

DELAWARE FARMERS PLANT ABOUT 160,000 ACRES OF SOYBEANS ANNUALLY, PRODUCING OVER SEVEN MILLION BUSHELLS OF BEANS AND GENERATING APPROXIMATELY \$60 MILLION IN VALUE TO THE STATE.

The 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.

Research That Pays Off in the Field

The Board approved \$57,739 for eight research projects led by university and extension experts. These studies address local production concerns to help farmers make informed management decisions. Funded projects include:

Funded 2025 Research Projects:

- Continued Monitoring of In-Season Root-Knot Nematode Reproduction, Dr. Alyssa Betts - \$11,700
- Proline as a Shield: Safeguarding Soybean Yields Amid Drought and Climate Uncertainty, Naveen Dixit - \$9,740
- The Effects of Gypsum or Lime Application on Yield and Nutrient Uptake, Jarrod Miller - \$11,067
- Soybean Row Spacing and Planting Rate Effects on Litter Decomposition, Jarrod Miller - \$11,612
- Planting Green Early – Can It Improve Stand Establishment While Improving Weed Control, Mark VanGessel - \$9,862
- Delivering Soybean Insect Scouting Support Tools, David Owens - \$3,758

Scan the QR code for results from these and other soybean research projects or visit soybeanresearchinfo.com.



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A From Field to Market: New DSB Investments Support Soybean Production and Promotion

The Delaware Soybean Board (DSB) approved **\$188,762 in funding** for research, promotion, and communication projects during its year 2025. These strategic investments aim to maximize the value of every dollar invested in the soybean checkoff. From field-level challenges to consumer outreach and market development, these projects are selected with one goal in mind: delivering real, measurable returns to Delaware soybean growers.

“Soybean farmers contribute to the checkoff with every bushel sold, and in a challenging year like this one, it’s more important than ever that those dollars are put to work wisely,” said Tim Rogers, DSB Chair. *“That’s why we’ve prioritized projects that deliver real impact – from improving yields in the field to expanding new markets for soy. These investments are about helping farmers stay profitable and resilient.”*

Each initiative is carefully selected to reflect DSB’s focus on ROI – whether that’s increasing yields per acre, improving public perception, or advancing new uses for soybeans.

Collins Takes Top Honor in Delaware Soybean Yield Contest

Mark and Zac Collins of DMC Farms in Laurel achieved the highest yield again this year in the Delaware Soybean Yield Contest. In the 2024 growing season, they came just shy of matching last year’s record with a yield of 98.56 bushels per acre with their full-season Pioneer 37a18E soybeans planted on April 26. Collins set the contest record in the 2023 growing season with a 98.91 bu/ac yield.

Other statewide winners taking honors in the contest were Ben Syester in the double crop division, with a yield of 77.30 bu/ac, planting Seed Consultants SC7444E following barley on



Delaware Soybean Board Director Kellie Yeagar recognizes Zac Collins as the 2024 Delaware Soybean Yield Contest winner.

YIELD CONTEST CONTINUED

June 20, and Syester Farms in the non-irrigated division, with a yield of 71.70 bu/ac using the same variety planted June 16.

Also recognized were county winners in both the full season and double crop division. Jesse Ellis of Sussex County achieved a high yield of 86.85 bu/ac using Asgrow 38fx3, and Alan Garey of Kent County yielded 83.53 bu/ac growing Channel 4523 in the full season division. There were no full season entries from New Castle County. Mel Wyatt of Kent County reached a yield of 76.30 bu/ac with Pioneer P36A94, and Michael Wicks of New Castle County yielded 70.27 bu/ac using Pioneer P46A09E. No double crop entries were received from Sussex County.

“Delaware soybean farmers continue to showcase how sustainable practices can result in high yields, even in

years when weather challenges lead to less-than-ideal growing conditions,” remarked Delaware Soybean Board Chair Tim Rogers. “We saw an increase in entries this year demonstrating grower’s willingness to showcase their abilities.”

Established by the Delaware Soybean Board in 2012, the Delaware Soybean Yield Contest allows growers to discover varieties and management choices that have proven successful in local fields. Over the past twelve years, the contest has received nearly 200 entries, recognizing grower success in full season and double-cropped soybeans on irrigated and non-irrigated acres.



For complete contest information and results summary, scan the QR code or visit desoybeans.org/yield-contest.



Delaware Soybean Board Director Matt Szelesti chats with a fairgoer about how local farmers grow sustainable soybeans that support Delaware’s agriculture and economy.

Delaware Soybean Board Connects Consumers and Farmers at the Delaware State Fair

Again this year, DSB engaged with thousands of fairgoers at the Delaware State Fair, sharing how local soybean farmers grow safe, sustainable, and nutritious products. Through displays, giveaways, and interactive games, visitors learned how soybeans are used in everyday items—from animal feed and biodiesel to crayons and cooking oil. DSB farmer-leaders answered questions about modern farming practices, sustainability, and the role of soybeans in supporting Delaware’s economy. The booth in the Agricultural Commodities building helped connect consumers with the people behind their food, reinforcing the importance of agriculture and the Delaware Soybean Board’s commitment to education and community outreach.



Firefighters from Felton Community Fire Company participate in hands-on grain bin rescue training, supported by the Delaware Soybean Board, Nationwide, and the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety.

Delaware Soybean Board Supports Farm Safety with Grain Rescue Equipment Donations

DSB is proud to continue its partnership with Nationwide and the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety to improve farm safety across the state. Through this program, two Delaware fire departments—the Volunteer Hose Company of Middletown and the Felton Community Fire Company—each received a life-saving grain rescue tube and specialized training. These essential tools help first responders safely rescue individuals trapped in grain bins, protecting both farmers and emergency personnel. Since its inception, the program has saved 13 lives nationwide, including one in Delaware, underscoring the importance of preparedness and community partnerships in agricultural safety.

OTHER PRIORITY AREAS

Animal Agriculture

With animal agriculture being the top market for Delaware-grown soybeans, the Delaware Soybean Board prioritizes efforts that support and promote this industry. In 2025, checkoff funds helped sponsor youth livestock shows through the Delaware State Fair, and other local partners. The Board also continued its involvement with the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative, working to find balanced solutions that support both productive farming and sustainable ecosystems across the region.

Consumer Education

The Delaware Soybean Board continued its efforts to connect with consumers and strengthen trust in farming and food production through outreach at the Delaware State Fair, social media engagement, and media campaigns. In 2025, the Board also sustained initiatives focused on rural road safety—raising awareness about slow-moving vehicles, including farm equipment, to help keep both farmers and motorists safe.

Emerging Markets

Soy-based renewable fuels are seeing growing demand thanks to efforts led by Clean Fuels Alliance America. Global markets are also expanding, with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health helping boost soybean exports to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. These efforts support stronger soybean prices and broader market opportunities. Delaware soybean farmers are also engaged in shaping the industry's future through participation in the American Soybean Association's Action Partnership—a collaborative platform where growers and industry leaders address regional challenges and identify strategies to grow the soy economy.

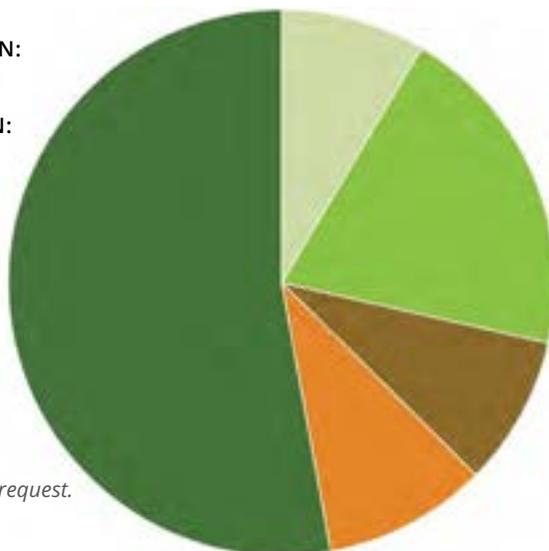
YIELDING RETURNS

A 2024 study by Cornell University highlighted the return on the investment growers receive by contributing to the soy checkoff. U.S. Soybean Farmers gain \$12.30 in net revenue for every dollar invested through the program. These investments have supported nearly 31,000 jobs, added \$2.6 billion in labor income, and increased the U.S. GDP by \$9.8 billion. Check out the infographic on the next page for more details or visit unitedsoybean.org to learn more.

Behind the Bushels: Tracking Your Checkoff in FY25

During the fiscal year of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, the Delaware Soybean Board collected \$335,938.27 in assessments. One half of these funds were disbursed to the United Soybean Board. The balance is managed by the Delaware Soybean Board and invested in local research, communication, promotion and special projects. Program implementation expenses cover collection, compliance, and Board operations.

- PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: \$30,928.64
- RESEARCH & PRODUCTION: \$72,288.06
- MARKET BUILDING & CONSUMER EDUCATION: \$32,087.62
- FARMER ENGAGEMENT: \$35,124.62
- UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD: \$191,208.70



An audited report is available upon request.

BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIR Tim Rogers, Frankford
VICE CHAIR Matt Szelestei, Hartly
TREASURER Kellie Yeagar, Harrington

New Castle County

Bob Willoughby, Jr., Middletown
David Daniels, Galena

Kent County

Chad Dempsey, Dover

Sussex County

Greg Conaway, Georgetown
Rick Dikerson, Laurel
Colby Watts, Laurel

EX OFFICIO Secretary of Agriculture
Wm. Donald Clifton II

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Danielle Bauer

DDA REPRESENTATIVE Vacant

USB REPRESENTATIVE Cory Atkins

USB ALTERNATE Robbie Emerson



CONTACT US

Delaware Soybean Board
P.O. Box 387
Cordova, MD 21625

EMAIL danielle@desoybeans.org

WEBSITE desoybeans.org

FACEBOOK [DelawareSoybeanBoard](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareSoybeanBoard)

INSTAGRAM [delaware_soybean_board](https://www.instagram.com/delaware_soybean_board)

THE POWER OF YOUR SOY INVESTMENT



Global demand. Local return. The value of your state and national soy checkoff is stronger than ever. In the last 5 years, your investments have...


CREATED JOBS AND
GROWN THE ECONOMY

\$9.8B

added to the U.S. GDP

~\$1B

generated in tax revenue
in 2023 alone

\$36M county | \$244M state | \$655M federal

30,932

U.S. jobs created

***\$2.6B**

in U.S.
employment
income



DRIVEN DEMAND FOR U.S. SOY

***1.8B**
bushels



or 18% increase in U.S. soybean exports
Increase in meal exports by 5.2M short tons and oil
exports by 3.4B pounds



DELIVERED VALUE TO YOUR FARM

\$12.30

return for every \$1 invested

AT LEAST 4.5-TO-1 RETURN ACROSS FOUR CATEGORIES:

- 1 Export market development
- 2 Domestic demand-enhancing research
- 3 On-farm production research
- 4 Soybean promotion

Learn more at unitedsoybean.org

*Export Initiatives supported by United Soybean Board, Qualified State Soybean Boards, the U.S. Soybean Export Council and USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.
Source: Kaiser, H.M. 2024. An Economic Analysis of the United Soybean Board and Qualified State Soybean Boards' Demand- and Supply-Enhancing Programs. Cornell University.