

# SOYBEAN SCENE

N.C. SOYBEAN PRODUCERS ASSOC. NEWSLETTER



## FEDERAL COURT VACATES DICAMBA REGISTRATIONS

On February 6, the U.S. District Court of Arizona vacated three registrations for post-emergent use of dicamba on soybeans and cotton (XtendiMax, Engenia, Tavium.) The N.C. Soybean Producers Association, the American Soybean Association, and others urged EPA to issue a broad existing stocks order to allow use of dicamba currently in the supply chain. Further, we requested that EPA appeal the court order and seek a stay pending the appeal.

On February 14, EPA issued an existing stocks order to authorize limited sale and distribution of existing stocks that are already in the possession of distributors, retailers, and end users. Under this order, end users of existing stocks must use the products consistent with the previously approved label. Important cutoff dates apply! Sale and distribution of the products for use on N.C. soybeans must cease by May 31, 2024. End users have until June 30, 2024 to apply the products on N.C. soybeans.

Dicamba is one of only four herbicides widely available and registered for post-emergent use in soybeans. For farmers in areas with high herbicide resistance pressures, dicamba is the only remaining post-emergent herbicide to which some local weed populations have not yet developed resistance. These farmers have no other option to protect their crops.

Dicamba applied over the canopy has facilitated conservation tillage including no-till and minimal till. Without effective herbicides including dicamba, many farmers may need to increase their soil tillage, sacrificing important conservation benefits. It is imperative that EPA allow farmers to use existing stocks of dicamba to preserve and sustain conservation tillage practices. If farmers are uncertain of their ability to acquire or use the dicamba they have already ordered, some may increase soil tillage to deal with weed pressures ahead of the growing season.



NC Soybean farmers meet with District 1 Representative Don Davis in D.C.

# NORTH CAROLINA SOYBEANS ON-FARM TRIALS

## What is the Soybean On-Farm Trial Program?

The North Carolina Soybean On-Farm Trial (OFT) Program was initiated in 2020 as a collaborative effort between N.C. Cooperative Extension and the N.C. Soybean Producers Association. This program leverages the talent and resources that N.C. Cooperative Extension has at the local level to conduct on-farm research in strip trials that synergizes research being conducted in small plots by NC State University. Jeff Chandler with the N.C. Soybean Producers Association now manages the program in collaboration with NC State.

## Soybean On-Farm Trial Results: Foliar Fungicide Use

The North Carolina Soybean OFT investigated the value of foliar fungicides applied around R3 in N.C. soybeans in 2022 and 2023 at 21 locations across the state (Figure 1). Extension Agents across North Carolina worked with growers in their area to host replicated strip trials of treated and untreated strips. Farmers and Agents worked together to pick the foliar fungicide product that was most applicable to the farmer operation, so a variety of foliar fungicide products are represented in the data. Farmer equipment was used to plant, spray, and harvest the trials. Each site was planted with seed provided by the OFT Program that was moderately susceptible to frogeye leaf spot.

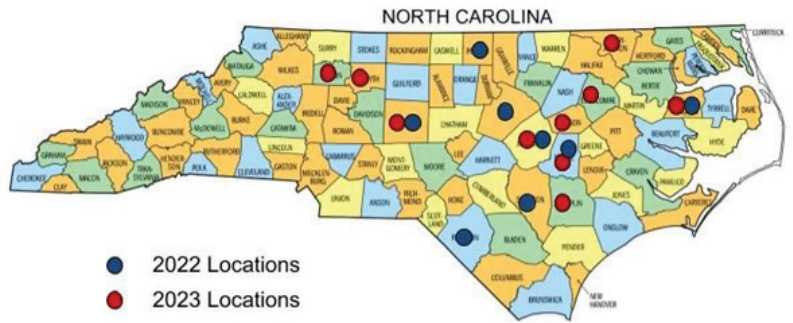


Figure 1. Soybean On-Farm Trial locations across North Carolina evaluating foliar fungicide use in 2022 and 2023

**2022 Results:** Foliar fungicides significantly increased yield at 3 individual locations in 2022 (Figure 2). When locations were combined, there was a statistically significant yield protection of 2.2 bu/A from the use of foliar fungicides across these locations.

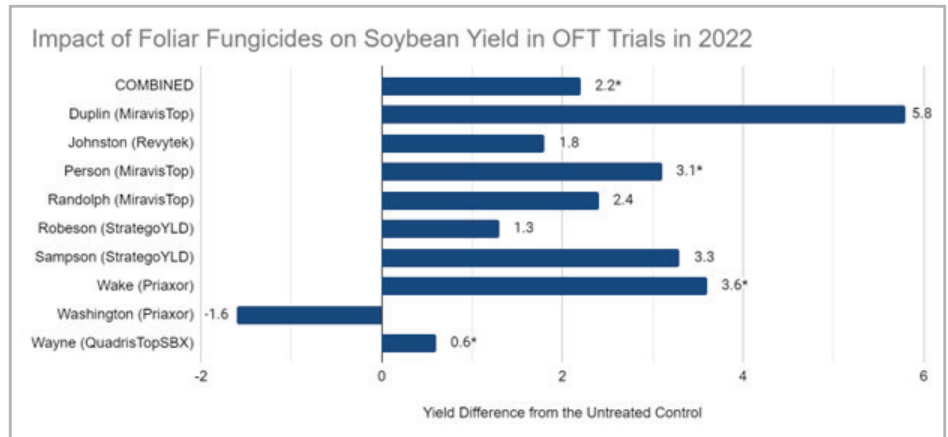


Figure 2. Impact of foliar fungicides on soybean yield in N.C. OFT sites in 2022

**2023 Results:** Again in 2023, foliar fungicides significantly increased yield at 3 individual locations (Figure 3). When locations were combined, there was a statistically significant yield protection of 2.0 bu/A from the use of foliar fungicides across these locations.

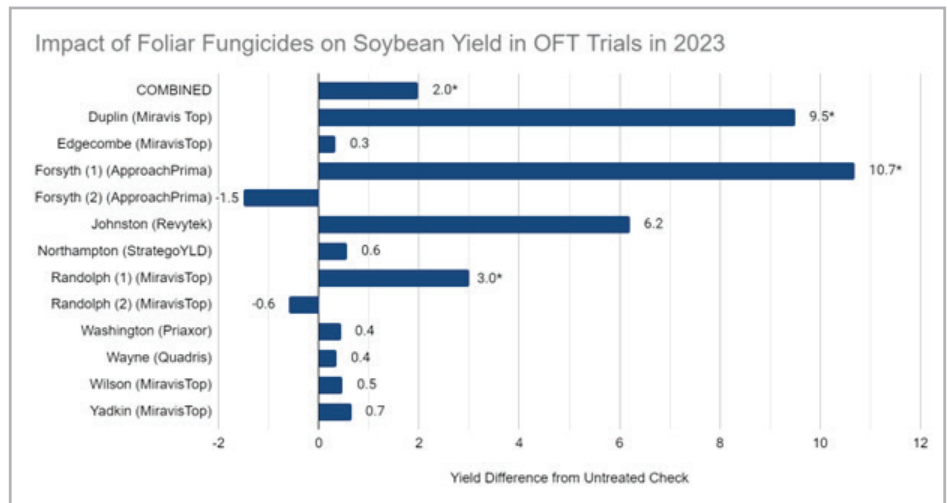


Figure 3. Impact of foliar fungicides on soybean yield in N.C. OFT sites in 2023

**Combined Results:** When combining all locations and years (21 total locations), the treated plots had a *statistically significant* yield protection of 2.1 bu/A (Figure 4). No statistical differences were observed between different fungicide types evaluated and their impact on soybean yield.

**2022-2023 N.C. OFT locations**

Overall, these results indicate that on average **the use of foliar fungicides protect soybean yield by 2 bu/A.** The environmental impacts (i.e. weather) and disease presence can impact the level of yield protection seen, but generally there is a positive yield impact when foliar fungicides are used. The data to support this claim came from 14 different counties over two years, providing a strong representation of North Carolina, and complement both small-plot and producer-derived data from the NC State Soybean Extension Program indicating that foliar fungicides consistently impact soybean yield in the state when diseases are present and susceptible to moderately susceptible varieties to frog eye leaf spot are used.

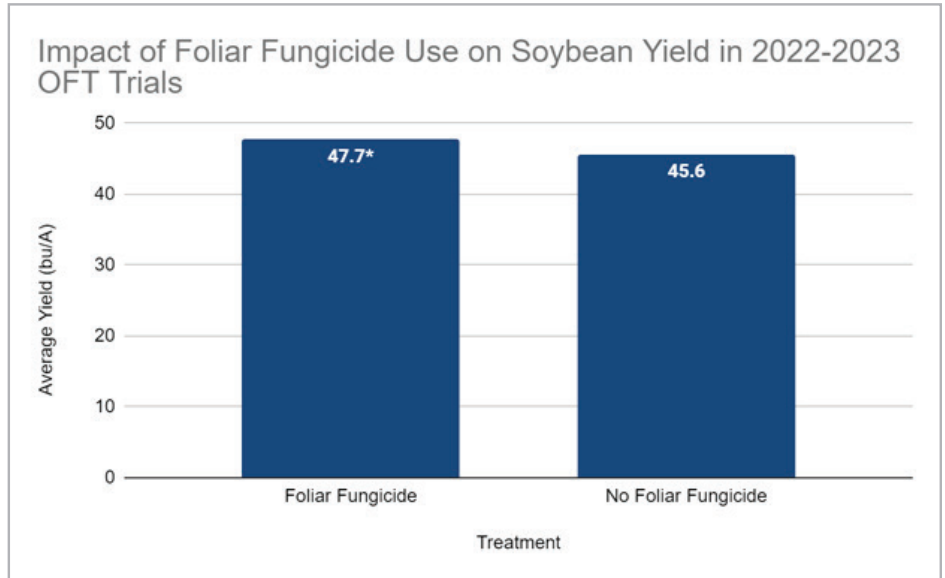


Figure 4. Impact of foliar fungicides on soybean yield combined over

*Summary of the Foliar Fungicide OFT Results adapted from an Extension post made by Mikayle Berryhill, Area Agricultural Extension Agent for Granville and Person Counties.*

If you would like to be a part of the Soybean OFT program in 2024, please contact Jeff Chandler with the N.C. Soybean Producers Association or your local Extension Agent to learn more about the upcoming research in the North Carolina On-Farm Trials Program!

## HERBICIDES MUST COMPLY WITH THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing upfront restrictions on nearly all herbicides to minimize their risks to endangered plants or animals such as plant pollinators. The restrictions, known as the Herbicide Strategy, would require growers to make complicated decisions depending on where you farm, what crops you’re growing, what herbicides you use, and your proximity to species and their habitat. Depending upon these factors, growers and applicators will need to adopt restrictive runoff and spray drift mitigations to acquire a certain number of “points” to use herbicides in their operations.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has committed to an aggressive schedule to meet its legal obligations related to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to a court settlement. A version of the Herbicide Strategy shared by EPA in 2023 would have big impacts on

U.S. farmers and rural communities. A final version is due August 30th.

Every farmer of every crop in North Carolina stands to be impacted. There will be general label restrictions that apply to virtually every agricultural herbicide user, but EPA is also proposing four specific pesticide use limitation areas (PULAs) that will impose additional compliance requirements. Much of central and eastern North Carolina would be subject to heightened herbicide use restrictions. When will all this occur? Not necessarily immediately. The label restrictions will come into force as herbicide products go through EPA’s re-registration process.

N.C. Soy is evaluating the economic impact of the Herbicide Strategy on our farms. The association will look for evidence that the EPA Herbicide Strategy would significantly and irreparably harm North Carolina farming operations and will provide that evidence to those who have a stake in the Herbicide Strategy. At the end of the day, we want the EPA to comply with the Endangered Species Act. A farmer-friendly Herbicide Strategy is a must.

# SPRING EVENT SCHEDULE

**February 27th:** Wake Technical Community College Career Symposium, *Raleigh, N.C.*

**March 9th:** NC State Ag Day Baseball Game, *Raleigh, N.C.*

**March 18th:** Duplin County Women in Ag Seminar, *Kenansville, N.C.*

**March 21st:** University of Mt. Olive Ag Fest, *Mt. Olive, N.C.*

**March 22nd:** Orange High School Career Fair, *Hillsborough, N.C.*

**March 21st-22nd:** Surry County Ag Days

**March 23rd:** Sampson County Ag Day Festival

**March 28th:** Northeast Carolina Prep Ag Day, *Tarboro, N.C.*

**April 13th:** Wayne County YF&R "We Dig It Farm Fest"

**April 17th-19th:** NC State Farm Animal Days, *Raleigh, N.C.*

**April 22nd:** Red Oak Elementary Earth Week, *Red Oak, N.C.*

**April 24th:** Craven & Jones County Farmer's Expo, *New Bern, N.C.*

**April 25th:** Farm Life Elementary Heritage Ag Day, *Carthage, N.C.*

**April 26th:** Marbles Kids Museum "On the Farm" Exhibit Grand Reopening

**May 17th:** Southeast Guilford FFA Day, *Forest Oaks, N.C.*



## TEAM BEAN TRIPLE CROWN EVENT SERIES:

**April 12th-13th:**

Bone Suckin' Sauce Peak City Pig Fest, *Apex, N.C.*

**May 3rd-5th:**

Jiggy with the Piggy, *Kannapolis, N.C.*

**September 13th-14th:**

Clayton BBQ Challenge, *Clayton, N.C.*



**Friday, April 26 • 9:00am**

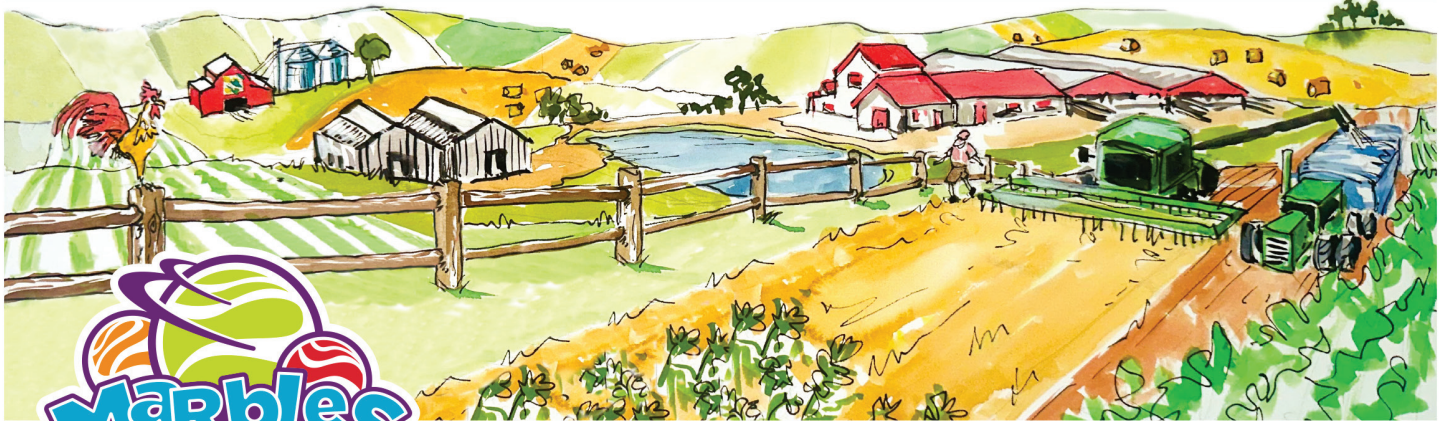
# You're Invited!

Join us to celebrate the enhanced **On the Farm** exhibit.

presented by



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



**Remarks & Ribbon Cutting Begin at 9:15am**  
201 East Hargett Street | Downtown Raleigh



# 2023 NORTH CAROLINA SOYBEAN YIELD CONTEST

The 2023 growing season presented a little bit of everything to soybean producers in North Carolina. The season started out cool in most locations, impeding germination and early vegetative growth. Optimism for an above-average crop gave way to concerns over dry weather in much of the state in late summer. These conditions dampened enthusiasm for a record crop, but yields were still solid overall. We had 26 entries in the 2023 North Carolina Soybean Yield Contest with an average yield of 80.2 bu/ac.

There were 7 entries in the irrigated category and 19 entries in the non-irrigated category.

## STATE WINNERS



### OVERALL STATE CHAMPION & 1ST PLACE IRRIGATED DIVISION

MATTHEWS FAMILY FARMS OF N.C., INC., Davie County  
104.7 bu/ac Pioneer 48A13E Prize: \$1,000



### 2ND PLACE IRRIGATED DIVISION

DANIELLE VENABLE, Davie County  
101.6 bu/ac Pioneer P48A13E Prize: \$500



### 1ST PLACE DRYLAND

COX AND WATSON AG., Union County  
100.8 bu/ac Asgrow AG43XF2 Prize: \$500



### 2ND PLACE DRYLAND

TYLER SHOLAR, Pender County  
98.6 bu/ac Armor 50F96 Prize: \$200

## REGIONAL WINNERS

Highest yield in region regardless of irrigation practices. *Prize: \$100*



**TIDEWATER REGION**  
Boerema Farms, Hyde County  
96.0 bu/ac



**NORTHERN COASTAL  
PLAIN REGION**  
Austin Bryant, Northampton County  
88.4 bu/ac



**SOUTHERN COASTAL  
PLAIN REGION**  
Britt Family Farms, Duplin County  
83.5 bu/ac



**NORTHERN PIEDMONT REGION**  
Walter Hill, Davidson County  
63.0 bu/ac



**SOUTHERN PIEDMONT REGION**  
Ray Horton, Rowan County  
81.5 bu/ac

# 2024 REGIONAL SOYBEAN SCHOOLS



In 2024, the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association partnered with N.C. Cooperative Extension to create a new model for more intensive soybean production information delivery in North Carolina. Regional Soybean Schools were hosted at six locations around the state in January and February. One of the goals for these schools was for the presentation topics to be based on local needs. Recognizing that there are different educational needs and interests that vary in different areas of the state, the speakers and topics for each meeting were tailored to that region of the state. Over 500 people attended these Regional Soybean Schools. Of those that responded to a post-event survey, 84% rated the Regional Soybean Schools as Very Good or Excellent.

Many of the presentations made at the schools were recorded and those can be viewed in a playlist on the N.C. Soybean Producers Association YouTube channel. Future plans for the Regional Soybean Schools could include new locations, new speakers and new topics to deliver the best soybean production information to drive soybean profitability in North Carolina.

Thursday, January 18th	Windsor
Wednesday, January 24th	Ponzer
Tuesday, January 30th	Lumberton
Friday, February 9th	Statesville
Tuesday, February 13th	Goldsboro
Thursday, February 15th	Monroe

Logos for NC Soybean Producers Association, NC Cooperative Extension, N.C. A&T, and NC State are also present.

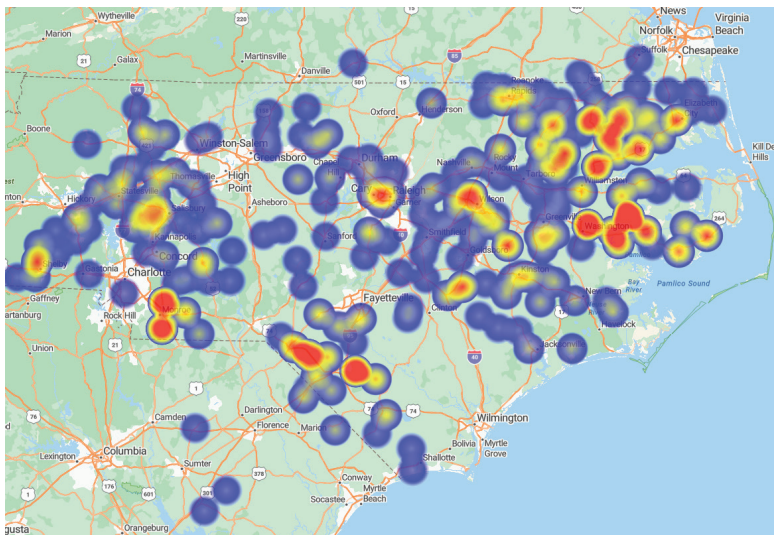


Figure 1. Heat map of Regional Soybean School registrants

# 2024 NCSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Gary Hendrix, *Raeford*
- Vice President: Philip Sloop, *Mount Ulla*
- Secretary: Trey Liverman, *Columbia*
- Treasurer: David Heath, *Dover*
- United Soybean Board Director: Derek Potter, *Grantsboro*
- United Soybean Board Director: Reginald Strickland, *Mt. Olive*
- American Soybean Association Director: Jimmy Thomas, *Timberlake*
- American Soybean Association Director: John Fleming, *Tarboro*
- NC SoyPAC Chair: Michael McPherson, *Mebane*
- Executive Committee: Forrest Howell, *Plymouth*
- Executive Committee: Adrian Locklear, *Maxton*
- Executive Committee: Keith Caldwell, *Maiden*
- Executive Committee: Logan Watson, *Monroe*

- Derrick Austin, *Marshville*
- Brandon Batten, *Four Oaks*
- Nathan Bennett, *Rich Square*
- Colin Brickhouse, *Elizabeth City*
- Collins Bullard, *Stedman*
- Jamie Carrick, *Albemarle*
- Andy Corriher, *China Grove*
- Dale Dawson, *Cove City*
- Jason Farmer, *Louisburg*
- Reid Gelderman, *Pantego*
- Phil Gore, *Nakina*
- Terry Hoffner, *Cleveland*
- Bill Jordan, *Tyner*
- Ben Long, *Scotland Neck*
- Duncan Malloy, *Lumber Bridge*
- Keith Mills, *Trenton*
- Cole Phillips, *Kenansville*
- Tom Porter, *Rocky Mount*
- Thad Sharp, *Sims*
- Collin Smithson, *Shawboro*
- Wade Stanaland, *Bladenboro*
- Justin Sturdivant, *Chapel Hill*
- Jarman Sullivan, *Faison*
- Beth Taylor, *Whitakers*
- Grayson Wells, *Snow Hill*

## 2024 BOARD ELECTIONS

On January 10th, 2024, the N.C. Soybean Producers Association Board of Directors held elections for officer positions, executive seats, and new directors.

**All officers were reelected to fulfill a second 1-year term:**

President: Gary Hendrix, Raeford  
 Vice President: Philip Sloop, Mt. Ulla  
 Secretary: Trey Liverman, Columbia

The Board elected Logan Watson of Monroe to the Executive Committee, who will join returning executive directors Keith Caldwell, Adrian Locklear, and Forrest Howell.

**Four N.C. farmers were elected to serve on the state soybean board for their first term:**

Derrick Austin, Marshville  
 Dale Dawson, Cove City  
 Justin Sturdivant, Chapel Hill  
 Bill Jordan, Tyner

**Eight directors were reelected to serve a second term:**

Keith Caldwell  
 Brandon Batten  
 Collins Bullard  
 Andy Corriher  
 Jason Farmer  
 Terry Hoffner  
 Thad Sharp, IV  
 Beth Fisher Taylor

As we congratulate our newly elected officers on their newfound positions with the Board of Directors, we also send our sincerest thanks to those who retired, Reggie Baker, Aaron Kirk, and Andy Bland.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW AND RETURNING DIRECTORS AND THANK YOU TO ALL RETIREES!**

## MERITORIOUS AWARDS



**MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

The Meritorious Service Award recognizes a farmer who has demonstrated the highest level of dedication to our work. This year the N.C. Soybean Producers Association honored Michael McPherson, a great farmer and advocate from Alamance County. Michael has volunteered in several roles on the soybean board of directors since 2012. He is a top advocate for legislative policies that benefit our industry. Michael is also an exemplary volunteer leader who always shows up for events and has a unique ability to connect with consumers to educate them about farming. He currently produces soybeans, wheat, corn, hay, and with the help of his supportive wife, children, and grandkids. He serves as the Vice President of Alamance County Farm Bureau and his wife Renee serves as Chair of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Women’s Committee. Thank you for all you do, Michael!

**JIM DUNPHY SOYBEAN INDUSTRY AWARD**

The Jim Dunphy Award recognizes a person who has made a significant and positive contribution to the soybean industry in North Carolina. This year the N.C. Soybean Producers Association honored Dr. Rich Bonanno. Dr. Bonanno serves as Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Sciences at N.C. State University and is the Director of NC State Extension. He is also a farmer. Dr. Bonanno owns Pleasant Valley Gardens, a Massachusetts family produce farm started in 1910. His leadership provides us with the tools, technologies, and Extension services we need to be successful. Thank you for your contribution to the industry, Dr. Bonanno.



NORTH CAROLINA SOYBEAN  
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION  
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To assist us in maintaining an accurate address file and reduce postage costs, please notify the N.C. Soybean Producers Association (919-839-5700) of any address changes or corrections. Comments and suggestions are also welcome.



## EXTENSION AGENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The North Carolina Soybean Producers Association created the Soybean Extension Agent of the year award as a way to recognize the tremendous talent and dedication of our Extension agents to soybean farmers. We are pleased to announce that the 2023 Soybean Agent of the Year is presented to a truly deserving nominee - Rod Gurganus, County Extension Director and Field Crops Agent in Beaufort County.

"Whether it's hosting a field day or winter meeting, conducting on-farm research, or just sharing the incredible knowledge this agent possesses - they are of great benefit to our county" -Derek Potter

*Recipient will be awarded \$2,500 toward professional development.*

## NCSPA CORPORATE PARTNERS



NCSPA's Corporate Partners are another great advocate of the N.C. soybean farmer that deserve recognition. We would like to thank our 2024 Corporate Partners for all that they do to support the NCSPA and continuously serve the N.C. soybean industry every day!