

Pa. Growers Survey Soybean Production on Brazil Trip

HARRISBURG — As the world’s appetite for soy grows, Brazil has become an important producer and exporter of soybeans and aggressively competes with the United States in world markets. In fact, it currently ranks second in the world in soybean exports, just behind the U.S., and may become the number one soybean-producing country in the next few years.

A group of 14 Pennsylvania soybean growers, agronomists, and Penn State educators will embark on an 11-day study/visit to Brazil to learn about the sustainable, high-yielding soybean production systems in Brazil. Their trip will include visits to some of the country’s top growers and researchers to gain insight into state-of-the-art crop management practices of leading Brazilian farms. They will also get a first-hand look at a major port and other transportation infrastructure used to transport Brazil’s beans to market.

Led by Penn State’s Dr. Greg Roth and Giovanni Stefani Faé, a doctoral candidate in agronomy who hails from Brazil, the group will visit Brazil’s largest soybean-producing regions in February, during the height of the harvest season.

The objective of the fact-finding tour is to evaluate the overall soybean production practices in Brazil. The group will learn how the Brazilians are meeting sustainability objectives, how they are managing for soybean quality and how they use

cooperatives to manage input pricing and grain marketing. “We have a unique opportunity to talk with farmers, retailers and researchers about these issues and we want to bring some of these ideas back with us,” says Roth.

The tour will begin in Brasília, the capital of Brazil. The group will start by visiting some large farms in the neighboring state of Goiás in the Cerrado region of Brazil. These farms are intensive soybean producers. One farm on the tour is noted for adopting crop and livestock integrated systems to improve soil quality and soybean yields.

The tour will then head south to the Parana state to the city of Curitiba where the group will have the opportunity to converse with Brazilian agribusiness leaders. They will visit the Port of Paranaguá, the largest bulk port of Latin America, and one of the world’s most important sea trade centers.

During the next few days, the group will also get a first-hand look at a number of Brazil’s leading innovative farms, two cooperatives, and three research facilities in Parana and Rio Grande do Sul. These farms include some noted no-till innovators as well as the soybean record holder in Brazil, a farm that has won the national soybean yield contest two times, and currently holds the national soybean yield record (133 bu./acre) without irrigation.



Soybean harvest in Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Photo credit: Alf Ribeiro

You can follow the group on their trip to Brazil at <https://psbbrazil.blogspot.com>
The blog will be updated regularly with the trip itinerary, comments, photos and video.

Pa. Soybean Yield Contest Winners to Attend Commodity Classic

HARRISBURG – The Pa. Soybean Yield contest recognizes not only the state-wide grand champion, but also the top growers in each of five regions of Pennsylvania, based on maturity map.

Winners in the 2017 contest are:

State Winner & South-Central Region
Charles Farms (Lancaster County)
107.17 bu./acre

Central Region – Jay Arentz
(Adams County) 92.24 bu./acre

Southeast Region – John Frederick
(Bucks County) 83.55 bu./acre

Northern Region – Scott Snyder
(Lycoming County) 62.37 bu./acre

Western Region – Mike Reskovic
(Fayette County) 71.08 bu./acre:

Winners will attend the 2018 Commodity Classic in Anaheim, Calif., on Feb. 27– March 1.

New Board Member Appointed to PSB

HARRISBURG — At their December meeting, the Pennsylvania Soybean Board welcomed Rick Telesz, a soybean farmer from Volant, Lawrence County, to the Board of farmer/leaders who administer the soybean checkoff on behalf of Pennsylvania soybean growers.

Telesz attended Penn State and farms with his father and uncle on their family-owned and operated dairy and cash crop farm in Lawrence County. He was a regional winner in the 2016 Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest with a yield of 77.10 bu./acre

“Knowledge is power,” says Telesz. “The more farmers know, the more successful they can be. Farming today is more than just growing your crop and selling it to your local elevator. I believe the Soybean Board is instrumental in providing opportunities for soybean growers to better their operations.”

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board is a farmer-controlled board responsible



Rick Telesz, Volant, Pa. Photo credit: Holly Slegowski, PSB

for managing Pennsylvania’s share of funds received from the nationwide soybean check-off program. There are currently ten members on the Board.

2018 PA CORN AND SOYBEAN

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TOPICS INCLUDE

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- Soybean Disease Management
- What You Can Do to Impact Your Profitability
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Registration \$15/person on or before Feb.15; \$30 after Feb.15



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Pa. Soybean Farmers Support Checkoff-Funded Research Projects

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Research projects designed to provide reliable crop production data to soybean growers and to support Pennsylvania's animal agriculture industry have been awarded checkoff grants totaling more than \$365,000 by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board.

Funding grants were approved for the following research projects:

Evaluating Deer Damage on Pa. Soybean Varieties (Delaware Valley University) —

The project will evaluate ways to mitigate deer damage in Pennsylvania soybean fields. Thirty varieties will be evaluated to help guide growers with deer pressure to plant potentially less susceptible varieties.

Sentinel Plot Program (Penn State) —

The sentinel plot program will be run in collaboration with Penn State Extension to provide soybean growers with statewide assessment of insects and diseases active in soybean fields. Soybean fields throughout the state will be scouted weekly for insect pest and disease population.

Soybean Yield-Limiting Factors (Penn State) —

The Penn State Research Experiment Farms and Pennsylvania growers participating in the On-Farm Network will test a variety of products and management practices. Included will be research into the factors that drive soybean yield differences across different production zones in Pennsylvania. Consideration of the microbiome, nematodes and soil health and fertility will be included in the study.

Best Management Practices for Slugs (Penn State) —

Research will investigate best management practices for slugs. In field crops, slugs are particularly problematic in no-till or reduced-till fields with heavy residue and little soil disturbance.

Education for Western & Northern Region Pa. Soybean Growers (Penn State) —

While much research and education has been conducted in Southeastern and Central Pennsylvania, soybean producers in other areas of Pennsylvania need information to better understand the best management practices for their production zone. Extension educators will conduct soybean workshops and field days in Western and Northern regions to help growers maximize soybean production and yield.

Soybean Variety Trials (Penn State) —

Soybean early- and late-maturity variety trials will be conducted at three locations in Pennsylvania. More than 100 commercial varieties and experimental cultivars will be evaluated.

Using Precision Ag Data to Refine Soil Fertility Management (Penn State) —

The project will allow growers and agronomists to synthesize information contained in multiple datasets to identify differences in soil fertility levels across a field. By identifying zones within a field that have low fertility levels, producers can vary the rate of nutrients to achieve higher yields with a more economical use of fertilizer.

Soybean Vein Necrosis (Penn State) —

Soybean vein necrosis (SVN) has been reported in the U.S. since 2008. The disease causes development of shriveled, deformed seeds with reduced germination percentage and decrease in oil percentage, seed weight, protein content and fiber content. This project will investigate the role of host plant resistance in the management of this disease.

Effects of Novel Avian Revirus Variants on Egg Laying Hens (Penn State) —

The newly emerging Avian Revirus (ARV) variants and novel strains have been causing major poultry diseases and economic losses in Pennsylvania. Research will provide essential scientific data for most effective control strategies to prevent ARV infections, and provide recommendations for the most effective "soft" disinfectants for laying hen flocks.

Incidence of Influenza D Viruses in Pa. Cattle (Penn State) —

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is the number one disease of dairy and beef cattle. Growing evidence shows that newly discovered influenza D viruses (INDs) are major players in BRD. The project will aim to isolate and characterize IDV to evaluate the prevalence and genetic diversity of these viruses to reduce losses to the cattle industry.

Enhancing Rumen By-Pass of Extruded Soybean Meal Protein (Penn State) —

The research will evaluate the rumen by-pass value of soybean meal extruded at different temperatures. This project builds on previous research that demonstrated increased dry matter intake, and consequently increased milk yield, in dairy cows fed diets in which solvent-extracted soybean meal was substituted with extruded soybean meal.



A Leader in the Soybean Industry, an Advocate for Pa. Farmers



Daryl Alger, Lebanon, Pa.

Photo credit: Dawn Fox

LEBANON, Pa. — After Congress authorized the soybean checkoff in 1990, farmer/leaders stepped forward on the state and national level to administer the use of funds collected by the checkoff. Lebanon County farmer and businessman Daryl Alger was one of those leaders who volunteered his time, experience, and knowledge to serve Pennsylvania soybean growers.

Alger had been a member of the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association since 1984. When the checkoff was initiated, he became one of three members to serve on the first Pennsylvania Soybean Board. Over the years, the size of the Board and the scope of the projects funded by the checkoff have expanded, but the Board's commitment to invest wisely in the future of the soybean industry has remained the same.

Alger has served on the Pennsylvania Board for more than three decades, including two stints as chairman. He was also the first director from Pennsylvania to represent the state's growers on the United Soybean Board, which administers checkoff funds on a national level.

Unlike many soybean-growing states, Pennsylvania has a widely diversified agricultural base. Due to the state's robust animal agriculture sector, soybean demand outpaces production. Alger says the highlight of his time on the Board was when the United Soybean Board acknowledged the importance of the protection of the animal agriculture industry. The impact wasn't just felt in Pennsylvania — it was nationwide.

"Animal agriculture is the #1 customer for soy meal, and a huge part of the Pennsylvania ag economy," says Alger. "As a Board, we had support for animal agriculture in our sights as part of our strategic plan without neglecting production on the soybean side. Pennsylvania was on the cutting edge of the idea that we have to protect the industry as much as we have to invest in new things. We saw that our biggest customer was under attack.

Pennsylvania was ahead of the curve on this because two years later, the United Soybean Board made protecting the animal agriculture industry a priority."

Alger says he's had the privilege of serving with many strong directors in the past, but he's especially proud of the current ten-member Board.

"I pride ourselves on our leadership," he says. "There are no personal agendas.

We're entrusted with a lot of money, and farmers give it into our hands to promote and make the industry advance. We have a very diversified Board with some fine young leaders. They all grow soybeans, but some come with a banking and business background, some are producers involved in animal agriculture. It's exciting to see leaders come forward and new people come in.

"As a Board, we have a responsibility to protect the farmers' money," he continues. "I'm proud of the stance we took that any project we fund has to be soybean oriented. We all felt, and still do, that we need to have reserves. There could be a project that comes along quickly that we have to react to — a soybean disease or something that would affect production rapidly — and we want to be able to respond.

"The big challenge is not spending the money you have to spend but spending it wisely. It's tough sometimes putting a measurement on what it can and cannot do for the soybean industry. We are not a 'yes' board. I was always proud of our Board members, and it was an honor to be part of it."

At the December 2017 meeting of the directors of the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, Daryl Alger stepped down to make room for a new board member after spending 33 years in service to the state's soybean growers. Thank you, Daryl, for your leadership and your commitment to Pennsylvania agriculture.

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.



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