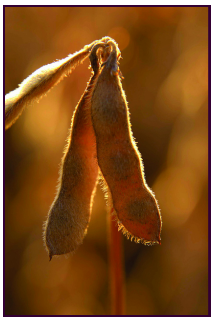
GEORGIA SOYBEAN COMMODITY COMMISSION

Farmers Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work for You



Georgia Soybean News

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Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission Is Working for You
- Greg Mims, Chairman

Hello everyone!

My name is Greg Mims and I am the chairman of the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans. My family and I live in Donalsonville, Georgia, which is in the very southwest corner of Georgia. My wife and I have two children, who keep us very busy. Will is 18 years old and attends Bainbridge State College in Bainbridge, Georgia and Katibeth is 15 years old and is a sophomore at Seminole County Middle High School. My father, brother and I own Mims Farm Partnership which is compiled of around 3500 acres.

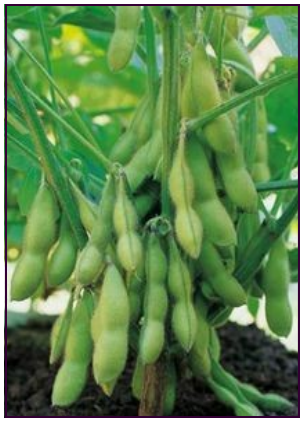
The Soybean Commission has always been an important part of Georgia Agriculture but few people actually know just how beneficial soybeans are to agriculture. The commission has decided to compile a newsletter to keep each of you informed about all issues involving soybeans. We hope that you find this first newsletter filled with plenty of useful information that will keep Georgia soybean growers aware of the latest research. We also hope that each of you see just how your check-off dollars are working for you, the Georgia soybean grower. You feedback and suggestions are welcome! Thanks again for all you do for Georgia's #1 industry - AGRICULTURE!

In 2013, Georgia farmers produced almost 230,000 acres of soybeans with a farm gate value of over $125 million.

Inside this issue:

2015 Soybean & Small Grain Expo - February 5

Mark your calendars now for the annual Georgia / Florida Soybean & Small Grain Expo set for Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry. The Expo is the premier educational event in the southeast for soybean and small grain producers. It includes the latest information from industry and academia. The Expo planning committee met in September and is in the process of confirming speakers and topics now. Proposed topics include: economic outlook for southern commodities, current issues involving GMO's, update on Dow's Enlist technology, wheat scab initiative, wheat seed treatments, best management practices, and a soybean production panel discussion. Other items of interest will be a poster session focusing on the latest research from UGA, an update on USB and ASA activities, as well as the GA / FLA Soybean Association Business Meeting. For more information, contact Terry Hollifield or Billy Skaggs at 770-542-2351. Registration will begin in early 2015.



Investments in research lead to greater yields & improved pest resistance.

Soybean Commission Approves Funding for Research & Promotion

The Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans recently approved $213,910 in funding for a wide range of research projects as well as select promotional activities. At their March board meeting, the Commission reviewed and approved funding for eleven projects.

The research projects funded included: soybean production research, soybean stem canker research, the continuation of soybean IPM sentinel plots, development of RR2Y/LL soybean varieties, soybean variety evaluation, and continued research on kudzu bug resistance. In addition, the Commission approved funding in support of the Georgia Weather Network, the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association, and a new Extension yield contest.

Like producers of other commodities, such as cotton, peanuts and dairy, Georgia's soybean farmers collectively invest a portion of their revenue to fund research and promotional efforts. This collective investment is called a check-off. The soybean check-off is a nationwide effort supported entirely by soybean farmers with individual contributions of 0.5 percent of the market price per bushel sold each season.

Success for soybean farmers in today's market takes more than just a good harvest. Increasing demand for soybeans is an essential part of the equation. The soybean check-off helps facilitate market growth and creation by funding research at land-grant universities as well as promotional efforts. In Georgia, more than 75% of the check-off funds collected go to fund research – which is crucial in the development of new varieties, improvements in production efficiency, and advancements in insect and disease management.

By investing in research and building demand, the U.S. soybean check-off helps ensure a strong and profitable future for soybean farmers in Georgia and across the nation.

Southern Soybean Research Program

The Southern Soybean Research Program (SSRP) uses checkoff dollars to coordinate and fund production research projects that benefit the Southern soybean-producing region. The five states making up the SSRP include Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. Below are highlights from three recent SSRP projects:

For more information on SSRP, visit www.kysoy.org/ssrp.

Challenges in Soybean Irrigation – Soil and Crop Irrigation Management – A Four State Initiative in the Southern U.S. Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee and Missouri (2013-2015)

This project is used to bring together researchers from across the SSRP member region to discuss what types of irrigation studies are currently being conducted and to determine a research goals. The resulting multi-year study seeks to improve the irrigation efficiency which will, in turn, result in improved food production, farm sustainability, and environmental quality.

Investigations into occurrence, distribution and impact of nematodes in soybean yields in the Southern States (2011-2013) Funded by SSRP and member states, USB and University of Arkansas

This study is to see and give recommendations on the impact of nematodes in soybean fields in the southern states.

Rust resistant Roundup Ready 2 Yield™ soybean varieties that produce superior protein meal. (2011-2013) Funded by SSRP and USB

Researchers include: Dr. Roger Boerma and Dr. Zenglu Li (University of Georgia), Dr. Vince Pantalone (University of Tennessee) Drs. Boerma, Li and Pantalone carried out research using the RR2 Yield soybean varieties that produce superior protein meal.

High Oleic Soybean Oil: Right Oil at the Right Time

- Frank J. Flider, consultant for the oilseed & ag biotech industries (Original press date 10/1/2014)

High oleic soybean oil, a high-stability, trans-fat-free oil on the cusp of commercial reality, represents a tremendous opportunity for U.S. soybean farmers to regain lost market share and improve their profitability.

As partially hydrogenated oils and their unhealthy trans-fatty acids are being removed from our food supply, a new generation of high-performance oils, such as high oleic soybean oil, is taking their place. In addition to high oleic soybean oil, other high-stability oils from palm, canola and sunflower are being touted for their high potential in the food industry. The competition has been fierce and taken 4 billion pounds of annual demand away from soy.

As soybean oil has been the primary partially-hydrogenated oil used in foods, the negative impact on soybean oil market share when those were removed from products has been dramatic. Fortunately, the soy checkoff had the foresight to support the development of high oleic soybean varieties that produce high oleic soybean oil, which, in turn, could help the U.S. soybean industry regain a substantial portion of its lost market share.

Although the other high oleic oils had several years of a head start, high oleic soybean oil will likely emerge as the clear-cut winner. Why? It has exceptional stability and a clean flavor and odor profile, and unlike canola, safflower or sunflower, it has the acreage potential to supply the entire food industry's needs at a highly competitive price. A unified effort between U.S. soybean farmers, oil processors and the food industry is underway to make this happen.

Having commercialized a number of new food ingredients over the past three-plus decades, I've found that the three most important issues for food companies are performance, cost benefit and availability.

Performance — Most large food companies have little or no preference for what plant their oil comes from. They are interested in a high-performing oil with heat stability and favorable shelf-life like high oleic soybean oil.

Cost benefit — Soybean oil has always enjoyed this advantage, and in time, high oleic soybean oil will as well.

Availability — Food companies need a steady oil supply. As the availability of high oleic soybean oil is currently low, it is considered by some in the food industry to be experimental rather than commercial. This mindset can only be changed by **significantly increasing high oleic soybean acreage** and reaching 18 million acres by 2023.

This is where U.S. soybean farmers can flex their formidable muscle — by growing as much high oleic soy as possible. Higher volumes will drive oil prices lower, making the cost benefit of high oleic soybean oil irresistible to the food industry, driving development and reformulation of food products that contain high oleic soybean oil. Once high oleic soybean oil production comes into its own, high oleic canola and sunflower will simply not be as cost-effective as high oleic soybean oil, and your market share will likely return, only with greater returns than achieved with commodity soybean oil. Visit www.soyinnovation.com to learn even more about the potential of high oleic soybeans.

"the three most important issues for food companies are performance, cost benefit and availability."

3 Soil Sampling Suggestions

- Summarized from article by Brian & Dan Hefty (www.unitedsoybean.org)

1) Use either a grid- or zone-sample method. Sample different soil types separately. You can't get top soybean yields from every acre of every field if you have big variations in pH, nutrients, soil types or other critical factors.

2) Once you have your data, consult with our local county Extension agent. Over your farming career, you will likely invest millions of dollars in fertilizer. Understanding soil-sampling results will help you get the most out of your investment.

3) Many farmers say they over-fertilize their corn, so there are plenty of nutrients left for soybeans. However, most farmers barely apply enough fertilizer for the corn, leaving little for the soybeans. Lack of nutrients is the No. 1 reason soybean yields are not higher today.

100+ Bushel Soybeans Officially Reached in Georgia
- Brad Haire, Southeast Farm Press (Original press date 9/12/2014)

Pictured above:
Randy Dowdy (Left)
Eddie McGriff (Right)

In a sponsored research trial in Brooks County, Ga., 100-plus bushels per acre of soybeans were harvested - the highest official soybean yield ever recorded for the state.

Brooks County, Ga., farmer Randy Dowdy, as part of a 60-acre research trial using a dozen different varieties from Southern States and Pioneer on four- to five-acre plots on his farm, clocked 110.66 bushels per acre Sept. 11 on a plot of SS 4917N R2, a state record. On Sept. 18, he hit an average of 109.41 bushels per acre on a plot of P47T36R.

The idea for the trial was to get the beans in the ground early, by mid-April. But this year in south Georgia, where the trial took place, the area received double-digit rain events during the spring. The beans in the trial plots were planted between May 6 and 7 and soon after got a double-digit rain event, Dowdy said, with near-record rain for spring planting in region. However late in the season, drought conditions and triple-digit heat parched the area.

"These beans have been through it," Dowdy said. "If we can produce 100 bushels with these beans after what they went through, then I know we can replicate it again next year – do even better."

"I'm glad they were able to do it. It is a real accomplishment and shows what can be done with intense management," said Jared Whitaker, UGA Cooperative Extension soybean specialist, who added the previous official record for the state was the in the mid-80 bushels per acre. The average state yield hovers around the mid-to-upper 30 bushels per acre.

No inputs were spared on these beans: double inoculants; irrigation; precise fertilizer applications through the irrigation along foliar applications; aggressive disease, pest and weed management programs; weekly tissue samples; and weekly if not daily scouting.

"Both the Pioneer and Southern States varieties had the same management program on them except the Southern States plots' source of potash was potash nitrate compared to the muriate used on the Pioneer trials to limit the amount of chloride. Some soybean varieties are sensitive to chloride and we didn't want this to be a limiting factor in our goal of 100 bushels per acre," said McGriff.

In September before record harvest, more than 100 farmers and industry reps went to see firsthand the soybeans at a field day championing the quest for such high yields in the Deep South.

Last year, Dowdy's top corn yields broke the 400-bushel mark, the highest ever for the Deep South, and gained him national attention.

Season & Faces of Agriculture Exhibit Unveiled at 2014 National Fair
- Andy Harrison, Commodities Manager, GA Dept of Agriculture

The Georgia Department of Agriculture's Georgia Grown program unveiled the *Seasons and Faces of Georgia Agriculture* exhibit at the 2014 Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia.

Contributing nearly $77 billion to the state's economy, agriculture continues to be Georgia's main economic driver. The goal of the *Seasons and Faces of Georgia Agriculture* exhibit mirrors that of the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Grown program: to not only improve the understanding and importance of Georgia's agriculture industry to the public, but also to solidify the connection between the grower and the consumer.

The purpose of this interactive exhibit is to give insight into the abundant economic impact of Georgia's agricultural industry and highlight many of the great families and people that provide are involved in Georgia Agriculture.

Through this exhibit, consumers had the opportunity to meet some of the farmers that work tirelessly through spring, summer, fall and winter to provide the delicious and affordable food we all enjoy as well as the many other important agriculture crops.

The *Seasons and Faces of Georgia Agriculture* exhibit was located in the Georgia Grown Building on the Georgia National Fairgrounds. Funding for the project was provided in part by the Georgia Agriculture Commodity Commissions including the Georgia Soybean Commission.

Another First for Georgia Agriculture

- Dr. Roger Boerma, Executive Director of Georgia Seed Development & former UGA Soybean Breeder

Ever wonder how soybeans migrated from their original home in China to North America? It wasn't by FedEx! In fact, soybeans' journey to the New World was filled with intrigue, adventure, and considerable personal sacrifice. Thanks to the investigative work, unrelenting pursuit, and reporting of Dr. Ted Hymowitz, a retired soybean geneticist from the University of Illinois, we can add another first to the significant list of contributions of Georgians to U.S. agriculture.

We are approaching the 250th anniversary of the first crop of soybeans grown in North America. The first New World soybean crop was grown on Skidaway Island, Georgia in 1765 by Mr. Henry Yonge, the Surveyor General of Georgia. At the time Mr. Yonge owned a plantation, named *Orangedale*, near Priest Landing on Skidaway Island, but Mr. Yonge did not bring the first soybean seeds to Georgia. That was done by his friend Mr. Samuel Bowen. Based on documents housed in the Georgia Historical Society located in Savannah, Georgia and revealed by Dr. Hymowitz, we now know that Mr. Bowen was a seaman, farmer, and inventor. He owned a plantation, *Greenwich,* located near Thunderbolt, Georgia, that is currently part of the famous Savannah Cemetery, *Bonaventure*.

Samuel Bowen's soybean legacy began in London in 1758 when at 26 years of age he signed on as a seaman aboard the East India Company trading ship *Pitt* bound for Canton, China. During the voyage, he met the East India Company's Chinese interpreter, Mr. James Flint. The voyage became ill-fated when the Chinese accused the ship's crew of trading in restricted areas controlled by the Chinese. Both Flint and Bowen became prisoners of the Chinese and were held in multiple locations across China for four years.

Upon release from Chinese captivity in 1762, it is believed that Flint and Bowen left China on the same ship and during this trip they entered into a business agreement in which Flint would financially back Bowen in an agricultural enterprise in the Colony of Georgia. They both arrived in London in 1763. The next year Samuel Bowen appeared in Savannah with the soybeans that he brought with him from China. Records indicate he purchased land, the *Greenwich* planation, on May 14, 1765. Since his land was not ready for planting, he requested that his friend, Mr. Henry Yonge, plant the first soybean crop at his *Orangedale* planation on Skidaway Island in the spring of 1765.

In subsequent years Bowen became a soybean farmer and entrepreneur. He was awarded a Royal Patent for his new method of making soy sauce from plants growing in America. As his business expanded he exported soy sauce to other colonies, England, and the Caribbean Islands. It is clear that he is truly the "Father of North American Soybean Production," which is currently a multibillion dollar industry in the United States of America.

Epilogue- So What Difference Does It Make?

Now let's fast forward almost two and a half centuries to February, 2013 in Durban, South Africa to a meeting where the World Soybean Research Conference Continuing Committee was considering the location of the next World Soybean Research Conference. This group consisted of elected soybean scientists representing the various soybean growing regions from around the world. They considered a proposal submitted by University of Georgia soybean scientists, Scott Jackson, Wayne Parrott, Zenglu Li, Louise Wicker, and Casimir Akoh, to host the 2017 Conference in Savannah, Georgia. After consideration and evaluation of the other proposals, the Committee voted to accept the University of Georgia delegation's proposal based on the Continuing Committee members' interest in visiting the birth place of the North American soybean industry. The next World Soybean Research Conference has been scheduled for 10-16 September 2017 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. This conference is expected to bring over 2,000 soybean researchers to Bowen and Yonge's home city where participants will share new research developments and work to forage the same synergistic relationships shown by these two soybean pioneers.

So what does any of this have to do with the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans? Last spring members of the Commission agreed to cosponsor, along with the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association, the establishment of a Georgia Historical Marker on Skidaway Island to signify the site of the first North American soybean crop grown on Henry Yonge's *Orangedale* plantation.

"The first New World soybean crop was grown on Skidaway Island, Georgia in 1765…"

Fortuitously, the former *Orangedale* planation is now part of the University of Georgia's Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. We plan to have a formal dedication ceremony to unveil the new Historical Marker within the next 12 months. Although the exact date has not been established, we will keep you informed via this Newsletter.

Farmers Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work for You.

GEORGIA SOYBEAN COMMODITY COMMISSION

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Upcoming Ag / Soybean Industry Events

November 21	Georgia Agribusiness Council Harvest Celebration - Cobb Galleria Center, NW Atlanta
December 7-9	Georgia Farm Bureau Convention, Jekyll Island - Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission will be exhibiting at trade show
December 11-12	United Soybean Board of Directors Meeting, St. Louis, MO
January 14	Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission Meeting - Review of Research Proposals; GFB Office, Macon
January 30-31	Georgia Young Farmer Convention, Stone Mountain - Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission will be exhibiting at trade show
February 5	Georgia Soybean & Small Grain Expo - Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry
February 11-12	United Soybean Board of Directors Meeting, Savannnah