

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

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SOYBEAN RESOLUTION

The Mississippi soybean industry has experienced significant gains in the past decade due to the development of new varieties, irrigation, and significant changes in production practices. Soybean breeding and agronomy programs have also 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 Stoneville. We strongly urge additional resources continue to be directed toward plant pathology, irrigation efficiencies, and weed science as high priorities.

Progress in the area of achieving maximum yield potential and the suppression of plant diseases must remain a high priority if soybean production is to continue to play an important role in Delta agriculture. The study and development of transgenic varieties with characteristics aimed at tolerance for drought, disease and weed control continue to be important. Delta Council urges all research and promotion boards to carefully evaluate the status and outlook of the water resource challenges facing the Mississippi Delta and jointly, or individually by crop, focus on ways to strengthen the research, education and outreach to landowners and farm operators.

Delta Council endorses the efforts to maintain a uniform assessment to be supported by all soybean growers and we commend the accomplishments of Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, the Mississippi Soybean Association, Mississippi Soybean Research and Promotion Board, MAFES, Extension Service, and USDA-ARS for the accomplishments which have been registered through soybean research and education in recent years. We support a third-party administrator of the producer check-off funds for the purpose of insulating the fund balance from any future efforts to treat these grower dollars as part of the General Fund for the State of Mississippi.

In the area of national policy for Title I Commodity Programs, Delta Council applauds the work of the American Soybean Association to persuade the Congress to include important income protection features for U.S. soybean growers in the 2014 Farm Bill. As we consider future soybean policy, Delta Council stresses that soybean baseline funding levels be utilized to establish funding for sustaining these income protection features to mitigate the impacts of those periods when per-acre cost of production outpace the market signals of soybean production.

Delta Council emphasizes the need for the Delta Research and Extension Center-Mississippi State University to act in a timely fashion to fill the vacancy of a Northwest Mississippi soybean agronomist. Important research and extension outreach are needed, and the absence of a soybean agronomist causes growers missed opportunities in profitable decision-making.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
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