



The farmer-led, initiative offers cost-share programs and technical assistance to farmers who plant cover crops for three years.

## Farmers for Soil Health Offers Financial Assistance for Cover Crop Adoption

Farmers in 20 states can now enroll in cost-share programs through Farmers for Soil Health. This corn, pork and soy commodity initiative, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, establishes financial and technical assistance for corn and soybean farmers who adopt cover crops.

Participating farmers who plant cover crops will receive payments to help transition totaling \$50 (spanning three years) per new acre of cover crops planted. These payments of \$2 per acre are available for up to 600,000 acres of existing cover crops. Eligible farmers will participate in measurement, reporting and verification to highlight progress toward the goal of expanding adoption of cover crops.

Farmers can enroll at [farmersforsoilhealth.com](https://farmersforsoilhealth.com). Farmers in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin are eligible for enrollment.

A hallmark of the program is simplicity of enrollment and monitoring. Farmers will be able to enroll quickly and easily through the online enrollment platform, and all the monitoring/verification is done remotely via satellites.

Farmers for Soil Health is a collaboration between the National Corn Growers Association, National Pork Board and United Soybean Board. Its goal is to advance conservation practices to improve soil health across the U.S., including doubling cover crop acres in the U.S. to 30 million acres by 2030. **For more information on Farmers for Soil Health, visit [farmersforsoilhealth.com](https://farmersforsoilhealth.com).**

## Insights from Pennsylvania Soybean On-Farm Network

As in previous years, the Pennsylvania Soybean On-Farm Network has established research and monitoring locations across Pennsylvania in 2023.

In 2023, the network included seven major areas of research:

1. Ileva seed treatment
2. Slug monitoring
3. Updating soybean maturity recommendations
4. Herbicide evaluation for weed management
5. Soybean sentinel plot monitoring  
(part of a regional soybean data-driven project)
6. Cover crop incorporation into standing soybean
7. Soybean saved seed trials

The value of conducting such a large network is that researchers and Extension educators can work closely with Pennsylvania farmers to address research and monitoring needs that help growers make improved agronomic and management decisions. The On-Farm Network also provides tremendous opportunities for working with undergraduate interns, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars. This team effort is only possible due to the long-standing collaboration between the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, Penn State Extension, and the network of farmer/collaborators throughout Pennsylvania who participate in projects on their farms.

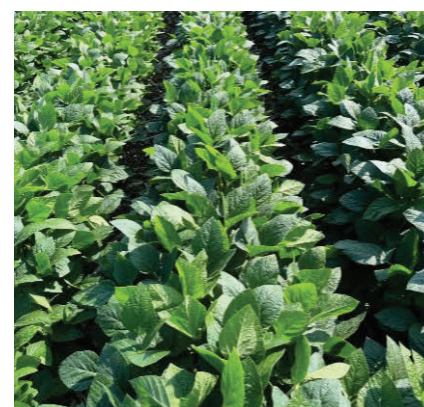
**Stay tuned!** Results from the 2023 trials will be shared during the Penn State Extension winter workshops currently planned for December 2023 and during other outreach opportunities, including local breakfast meetings.

Learn more about the Pennsylvania Soybean On-Farm Network on the PSB website at [pasoybean.org](https://pasoybean.org).

For more information about the Pennsylvania Soybean On-Farm Network, contact Dr. Paul Esker at [pde6@psu.edu](mailto:pde6@psu.edu).



Soybean saved seed harvest  
(Photo credit: D. Voight, Penn State Extension).



2023 Ileva on-farm strip trials  
(Photo credit: M. Kidd, Penn State).

## WANTED!

### SOYBEAN GROWERS TO REPRESENT PENNSYLVANIA ON THE UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD

The farmer-leaders who guide the United Soybean Board (USB) are instrumental in shaping the future of the soybean industry. The board is composed of 77 members representing 29 states, in addition to the Eastern and Western regions.

Two growers from Pennsylvania currently serve as USB members. Their input on the board makes a valuable contribution to making informed decisions that benefit soybean producers both in Pennsylvania and nationally.

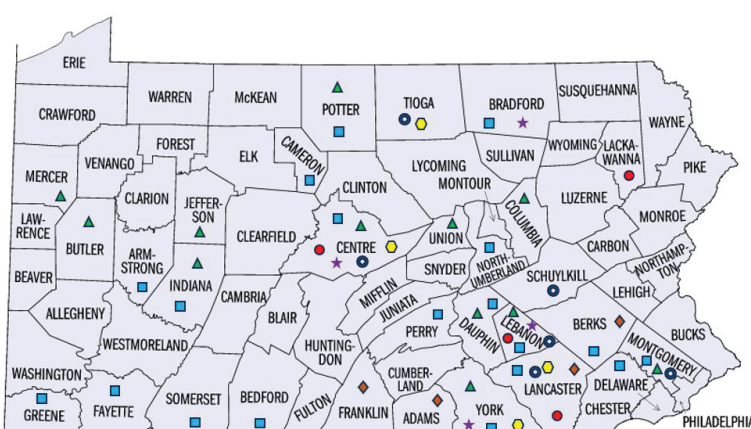
To represent Pennsylvania as a member of the United Soybean Board, you do not have to be a member of the Pennsylvania Soybean Board. However, you must be:

1. A soybean producer who is engaged in growing soybeans in Pennsylvania who owns or shares the ownership and risk of loss of soybean production.
2. Nominated by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board (PSB).

Individuals appointed to the board serve three-year terms. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture selects individuals from the nominations submitted.

If you are interested in finding out more about serving on the United Soybean Board, contact Jennifer Reed-Harry, PSB Executive Director, at [jrharry@pennag.com](mailto:jrharry@pennag.com) or call the PSB office at (717) 651-5922. **Deadline for nominations is January 22, 2024.**

2023 On-Farm Trial Site Map



IST = Ileva Seed Treatment, DD = Data Driven Project (Sentinel plot monitoring), SM = Slug Monitoring, SMR = Updating Soybean Maturity Recommendations, WM = Herbicide Evaluation for Weed Management, CC = Cover Crops, SS = Saved seed

Map of locations for the seven projects that form the Soybean On-Farm Network in 2023.



## Pennsylvania Soybean Board Hosts Multi-State Research Group

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board welcomed 40 farmer/leaders and university researchers to State College for the summer meeting of the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP). NCSRP is a farmer-led organization that invests soybean checkoff funds in university research and Extension programs to better understand and manage plant stressors that reduce soybean yield and farmer profitability. The Pennsylvania Soybean Board is one of 13 states contributing to the Program.

The farmer-led group met to evaluate research proposals and select the projects they plan to fund in the coming year. The mission of the NCSRP is to maximize producer returns by coordinating research efforts, minimizing duplication of research, and assuring that research projects are targeted at problems of the soybean producer.

As part of the meeting, the Pennsylvania Soybean Board hosted a casual reception where representatives of the ag industry in Pennsylvania and Penn State researchers mingled with the group to answer questions and offer insight into agriculture in Pennsylvania. The NCSRP group also visited Penn State's Rock Springs Research Farm for an overview of soybean research projects being conducted by the University.



Dr. Paul Esker provides updates to farmer/leaders and university researchers on the soybean research being conducted at Penn State.



Bill and Matt Beam shared farming insights with the Japanese trade team at Beam Farms.



Soybean importers from Japan participated in the USSEC-hosted event.

## Japan's Appetite for Soybeans

A delegation of trading officials from Japan was among the hundreds of international buyers and users of soy who traveled to New York for Soy Connex — the global U.S. Soy summit, hosted by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC).

Soy Connex is designed to provide opportunities for international buyers to meet with U.S. soy sellers, visit farms, and hear from some of the world's foremost experts on trends shaping the global soy complex. It brings together the world's top buyers, sellers and users of soy, and all those who look to U.S. Soy to deliver sustainability impact.

As part of their efforts to learn more about U.S. Soy, the Japanese trading officials wanted to see first-hand the high quality, sustainability, and reliability of U.S. Soy. The group, accompanied by staff from USSEC, visited Beam Farms in Elverson, Pennsylvania, then toured the Perdue crushing facility in Bainbridge, Pennsylvania, to get a closer look.

Japan is the third largest economy in the world and the fourth largest importer

of U.S. soybeans after China, Mexico and Egypt (not including EU as a block).

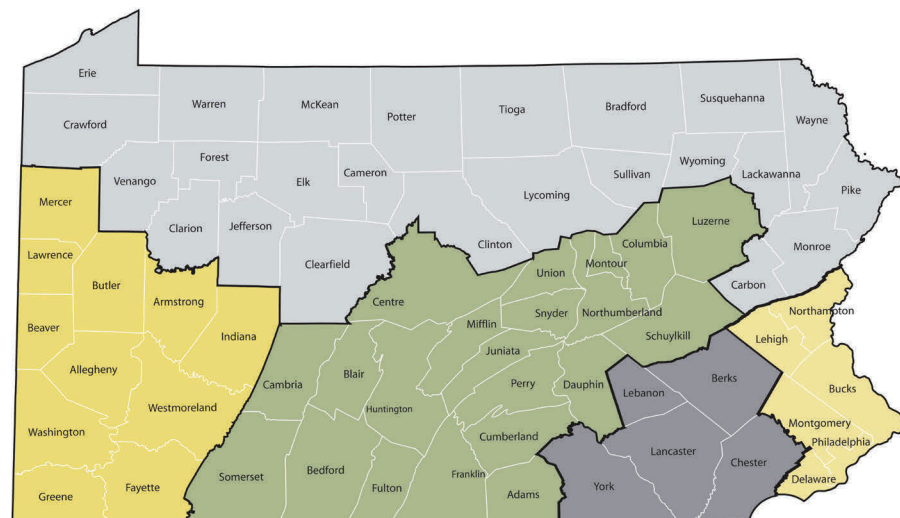
Japan has long valued soybeans for their role in traditional dishes. It's the world's largest food bean importer and soy food consumer of tofu, natto, miso, soy sauce and soy milk. Japanese soyfood processors demand high quality beans, especially for soy food products, and thus, favor domestic and U.S. soybeans.

However, the demand for soybeans in Japan isn't limited to culinary uses alone. The country's poultry and livestock industries also rely on soybean meal.

Despite being a limited producer of soybeans, Japan's high consumption of soybeans necessitates substantial imports. As Japan's soy production declines and farmers retire, secure and efficient access to soybeans from America will become even more essential to meet domestic demand. This reliance on imported soybeans creates a solid opportunity for U.S. soy producers to establish strong trade relationships and meet the growing demand.

## Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest Harvest Report Forms Due Nov. 15

As farmers throughout Pennsylvania begin soybean harvest, the Pa. Soybean Board reminds growers who registered to enter the 2023 Pa. Soybean Yield Contest to submit their harvest report form by November 15, 2023.



The Pa. Soybean Yield Contest recognizes top producers in each of these regions of the state.

The Pa. Soybean Yield Contest is designed to focus farmer attention on agronomic and management skills that will increase soybean yields and profitability. The contest is sponsored by the Pa. Soybean Board in association with Penn State University Extension.

Contest rules encourage producers from throughout the state to enter. The contest recognizes not only the statewide grand champion, but also the top growers in each of five regions of Pennsylvania.

Data gathered through the contest is aimed at delivering important information on growing practices throughout the state. Production practices used by participants will be publicized when the regional winners are announced. Growers who enter the contest may choose to have their results publicized anonymously.

### Harvest reports

In addition to a verified harvest report form, growers who enter the contest must provide a 1-pint seed sample, which will be tested for oil and protein, and a soil sample, which will be tested for fertility and nematode presence.

Return soybean and soil sample in a plastic bag by November 15, 2023, to: Delbert G. Voight, Jr., 2120 Cornwall Rd Suite 1 Lebanon, PA 17042

Growers who submit a completed harvest report form and the seed and soil sample will receive a triple-rinsing jet rinse nozzle as a "thank you" for their participation.

Questions? Call Penn State Extension educators Del Voight at 717-821-0699 or Andrew Frankenfield at 215-407-8950.



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.

Learn more at [pasoybean.org](http://pasoybean.org)



For the latest news, events, research updates and more:

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