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PA Farmers Actively Participate in On-Farm Soybean Research

HARRISBURG, PA (May 8, 2017) – As soybean producers are planting their 2017 crop, a group of Pennsylvania growers are also participating in research projects through the On-Farm Network.

The On-Farm Network research is conducted in real-world conditions on test plots planted by Pennsylvania farmers on their own farms with their own equipment to see which management practices have an appreciable impact on production. Research is being conducted at 30 different farm locations in 15 counties throughout Pennsylvania.

This year, research will focus on the following:

1. Double crop soybean response to lower seeding rate

A second double crop soybean research project will determine if the total number of pods per acre can be increased with lower plant populations.

2. Soybean response to reduced seeding rates

Some growers have suggested that lower plant stands near 75,000 may actually promote more pod development, reduce the potential for white mold and reduce seed costs, especially with full season soybeans and full season maturity soybeans. This study is designed to validate the population response at the lower end of traditional soybean seeding rates.

3. Soybean yield response to seed treatment fungicides in full season, early planted environment

Seed-applied fungicides can improve yield and plant stands under some situations. This study is designed to provide additional data on the frequency and magnitude of these responses under Pennsylvania conditions.

4. Soybean yield response to applications of fungicides and insecticides

The goal of this study is to be able to better estimate economic returns of a combination of fungicide and insecticide applications in relation to disease and insect incidence and damage. Differences between treated and untreated areas will be assessed via satellite imagery.

Del Voight, Penn State Senior Extension Educator and crop specialist, oversees the research along with Extension Agent John Bray, Penn State On-Farm coordinator, and Dr. Greg Roth, Penn State agronomist. The On-Farm research is funded through a checkoff grant from the Pennsylvania Soybean Board.



For the results of past studies from the [On-Farm Network](#), go the Pennsylvania Soybean Board website at www.pasoybean.org. During the growing season, updates will be available on the Penn State [Field Crop News website](#).

About the Pennsylvania Soybean Board

The [Pennsylvania Soybean Board](#) is a farmer-controlled Board responsible for managing Pennsylvania's share of funds received from the nationwide Soybean Checkoff program. The funding is available under an assessment program, approved by Congress in 1990, under which soybean farmers contribute 50 cents of every \$100 they receive for their beans at the first point of sale. Funds are used to develop markets, educate consumers, and research new ways to utilize and produce soybeans more efficiently. For more information, visit www.pasoybean.org.

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