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MISSISSIPPI SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD
2018-2019 FUNDED RESEARCH/EXTENSION PROJECTS

Title: Evaluation of alternative management tactics for early season insect pests of soybeans and impact of seed treatments on stand establishment and replant prevention, 01-2018, \$14,155

PI: Don Cook, dcook@drec.msstate.edu; MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Evaluate at-planting insecticides as alternatives to neonicotinoid seed treatments; determine impact of neonicotinoid seed treatments on stand establishment and minimizing risk of replanting

Duration: Year 3 of 3

Expected Results: Identify alternatives to neonicotinoid seed treatments, and determine the benefit of seed treatments for minimizing failed stands/replanting.

Title: Refinement/validation of soybean looper thresholds in Miss. Soybeans, 02-2018, \$52,338

PI: Don Cook, dcook@drec.msstate.edu; MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Refine/validate soybean looper thresholds in soybeans, evaluate alternative insecticides (non-diamide products) for looper management, and monitor response of soybean looper populations to diamide insecticides in lab. assays.

Duration: Year 2 of 3

Expected Results: Refinement/validation of management strategies for soybean looper infestations in soybeans.

Title: Cover Crop–Minimal Tillage (CCMT) production system evaluation, 04-2018, \$106,938

PI: Southern Ag Services, Inc., alan@southernaginc.com, private firm

Objective(s): Implement a Systems Agronomy approach to identify yield limiting/driving factors in CCMT systems, to include 1) assessment of pest and weed presence and cost effectiveness of threshold-based treatments, 2) evaluation of CCMT effects on soil properties and soil water characteristics, and 3) assessment of N-fixation potential in soils under these systems to improve N management strategies in high-yielding (irrigated) soybean production systems.

Duration: Year 1

Expected Results: Development of management strategies to maximize production from high-yielding soybeans grown in CCMT systems.

Title: Stepwise evaluation of high technology production systems by omission research techniques, 06-2018, \$73,821

PI: M. Wayne Ebelhar, webelhar@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC



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Objective(s): Determine the value/importance of specific inputs, through addition or omission, to both agronomic and economic productivity of soybeans under dryland and irrigated conditions across years

Duration: Year 2 of 4

Expected Results: Demonstration of the agronomic and economic implications from adding or omitting various technologies, both alone and in combination, associated with proven yield enhancement of soybean

Title: Using weeds as a resource to develop herbivore-resistant soybean, 08-2018, \$65,173

PI: Te-Ming Paul Tseng t.tseng@msstate.edu, MSU-PSS

Objective(s): Determine if extracts from weed species can be used to formulate repellents that will prevent deer and insect feeding on soybean, and use UAV and camera technology to assess effectiveness of these repellents when applied to soybean in the field

Duration: Year 2 of 3

Expected Results: Field testing of extracts from various weed species will identify candidate species that have anti-herbivory potential.

Title: Understanding in-field soil moisture variability and its effect on irrigation, 10-2018, \$62,631

PI: Mary Love Tagert, mltagert@abe.msstate.edu, MSU-ABE

Objective(s): Measure in-field spatial and temporal variability of rooting zone soil moisture of soybeans to determine 1) correlation with soil and crop variables, and 2) if the potential variability is great enough to indicate different irrigation schedules for different areas of a given field.

Duration: Year 1 of 3

Expected Results: Determination of placement and density of soil moisture sensors needed within non-Delta irrigated fields to ensure application of evenly distributed irrigation to soybeans.

Title: Practical application of sensor-based irrigation scheduling method in soybean, 11-2018, \$20,000

PI: Ruixiu Sui, ruixiu.sui@ars.usda.gov; USDA-ARS

Objective(s): Develop practical applications for using soil moisture sensors to schedule soybean irrigation; compare soil moisture sensor-based scheduling with Arkansas Irrigation Scheduler

Duration: Year 3 of 3

Expected Results: Guidelines for using soil moisture sensors to schedule soybean irrigation—to include sensor installation, data collection, and data interpretation—so that resulting data can be used to schedule most efficient irrigation.



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Title: Influence of cover crops on early season insect pest dynamics in Mississippi soybeans, 13-2018, \$50,121

PI: Angus Catchot, acatchot@ext.msstate.edu; MSU-ES

Objective(s): Determine 1) influence of cover crops on early-season insect pest dynamics, 2) how cover crops affect efficacy of foliar spray programs for control of early-season insect pests, and 3) effect of cover crops on growth and yield of soybeans in conjunction with IPM insect control programs.

Duration: Year 3 of 4

Expected Results: Information on the effect (risks or benefits) of cover crops use on early-season insect management strategies in soybean production systems, and guidelines to manage insect-related risks if they occur.

Title: Determination of organisms affecting soybean seed quality and fungicide efficacy in reducing associated losses, 14-2018, \$61,176

PI: Tessie Wilkerson, twilkerson@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Determine causal agent(s) of reduced quality of mature soybean seed and efficacy of fungicides for controlling these pathogens, evaluation of mechanisms for pathogen entry into maturing/mature soybean seed, and evaluation of response of new soybean germplasm that is exposed to conditions that promote reduced seed quality

Duration: Year 1 of 3

Expected Results: Determination of the fungal complex responsible for and its association with seed rot in conducive environments; determination of specific environmental conditions and associated pathogens that promote seed rot in soybeans; development of strategies involving fungicide/insecticide applications and application timing that can be used to reduce the impact of seed rot on harvest seed quality of soybeans when conducive environmental conditions are anticipated, and identification of germplasm lines that can be used to develop varieties that are less susceptible to causes of seed damage.

Title: 2,4-D and dicamba resistant soybeans: stewardship and testing, 18-2018, \$40,838

PI: Ashli Brown, abrown@msstate.edu, MSU-BMBEPP

Objective(s): Determine best sampling procedure for detection of auxin herbicide injury on soybeans; develop and validate testing methods to differentiate 2,4-D and dicamba herbicide formulations; design off-target field sampling program to determine best practices and participate in grower education program to promote stewardship of auxin herbicide use.

Duration: Year 3 of 3



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Expected Results: Development of methodologies for identifying low-volatility 2,4-D and dicamba formulations, and design and implementation of a stewardship program for effective weed management with auxin herbicides.

Title: Evaluation of soybean varieties for resistance to Cercospora blight, frogeye leaf spot, stem canker, and root-knot nematode, 19-2018, \$39,414

PI: Tom Allen, tallen@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Evaluate Miss. OVT entries for resistance to Cercospora blight and frogeye leaf spot (natural infestations), stem canker (inoculated trials), and root-knot nematode (naturally infested field, if available); and collect and maintain stem canker isolates from infestations (when they occur) throughout Mississippi.

Duration: Continuous

Expected Results: Data that will provide producers information about the level of varieties' disease/nematode resistance and/or susceptibility so that tolerant/resistant varieties can be selected to avoid yield losses associated with the above pathogens.

Title: Weed management programs for Mississippi soybean production, 20-2018, \$91,019

PI: Jason Bond, jbond@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Evaluate new and/or currently registered herbicides and herbicide-resistant (HR) technologies for use in Mississippi soybean weed management programs; characterize soybean performance following exposure to rates of dicamba; assess management of GR Italian ryegrass in soybeans with cover crops, different planting dates, and applications of residual herbicides

Duration: Year 2 of 3

Expected Results: Identification/development of cost effective control strategies for various weed control problems that occur in soybeans, to include control options for GR/HR weeds, management options to prevent or delay development of HR weeds, and assessment of new herbicide technologies and traits that provide new weed management options.

Title: Effect of cover cropping systems on dryland soybean plant vigor, growth, and yield, 21-2018, \$62,328

PI: Mark Shankle, shankle@ra.msstate.edu, MSU-PRFBES

Objective(s): Determine the effects of cover cropping systems on dryland soybean growth and yield, soil health, and determine their potential economic benefit

Duration: Year 2 of 6

Expected Results: Identification of an affordable, effective cover cropping system that will contribute to the minimization of inconsistent dryland soybean yield.



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Title: Development of fertilization practices for sustaining Miss. soybean production, 22-2018, \$57,062

PI: Bobby Golden, bgolden@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Evaluate soybean yield response to P and K fertilization rate; continue to build the Miss. soil test responsiveness database in order to update soil test recommendations for soybean in varying cropping systems; determine the appropriate sulfur (S) source and application rate and timing; evaluate potential soil test variability associated with soybean rotations and possible need to adjust soil test recommendations based on rotational crop history.

Duration: Year 2 of 3

Expected Results: Updated P, K, and S fertilization recommendations for soybeans grown in monocropped and rotational cropping systems.

Title: Enhancement of Mississippi Soybean Variety Trials through entry standardization, 23-2018, \$32,317

PI: Brad Burgess, bburgess@pss.msstate.edu, MSU-MAFES

Objective(s): Conduct standardized soybean variety trials at multiple Mississippi locations.

Duration: Continuous

Expected Results: Soybean yield and trait results that can be used by producers to select varieties for individual production environments throughout Mississippi, and that can be entered into the MSPB soybean variety selection tool on www.mssoy.org.

Title: Incorporating crop rotation decisions into a comprehensive model of soybean yields, 28-2018, \$34,076

PI: Andrew Stevens, a.stevens@msstate.edu, MSU-Ag. Econ.

Objective(s): Quantify the effect of different crop rotations on crop yield, and determine how crop rotation effects depend on/interact with other production factors such as soil type and input use.

Duration: 1 year initial project, with potential follow-up

Expected Results: Provide soybean producers with information about how specific crop rotations with soybeans can increase yield and profit.

Title: Delta Agricultural Weather Center, 29-2018, \$30,000

PI: Mark Silva, marks@ext.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Continue data collection and dissemination of pertinent agricultural weather data and products required by Delta researchers and producers.

Duration: Continuous



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Expected Results: Collection of weather data for Miss. Counties that will be assimilated into the DREC weather website archive to be available as a source for both current and historical weather data for researchers, producers, and consultants.

Title: A novel technique to measure dicamba and glyphosate drift and influence of new formulations on dicamba absorption in dicamba-resistant soybean, 30-2018, \$15,000

PI: Vijay Nandula, vijay.nandula@ars.usda.gov, USDA-ARS

Objective(s): Use addition of a fluorescent additive to herbicide sprays to measure dicamba and glyphosate drift, and determine influence of new formulations of dicamba on absorption and retention in dicamba-resistant soybean.

Duration: Year 1 of 1

Expected Results: Refined methodology to detect herbicide drift away from application site, and baseline knowledge on the amount of potential drift following dicamba applications.

Title: Evaluation of soybean breeding lines for resistance to Phomopsis seed decay (PSD) and for high seed germinability, 31-2018, \$25,000

PI: Shuxian Li, (shuxian.li@ars.usda.gov), USDA-ARS

Objective(s): Evaluate/test soybean breeding lines for resistance to PSD, and identify PSD-resistant lines that can be used in developing PSD-resistant varieties

Duration: Year 3 of 3

Expected Results: Support for the identification of soybean breeding lines that have resistance to PSD and high seed quality that can be used in the development of high-yielding varieties with PSD resistance.

Title: Identification of mycotoxins used in soybean root infection by charcoal rot pathogen and other fungi, 34-2018, \$60,756

PI: Hamed Abbas, hamed.abbas@ars.usda.gov, USDA-ARS

Objective(s): Determine mechanisms of soybean root infection from the soil reservoir by the charcoal rot pathogen and other fungi by identifying/understanding the range of mycotoxins used by these fungi to facilitate root infection

Duration: Year 1 of 2

Expected Results: Understanding/identifying mechanism(s) of root infection by soil-borne pathogens that can contribute to development of soybean cultivars that are resistant to these mechanisms.

Title: Provide in-field soybean diagnostic service for Mississippi soybean producers and researchers, 35-2018, \$12,500



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PI: Billy Moore, wfm1888@aol.com, Private Consultant

Objective(s): To provide soybean disease diagnostic assistance to soybean producers and leaders of MSPB-funded projects.

Duration: Continuous

Expected Results: Disease problems that occur in producer and MSPB-funded project fields will be evaluated to provide disease management assistance to MSU researchers and extension personnel.

Title: Soybean management by application of research and technology (SMART), 36-2018, \$194,228

PI: Trent Irby, tirby@pss.msstate.edu, MSU-ES

Objective(s): Identify and apply key management practices that increase soybean production profitability, provide a hands-on educational opportunity to assess profitable best management practices (BMP's), collect long-term data for determining specific BMP's that consistently increase yields and profits, and promote BMP's that are proven to sustain profitable Mississippi soybean production.

Duration: Continuous

Expected Results: Demonstrating and showcasing BMP's that are proven to consistently and sustainably improve soybean production in all Mississippi regions, and disseminating this information to producers, extension personnel, and consultants.

Title: Quest for an alternative, environmentally friendly control method for charcoal rot fungus: mycoviruses, 37-2018, \$30,500

PI: Nina Aboughanem, nja62@msstate.edu, MSU-IGBB

Objective(s): Identify and characterize mycoviruses that naturally infect the charcoal rot fungus (CRF) so that potential sustainable tools can be developed for biocontrol of the CRF.

Duration: Year 2 of 2

Expected Results: Selected isolates that contain viruses with possible virulence toward the CRF will be identified for use in further studies designed to develop possible biocontrol agents for the CFR.

Title: Irrigation scheduling of soybean—A dual threshold method to eliminate yield-reducing stresses and maximize water use efficiency, 40-2018, \$38,597

PI: H.C. Pringle, III lpringle@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Objective(s): Determine a dual threshold based on heat and moisture deficit-related stresses to use to maximize irrigated soybean yield while simultaneously ensuring the greatest water use efficiency and economic return



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Duration: Year 2 of 3

Expected Results: Irrigation scheduling thresholds will be developed that will ensure proper furrow irrigation in order to minimize both number of irrigations and amount of irrigation water applied

Title: Video support for Mississippi soybean producers, 41-2018, \$16,258

PI: Leighton Spann, leightons@ext.msstate.edu, MSU-OAC

Duration: Continuous

Objective(s) Identify important soybean production topics and produce video segments that will provide producers with current, timely information needed to address issues related to those topics; video presentations of results from MSPB-funded research projects that will be posted on the MSPB website (www.mssoy.org)

Expected Results: Video segments featuring projects and presentations of results from MSPB-funded projects posted on the MSPB website.

Title: Dicamba volatility under field conditions, 44-2018, \$42,854

PI: Dan Reynolds, dreynolds@pss.msstate.edu, MSU-PSS

Duration: Year 1 of 2

Objective(s): 1) Compare volatilities of all available formulations of dicamba, 2) determine the effect of potential tank mix partners on volatility of new dicamba formulations, and 3) determine effect of spray target and temperature on dicamba volatility.

Expected Results: Provide documentation that can be used to make recommendations to alleviate off-target movement of dicamba herbicide products

Title: Herbicide efficacy and economic return as affected by Precision Agricultural Technology, 45-2018, \$46,657

PI: Dan Reynolds, dreynolds@pss.msstate.edu, MSU-PSS

Duration: Year 1 of 3

Objective(s): Compare weed control, application efficacy, drift potential, and economic returns from using various precision spray systems.

Expected Results: Findings that will affect the spray system purchasing decisions of soybean producers in Mississippi

Title: Evaluation of Palmer amaranth control with summer and winter annual cover crops alone and coupled with herbicides, 46-2018, \$40,235

PI: Dan Reynolds, dreynolds@pss.msstate.edu, MSU-PSS



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Duration: Year 2 of 5

Objective(s): Evaluation of indigenous and exotic cover crop species for establishment, growth rate, biomass production, and persistence; Evaluation of effect seeding time of summer and winter annual cover crops on pigweed control; and development and evaluation of precision planting practices for planting soybeans into standing cover crops.

Expected Results: Development of an alternative production system that utilizes the best cover crop management practices to control problematic weeds in Mississippi soybeans.

Title: Ultra-low altitude plant sensing through UAV's with portable hyperspectral imagers for detection of glyphosate-resistant and susceptible weeds in soybean fields, 47-2018, \$19,972

PI: Yanbo Huang, yanbo.huang@ars.usda.gov, USDA-ARS

Duration: Year 2 of 2

Objective(s): Develop a UAV-based hyperspectral system for differentiating GR weeds from GS weeds in soybean fields: determine optimal flight altitude, classify GR and GS weeds using field-acquired hyperspectral data, map GR and GS weed distribution based on this classification, and evaluate the technical and economic feasibilities of UAV imaging systems for this purpose.

Expected Results: Combining hyperspectral sensing techniques with UAV's to provide rapid, consistent, and accurate field identification of GR and GS weed populations in soybean fields in order to implement site-specific weed management practices.

Title: Assessing soybean injury from dicamba applications using multispectral imaging on a small UAV, 48-2018, \$13,220

PI: Yanbo Huang, yanbo.huang@ars.usda.gov, USDA-ARS

Duration: Year 1 of 2

Objective(s): Develop a UAV-based multispectral imaging system for assessing injury resulting from dicamba applied at different growth stages and rates to non-dicamba-tolerant soybeans.

Expected Results: Rapid acquisition of data that can be used to determine/assess soybean yield losses resulting from dicamba application at different growth stages to non-tolerant varieties.

Title: Maturity stage estimation with UAV systems, 49-2018, \$23,548

PI: Joby Czarnecki, (joby.czarnecki@msstate.edu), MSU-GRI

Duration: Year 1 of 1

Objective(s): Evaluate the ability of UAV systems to determine when soybean have reached stages (R6/6.5) sufficient for harvest aid application, as well as other agronomically important growth stages used for the timing of management inputs.



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Expected Results: A tool and concomitant methodology/user protocol that can be used to make a whole-field determination of near-maturity and mature soybean growth stages.

Title: Farm Families of Mississippi, MFBF, 50-2018, \$15,000

Title: Cover crop and tillage effects on irrigation application efficiency, irrigation scheduling, soil physical properties, runoff, soybean yield, and economic return, 52-2018, \$70,772

PI: Jeff Johnson, jjohnson@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Duration: Year 4 of 5

Objective(s): Determine the effect of cover crops and tillage alone and combined with each other on irrigation efficiency, soil properties, runoff, and soybean yield and economic return.

Expected Results: Development of BMP's for using a combination of cover crops and tillage system in irrigated soybean production systems.

Title: Row crop irrigation science extension and research (RISER) program, 55-2018, \$99,090

PI: Jeff Johnson, jjohnson@drec.msstate.edu, MSU-DREC

Duration: Continuous

Objective(s): Work with Mississippi soybean producers to apply/install irrigation best management practices (BMP's) using onsite farm application and training programs to transfer and facilitate wide-spread adoption of these BMP's and complementary water conservation tools.

Expected Results: Increased adoption of irrigation BMP's by soybean producers through hands-on activities with Mississippi producers who irrigate soybeans.

Title: Management of Redbanded stink bug (RBSB) in Miss. soybean production systems, 58-2018, \$56,161

PI: Angus Catchot, acatchot@ext.msstate.edu, MSU-ES

Duration: Year 1 of 3

Objective(s): Determine RBSB damage potential by soybean growth stage, determine insecticidal efficacy to control RBSB, and determine insecticide termination timing to protect soybean yield from RBSB infestations.

Expected Results: Guidelines for managing RBSB in Miss. soybean fields to prevent yield and seed quality losses.

Title: Characterization of antifungal activity of endophytic bacteria associated with the charcoal rot disease system in soybean, 60-2018, \$53,923

PI: Shi-En Lu, sl332@msstate.edu, MSU-BMBEPP



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Duration: Year 2 of 2

Objective(s): Determine effect of inoculation of bacteria and fungi on charcoal rot disease development on soybean, and characterize the genes associated with this potential antifungal activity

Expected Results: Identification and development of a charcoal rot control package based on microbe-based systems.

Title: Stabilizing dryland soybean yield and profit in dominant soils across Mississippi, 62-2018, \$29,125

PI: Gary Feng, gary.feng@ars.usda.gov, USDA-ARS

Duration: Year 2 of 3

Objective(s): Determine cost-effective, optimal management practices to stabilize dryland yield and economic return from soybean grown on the major soil types/growing environments across Mississippi

Expected Results: Determination/identification of optimum soil management practices that should be used to stabilize yield, production costs, and economic return from dryland soybean production across years.

Title: On-farm, interactive soybean Management Verification Program (MVP), 63-2018, \$61,552

PI: MSU-DREC-ES

Duration: Continuous

Objective(s): Work with growers to increase adoption of MSU-ES recommendations by soybean producers in Mississippi to increase profitability and efficiency of soybean production on individual farms

Expected Results: Adoption of MSU-ES best management practices by multiple grower participants, which will eventually lead to widespread adoption of these practices

Title: Maximizing soybean yield in Mississippi: Influence of plant populations, seed treatment, and stand loss on overall profitability, 74-2018 (Moore Fellowship), \$71,970

PI: Angus Catchot, acatchot@ext.msstate.edu, MSU-ES

Duration: Year 3 of 3 (Started Jan. 1, 2016–ends Dec. 31, 2018)

Objective(s): Effect of plant population (with precision planting), seed treatments, and planting date on soybean yield; identification of alternatives to neonicotinoid seed treatments; and effect of stand loss (often caused by insects) and timing of stand loss in different plant populations on soybean yield



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Expected Results: Identify plant populations that will maximize soybean yield potential from differing soybean production systems, provide information on potential replacement products or practices for neonicotinoid seed treatments, and provide information that can be used to make replant decisions that are specific to specific plant populations.

Title: Characterization of soybean taproot decline pathogen; a new disease and pathogen in Mississippi soybean production fields, 78-2018, \$67,755

PI: Maria Tomaso-Peterson, mariat@pss.msstate.edu, MSU-BMBEPP

Duration: Year 3 of 3

Objective(s): Define optimal temperature for pathogen (*Xylaria sp.*) development, evaluate its pathogenicity against soybean, and determine its host range and sensitivity to fungicides.

Expected Results: A description of the timing of interaction between the soybean host and the taproot decline pathogen, and determine approaches to timing and methods of fungicide applications to prevent yield loss caused by the pathogen.

Title: Mississippi soybean forum, 80-2018, \$10,000

PI: Gip Carter, gcarte873@bellsouth.net, President, MSA

Duration: Year 3

Objective(s): Provide a venue and program to discuss topics pertinent to soybean production in Mississippi, and to recognize Miss. Soybean Yield Contest winners

Expected Results: Presentation and discussion of topics pertinent to soybean production in Mississippi, and recognition of winners of Mississippi Soybean Yield Contest.

Title: Mississippi soybean yield contest, 82-2018, \$22,000

PI: Gip Carter, gcarte873@bellsouth.net, President, MSA

Duration: Year 2

Objective(s): Promote soybean production in Mississippi by having a yield contest that provides insight into producer practices/BMP's used to obtain high yields

Expected Results: A yield contest summary that identifies high-yield winners and other top entries, and their production practices used to achieve the winning yields.

Compiled by Larry G. Heatherly, Feb. 2018, larryheatherly@bellsouth.net