



[WWW.MSSOY.ORG](http://WWW.MSSOY.ORG)



**MSPB WEBSITE**

## **WITH UP-TO-DATE SOYBEAN PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

### **MISSISSIPPI SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD**

**PROJECT NO. 64-2016**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Title: Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board Professional and Operational Development (POD) Program**

**PI:** John Orlowski ([john.orkowski@msstate.edu](mailto:john.orkowski@msstate.edu))

### **BACKGROUND**

The average age of soybean producers in both Mississippi and across the country is increasing. As soybean producers retire, new producers are needed to serve in leadership roles in grower groups such as the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board and national level organizations such as the United Soybean Board. Similarly, it appears that younger producers are less likely to interact with Mississippi State University research and Extension programs. Also, research has shown that producers learn primarily from their peer-networks.

The creation of a leadership development program for Mississippi soybean producers can help overcome these challenges. A leadership development program will serve to identify and groom future soybean leaders both in Mississippi and nationally. The leadership program will also create opportunities for Mississippi State University research and Extension personnel to interact with a younger generation of growers. Finally, the a leadership program will foster interaction and idea-exchange between producers within Mississippi, and help young producers expand their peer-network by exposing them to outstanding growers outside of Mississippi.

### **OBJECTIVES**

**Objective 1:** Create a leadership program for young to middle-aged soybean producers to develop both their production knowledge and leadership skills.

**Objective 2:** Expose each class of producers to a multitude of different production and leadership viewpoints via invited speakers and through travel to personally interact with top soybean producers across the country.

### **IMPACTS AND BENEFITS TO MISSISSIPPI SOYBEAN PRODUCERS**

This program will foster increased interaction between soybean producers across Mississippi, which in turn will stimulate exchange of ideas between producers. This will likely increase the adoption of soybean management practices that increase yields, reduce costs, or otherwise improve profitability.

Each class of graduates will likely remain connected even after completion of the program, resulting in the exchange of ideas and information for years. This program will also give Mississippi State University researchers and extension personnel more opportunities for interaction with young growers which can aid in the adoption of recommended production practices. Exposure to ideas and suggestions from researchers and growers outside of Mississippi can also help stimulate interest in novel production practices and inform research efforts. Finally, this course will help to identify future leaders for the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board and other important agricultural organizations across Mississippi.



[WWW.MSSOY.ORG](http://WWW.MSSOY.ORG)



**MSPB WEBSITE**

## **WITH UP-TO-DATE SOYBEAN PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

### **END PRODUCTS- COMPLETED OR FORTHCOMING**

This project was created with the intention of providing a means for the Mississippi Soybean Association to become more engaged and active in the Mississippi soybean community. In discussions about the direction of the Mississippi Soybean Association, it was determined that before fully pursuing a leadership development program the Mississippi Soybean Association would like to revive the Mississippi Soybean Forum and work on developing a soybean yield contest. In 2016, Mississippi State University also established the Thad Cochran Agricultural Leadership Program (TCALP) which has many of the same goals and objectives as the POD program. Discussions will be taking place with the coordinator and advisory council of that program to identify ways in which a MSPB/MSA program could fit together with TCALP. We will be sure to keep the MSPB up to date about these discussions.