

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

***Bold and italicized print represents text which has been added or modified.***

## SOYBEAN RESOLUTION

The Mississippi soybean industry has experienced significant gains in the past decade due to the development of new varieties and significant changes in production practices. Soybean breeding and agronomy programs have contributed toward reversing the trend of previous decades, when soybean production and yields had become stagnant and were being outpaced by rising production costs.

Delta Council endorses the current research and extension efforts being carried out by Mississippi State University and USDA at the Mid-South Research Center. We strongly urge that additional resources continue to be directed ~~to soybean breeding programs at Stoneville and~~ for plant pathology to receive more attention in the research priorities of the Stoneville station. Progress in the area of increased yield and the suppression of plant diseases must become an even higher priority if soybean production is to continue to play an important role in Delta agriculture. USDA and Mississippi State University should adopt a stronger orientation toward the study and development of transgenic varieties with characteristics aimed at tolerance for drought, disease and weed control. Also, resources should be focused on improved irrigation efficiencies in Delta soybean production.

Delta Council endorses the efforts to maintain a national uniform assessment to be supported by all soybean growers and we commend the accomplishments of the Mississippi Soybean Association, Mississippi Soybean Research and Promotion Program, MAFES, MES, and USDA-ARS for the accomplishments which have been registered through research and education in recent years. We applaud efforts to amend the current law, establishing a third-party administrator of the producer check-off funds for the purpose of insulating the fund balance from State deficit reduction efforts.

Delta Council encourages Mississippi State University, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, legislators, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Office of the Governor to coordinate an effort for the development of a bio-fuels and alternative energy policy in the State of Mississippi. The aim of any such effort should include a study of the economic viability of various options for utilizing crops and crop by-products to manufacture energy alternatives. Also, Delta Council would like for studies to be implemented by State officials to evaluate industrial incentives that might be offered for the processing of crops and crop by-products for these uses.

