



# SOYBEAN SCENE

NORTH CAROLINA SOYBEAN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

## Soybean Yield and Acreage Forecast Up for 2008

North Carolina soybean yields are on track for a better than average year, according to USDA crop forecasts. The USDA says that soybean production will average 32 bushels per acre, up from an earlier USDA forecast of 28 bushels per acre. The ten year average for North Carolina is 28 bushels per acre. Crop watchers expect production to top 53 million bushels, as farmers appear to have found nearly three hundred thousand more acres of beans to harvest this year compared to last. Looking ahead, signs point to a big year for soybean planting in 2009 as growers search for lower cost alternatives to nitrogen-loving crops.

In July, a spike in commodity prices sent soybean futures above \$16.00 per bushel. Prices have since subsided into the \$8.50-\$9 range based on reports of improved yield outlooks and as markets fluctuate on poor economic news. A revised USDA crop report on October 28th did not change expectations enough to push up prices.

## Family Opens Oilseed Processing Plant

More than 700 people attended the grand opening of the McClain family's Agrofuels LLC oilseed processing plant near Statesville in Iredell County. Brothers Phil and Mike McClain welcomed a crowd of farmers, county and state officials, and neighbors to a ribbon cutting ceremony at the facility. The plant produces up to 48 tons of meal per day using an extruder and press technology. The plant processes soybean and canola into oil and meal. Customers for meal include local dairies and feed mills, and the oil is destined for the edible oil market and for biodiesel production. In addition to their entrepreneurial activities, the McClain brothers also hold the record for highest soybean yield in North Carolina at 92.9 bushels per acre, established in 2006.



*From left: Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Small Grains Executive Director Dan Weathington, Soybean Association director Steve Mayes and J.D. Brooks of the N.C. Biofuels Center attended the Agrofuels LLC grand opening.*



*McClain family members celebrate the ribbon cutting of the new oilseed processing facility in Iredell County.*

Inside: Register for the 20th Annual Conference of the Corn, Small Grains and Soybean Associations, January 15-16, 2009. Don't forget to visit our website [www.ncsoy.org](http://www.ncsoy.org) for more soybean news.



*Soybean Scene* is an official communication of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, Inc., the Qualified State Soybean Board designated by the United States Department of Agriculture to administer the soybean check-off program in North Carolina. One-half of check-off funds collected in the state are invested in research, market development and producer communications projects to benefit North Carolina soybean producers. The remaining one-half of funding is remitted to the United Soybean Board (USB), whose 68 farmer-directors oversee soybean check-off investments on the national level.

Comments, questions, and change of address notifications are welcomed. Address correspondence to: *Soybean Scene*, 211 Six Forks Road, Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27609, telephone 1-800-839-5775 or fax 919-839-5775. Email [ncsoy@ncsoy.org](mailto:ncsoy@ncsoy.org) Visit online at [www.ncsoy.org](http://www.ncsoy.org)

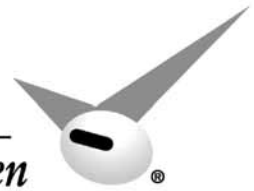
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## Our soybean checkoff. *Effective Efficient Farmer-Driven*



### Soybean Checkoff Tracks Plant Disease

Soybean farmers created the soybean checkoff to improve yield and quality. Diseases including soybean rust can reduce yields in dramatic ways. A group of six North Carolina Soybean Producers Association directors traveled to Quincy, Florida in September 2008 to see how checkoff investments are preparing for rust and other yield-robbing diseases. The North Carolinians joined producers from other U.S. soybean-producing states and Ontario, Canada for a first hand look at soybean rust in the field and lab. Monitoring rust has involved leadership from soybean specialists, state boards and the United Soybean Board.

The North Florida Research and Education Center, part of the University of Florida's agricultural research and extension system, is located in the hot spot for soybean rust in the United States. Since 2005, rust spores have spread from this and other Gulf Coast locations into the Carolinas and into the Midwestern States. Beginning in 2005 the soybean checkoff helped establish a network of sentinel plots across the southeastern United States to track and forecast the spread of rust.

In October of this year, soybean rust was detected in Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin and New Hanover counties in North Carolina. Fortunately most soybeans were well past the growth stage where rust would have any economic impact. The situation might be different in upcoming years. That is why the state soybean board supports the sentinel plot system to monitor rust and respond to its detection.



*N.C. Soybean Producers Association directors Jimmy Thomas (left) and Jacob Parker examine soybeans infected with Asian Soybean Rust at the Quincy, Fla. research station.*

## Soybeans Crop Up at State Fair

Fairgoers visiting the 2008 North Carolina State Fair experienced the sights and sounds of midway rides and attractions powered by B20 soy biodiesel. The North Carolina Soybean Producers Association and the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services sponsored biodiesel fuel for the fair.

Stopping at the popular Green NC Exhibit, visitors experienced the many new uses of the miracle crop, including soy foam in the seating of new Ford vehicles and soy polyurethane in auto body parts. Soy-based artificial turf and soy-backed carpets and floor coverings proved popular with North Carolinians. The green theme was evident across the entire fair with new recycling stations for plastic and paper and waste cooking oil recycling for food vendors.

“The State Fair has always been about agriculture, and fueling the fair with a home-grown agricultural product maintains that connection. Fairgoers can breathe easier knowing that clean-burning biodiesel reduces emissions and comes from soybeans and other agricultural products produced here in the U.S.” said Jacob Parker, president of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association.



*The 2008 State Fair fueled midway rides and attractions with renewable, clean-burning soy biodiesel. This banner hung outside the Green N.C. exhibit featuring new uses of soybeans.*

## Budget Shortfall Creates Challenge for Ag Research

With state tax revenue running well below forecasts, the state is facing a budget shortfall of somewhere between \$1 billion and \$2 billion. While it is too early to say exactly how far the budget will be stretched, agricultural research stations will feel the effects. Immediate challenges have been mostly due to large reductions in receipts from the 2008 corn crop and the impact of high costs for fuel and fertilizer. Now that Governor Easley has requested state agencies to give up a percentage of their budgeted spending and more reductions are on the horizon, there will be less money for the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and for N.C. State University to fill vacant positions, replace retirees, or make capital improvements. This situation adds urgency to the need for a strategic plan for agricultural research in the state.

According to Richard Reich, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture at NCDA&CS, managers and division directors are monitoring all spending very closely to find any efficiencies and savings. “Nothing is predictable right now,” said Dr. Reich. “We’re already dealing with the challenges of high input costs. Now the budget pressures have accentuated the challenge of strategic planning for the research station system. The budget situation makes strategic planning more urgent.”

NCDA&CS and N.C. State University jointly manage the research station system, with NCDA&CS providing day to day management of farm operations. The legislature has asked for a comprehensive strategic plan for the management of the 18 jointly managed research stations and the N.C. A&T State University research farm. The plan is to be submitted by May 1, 2009.

“We don’t want to lose the meaningful, on-the-ground projects that help establish technologies that lead to farm profitability,” said Dr. Reich.

The farm community has echoed concerns about ensuring adequate resources for applied research. At North Carolina State University, the budget strain appears to impact human resources. Much of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences budget is spent on employee salaries. In the face of a shortfall, vacant positions are likely to go unfilled or be eliminated, affecting research and extension functions alike. However, it is still early in the game and the length and extent of the state budget crunch is unpredictable.

In the meantime, the N.C. Soybean Producers Association is reviewing research proposals submitted by N.C. State University soybean researchers and extension specialists. New for this year is a pilot program to make small grants of up to \$500 to county agents for research and demonstration projects. The association invests about \$225,000 annually in soybean research projects.

## Soybean Association Meets with Wildlife Resources Commission, Commodity Groups on Deer & Wildlife Damage

Perry Sumner is a wildlife biologist and manages surveys and research for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He has been hearing from farmers about deer damage to soybeans and other crops. In September, Sumner sat down with Charles Hall from the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, Dan Weathington from the N.C. Small Grains Association, Bob Sutter from the N.C. Peanut Growers Association, and representatives of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, N.C. State University, NCDA&CS, and the N.C. Rural Center to discuss ways to address farmer concerns.

The amount of deer causing wildlife damage is unprecedented in the experience of the current generation of North Carolina farmers. The average farmer probably started farming around 1970, when there were only about 250,000 deer in the state. Now there are more than 1,250,000. That's an increase of one million animals. In addition, North Carolina counties with high deer densities are often big soybean producers with lots of soybean and row crop acreage.

The N.C. Soybean Producers Association and its partners are looking at three approaches to assist with deer and wildlife damage:

- Survey research to document the economic impact of wildlife damage.
- Regional meetings to listen to farmer concerns about wildlife damage and hear from wildlife biologists and enforcement officers.
- A hunting land registry to voluntarily match farmers with hunters and allow for hunting leases and access.



Sumner and the WRC agree with the other partners that increasing hunting within the current season structure is probably the best method to keep the deer population in check. However, many farmers are reluctant to allow hunters access to farmland, and many hunters are looking only to shoot bucks. Hunters need encouragement to harvest more does. A good recommendation is for farmers to offer lease incentives for hunters that shoot does on their farms.

## American Soybean Association Member Appreciation at Annual Meeting

Directors and staff from the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association will host a special reception for North Carolina's American Soybean Association (ASA) members on January 15, 2009 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Raleigh. The reception is part of the Joint Conference and Annual Meeting of the Corn, Small Grains and Soybean Associations and is open to current ASA members and guests.

State membership chair Jimmy Thomas was pleased that the association met its ASA membership goals for 2008. "Only about 4 percent of North Carolina's soy growers are current ASA members. We really need more growers to step up and be counted as a part of the national membership base. There is definitely strength in numbers," said Thomas. The January reception will recognize new and current members as well as top membership recruiters. ASA offers 1-year, 3-year and lifetime memberships, and membership rates for North Carolina members are the most affordable in the nation.

The North Carolina Soybean Producers Association is the state affiliate of the ASA.

**Thanks to our American Soybean Association members from North Carolina!  
We made our membership goals for 2008!**



**If you believe, belong.**

*To learn more about ASA or to sign up, visit [www.soygrowers.com](http://www.soygrowers.com) on the web or call 1-800-839-5775 and mention ASA membership.*

# If you are a Soybean, Corn, or Wheat Grower, you cannot afford to miss the 20th Joint Annual Conference of the Corn, Small Grains and Soybean Associations

January 15-16, 2009  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel and  
Convention Center,  
Research Triangle Park

## Conference Theme: The Challenge of High Prices and High Costs

Thursday January 15th

8 am Registration and Exhibits Open / Complimentary Breakfast in the Exhibit Area

9 am Annual Business Meetings of Soybean, Corn and Small Grains Associations

10:30 Market Outlook for Corn, Wheat, Soybeans by:  
John Baize, Baize & Associates  
Edgar Wood, Palmetto Grains

12:30 Lunch with your fellow farmers is included!

1:30 Afternoon General Session

2:45 Yield and Efficiency Awards

ASA member reception prior to banquet

5:15 Social Hour

6 pm Awards Banquet \*(\$20 registration required)  
Entertainment by Backstreet

Friday January 16th

7 am Sausage Biscuit Breakfast in Exhibit Area

8 am Production and Marketing Seminars

11:30 Adjourn

Register Now! Please call 919-855-8981 to register or for information, or download a registration form at [www.ncgrainsconference.org](http://www.ncgrainsconference.org). General conference registration, breakfast and lunch is free! The Awards Banquet has a \$20 per person cost. Register now and let us know if you will attend the complimentary breakfasts and lunch, and order your banquet tickets.

Download a registration form –  
[www.ncgrainsconference.org](http://www.ncgrainsconference.org)

Mail Registration to:

Joint Conference  
PO Box 58220  
Raleigh, N.C. 27658

Awards Banquet registration cost is \$20 per person to attend the awards banquet on Thursday evening, January 15th. All other conference events are free to attend. The banquet includes meal, awards ceremony and entertainment.

Hotel registration: room reservations at the conference rate must be made by calling the Sheraton Imperial Center Hotel, tel. 919-941-5050 and mentioning the Joint Conference. Call today to get the conference rate! A credit card will be required at time of reservation.

### Call to Meeting Notice: Annual Business Meeting of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association

Thursday, January 15th, 2009, 9 am at the Joint Annual Conference of the Corn, Small Grain and Soybean Associations.

Soybean growers are invited to attend the annual business meeting of the association for the purpose of elections and to approve policy resolutions and approve research awards. The annual business meeting is conducted at the Joint Annual Conference of the Corn, Small Grains and Soybean Associations. Register for the annual business meeting by submitting your Joint Conference Registration.

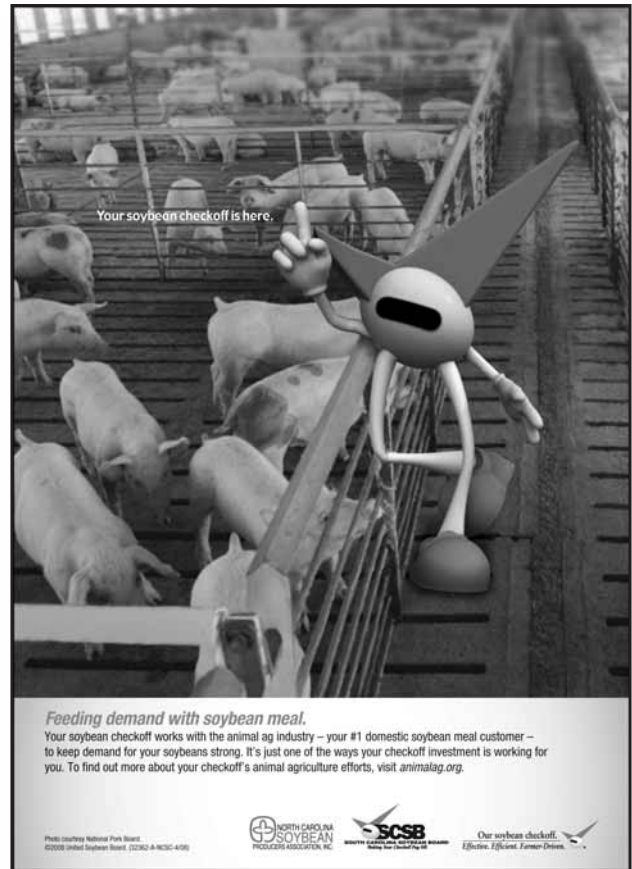
Our soybean checkoff.  
Effective Efficient Farmer-Driven



## State Highway Patrol, Grains Associations Work on Farm Transportation

N.C. Small Grains Association executive director Dan Weathington knows how to get the attention of the State Highway Patrol. When farmers complained earlier this year about what appeared to be excessive targeting of grain trucks, Weathington arranged a meeting with Patrol leadership in Raleigh. Weathington and N.C. Soybean Producers Association CEO Charles Hall arrived at the meeting to be greeted by State Highway Patrol executive Col. Fletcher Clay and his top staff officers. The two-hour meeting resulted in a positive discussion and a good understanding between the State Highway Patrol and the two commodity associations. The farm associations have since found the State Highway Patrol to be attentive to farm transportation issues. One example was implementation of new “travel to first market” regulations in summer 2008.

The commodity associations place a high value on openness and communications with the State Highway Patrol. At the same time, farmers like to hear straight answers to important questions about compliance with transportation laws and regulations, especially as some regulations have recently changed. State Highway Patrol Captain W.T. Belch is scheduled to answer questions at the Joint Annual Conference of the Corn, Small Grains and Soybean Associations, January 15-16, 2009, in Raleigh. Captain Belch administers motor carrier enforcement for the Highway Patrol at the Raleigh headquarters.



## Soybeans Partner with Pork

- The soybean checkoff partners with the pork industry to:
- ✓ Target soybean trait improvements to benefit U.S. pork.
  - ✓ Invest in net energy and allergen research with the National Pork Board.
  - ✓ Enhance soybean meal nutritional value by studying soybeans that contain more energy and less phytate phosphorus.

To assist us in maintaining an accurate address file and reduce postage costs, please notify the NC Soybean Producers Association (1-800-839-5775) of any address changes or corrections. Comments and suggestions are also welcomed.

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