



Pennsylvania
Soybean Board



EASTERN REGION SOYBEAN BOARD

and

**Research
Funding
Guidelines
and Policy**

2026

**Proposals Due by 11 am on
November 19, 2025**

**Videos Due by 11 am on
December 3, 2025**

**Funding Awards will be
announced by December 12,
2025**

**Direct all questions to
Jennifer Reed-Harry at
jrharry@pennag.com**

Message from the Board of Directors:

We are once again pleased to be able to entertain research proposals. The funds generated from the soybean checkoff program allow the Board to solicit and fund worthy research projects on an annual basis.

The Soybean Board is entrusted with funds from soybean farmers to further the use and consumption of soybeans. With that in mind, the Board wants to ensure the research projects funded are ones of value and necessity. In light of that, the Board is requiring researchers to include letters of support from other commodity groups, partnering universities, etc. when applicable to the proposal.

The Soybean Board's mission statement is "*As trusted soybean growers, we provide stewardship of the soybean checkoff*". The mission statement summarizes the focus of the Board. All actions of the Board are intended to promote the commodity: soybeans, and use & advancement of soybeans. The Board will measure all research proposals as well as all funding requests against their strategic objectives and the criteria of education/messaging; future focus; partnering & collaboration and stewardship.

We look forward to reviewing your proposals.

Pennsylvania Soybean Board
Eastern Region Soybean Board
FY 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Nick Kercheval – ERSB Chair – (Jefferson County, West Virginia)
Justin Jones – PSB Chair (Bradford County)
Marin MacNamara (Fayette County) – Vice Chair
Justin Knoebel (Columbia County) – Treasurer
Kaycee Stephens (Centre County) - Secretary
Leslie Bowman (Franklin County)
John Harrell (Lebanon County)
Robert Reed (Montour County)
Mike Reskovic (Fayette County)
Adam Schettler (Butler County)
Rick Telesz (Lawrence County)
Emily Landis – Ex-Officio(Centre County)

Pennsylvania Soybean Board
Eastern Region Soybean Board
Northwood Office Center
2215 Forest Hills Drive, Suite 40, Harrisburg, PA 17112-1099
Tele: 717-651-5922
www.pasoybean.org and www.ersoybean.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Independent Contract Staff:

Jennifer Reed-Harry, Executive Director – jrharry@pennag.com
Brian Hershey, Communications and Publications – bhershey@gavinadv.com
Joy LaNoue, Bookkeeping – pennag2215@pennag.com

Soybean Board Overview

The Pennsylvania Soybean Board and The Eastern Region Soybean Board administers the national soybean checkoff program, approved by Congress in 1990. Under its terms, farmers “check off” 50 cents for 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 and The Eastern Region Soybean Board use these funds to promote the growth and development of the soybean industry.

Soybean Board Mission Statement

As trusted soybean growers, we provide stewardship of the (PA & Eastern Region) soybean checkoff.

Soybean Board Vision Statement

To be an innovative leader in the soybean industry by strategically investing in research and education to promote the production and utilization of soybean

Soybean Board Values Statement

Accountability – we value transparency and ownership in all of our business decisions
Collaboration – we value our partners and the skills they bring to the table
Education – we value a continuous improvement mindset that leverages the latest research
Innovation – we are always on the lookout for ways to maximize the value we bring
Integrity – we do the right thing, every day
Stewardship – we understand the trust that has been placed on us to effectively manage the resources in our care

Research Ideas

The following list of research ideas surfaced at Soybean Board meetings and events. ***This list is not inclusive*** as to what the Board will fund, but rather a listing of possible topics to be considered by researchers. It is essential research proposals logically align with the mission, vision and value statement of the soybean board:

- DSG
- Grain Storage needs in northern PA and NW PA
- K Saturation
- Zone Till/soil types/grid depth/cropping and basic agronomy
- RD by rotation
- Deer Damage
 - Early planting vs late planting
 - Timing of deep pressure vs crop growth stage and associated yield impacts
 - Data to prove this issue to PA Game Commission
 - Product testing
- High Oleic (in species other than dairy)
 - Poultry, Meat and eggs
 - Feed study
- Soil health inclusion/organic matter/intense rain-intense drought
- Fitting cover crops into dynamic crop rotations in all growing areas of PA
- More uses for soybeans
- Business Marketing/ROI models on management decisions (such as use of biologics, use of foliars, if I do x then y is a possible outcome)
- Pre-paid testing (for soybeans) of soil test (standard test) and plant tissue (standard test)
- How to do a strip trial
- Back to basics with agronomy messages; Training for farmers on how to do basic testing and trials
- Biologics – how water and pH impact results and how storage of the biologic impacts the effectiveness
- Foliars:
 - what increase in bushels make it work the farmers time to do it (i.e. is an increase of 5 bu/acre the justification of product cost/time??)
 - foliars/tissue samples – targeted approach to product use
- Frost Tolerance
- Weather- need accurate predictability
 - How have our environmental stewardship practices changed the weather patterns
- Improve protein level in bean
 - Control drying?
 - Moisture % to harvest at for maximum ROI

Process Timeline and Payment Information

Executive Summary:

In order for a proposal to be deemed complete, ready for board review it must contain:

1. The completed google doc submittal form - <https://forms.gle/UcaV4bp9iodThH8R8>
2. Submit a pdf of the detailed proposal along with a detailed budget of expenditures. The pdf can be emailed to Jennifer Reed-Harry at jrharry@pennag.com
3. A video, no longer than 4 minutes in length; be of good audio and visual quality; be understandable, easy to follow and be explicit in expressing how soybean farmers will benefit from this proposal. The video must be in the English language and have closed captions. Share the video link with Jennifer Reed-Harry at jrharry@pennag.com . It is important to note: NO PowerPoint presentations will be accepted or considered by the board.

The Request for Research Proposals will conclude at **11 a.m. on November 19, 2025.** Any proposal received after that date will not be considered.

All proposals received by the stated due date, in the correct format, will be reviewed by the Soybean Board at their December meeting.

The Board will meet on December 5, 2025 for a review of the projects at which time the board may take action on the research proposal or request additional information or clarification. Staff may contact you during this time for additional information and/or to clarify information within your proposals. ***The Board may have questions regarding your proposal and ask that you be available to answer any questions which would be sent to the researchers via text and/or email.***

The Board will take action on the proposals on December 5, 2025 to review and discuss each proposal. At that time, the Board will vote on which proposals to fund.

An email notification will be sent to all applicants by **December 12, 2025** regarding the status of your proposal.

Approved projects

Researchers will be asked to provide information to the National Soybean Research Database (NSRD) when their project outline has been loaded into the database.

Proposals selected for funding will have a contract ready for researcher/university signatures by **December 12, 2025**. Once the contract is signed by the University and returned to the Soybean Office, a check for 40% of the approved research funds, along with a copy of the signed contract, will be mailed.

The **mid-term report will be due by August 20, 2026**. Upon receipt of the completed mid-term report as well as an invoice from the University, a check for 20% of the approved research funds will be mailed. If you do not submit the mid-term report on time, this will be noted and considered when reviewing future funding requests.

The final report will be due on or before January 20, 2027. Final Report Requirements:

1. Detailed, written report, Invoice on University letterhead and financial project summary – submitted to the Soybean Board (pennag2215@pennag.com)
2. Short video (no more than 5 minutes), outlining the results of the research project in layman's terms. The video link must be shared with/sent to pennag2215@pennag.com. *Note: Quality videos may be posted on the PA Soybean YouTube Channel and the Soybean Research Information Network (SRIN) by the PSB.*

Upon receipt of these requirements, the final balance (40% of the contracted research funds) will be paid to the University.

Special Notes

The soybean board may, at its' sole discretion, void the contract and eliminate all scheduled contract payments if the researcher fails to:

- 1) Return a signed copy of the research contract by the established due date; or
- 2) Provide interim and/or final reports to the soybean board by the stated due date; or
- 3) Contact the soybean board prior to the due date in order to request a change in budget and/or an extension for approved reason(s) when interim and/or final report(s) cannot be completed by contract due dates; or
- 4) Demonstrate the research funds are being used in accordance with the proposal; or
- 5) Complete the project because he/she leaves the University.

Budget Information

Salaries and Wages:

Principal investigator – The Board **does not** pay tenured or tenure-track faculty salaries and benefits (PI and/or Co-PI)

The Board can pay salaries, at the rate of 1 % for the following:

- Ag Extension Educators and Technical Staff who serve as a PI.
- MS and PhD graduate student salaries and benefits funded projects.
- MS and PhD graduate student tuition when the student is working on a funded soybean project and there is a *documented* (i.e., requires a statement that the tuition is for a soybean-specific field of study (e.g., to be included in semi-annual

- and final progress reports for documentation purposes), direct correlation of his/her coursework program and research work to soybeans. This must be stated / documented in the research project proposal and tuition must be paid back if the student does not complete his/her program on the soybean project.
- If PI/Co-PI/graduate students will be utilized on your project, please provide information and justification on each individual in regards to cost to project. In regards to a graduate student, provide insight on the students chosen degree path (if known) and supplemental information such as the student has worked on said project in prior years, etc.
 - Postdoctoral research personnel salaries and benefits if working on the soybean project being funded.
 - Non-tenure-track research professor salaries and benefits if working on the soybean project being funded.
 - Technical staff (lab and field technicians) salaries and benefits. Only the portions that correlate to the work that they are doing for the soybean project being funded.
 - Sub-contracts with collaborators, but subject to the same allowable and non-allowable funding categories and criteria as primary PI and team.

Please note: The researcher must be able to verify the Soybean Board is funding the appropriate percentage of the salary as it pertains to the individual project. The researcher must provide hourly rate charges as it applies to their research.

Fringe Benefits

Please provide detailed information in the proposal of the exact amount of funds that will be earmarked for fringe benefits. Please itemize those fringe benefits as health insurance, social security, taxes, retirement, tuition, etc. Note: The Soybean Board will not pay fringe benefits in excess of 40%.

Non-Expendable Equipment

List items and dollar amount for each. The Soybean Board will fund up to 25% of the cost of equipment unless 100% of the Board Members (quorum of said meeting where this is discussed) vote to fund at a higher rate. With that, the Soybean Board relinquishes all ownership of said equipment to the research entity.

Materials and Supplies

Researcher is required to provide a detailed list of the materials and supplies they are seeking funding for in the proposal.

Travel, Meeting Registration & Tuition

The researcher must provide an explanation of what travel is involved and to where. Only travel within the United States is eligible for consideration of funding. Upon

request of the Board, the researcher must provide proper documentation of the mileage and destination. Mileage will be reimbursed at the IRS rate in effect at time of travel. The method of travel is up to the researcher however; funds will be paid on the lesser of the 2 options (air or road).

The Board does review the requested travel and meeting registration requests. These costs should not be the majority of the proposal and should not exceed 30% of the total project cost without detailed explanations and justification as to why these expenses should be deemed acceptable to the Soybean Board and the Soybean Farmers.

Disclaimer: In the event of funding is awarded to cover cost of travel and meeting registrations and the travel/meeting does not occur, the soybean board will not pay those expenses.

Publication Attributions and Costs

The Board requires detail of what is being published and how it is being utilized. The Board also requires information on how many copies are being made and detailed receipts of actual publication costs. In addition, the Board requires proper attributes be given to the Soybean Board for funding provided. For printed materials, the Soybean Board logo and a link to the website must also be included. This includes but is not limited to: Professional Journal Publications; Posters; Presentations; Newsletter Articles; Videos and so forth. (Please see page 11 for details.)

All Other Direct Costs

The Board requires that supporting documentation listing items and dollar amounts be provided.

The Board can fund renting of land, plot rental, greenhouse rental, seed, herbicide, etc. at a rate acceptable and in line with costs in said area.

Indirect Costs

The Board **does not** fund indirect costs or overhead of any type or amount.

Audit of Research Projects

The Soybean Board and contracted staff will conduct random audits of research projects and financials. Your full cooperation is expected for this audit.

Amendment to Research Contract and No-Cost Extensions

If the researcher would like to amend the contract for any reason, an "Amendment to the Research Contract" must be requested.

The researcher must submit in writing (letter or email) the reasons for the request. The researcher must include the Soybean Board assigned tracking number (ex. R2025-03). In addition, the researcher must request approval prior to the action requested in the amendment request.

The researcher is expected to manage his/her workload accordingly and understand the Soybean Board will allow for/authorize 1 (one) extension for up to 1 (one) year. If the researcher does not fulfill the research obligation within the agreed upon timeframe; the research contract will be terminated and no additional funds will be paid for said research contract.

If the Soybean Board agrees to the request, the following amendment will be generated.

**Amendment to the Research Funding Agreement
Between
Pennsylvania or Eastern Region Soybean Board
and
_____ (Research Entity)**

Purpose:

The funding agreement between the Pennsylvania or Eastern Region Soybean Board and _____ (Research Entity) made on _____ (insert date of agreement), sets forth the agreement of the parties under which the Soybean Board has agreed to provide funding to the research project titled: _____ . The purpose of this amendment is to amend certain provisions of that agreement.

Amendment to the Agreement:

The provisions of the agreement shall remain in force during the term of the agreement, with the following modifications:

1. _____ (State reason for amendment)

Approval:

The Soybean Board and _____ (Research Entity) agree that this amendment shall become effective only upon approval of the amendment by both parties.

Approved:

Pennsylvania or Eastern Region Soybean Board _____ **(Research Entity)**

Title: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Pennsylvania Soybean Board & Eastern Region Soybean Board

LOGO USAGE GUIDELINES

August 2025

The logos shown below are the official logos of the Pennsylvania Soybean Board and the Eastern Region Soybean Board. They should be included on every piece of information distributed to growers and other stakeholders that relates to projects or research funded by the respective Boards.

Care should always be taken to ensure use of the logos is accurate. When appearing in print, the image should be in color at 300 dpi resolution.

It is strongly encouraged that in addition to the logos, the PSB or ERSB websites (www.pasoybean.org or www.easternregionsoy.org) also be included on signage, booklets, brochures, and other materials that relate to PSB- and ERSB-funded research and sponsorships.

Digital files of the logos are available on request by emailing the soybean office.



Pennsylvania
Soybean Board



EASTERN REGION SOYBEAN BOARD