

NJ Soybean Board News

Keeping you up to date on your checkoff investment

Spring 2016

Letter From The Chairman



Happy planting, New Jersey soybean farmers! As temperatures are warming and grass is greening, one of our busiest times is right around the corner.

Your New Jersey Soybean Board (NJSB) members kept busy over the winter, evaluating project proposals and determining the best way to invest the checkoff dollars of New Jersey farmers.

Some of the projects funded by the NJSB include:

- State support for the Northeast, which will make up-to-date information on biodiesel available for Bioheat® and biodiesel users in our region.
- A project to survey and monitor insects, including the Mexican bean beetle, kudzu bug and brown marmorated stink bug. This project will help to lower pest populations, minimize the need for insecticide applications and provide advance insect warnings to farmers.
- An assessment of soil fertility and health throughout the state, conducted by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The results of this project will provide farmers with better information on current soil conditions and ways to improve soil health.

We also held the 5th Annual NJSB Soybean Producers Meeting at the Rutgers Eco Complex in Bordentown in February. More than 80 farmers attended to hear about important soybean marketing and production topics.

Your NJSB appreciates the opportunity to serve New Jersey soybean farmers by managing production research, education and promotion programs throughout the state. We wish you a safe and successful planting season.

Sincerely,

Brian Palmer

Chairman



Elmer Soybean Farmer Praises Soil Fertility for High Yields

Deep in the Garden State, a Salem County soybean farmer seems to have found the secret to producing consistently high yields, averaging between 60 and 70 bushels per acre. He attributes his success to a combination of fertile land and best management practices.

“We are lucky to be in a pocket of really good soil in Southern New Jersey,” says the farmer from Elmer who prefers to remain anonymous. “Before I began my grain operation here, vegetables were grown on the land for nearly 20 years.”

He believes that helped the soil’s fertility and also assisted in weed control. He rotates soybeans and corn annually.

Along with crop rotation, other year-round tactics have proven successful in minimizing weeds on his land while also working toward greater sustainability. He plants narrow rows, grows cover crops in the offseason and uses tillage practices only where necessary.

“I plant in 7½-inch rows using a bean

drill,” he says. “Though not very common for our area, I have found that the narrower rows reduce open space where weeds can emerge. It also seems to help the beans better withstand dry weather.”

The dry conditions and varying weather patterns in New Jersey in general caused him to install an irrigation system, which is another key factor in increasing his yields. He saw a nearly 50-percent yield increase on irrigated land last fall.



New Jersey Soybean Board

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Other News from NJSB



Atlantic Soybean Council (ASC)

Soybean farmer-leaders from NJSB, the Delaware Soybean Board, Maryland Soybean Board, New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association, Pennsylvania Soybean Board and Virginia Soybean Board have created a regional research consortium called the Atlantic Soybean Council (ASC). Looking to leverage soy checkoff funds, reduce redundancy and prioritize local research concerns, this organization will collaborate to efficiently address production issues common to the region. For more information about ASC, please contact NJSB Executive Director Ellen Davis at 804-366-1166.

Learning Through Gardening Program

Thanks to a recent grant NJSB provided to the New Jersey Agriculture Society, state elementary school students are receiving firsthand knowledge about soybeans through interactive lessons and activities brought to them in the classroom. This program provides the materials to grow soybeans in the classroom and create a product from the crop such as soybean lip balm, to teach students the many uses of soybeans.



FFA Awards

NJSB will sponsor three awards for the Marketing Plan Career Development Event (CDE) during the New Jersey State FFA Convention in May. Designed to assist students in developing practical skills in marketing, the event allows participants to research and present a marketing plan for an agricultural product, supply or service relating to soybeans. Teams of three from FFA chapters throughout the state will present their marketing plans during the event and be judged on both the development of the plan and presentation. First-, second- and third-place teams will be awarded a monetary prize and plaque sponsored by the NJSB.

Biotech University 2016

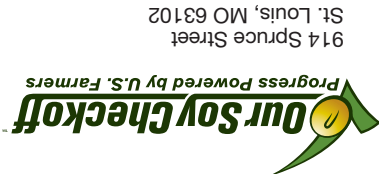
NJSB will select two collegiate New Jersey journalism students to attend Biotech University 2016. Selected candidates will travel to the two-day event this fall at Arizona State University to attend a seminar and participate in a reporting contest. Students will have the opportunity to submit a story in their chosen medium about an aspect of biotechnology for a chance to win a generous scholarship. Participating students will have the chance to research and explore all aspects of biotechnology from agricultural to industrial and environmental products that are shaping how we fuel and feed the world.



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See how your checkoff investment is benefiting New Jersey soybean farmers



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