

Delaware SOYBEAN BOARD

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY: The calendar year began with DSB's sponsorship of Ag Week and strategic planning.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

DSB directors and industry associates gathered to discuss priorities and direction for the Delaware soybean industry at the board's strategic planning in January.



Production issues including yields, weeds and pests and environmental concerns; the viability of animal agriculture; opportunities in emerging markets; consumer education; evaluation and adoption of new technologies and monitoring regulation are the board's new top six priorities.

The board's new mission? To invest Delaware soybean check-off dollars to create opportunities for Delaware soybean farmers to become more profitable and efficient.



Above, **Roland and Laura Hill** and **Michelle Rodgers** visit with **Cory Atkins**; at left, **Dennis Clay** and **Richard Wilkins** offer thoughts to **Brandon Bonk**.



Dale Blessing of Harrington won the statewide full season soybean yield contest and a \$1,000 prize with 82.08 bushels per acre of irrigated beans, the Delaware Soybean Board (DSB) announced Jan. 14.

Fred West of Frankford was the statewide double crop soybean yield winner with 74.15 bushels per acre, also winning a \$1,000 prize. The soybean board runs the contest to gather data on production practices and to recognize growers who have achieved high yields.

County winners included **Howard Clendaniel** of Sussex County with 80.17 bushels per acre of dryland full season beans; **Kevin Evans** of Sussex County with 71.49 bushels per acre of irrigated double crop beans, and **Dale Scuse** of Kent County with 65.15 bushels per acre of irrigated full season beans.

Each of the county winners received a \$250 prize. There were no entries for double crop beans in Kent County and no entries from New Castle County.

FEBRUARY

Roxi Beck of the Center for Food Integrity presented **GMO 101** at the **Women in Ag** conference.



MARCH



DSB joined with Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York to form the new Atlantic Soybean Council. **Jay Baxter** of Georgetown was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The board will facilitate efforts to conduct regional research and outreach. **Ellen Davis** of Virginia is the executive director.

Delaware farmers approved soy research totaling \$92,268

Projects included:

- Assessing the Impacts of Seed Treatments and Rotation on SCN Populations and Soybean Yield,
- Examining the capacity of *Phytophthora capsici* to spread through soybean,
- Evaluating the Response of Soybean in Narrow and Wide Rows to Various Soil Moisture Levels,
- Effect of Fertigation on Irrigated Full Season and Double Cropped Soybeans,
- Area-Wide Evaluation of Multiple Insecticide Applications to Control Dectes Stem Borer in Soybeans,
- Evaluate Soybean Lines with Feed Value Traits Combined with Oil Value in non-GMO Varieties Adapted to Delmarva,
- Weed Management for No-Till and Double Cropped Beans,
- Analyses of Phosphorus Origin in the Chesapeake Bay.



OCTOBER

DSB supported the FFA trip to the national convention and sponsored four Del Tech journalism students at Biotech U, where they learned the science of GMOs.

A DECADE OF PARTNERING

Over the past decade, the Delaware Soybean Board has worked closely with Delmarva Poultry Industry to fund projects which support this important market for our beans.

Thanks to soybean checkoff support, DPI's Vegetative Environmental Buffer program has provided financial and design assistance to

growers to support tree and grass buffers around poultry houses - an important part of neighbor relations.

Checkoff funds have also assisted in the development of new communications tools to do a better job of telling the poultry industry's story to our non-farming neighbors.

49.2

bushels per acre

The average statewide bpa by 2021 set by DSB as its research goal during Strategic Planning

DECEMBER

Navigating profitability through challenging times. That's the thought on every soybean farmer's mind and it resonates strongly with those appointed to serve on the United Soybean Board (USB). USB directors take the commitment to maximizing U.S. soybean farmers' profit opportunities seriously.

Meeting for their 25th anniversary annual board meeting in December, the farmer-leaders looked hard at investments that can bring innovative solutions back to their peers. From improving meal and oil to sustainability issues, the farmers have identified opportunities to return the most value to the marketplace. **Cory Atkins** was sworn in to represent Delaware for his first term as director at this meeting.



DELAWARE SOYBEAN BOARD consists of nine farmer-directors and the Secretary of Agriculture. Funded through a one-half of one percent assessment on the net market value of soybeans at their first point of sale, the checkoff works with partners in the value chain to identify and capture opportunities that increase farmer profit potential. One-half of the soybean checkoff assessments collected by state boards are forwarded to the United Soybean Board. Summary financial statements will be available in late January. For more information on the Delaware Soybean Board, visit

www.desoybeans.org.

New Castle

Robbie Emerson
Bob Uniatowski

Kent

Jonathan Snow
Dale Blessing
Frank Hrupsa

Sussex

James "Jay" Baxter, IV, Chairman
Fred West, Treasurer
Yolonda Messick
Cory Atkins

USB Director: Cory Atkins

USB Alternate: Dallas Wright

Special thanks to retired director **Brandon Bonk** of Dover for his service to the board!