

# CHECKPOINT

NEWSLETTER FOR PENNSYLVANIA SOYBEAN PRODUCERS

## BUFFER PROJECT DEMONSTRATES KEY CONSERVATION PRACTICE

**Pennsylvania has had conservation guidelines in place for decades, but focus on conservation has intensified in recent years due to heightened attention to the water flowing from streams and rivers in Pennsylvania and other Chesapeake Bay headwater states into the Bay.**

Progress is being made to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment discharges into the Bay. Many of these reductions have come from improved agricultural practices and the institution of conservation measures such as forest riparian buffers.

Forest riparian buffers are areas along streams populated by native trees and shrubs. They're especially beneficial to improving water quality, says Dennis Eby of the Lancaster Conservation District, and have long been recognized as one of the best management practices for addressing nonpoint sources of pollution to rivers and streams. These buffers serve to filter pollutants, cool water temperatures, help

prevent stream bank erosion, and provide stormwater management and flood control.

A project to plant a 1.5-acre forest riparian buffer along the banks of Dellingler Run at Penn State University's Southeast Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SEAREC) in Manheim, Pa. was funded through a \$4,600 grant from the Pennsylvania Soybean Board. While most farms are eligible for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funding, the Penn State Research Center, as a university-owned facility, is not. The grant covers all the buffer expenses for four years.

"After the four years, the buffer should

be able to grow on its own. As the trees get larger, they will shade out grasses and weeds and form a forest floor along the stream," says Eby.

This riparian buffer will not only improve the quality of the stream, it will also allow the hundreds of visitors who come to the Research Center during field days, tours and other educational events to see a forested riparian stream buffer firsthand.

The grant from the PSB included funding for planting 150 trees and 50 shrubs, as well as maintenance for four years. In November 2011, students from Manheim Central's FFA chapter installed the riparian

**Continued inside ...**



**"If individuals can do little things on their farms, it can add up to a big benefit."**

Dennis Eby, Lancaster Conservation District

# FAQ'S ABOUT THE SOYBEAN CHECKOFF

## Who is the first purchaser?

The first purchaser is deemed the person who first buys the beans from the farmer.

## Why does the first purchaser have to pay the checkoff assessment?

Through the checkoff, farmers contribute 50 cents of every \$100 of the net market value of their beans for activities on their behalf. The federal Act & Order require the assessment be collected by the first purchaser and reported quarterly.

## Who sets the percentage that is collected by first purchasers from the soybean farmers?

This was established at the federal level by the United States Department of Agriculture. The states do not have the ability to adjust the percentage collected.

## Where does the money go that is collected and submitted to PSB?

The funds are split (50/50) between the Pennsylvania Soybean Board (PSB) and the United Soybean Board (USB). The funds are used for program administration, research, education and outreach.

## How are multi-state assessments handled?

If beans are purchased from farmers in other states, the first purchaser can report that on their PA form and the PSB will remit the appropriate funds to those states.

## Is anyone exempt from the assessment fee?

All first purchasers are required to collect and report the assessment fee unless the producer is 100% organic and has filed papers stipulating their farm is organic.

## What is the relationship between PSB and USB?

PSB works in conjunction with the United Soybean Board. USB provides the program oversight, guidance and auditing to ensure all states are in compliance with the Act & Order.

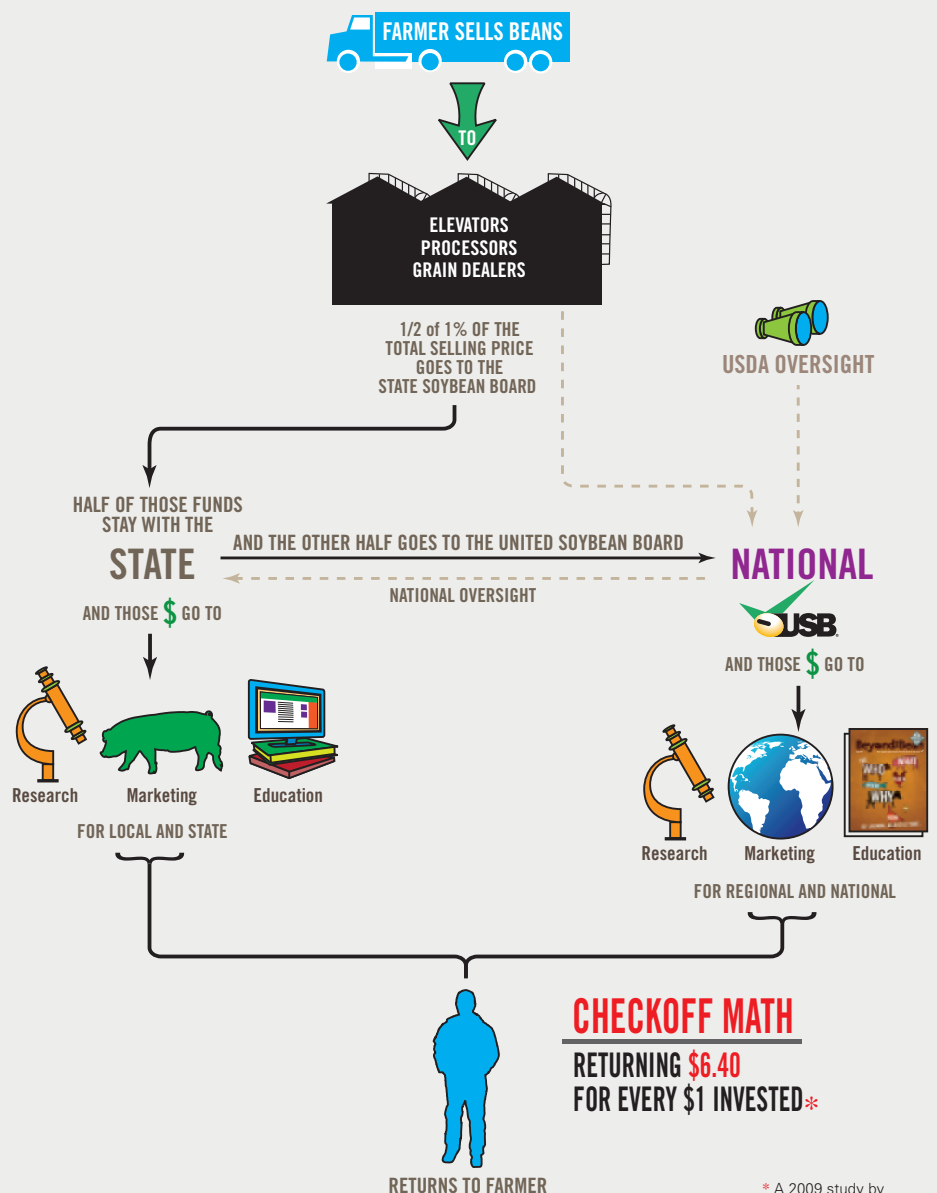
## What is the difference between the Pennsylvania Soybean Board and the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association?

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board (PSB) and the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association (MASA) are two different organizations. Both serve soybean farmers, but in distinctly different ways. Whereas PSB administers soybean checkoff activities focusing on research, education, and market development, MASA focuses on policy issues, which, by law, the checkoff can't.

The Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association is a membership organization, supported by soybean farmers and the industry in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and

Pennsylvania. MASA is affiliated with the American Soybean Association. A primary focus of the American Soybean Association (ASA) is policy development and implementation. ASA is tasked with accomplishing the policy goals established by the farmers/members/delegates. ASA does this by testifying before Congress, lobbying Congress and the Administration, contacting members, and meeting with the media.

The soybean checkoff is a distinctly different program, funded by an assessment required at the first point of sale for soybeans. The checkoff is expressly prohibited from influencing public policy. ✓





*As a clear and cool morning dawned on November 5, 2011, students and an advisor from Manheim Central FFA and several other volunteers gathered along the banks of Dellinger Run to plant the buffer.*

## BUFFER PROJECT (Continued)

buffer on both sides of the stream that runs through the Research Center. The planting consisted of native species blackhaw and red osier dogwood shrubs, and native swamp white oak, American sycamore, tulip poplar, eastern redbud, river birch and sugar maple trees.

The team overseeing the project consisted of Eby; Ashley Spotts, CREP buffer specialist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF); Jeff Graybill, Penn State Extension Agronomy Educator; and Alyssa Collins, SEAREC director. Going forward, Lancaster County Conservation District personnel will continue to monitor the buffer through the summer of 2014, and Penn State staff will handle weed control and other maintenance work.

“If individuals can do little things on their farms, it can add up to a big benefit,” says Eby. “People may think, ‘Oh, I’ve just got a little stream on my farm, and it’s insignificant,’ but these streams are actually the most vulnerable.” ✓

### WHY PLANT A FOREST RIPARIAN BUFFER?

- As natural filters, buffers trap sediment before it enters the stream.
- Buffers encourage groundwater infiltration. Trees convert the excess nutrients in stormwater runoff into a form that actually sustains the growth of the forest.
- Buffers provide the shade necessary to maintain cool water temperatures and rich oxygen levels to sustain fish.
- Buffers enable the stream to grow forms of algae that are preferred by stream herbivores.
- The trees and shrubs provide food in the form of leaf litter for the organisms that live in the stream, thus ensuring a rich diversity of organisms. The more diversity of life in the stream, the healthier the stream and the better it is able to process pollutants.
- Buffers provide habitat and cover for spawning fish.
- Buffers provide a home for a variety of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. The forested edge between land and water is prime habitat for many creatures; berries, buds, fruits and nuts offer a varied menu and provide plenty of places for nesting.

## CHESAPEAKE BAY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

The EPA has established a pollution limit, technically called the Chesapeake Bay “Total Maximum Daily Load,” or TMDL, in 2010 that aims to reduce Bay pollution by approximately 25 percent. The six Bay states and the District of Columbia are each required to do their part.

As part of EPA’s Bay pollution limit, Pennsylvania and the other Bay states agreed to create state-specific plans which, upon implementation, achieve their allocation of pollution reductions by 2025. Pennsylvania’s plan, called a Watershed Implementation Plan or WIP, includes actions to be taken by farmers, sewage treatment plants, urban cities, suburban communities, rural towns, and citizens across Pennsylvania’s Bay watershed.

Source: Chesapeake Bay Foundation



*Signage installed near the stream credits the partners working together on the buffer project.*

# RESEARCH

## “FOCUS ON SOYBEANS” WEBCASTS PROVIDE THE LATEST NEWS ON PRODUCTION RESEARCH

To make the most of every acre, soybean farmers need the latest production research and management information. One thing that can help them get it is the soy checkoff-funded “Focus on Soybeans” webcast series. With the new, quicker summary versions, soybean farmers can get the latest information they can use on the farm in five minutes or less.

The webcasts provide valuable information to help soybean farmers better manage pests, diseases and other crop stresses. They also bring to U.S. soybean farmers new developments in production practices, irrigation management, seeding rates, seed-quality preservation and others that are included in the series, too.


The webcasts are available in shorter and longer formats. Although the shorter versions provide more convenience for some farmers, the full-length versions, which include a lot more science-related information, still remain available for soybean farmers who prefer the longer format.

On the last Monday of each month, the soy checkoff posts new webcasts to [www.UnitedSoybean.org](http://www.UnitedSoybean.org), accessible via the “Focus on Soybeans” sign on the homepage. All U.S. soybean farmers have free access to the full-length webcasts for two months. The five-minute summary versions will be accessible at all times.

The webcast series, developed by Plant Management Network (PMN) in partnership with the soy checkoff, feature updates on applied and practical soybean research projects. PMN serves as an Internet-based resource owned and operated by the American Phytopathological Society and jointly managed by

the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. The website can be accessed at [www.PlantManagementNetwork.org](http://www.PlantManagementNetwork.org).

With cuts in resources such as Extension, it becomes increasingly important that farmers have other resources to turn to help us boost production. That boost in production can help increase the profitability of every U.S. soybean farmer, which has always been a goal of the soy checkoff. ✓



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The Pennsylvania Soybean Board administers the national soybean checkoff program, approved by Congress in 1990. Under its terms, farmers “check off” 50 cents on every \$100 at the first point of sale of their beans. Half goes to the state, with the remainder to the United Soybean Board. The money is used to fund or support soybean research, market development and education.

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board promotes the growth and development of Pennsylvania’s soybean industry. The board membership is composed of soybean producers from across the state.

- Daryl Alger, Chairman, Lebanon, PA
- Brian Kreider, Vice-Chairman, Lebanon, PA
- Steve Hykes, Secretary/Treasurer, Greencastle, PA
- Bill Beam, Elverson, PA
- Michael Gerhart, Ephrata, PA
- Jim Musser, Mount Joy, PA
- John Yocum, Catawissa, PA
- Del Voight, Ex-Officio Member, Lebanon County Senior Extension Educator

**Contact us at:**

**Pennsylvania Soybean Board**  
 Jennifer Reed-Harry, Executive Director  
 Northwood Office Center  
 2215 Forest Hills Drive, Suite 40  
 Harrisburg, PA 17112  
**Phone: (717) 651-5922**  
**Fax: (717) 651-5926**  
[contact@pasoybean.org](mailto:contact@pasoybean.org)  
[www.pasoybean.org](http://www.pasoybean.org)

## NEW WEBSITE FOCUSES ON RESOURCES FOR PENNSYLVANIA SOYBEAN GROWERS

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board recently launched its new website. Visit [www.pasoybean.org](http://www.pasoybean.org) and take a look at the many ways PSB puts checkoff funds to work, from providing farmers with the most current research on soybean production practices to supporting animal agriculture, the No. 1 customer of soybean meal.

### RESEARCH FOCUS

Providing farmers with cutting-edge research they can use to better manage their crops is one of the most important ways the Pennsylvania Soybean Board (PSB) serves the state’s farmers. The website features results from past research projects, including findings on weed, disease and insect control, variety trial results, and results from the On-Farm Network, a project that provides real-life, on-farm production scale data from farms throughout Pennsylvania to aid farmers in their ongoing crop management decision-making.

Look under the Research tab on the website for checkoff funded research, conveniently categorized under these topics:

- VARIETY TESTS
- INSECT CONTROL
- WEED & DISEASE CONTROL
- CROP MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
- BIODIESEL
- SOYFOODS/NEW USES

[www.pasoybean.org](http://www.pasoybean.org)



## 2013 PENN STATE CROP CONVENTIONS

Penn State's Crop Conventions, supported in part by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, focus on current crop management issues important to the productivity of Pennsylvania farmers. Key topics include: forage crop weed management, grain crop management review, getting the most out of manure, pesticide education, world ag and risk management and a 2012 pest review.

Pesticide, nutrient management and CCA credits are available. Cost: \$10 includes class materials, lunch and refreshments.

### JANUARY 17, 2013

#### Lancaster County

Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, PA  
Coordinator: Jeff Graybill  
jsg18@psu.edu, 717-394-6851

### JANUARY 18, 2013

#### Blair County

Ramada Inn, Altoona, PA  
Coordinator: Nicole Santangelo  
nls18@psu.edu, 814-274-8540

### JANUARY 22, 2013

#### Lehigh County

Rodeway Inn, Allentown, PA  
Coordinator: Dwane Miller  
dlm228@psu.edu, 570-622-4225

### JANUARY 23, 2013

#### Montgomery County

Franconia Heritage Restaurant and Conference Center, Franconia, PA  
Coordinator: Andrew Frankenfield  
adf13@psu.edu, 610-489-4315

### JANUARY 24, 2013

#### Berks County

Crowne Plaza, Reading, PA  
Coordinator: Mena Hautau  
mmh10@psu.edu, 610-378-1327

### JANUARY 31, 2013

#### Franklin County

Rhodes Grove Camp & Conference Center  
Chambersburg, PA  
Coordinator: Jennifer Brattthauer  
jlb926@psu.edu, 717-263-9226

### FEBRUARY 5, 2013

#### Union County

Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA  
Coordinator: Dave Hartman,  
dwh2@psu.edu, 800-851-9710

### FEBRUARY 6, 2013

#### Dauphin County

Berrysburg Community Center  
Berrysburg, PA  
Coordinator: Paul Craig  
phc8@psu.edu, 717-921-8803

### FEBRUARY 12, 2013

#### Bradford County

Troy Firehall, Troy, PA  
Coordinator: Mark Madden  
mxm53@psu.edu, 570-928-8941

### FEBRUARY 21, 2013

#### Somerset County

Oakhurst Tea Room, Somerset, PA  
Coordinator: Tom Ford  
tgf2@psu.edu, 814-472-7986

### MARCH 5, 2013

#### Mercer County

Park Inn by Radisson  
West Middlesex, PA  
Coordinator: Joel Hunter  
jmh7@psu.edu, 814-333-7460

**Contact your county Extension office for more information.**

## 2012 PENNSYLVANIA SOYBEAN WORKSHOPS

If you're interested in learning about the latest research and recommendations on soybean production, plan to attend one of the Pennsylvania Soybean Workshops, funded in part by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board.

Pesticide and CCA credits are available. Cost: \$10 includes class materials, lunch and refreshments.

### LOCATIONS:

Tuesday, December 11, 2012  
Mercer County

Wednesday, December 12, 2012  
Bedford County

Thursday, December 13, 2012  
Juniata County

Friday, December 14, 2012  
Montgomery County

### AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Basics of Soybean Production: Benefits, Economics, Growth & Development
- 10:30 a.m. Cultural Management: Planting Date, Row Spacing, Seeding Rate
- 11:00 a.m. Weed Management Systems in Soybeans
- 11:30 a.m. Key Soybean Insect Pests and Management
- Noon Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Local Grower Issue
- 1:00 p.m. Soybean Diseases: Identification & Management
- 1:30 p.m. Harvest & Storage
- 2:00 p.m. Adjourn

## REGISTRATION

A registration form is available online or by contacting the Lebanon County Extension office at 717-270-4391 or [LebanonExt@psu.edu](mailto:LebanonExt@psu.edu). Registration deadline is one week prior to event.

Mail registration form & payment to:  
Penn State Extension, Lebanon County  
2120 Cornwall Road, Suite 1  
Lebanon, PA 17042