

**THE VIRGINIA SOYBEAN BOARD**

- Project name:** Educational program
- Term of project:** One year with plans for renewal each year.
- Project leader:** Dr. A. Ozzie Abaye  
Associate Professor, Alternative Crops  
Dept. of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences  
Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA. 24061-0403
- Location:** 245 Smyth Hall  
Dept. Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061
- Project objectives:** To give students a strong background in crop analysis, specifically plant and seed identifications, seed analysis, and commercial grain grading
- Funds required:** \$2,500
- Other sources:** Virginia Crop Improvement Association  
Virginia Corn Board  
Private donations

### **About the Virginia tech Crops Judging Team and the 2011 Crops Team Achievements**

I like to extend my gratitude to the Virginia Soybean Board for providing continuous support to the Crops Team since 1992. Over that time, we had over 160 Crop Judgers. I am pleased to report that they all have secured employment in private and/or government sectors. The need for students who are trained in identification of crops, weeds and crop diseases as well as grain grading and seed analysis is evident. Various private companies and industries have consistently expressed interest in hiring these students. Training at Virginia Tech including trips to the regional and the national contests in Chicago and Kansas City assist our students in successfully competing for such jobs.

The 2011 crops judging team members were: Dalton G. Bennett (Southside, Virginia), Lewis R. Hammock (Southside, Virginia), Thomas M. Weaver (Southside, Virginia), Benjamin J. Williams (Shenandoah, Virginia), Thomas L. Williamson (Shenandoah, Virginia), Clayborne Z. Zimmerman (Maryland) (Team pictures attached). In November at the national Crops Judging Contests was held in Kansas City and Chicago, the team received 5<sup>th</sup> place. We also received several individual awards. Overall, it was one of the best years for the Crops Team.

Fortunately for us, as in the past 14 years, we were invited to participate in the trading activity on the floor. The students' participation in the Chicago Board of Trade floor was certainly the highlight of our trip. Students from 10 universities were allowed to participate in trading corn and soybeans in the pits. The Chicago Board of Trade members trained the students on how to trade grains by using hand signals to indicate price and quantity as well as whether a trader is buying or selling. The banquet which was sponsored by the Chicago Board of Trade was in the 99<sup>th</sup> floor of the Sears Tower.

Again we appreciate your past support greatly and know that our 2011 success, both at Kansas City and Chicago, would not have been possible without your support. I would hope that you will be able to continue the support in the 2012 academic year.

Sincerely,

A. O. Abaye  
Associate Professor  
Teaching/Extension/Seed

# The 2011 Virginia Tech's Crops Team



Thomas

Ben

Dalton

Clay



Crops Team, Kansas



Crops Team, Chicago Board of Trade