



## New Directors and New Officers Appointed to Pennsylvania Soybean Board

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board elected a new chair, Justin Jones (Bradford County) and welcomed 2 new directors, Leslie Bowman (Franklin County) and Mike Reskovac, (Fayette County). They have joined the Board of farmers/leaders who volunteer their time to administer the soybean checkoff on behalf of the Pennsylvania soybean growers. The Board also elected two new officers, Marin MacNamara as Vice Chair (Fayette County) and Kaycee Stephens as Secretary (Centre County). Jones has served on the board since 2020 and

both MacNamara and Stephens are in their second year of service.

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board is a farmer-controlled volunteer Board responsible for managing Pennsylvania's share of funds received from the nationwide soybean checkoff program administered by the United Soybean Board. The Board members are from all areas of Pennsylvania, with many different backgrounds. There are currently 10 members on the Board, and all have one thing in common - they are soybean growers.

Leslie Bowman is an eighth-generation farmer and serves as a

partner, crop manager and treasurer for Leshler's Poultry Farm, Inc. Leshler's is a shell egg producer with 390,000 laying hens and 130,000 hens less than one year of age. The 2,370-acre farm harvests corn, soybean, wheat and sunflowers. They sell plenary soybeans, a genetically modified, high oleic acid soybean variety and they also purchase soybeans and oil for feed usage. Bowman served as President of the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association for three years.

Mike Reskovac is a first-generation farmer with a bachelor's degree in agricultural system management from Penn State University. Reskovac grows 950 acres of crops, including soybeans, corn, wheat, hay, sunflowers, sweet corn and pumpkins. His farm also offers agritourism, consisting of pick-your-own sunflowers and a corn maze. Mike is a member of the Pennsylvania Bureau, Farm Service Agency, and County Committee

and formerly served as President of the Corn Growers Association.

New Chair Justin Jones, a graduate of Mansfield University, farms 1,900 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and hay and runs a small herd of beef cattle. His wife, Amanda, farms sheep commercially.

"I look forward to collaborating with my fellow Board members to uphold our mission of driving innovation to maximize crop yield, and protect the value of soybeans in Pennsylvania," says new Board chair Justin Jones. "Additionally, the Board's strategic plan emphasizes promoting agriculture, improving sustainable farming, and enhancing public understanding of soybean uses."

For more information about the Pennsylvania Soybean Board and resources available to soybean growers please visit [www.pasoybean.org](http://www.pasoybean.org) and follow the Board on Facebook, Instagram and X.



(Left to right) Leslie Bowman, Justin Jones, Mike Reskovac

## 2024 Soybean Yield Contest Winner Dale Herr Jr. Earns Top Spot with Biggest Yield Ever

Lancaster County's 4th generation farmer A. Dale Herr, Jr. was the commonwealth's top producer in this year's Pennsylvania Soybean Yield competition, sponsored annually by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board. His winning yield topped more than 30 other entrants with a record-breaking 117.30 bushels per acre.

Dale says the air quality and less acid rain over the last several years has impacted the sulfur levels in east coast soil. This change inspired him to experiment with a second sulfur pass over 30 acres of his 100 acres of soybeans - a minor change he believes that led to his greatest soybean yield yet.



2024 Pa Soybean Yield contest winner A. Dale Herr Jr.

Herr planted a Pioneer P35Z76E variety after corn with a no-till drill on 15-inch rows on April 27. He used a two-pass herbicide program and applied fungicide and insecticide. His crop received around 17 inches of rain from planting to harvest with the average being 27 inches. Spring started out with a surplus of rain but then it turned dry in early summer.

From mid-July through mid-August, his area totaled over eight inches of rain and then it turned dry except for some late September rains. His area was slightly above the 10-year Growing Degree Day average with no significant temperature extremes. Herr harvested his crop on October 12 and then followed up after harvest, planting a cover crop.

The Pennsylvania Soybean Yield contest recognizes not only the state-wide grand champion, but also the top growers in each of five production regions in Pennsylvania, based on maturity maps:

### State Overall & South-Central Region:

A. Dale Herr Jr, (Lancaster County); 117.30 bu./acre

**Southeastern Region:** Brad Kiefer (Northampton County); 100.54 bu./acre

**Central Region:** Eric Myers, (Franklin County); 88.21 bu./acre

**Northern Region:** John Tebbs (Lycoming County); 102.18 bu./acre

**Western Region:** Ricky Telesz, (Lawrence County); 86.31 bu./acre

**Irrigated Class:** Steve Chapin, (Columbia County); 85.06 bu./acre



## Join the Pennsylvania Soybean Board at the 2025 Ag Progress Days (APD), Pennsylvania's Largest Outdoor Agricultural Exposition Held August 12-14, 2025

Ag Progress Days is held annually for three days in August at The Pennsylvania State University's - Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center. We invite you to come to this great event if you haven't before. The Pennsylvania Soybean Board (PSB) will have a booth in the Farm Credit Building located at Main Street and 6th Street featuring information on the latest soybean research, giveaways for soybean growers, and PSB representatives to answer any questions. PSB Board members will be there to attend seminars, walk the exhibition grounds and to network with PSU researchers and fellow soybean growers.

Ag Progress Days features the latest technology and research exhibits, educational programs, and guided tours of the facilities. Hosted by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the event will celebrate its forty-ninth year at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, nine miles southwest of State College, PA. It is one of only three agricultural exhibitions in the country sponsored by a major University. The exhibits will showcase the latest in Penn State research, as well as information on best management practices and changing regulations in the agricultural industry.

With over 400 exhibitors from 35 states and 4 provinces of Canada, there is something for everyone. Each year, farming families from across Pennsylvania and surrounding states attend this three-day event. Of the 44,000 expected attendees, over 60 percent are actively engaged in agriculture or related professions.

Come and see the latest innovations in agricultural equipment and technology, learn about current agricultural research, and stop by and visit the Pennsylvania Soybean Board booth!

< Scan for more information!

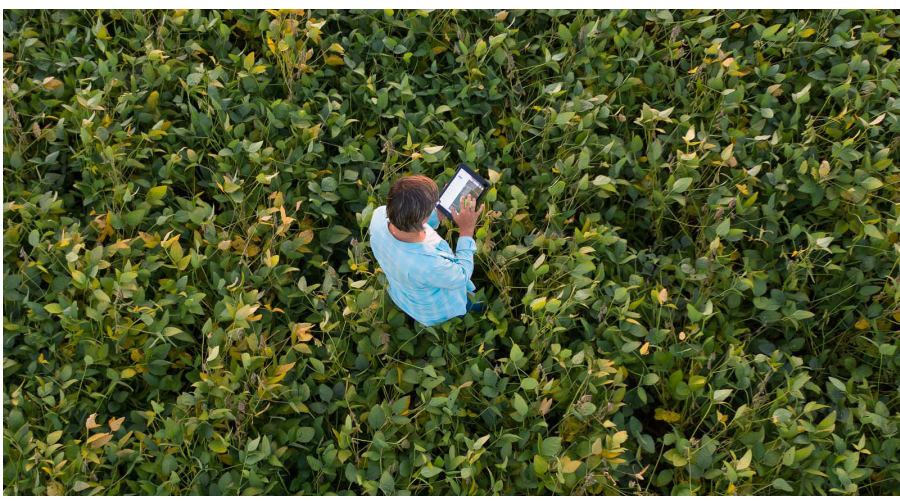


The annual Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest awards an educational trip to the Commodity Classic to growers with the top yields in five regions of Pennsylvania. Information and registration for the 2025 contest is available on the Pennsylvania Soybean Board website.

< Scan here to learn more!







## The Pennsylvania Soybean On-Farm Network Research for 2025

Penn State Extension's Pennsylvania On-Farm Network conducts small-plot research at the Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center and large-scale on-farm trials in Lancaster County to evaluate agricultural practices under real-world conditions. In collaboration with Pennsylvania growers, these trials validate research findings, ensuring small-plot results translate to scalable, practical applications for commercial production.

The following initiatives are being implemented for 2025:

### Soybean sentinel plot program

By collaborating with local growers, extension educators will conduct weekly scouting of soybean fields and report the active plant pathogens, as well as insect and slug pests. This information will be published in Penn State's *Field Crop News* eNewsletter to inform growers about the active pests that may pose risks to their fields. To sign up for this free eNewsletter visit <https://extension.psu.edu/field-and-forage-crops-team-sign-up>.

### Slug monitoring and phenology program

Extension educators will monitor several slug species in soybeans from early April to mid-June by inspecting shingle traps weekly for slugs and slug eggs. As soybeans start to grow, slug feeding damage will be evaluated. A weekly report will be published in *Field Crop News*.

### Evaluating targeted spraying technology in no-till soybean

PSU Weed Science is working with early adopters of John Deere's See & Spray technology to characterize potential return on investment (ROI) from herbicide input reductions. Surveys and analysis will consider field characteristics (size, landscape features), weed distribution patterns (edge vs. interior), and weed species (life cycles, dispersal traits) that impact ROI.

### Participatory on-farm trials will evaluate the effectiveness of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) fungicide applications

UAV applications are becoming more popular, yet many questions remain regarding their effectiveness against diseases like white mold in soybeans. In replicated strip trials, they will compare spray coverage, disease severity, and yield between different application methods (ground application versus drone).

### Plant-parasitic nematode surveillance

This project examines the distribution of nematodes in soybean fields. It seeks to correlate the density of plant-parasitic nematodes (specifically root-lesion and soybean nematodes), evaluate the connections between nematode density and above-ground disease symptoms, and investigate the relationship between nematode hot spots and yield losses.

### Leveraging a Soybean On-Farm Network for extension and education to enhance stakeholder knowledge

The Soybean On-Farm Network engages farmers and stakeholders through various outreach methods to promote collaboration, address production and management challenges, and provide science-based insights to improve soybean production and decision-making in Pennsylvania. In 2025, they will host breakfast and lunch meetings, field days, and hands-on demonstrations.

### Drone seeding cover crops into standing soybeans

This trial aims to determine the optimal drone-seeding dates for hairy vetch + tillage radish mix into standing soybeans. The fall and spring performance of three drone seeding dates and post-soybean harvest cover crop seeding will be compared across six sites.

### Production Agronomy: planting date, maturity group, and growth enhancers

This year, they will assess the interactions between planting dates, maturity groups, and yield. Additionally, they will utilize soybean variety trials to evaluate yield responses to various maturity groups. Finally, they will investigate how foliar fertilizers and growth enhancers influence soybean productivity.



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PA FFA Representatives met with the Pa Soybean Board at their February Board meeting.

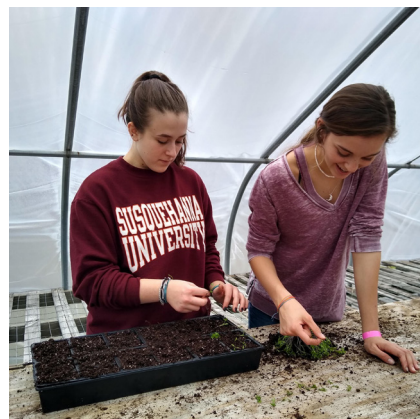
## Pa Soybean Board Celebrates 5 Years of Support for the PA FFA

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board (PSB) is committed to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders through its partnership with Pennsylvania Future Farmers of America (PA FFA). With a shared mission to foster education, leadership, and career development in agriculture PSB not only hopes to ensure success of the soybean industry but also helps shape the future of all agriculture in Pennsylvania.

For the past 5 years, PSB has supported the PA FFA consistently in the following initiatives.

### Diversified Crop Proficiency

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through supervised agricultural experiences, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Students can compete for awards in nearly 50 areas ranging from agricultural communications to wildlife management. Proficiency awards are also recognized at local and state levels and provide recognition to members that are exploring and becoming established in agricultural career pathways.



### Agronomy Career Development Event

This event challenges students to strengthen their knowledge in the vast field of agronomy. Teams of four students assess and appraise an agronomic scenario and develop a program to manage things such as the selection of crops, production, problem-solving, and marketing. They are also individually tasked with completing an agronomic exam. Learn more: <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/agronomy/>



### Ag Educator Professional Development and Curriculum

Each March over 100 agriculture educators from across PA come together for a time of professional development. In 2025, FFA held a 1-hour professional development session on the current trends in agriculture and the Pennsylvania poultry industry which is one of the largest consumers of soybean meal.

This professional development serves as a basis for content, skills, and curriculum. The training also included a general overview of poultry production in PA. Specific topics include nutrition, housing styles, broilers vs layers, the avian influenza impact and much more.

An important initiative that the PSB is supporting this year is the State Pennsylvania state FFA officer team. This is a team of 7 FFA members chosen by their peers to serve as advocates for agriculture education and FFA in the state for an entire year. The team will visit over 120 FFA chapters across the state, speak at 75 or more banquets, and visit industry events, conventions and conferences. They will also host over 3000 members during their leadership training series on 6 different dates.

"Through the generosity of the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, the PA FFA

Foundation has been able to provide opportunities to FFA Members across the Commonwealth with career aspirations in crop science. We appreciate the support the PSB has provided to continue the mission of FFA," said Sarah Sparks, Executive Director, PA FFA Foundation.



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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](https://pasoybean.org)



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

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