

connections SPRING 2024

New Directors, New Officers Appointed to Pennsylvania Soybean Board

At their February meeting, the Pennsylvania Soybean Board welcomed three new directors. Marin MacNamara, Kaycee Stephens, and Adam Schettler have joined the Board of farmer/leaders who administer the soybean checkoff on behalf of Pennsylvania soybean growers. Additionally, the Board elected new officers for the 2024 Fiscal Year.

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 board

of directors come from all areas of Pennsylvania, with many different backgrounds. There are currently 10 members on the Board. Their common denominator is they all grow soybeans.

New directors

Marin MacNamara holds a Bachelors degree in Agricultural Business from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada and a Masters degree in Agricultural Management from Lincoln University in New Zealand. She's worked in Canada, the Western United States and New Zealand, primarily in crop research

and agronomy, and is employed in the agricultural finance field. She and her husband operate a farm in Fayette and Westmoreland Counties.

Kaycee Stephens graduated from Penn State with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Sciences and a minor in Agronomy. She is a Territory Manger for Corteva Agrisciences within Pennsylvania and Western Maryland. She and her husband operate a grain operation in Centre County.

Adam Schettler graduated from Penn State with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Systems Management and a minor in Agronomy. He is a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA). Schettler and his wife farm in Butler County.

New officers

Emily Landis has been elected to chair the Pennsylvania Soybean Board. Landis is a graduate of Penn State University

with an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Systems Management and a graduate degree in Animal Science. Together with her parents, Landis and her family operate a cash grain operation in Centre County. She is also an Executive Ag Relationship Manager with Horizon Farm Credit.

"I am fortunate to work with a diverse group of soybean producers on the Board who share an unwavering commitment to Pennsylvania agriculture," says Landis. "As Chair of the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, I look forward to supporting soybean growers by investing checkoff funds in research, opportunities for new uses, and promotion."

Other officers elected for the 2024 Fiscal Year include Justin Jones (Bradford County), Vice Chair; Justin Knoebel (Columbia County), Treasurer; and Dylan Beam (Lebanon County), Secretary.



(Left to right) Marin MacNamara, Kaycee Stephens, Adam Schettler, Emily Landis

'See for Yourself' Mission Shows Impact of Checkoff

Seeing is believing. That's why the United Soybean Board gave a group of U.S. soybean farmers an inside look at the customers, facilities, and opportunities that their checkoff dollars make possible. Ricky Telesz, a soybean farmer from Volant, Pa., was one of the soybean growers who took part in the "See for Yourself" mission.

During the 10-day mission, the group traveled to Panama and Colombia to visit the Panama Canal, meet with customers, talk aquaculture, learn about U.S. Soy's contribution to animal ag and how checkoff investments are opening up the world to U.S. soybean farmers.

"The reason I wanted to participate in the 'See for Yourself' mission was to visit Central America to experience the culture and see the impact of our checkoff dollars," says Telesz. "It was eye-opening."

The group hit the ground running by touring the Panama Canal, and learned how infrastructure and freight costs affect U.S. soybean farmers and what it takes to move U.S. soybeans across the globe.

In Columbia, the group visited a large animal feed production company that makes 30% of their feed with U.S. soy. They learned what the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) and other organizations are doing to help grow demand for U.S. soybeans. They talked to hog producers and explored Bogota markets to see how American products are integrated into their stores.

Soy's role in aquaculture

For Telesz, one of the most impressive parts of the tour was seeing the In-Pond Raceway System at a fish and aquaculture farm in Neiva, Colombia where red and black tilapia are raised.

U.S. Soy plays a big role in the expansion of the aquaculture industry to meet growing demand for fish and seafood. The IPRS (In-Pond Raceway System) technology was developed by USSEC and Auburn University. This practical and sustainable approach to pond aquaculture could double tilapia production in the region in a few years without additional land.

On the final day of their mission, the group was welcomed to the ranch of past Colombian President Álvaro Uribe Vélez., who was extremely influential in developing the U.S. - Colombia free trade agreement.

"One thing I learned is how much the world is dependent on U.S. soybeans and how we're working on expanding markets," says Telesz. "In Colombia, the customers we met seemed really excited to be buying soybeans from U.S. farmers. The sustainability and quality of U.S. soybeans are important to them. It was eye-opening to see another part of the world and how U.S. soybeans are used to feed the livestock that feeds their people. It puts it all into perspective."



Soybean producers and their hosts at the Panama Canal, their first stop on the See for Yourself mission.



Pa. Soybean Yield Contest winners joined PSB Board members at the 2024 Commodity Classic.

Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest Winners at Commodity Classic

Winners of the Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest joined Pennsylvania Soybean Board members for an educational trip to the 2024 Commodity Classic in Houston, Texas.

The Commodity Classic, America's largest farmer-led, farmer-focused agricultural and education experience, serves as a platform for soybean growers to access the latest agricultural research, innovative technologies, and best practices. Workshops, seminars, and presentations offer valuable insights that enhance growers' knowledge and skills.

The theme for the 2024 show, "New Frontiers in Agriculture", showcased cutting-edge technologies. Soybean growers explored new equipment, precision farming tools, and agritech solutions that can enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and optimize yields. The event also provided a unique networking opportunity for Pennsylvania soybean growers to connect with industry experts and farmers from throughout the United States to exchange ideas, experiences, and information.

The Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest awards a trip to the Commodity Classic to growers with the top yields in five regions of Pennsylvania. Information and registration for the 2024 contest is available online at pasoybean.org or from your local Penn State Extension Educator.



< Learn More

Results of On-Farm Network research are shared with producers at field days and crop conferences and well as through an annual research summary report and online.



Farmers Active Participants in On-Farm Research

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board, along with Penn State Extension, is gearing up for another year of On-Farm Network soybean research. The results of this real-life, on-farm production-scale research aid farmers in their ongoing crop management decision-making.

Pennsylvania soybean growers are active participants in on-farm research. Although conducting on-farm research requires additional time and effort from growers, it yields great results. Farmers and cooperators appreciate the value of testing ideas at the farm scale to see what works and what doesn't under real-life production conditions. Demonstrating successful practices at the farm scale is also a powerful tool for spreading knowledge and encouraging widespread adoption of improved techniques to all growers.

How it works

The Network works by conducting research in real-world conditions on test plots planted by the farmer or cooperators on their own farms with their own equipment to see which management practices have an appreciable impact on production. Farms throughout Pennsylvania with varying field, equipment and crop conditions contribute to the research data. Last year, farmers in 28 counties contributed to the research projects.

Field trials conducted at Penn State's Research Farms are compared with results from on-farm trials throughout Pennsylvania using grower production practices. This two-tiered approach seeks to validate the results obtained on the small plot trials with those on-farm using long strips. The research results are shared online, at field days, in research summaries, and at crop production workshops. The Penn State Extension team conducts educational programs throughout Pennsylvania, which provides additional opportunities for growers to share their thoughts, observations, and ideas for improving Pennsylvania soybean production.

Looking ahead to the 2024 growing season

Numerous opportunities exist for farmers to participate in the On-Farm Network program in 2024. Soybean growers throughout Pennsylvania, especially in the Northern and Western areas of the state, are urged to take advantage of the opportunity to work with Penn State's Extension team to conduct research directly applicable to their farm and production system.

The 2024 projects range from agronomic production to concepts in integrated pest management.

- Comparing pre-harvest broadcast and post-harvest drilled cover crops
- Spot-spray technology: where is the fit in Pennsylvania's no-till soybean and corn production?
- Production agronomy research and variety testing
- Slug monitoring
- Soybean sentinel monitoring and data-driven scouting solutions
- Nematode monitoring and advancing knowledge of nematode diversity across the Pennsylvania landscape

WANTED

Farmer/Cooperators for 2024 On-Farm Network Soybean Research

Growers interested in participating in any trials and monitoring efforts are encouraged to contact Paul Esker at pde6@psu.edu or their local Penn State Extension Educator for more information.

The On-Farm Network is funded by the soybean checkoff and administered by Penn State and Penn State Extension.

Research Supports Crop Production and Animal Agriculture

The soy checkoff's mission is to maximize profit opportunities for soybean farmers. That starts with checkoff-funded research.

Adjusting Soybean Harvest Time to Reduce Late Season Yield Loss and Protect Grain Quality (Penn State)

Erratic weather late in the season can threaten soybean yield and grain quality. A longer period between physiological maturity and harvest maturity increases the chances of lodging and fluctuation in grain moisture, which leads to pre-harvest grain deterioration. Excessive rainfall near harvest can also cause these issues.

This research project will investigate how soybean harvest time across different planting dates and soybean maturity groups affects soybean yield, quality, and profitability.

Determining the Effect of Extreme Precipitation on Efficacy and Weed Management (Penn State)

Pre-emergent residual herbicides are vital to control weeds that have evolved resistance to commonly used post-emergent herbicides. However, the Northeast is experiencing a 71% increase in extreme precipitation events. This increasingly variable precipitation will likely decrease the efficacy of soil-applied residual herbicides.

This research project seeks to examine how increasingly variable precipitation will impact residual herbicide efficacy, and whether cover crop surface residues can increase or decrease weed control when intense rain or drought events occur.

Advancing Herbicide Resistance Monitoring and Quick Diagnosis in Pennsylvania (Penn State)

Effective management of herbicide-resistant weeds is one of the greatest challenges in modern agriculture.

This project aims to establish an herbicide resistance monitoring program to provide timely detection of resistant weeds for Pennsylvania soybean growers. The monitoring program will be based at Penn State and, in the long term, will provide quick tests for soybean farmers to submit their weed samples for herbicide resistance diagnosis.

Best Management Practices for White Mold (Penn State)

White mold, caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, is a disease that affects many host crops, including soybeans. This fungus thrives in cool, wet weather and infects soybeans during flowering. It is important to manage the disease to prevent its spread to new areas of the state since the pathogen can survive in the soil for five or more years.

To improve management recommendations, this research aims to understand the pathogen distribution at regional and field scales, validate decision-making tools like the Sporecaster app to quantify the efficacy of in-season management practices, and increase understanding of growers' experience with white mold disease management.

Characterizing the Rumen Bypass Value of Unsaturated Fatty Acids in Expeller Soybean Meal (Penn State)

Expeller soybean meal is commonly fed to dairy cows and has a great reputation as a consistent, high-quality rumen bypass protein. The rumen bypass value of the unsaturated fatty acids has not been well studied, and the linoleic and linolenic acid that escaped the rumen in conventional expeller soybean meal would provide fatty acids to the cow.

This research project will characterize rumen bypass of fatty acids in conventional and high oleic soybeans to provide key information for ration balancing in cows. Determining these values will increase the value of expeller soybean meal as they will be fed to deliver specific fatty acids to the small intestine, where they can be absorbed by the cow.



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



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