issue 2–May 2007

Welcome to the second edition of the *Lonestar Soybeans* newsletter! Your Texas soybean checkoff has created this biannual 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.

Texas Soybean Board Members

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 continues to be effective, efficient and farmer-driven. This issue of *Lonestar Soybeans* is an effort by the TSB to keep you informed about how your soybean checkoff is invested. It is vital to our board that we keep you involved and aware of the research projects you help fund.

Soybean producers have been faced with many challenges in recent years, including low prices, repeated drought conditions and disease/insect problems. Our checkoff income is based directly on the net value of the soybeans, so it is down for the 2007 fiscal year.

The bottom-line goal of the soybean checkoff is to create profit opportunities for U.S. soybean farmers through research and marketing, all to maximize the demand for our soybeans.

TSB consists of nine soybean growers elected by you, the producer, to serve six-year terms. Elections are held every two years, with the most recent one occurring in December 2006. If you are interested in serving on this board, please contact one of the current board members or the office. Our purpose is to allocate the soybean checkoff funds collected in Texas to efficient programs that will positively impact our profit opportunities. One-half of all funds collected are forwarded to the United Soybean Board for investment in the areas of animal utilization, human utilization, industrial utilization, industry relations, market access and supply.

At the state level, most of our checkoff funds are invested in production research. Funded projects are designed to achieve production efficiencies and to decrease the threat of disease (soybean rust), insects, drought and other yield-robbing ailments. We also provide educational materials to schools, county agents and other organizations free of charge. These materials include soy crayons, coloring books, teacher kits (complete lessons for grades 3-8 in science, social studies and health issues), and soyfoods guides (recipes and nutritional information) and can be obtained by contacting the office.

Our checkoff continues to build markets for our soybeans here in Texas, throughout the United States and overseas. For instance, this year we provided $1,000 to the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH). Whether promoting U.S. soy abroad, helping to increase demand for soy biodiesel or supporting the livestock and poultry industries, the farmer-leaders of the soybean checkoff have been working to increase the competitiveness and success of Texas and U.S. soybean farmers.

I encourage you to contact my fellow board members, the office or me if you have any questions or ideas about our soybean checkoff — we are here to represent all of you and to ensure that our checkoff remains effective, efficient and farmer-driven.

Sincerely,
Tom Rotello

Chairman, Navasota

2006 Texas Soybean Board Research

1 Controlling Insects and Fungi in North Texas Soybeans: How Many Sprays Can We Afford and Does Variety Matter?

Jim Heitholt, $7,681

Determine efficacy of thrips control in selected soybean varieties – record symptoms, determine grain yield and relate findings to variety tolerance. Collect stinkbug population data and determine efficacy for spraying in selected soybean varieties – record seed yield and quality. Apply selected fungicides at R1, R3 and/or R5 to determine spraying threshold for commercial soybean varieties – collect yield data and record leaf damage ratings.

2 Evaluation of Experimental Soybean Genotypes in Texas for Potential as Varieties and Parental Material

Jim Heitholt, Russell Sutton, $12,361

Evaluate MG4 & MG5 entries from the USDA-ARS Southern Soybean Uniform program in north Texas. Evaluate MG5 & MG6 entries on the upper Gulf Coast. Grow out segregating progeny from our crossing program and castaway donations from other soybean breeding programs. Measure canopy temperature depression (CTD) on entries grown in north Texas and determine whether the relationship between yield and CTD reported in 2005 is repeatable.

3 Agronomic Factors Involved in Soybean Production Along the Texas Gulf Coast

W. James Grichar, Joe D. Janak, Brent Batchelor, $20,560

Variety trials looking at date of planting, maturity group, row spacing and fungicide applications.

4 On-Farm Soybean Demonstrations of Irrigation Technology, Water Management and Pest Monitoring in the Texas Panhandle

Bob Robinson, Ordie R. Jones, Amarillo, $3,500

Provide current (weekly) information on soybean water use, crop development and growth, and pest status to farmers and consultants to assist in making decisions regarding ag operations with soybeans. Conduct soybean irrigation and cropping demonstrations on cooperator farms and test improved farming and irrigation practices, genetics, and new or improved technology.

5 Is the Red-Banded Stinkbug Associated with Flat Pod Syndrome?

M.O. Way, M.S. Nunez, R.A. Wolff, $7,139

Greenhouse study to determine if red-banded stinkbug is associated with flat-pod syndrome and to determine if confinement of red-banded stinkbug to one-half of a soybean plant results in flat pod in both halves of the soybean plant.

6 Reconsidering Economic Thresholds and Control of Stinkbugs in Soybeans

Stephen Biles, Texas Cooperative Extension, Port Lavaca, $5,938

Evaluate the current economic threshold of 36 stinkbugs per 100 sweeps and determine if extension economic thresholds of these insects is effective. A field trial will be conducted comparing various thresholds for stinkbug control ranging from untreated to applications at one-third current economic threshold.

7 Propagation, Evaluation and Potential Release of a Maturity Group 4 Roundup Ready Genotype

Jim Heitholt, $1,500

Seed increase on a potential variety for use on Texas farms.

Total funded: $58,679

FY 2006 FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
BEGINNING BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2005	**$58,867.91**
Income	$124,796.14
Collections	$134,412.64
Late fees	$206.35
Checkoff returned to neighboring states on soybeans sold in Texas	($3,960.80)
50% of collections transferred to USB	($64,729.96)
Expenses	$124,796.14
Administrative (staffing, collection expenses, office expenses, election, audit, board travel, etc.)	$23,069.06
Education (farm show exhibits, grower communications, field days, etc.)	$8,324.31
WISHH	$1,000.00
Research	$58,571.84
2005 final payment	$9,128.64
2006 first payment	$46,943.20
Southern soybean research program	$2,500.00
Total Expenses	$90,965.21
BANK BALANCE JULY 31, 2006	**$33,830.93**

See How Your Checkoff Investment Is Benefiting Texas

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