

VIRGINIA SOYBEAN BOARD PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Title: Soybean Research Support

Funds Requested: \$6,200 (100% funded by the soybean checkoff)

Estimated Duration: One Year, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Principal Investigators:

Dr. David Holshouser, Extension Soybean Specialist, Tidewater AREC, Suffolk, VA
Robert M. Pitman, Superintendent, Eastern Virginia AREC, Warsaw, VA

Project Cooperator:

Lin Barrack, Farm Manager, Eastern Virginia AREC, Warsaw, VA

Location:

Soybean plots at Warsaw and other eastern Virginia locations as needed.

Project Objectives:

To provide technical support for soybean research programs so that time sensitive and important information such as flowering date, disease and lodging scores, height, maturity date, yield and test weight can be collected in a timely manner. Other tasks may include planting of plots, tissue sampling, hand harvesting, machine harvesting, and sample data collection after harvest.

To provide an opportunity for an undergraduate college student to gain firsthand agronomic experience working in crop research programs in the coastal plain of Virginia.

Procedure:

Each spring and summer a labor crunch occurs at the Eastern Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center when many different tasks and programs compete for staff time and attention. The addition of new soybean projects (i.e., plant population, evaluation of new fertilizer formulations, soybean rust, etc.) requires additional time and resources. The hiring of a college student for a ten to twelve week period (mid-May to August) would provide a much needed boost in manpower during this critical time period. The student would be incorporated into the EVAREC staff activities for the summer. In this capacity they would be able to experience field plot layout and planting operations, field data collection such as disease rating, height and lodging scoring, harvesting operations with plot combines and by hand, data collection after harvest, and seed cleaning and processing. There should be opportunities to observe and identify field crop pests such as powdery mildew, frogeye leaf spot, septoria, corn earworms, stinkbugs, and various weeds.

Estimated Worth of the Project:

Timeliness of the completion of various tasks that are a part of research programs is very important to their success. Many times observations such as maturity date or disease rating must be done at a certain time or the opportunity will be lost. This project will make a significant contribution to the overall success of our soybean research programs.

This will be a valuable learning experience for the student. He/she will come away with greater insight into the “true cost” of new varieties and an appreciation of what goes into bringing them to market. The student will gain hands-on experiences in the work place, expanding their knowledge in both practical and personal skills. They will do things that are not taught in the classroom and will benefit from this.

2013 Budget Request:

Wages	\$5500.00
Fringe Benefits (8.5%)	426.00
Supplies	274.00
Total	\$6200.00

Budget Justification:

Wage funds will be used to hire a part-time employee at the Eastern Shore AREC
Supplies include plot markers, flags, agricultural chemicals, and fertilizers.

Submitted By:

Signature: _____
Name: Dr. David Holshouser
Title: Associate Professor, Tidewater AREC
Institution: Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University