

EASTERN REGION SOYBEAN BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT & RESEARCH SUMMARY 2025

WHAT IS THE EASTERN REGION SOYBEAN BOARD?

The national soy checkoff was created as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The Federal Act & Order that created the soy checkoff requires that all soybean farmers pay into the soy checkoff at the first point of sale of the soybeans. These funds are then used for promotion, research and education at both the state and national level.

The Eastern Region Soybean Board (ERSB) is the farmer controlled Qualified State Soybean Board responsible for managing the West Virginia, Florida and New England states' share of funds received from the soybean checkoff program. In order to maximize funds available for projects and to reduce overhead costs, the ERSB participates in a shared executive arrangement with the Pennsylvania Soybean Board.

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Nick Kercheval

MOVING U.S. SOY FORWARD THROUGH INNOVATION

In 2025, soybean farmers were challenged at every level across the country. From shifting global markets and significant economic pressures to varying weather challenges, this year represented true resilience as farmers were determined to adapt and continue moving forward.

In December, the United Soybean Board elected farmer-leader Brent Gatton from Bremen, Ky as its new Chair for 2026. His focus on growing demand for U.S. soy, driving resilience on farms, and increasing communication and education to strengthen soy's reputation with consumers will bring a great deal of value to soybean farmers and the industry.

This year's report features research funded by the Eastern Region Soybean Board and led by Heather Darby, Agronomic and Soil Specialist at the University of Vermont. Her 2025 trials identify soybean production strategies that maximize yield while improving soil health in northern climates. The work highlights integrated practices that build resilience, enhance soil function, and support long-term profitability.

Soy based technologies continue to evolve across industries, as shared in this year's report. From firefighting foam to flooring, the investments made to research soybean uses have been critical in creating new demand for U.S. soybeans. We continue to see soybean oil used in a growing number of nonfood products, including environmentally friendly HempWood flooring, a zero-VOC, formaldehyde-free product now being installed in schools. Read more about this new innovative bio-based product and other soybean oil uses.

I am also excited to announce that I have been appointed to the USB's Export Work Group. This is a great opportunity to be part of the team that helps to expand our soy export market that is crucial for a profitable future for US soybean farmers. As a soybean farmer myself, I am proud to represent others like me and help strengthen the profitability of soybeans through my work as Chair of the ERSB.

The ERSB greatly appreciates and thanks you for your support. I wish you continued progress and prosperity in 2026.

Nick Kercheval
Chair, Eastern Region Soybean Board

EASTERN REGION SOYBEAN BOARD

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 10.1.24 to 9.30.25

CASH ASSETS:	
Operating Funds	$146,601
Less: Liabilities	$(0)
Net Assets at 9.30.25	$146,601
REVENUE:	
Assessment Income	$76,689
Less Assessments Paid to USB & other State QSSB's	$(36,983)
Other Revenue	$17
PROGRAM EXPENSES:	
Communications	$15,320
Promotion & Education	$7,879
Research*	$29,502
Administration/Audits/ Compliance/Insurance/Other	$20,041
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	$(33,019)

* This amount reflect the actual disbursement of the funds allocated for research as of September 30, 2025.

CHECKOFF DOLLARS INVESTED IN RESEARCH

The Eastern Region Soybean Board invests checkoff funds in research that helps answer farmer questions to ensure they are viable and profitable. In Fiscal Year 2024, more than $33,000 was designated for research projects.

TABLE 1. Soybean yield for different maturity groups by planting date.

Maturity	Soybean yield, 13% moisture (bu/acre)						
	12-May	21-May	28-May	3-Jun	9-Jun	16-Jun	23-Jun
1.1	59.7	46.0	40.5[c]	49.1	37.5[b]	55.4	40.5[b]
1.4	53.1	55.5	54.0[bc]	70.0	46.1[ab]	58.7	52.2[a]
1.9	67.6	64.3	67.8[a†]	58.5	52.8[a]	65.7	53.8[a]
2.2	61.9	52.4	61.9[ab]	58.4	49.7[a]	60.6	0.00[c]

†Within a column, treatments marked with the same letter were not statistically different.

TABLE 2. Soybean harvest moisture for different maturity groups by planting date.

Maturity	Soybean moisture (%)						
	12-May	21-May	28-May	3-Jun	9-Jun	16-Jun	23-Jun
1.1	14.0c	13.3a	13.4b	12.9ab	13.3a	12.9a	14.2a
1.4	13.6bc	13.2a	13.3b	13.1bc	13.6a	12.7a	14.6a
1.9	13.1a†	12.8a	12.8a	12.4a	14.6a	13.7a	19.4b
2.2	13.4ab	15.3b	13.9c	13.4c	16.3b	19.1b	N/A‡

†Within a column, treatments marked with the same letter were not statistically different.
‡ MG 2.2 planted on 23-June did not reach harvest maturity and could not be harvested.

DEVELOPING SOYBEAN PRODUCTION STRATEGIES THAT MAXIMIZE YIELD AND SOIL HEALTH

The Eastern Region Soybean Board invests checkoff funds in research that helps answer farmer questions to ensure they are viable and profitable. In Fiscal Year 2024, more than $30,000 was designated for research projects.

Principal researcher: Heather Darby, Extension Agronomist and Soil Specialist, University of Vermont

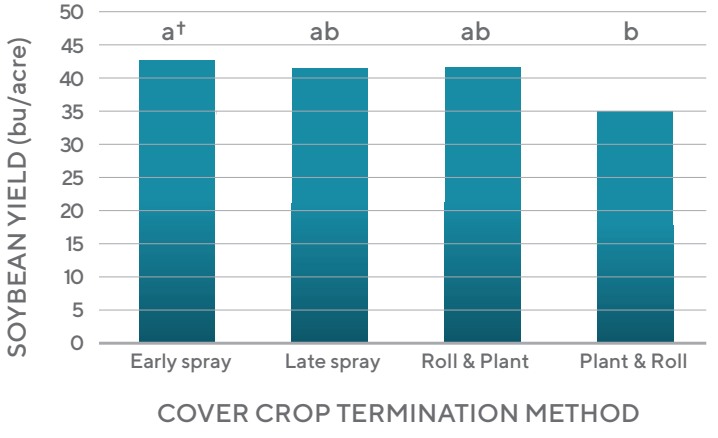
FUNDED AMOUNT: $30,516

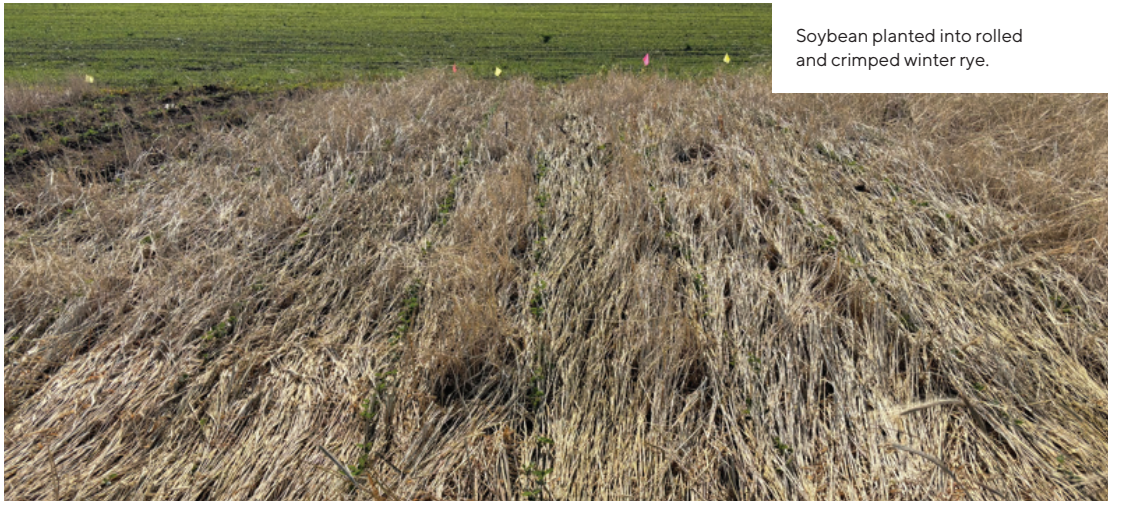
RESEARCH SUMMARY

A survey of soybean growers in VT indicated that farmers were planting across a wide range of dates, seed rates, and maturity groupings. There was little consensus on what was ideal, but most farmers indicated the earlier planting date and later maturity the better yield. Research on optimum planting dates, and maturity groupings for the northeast is scant. In 2025 a trial was initiated to investigate soybean performance through different planting dates and maturity groups. Four soybean varieties were selected representing maturity groups 1.1, 1.4, 1.9, and 2.2. There were seven planting dates, beginning on 12-May and ending on 23-Jun. Planting dates were established approximately 1 week apart.

As expected, maturity groups performed differently in yield and moisture across planting dates. Early and mid-group 1.0 varieties were not always the highest yielding maturity groups, but regardless of the planting date they reached adequate moisture for harvest. Farmers wanting to reduce risk and harvest earlier would be best served by selecting an early to mid-group 1.0 variety.

FIGURE 1. Impact of cover termination method on soybean yield from 2023-2025.
†Treatments with the same letter performed statistically similar.





Soybean planted into rolled and crimped winter rye.

The late maturity soybean varieties performed best when planted from mid to end of May. The group 2.2 did not reach maturity when planted in late June. The 1.9 maturity group reached peak yield when planted by the end of May, indicating that that would be the time to switch to an earlier variety. Additional years of data need to be collected to verify optimum planting dates and maturity group for the region.

COVER CROP TERMINATION

In recent years many farmers have not been able to terminate their rye cover crop timely as weather conditions prohibited spraying and the rye cover crop reached anthesis in many cases. Farms are seeking out information on how their soybean crop will be impacted if they have delayed cover crop termination. The objective of this cover crop termination trial is to investigate the impact of the timing of cover crop termination on soybean yield. Cover crop termination methods have been evaluated over the last 3 years to determine if late termination impacts yields. Treatments included an early herbicide application when rye was in vegetative stage (Early Spray) and three late termination methods that included an herbicide application at anthesis and prior to planting (Late Spray), rolling and crimping the cover crop in anthesis at planting (Roll & Plant), and rolling and crimping the cover crop in anthesis after planting and once soybeans had emerged (Plant then Roll).

Across years, rye biomass increased on average 2,837 lbs per acre in the 20 or so days between the early and late cover crop termination times. Soybean yield was slightly impacted by termination method. Planting the soybeans followed by roll and crimp after emergence seemed to have a slight disadvantage especially compared to early termination of the cover crop. Generally speaking, timing of the cover crop termination did not have a significant impact on soybean yield across the three-year period (Figure 1).

INTERSEED METHODS

Soybeans are generally harvested well into October and for northern regions this is past the acceptable time for planting cover crops. Farmers want to cover crop because of regulatory requirements and interest in soil health. Seeding cover crops into the growing soybean crop might allow farms to establish a cover crop before harvest. In prior research, interseeding was tried before canopy closure. However, the soybean stand was too dense, and the cover crop did not have enough light to establish. In this study, the cover crop was interseeded into two maturity groups (0.7 and 1.7) of soybeans at timings that coincide with the best planting dates for winter rye (mid-Sep to mid-Oct). Interseeding started on September 21st and the goal was to coincide with soybean leaf drop (growth stage R7-R8). This stage would allow the interseeder to pass safely through the rows without damaging the soybeans. The later maturing soybean had not dropped its leaves and the interseeder could not get through the rows without damaging the soybeans. Only the early maturity

TABLE 1. Cover crop ground cover and biomass measured on November 24th, 2025.

Rye Planting Date	COVER CROP	
	Ground cover %	Biomass lbs. ac^{-1}
21-Sep*	38.2^{a†}	772^{a}
28-Sep	25.5^{ab}	461^{ab}
5-Oct	13.7^{bc}	284^{bc}
15-Oct	1.62^{c}	39^{c}

*The cover crop could not be interseeded on 21-Sep in the later maturing variety (Maturity Group 1.7), because the plants had not started to drop their leaves. .

†Within a column, treatments with the same letter performed statistically similar.

FIGURE 2. Impact of interseeding date of cover crop ground cover (%) and biomass (lb/acre). †Treatments with the same letter performed statistically similar.

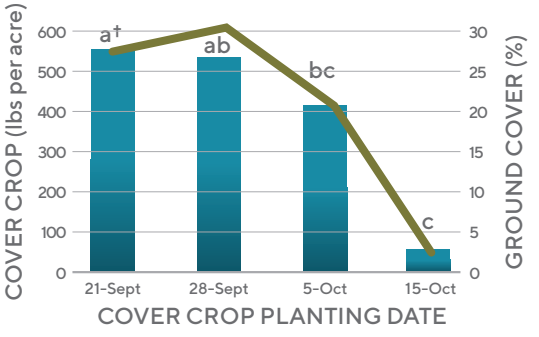
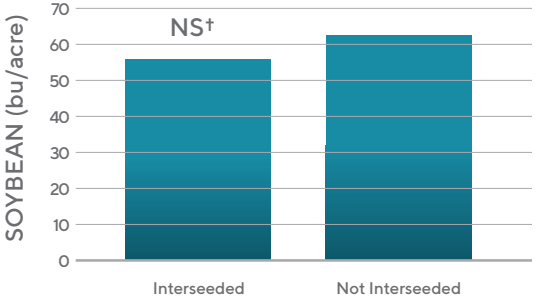


FIGURE 3. Impact of interseeding cover crops into soybeans on beam yields. †NS; No significant difference between treatments.





Winter rye interseeded into soybeans.

variety could be interseeded on 21st of September. Interseeding was completed in both varieties on the 28th of September, 5th of October, and the 15th of October. In late November, the percentage of ground cover and biomass from the cover crop was highest for the September 21st seeding date but statistically similar to the 28th of September (Figure 2).

The 15th of October had minimal growth and amounted to only 1.62% ground cover. Yields of soybeans were collected to determine if interseeding a cover crop at the time of leaf drop would impact soybean performance. There was no significant difference in yield of soybeans that had been interseeded and soybeans that had not been interseeded (Figure 3).

Overall, if the goal is to have a cover crop following soybeans interseeding soybeans when most of the leaves have dropped can allow for successful establishment of a cover crop.

Scan this QR code to learn more.

FROM ROADS TO RETAIL: SCALING SOY INNOVATION ACROSS INDUSTRIES

Soy-based technologies are moving rapidly from niche innovation to commercial standard across the U.S. economy. Fire departments are transitioning from conventional firefighting foams to soy-based alternatives that eliminate harmful forever chemicals. Schools and public buildings are adopting flooring made with soy-based adhesives to reduce exposure to toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Major retailers now stock DEWALT® lubricants formulated with U.S. soy.

These solutions are outperforming competitive products, meeting regulatory and institutional requirements, and creating new demand for U.S. soybeans. They also share a common thread: each advanced from concept to commercialization through research investment and industry partnership.

TIRE TECHNOLOGY & BEYOND

USB's long-running research partnership with Goodyear demonstrates how soy-based technology delivers measurable performance improvements. Research confirmed that soybean oil improves tire flexibility in cold temperatures while enhancing traction in rain and snow.

Since 2008, the collaboration has expanded into 11 commercial tire lines covering approximately 70% of vehicle types, earning Goodyear the 2018 Tire Technology International Award for Environmental Achievement of the Year. In 2023, Goodyear increased soybean oil usage by 9.9% year over year, with soy replacing approximately 60% of petroleum-based oil in select products. The company has committed to fully replacing petroleum-derived oils by 2040.

Building on Goodyear's breakthrough, Skechers now features "Goodyear Performance Outsoles" with soy-based rubber technology in over 122 footwear styles. "U.S. soybean growers are pleased to see this multiplier effect growing from their collaboration with Goodyear through the soybean checkoff," said Ralph Lott, soybean farmer from Seneca Falls, N. Y., and former USB Chair.

BUILDING MATERIALS: MEETING INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH STANDARDS

USB-supported research into soy-based adhesives has enabled new commercial building materials that meet both performance and health requirements. Kentucky-based HempWood produces flooring from fast-growing hemp fibers bonded with soy flour adhesives. The product is cost-competitive with domestic hardwood, zero-VOC, and formaldehyde-free.

Kentucky's Warren County Public Schools installed HempWood flooring at Greenwood High School in November 2024, followed by an elementary school installation in 2025. "Installing HempWood flooring in our school was an easy decision," said Chris McIntyre, Chief Financial Officer and Construction Supervisor for Warren County Public Schools. "As a zero-VOC, formaldehyde-free product, it supports a healthier environment for students and staff while contributing to a negative CO_2 impact."

HempWood is carbon-negative, achieves hardness 20% greater than oak, and won the 2024 "Coolest Thing Made in Kentucky" award.



SoyLei Innovations asphalt uses soybean oil to help reuse aged asphalt.

INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS: EXTENDING PAVEMENT LIFE

Soy-based technologies are delivering measurable cost savings through extended service life and increased use of recycled materials.

SoyLei Innovations, an Iowa State University spin-off company supported by USB and the Iowa Soybean Association, developed sub-epoxidized soybean oil (SESO) that enables up to 45% recycled asphalt content in new pavement. Unlike traditional approaches that only soften aged asphalt temporarily, SoyLei's technology chemically restores performance by reacting with oxidized components. Field testing across nine states confirmed pavements with SoyLei's SIP-1111™ resist cracking and meet durability requirements.

PoreShield concrete protectant by Crafco®, developed by the Indiana Soybean Alliance and Purdue University and supported by the USB, extends concrete life by 10+ years. Made from American-grown soybeans, it absorbs deep into concrete pores to protect against moisture and chloride ions—outlasting conventional surface sealers.



Soyfoam being used in training.

SOYFOAM™ FIREFIGHTING FOAM WINS 2025 GREEN CHEMISTRY AWARD, BACKED BY U.S. SOY FARMERS

Cross Plains Solutions' PFAS-free firefighting product SoyFoam™ has earned the 2025 Green Chemistry Challenge Award in the category of Design of Safer and Degradable Chemicals, a national recognition sponsored by the American Chemical Society.

Farmer leaders Gene Stoel of Minnesota and Jason Swede of New York were present at the awards ceremony held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington. Their involvement underscored the vital role U.S. soybean farmers played in supporting the development, testing and promotion of SoyFoam™, a soy-based innovation aimed at reducing chemical harm to people and the planet.

Stoel described the recognition as deeply meaningful to farmers like himself.

"A soy-based product winning this award shows that soybeans aren't just a commodity, they're a sustainable resource for innovation," he said. "When your crop helps protect communities and firefighters, it gives a whole new meaning to what we do. It's a point of pride to know that what we grow is helping save lives and reduce environmental harm."

FROM FARM FIELDS TO FIRE STATIONS

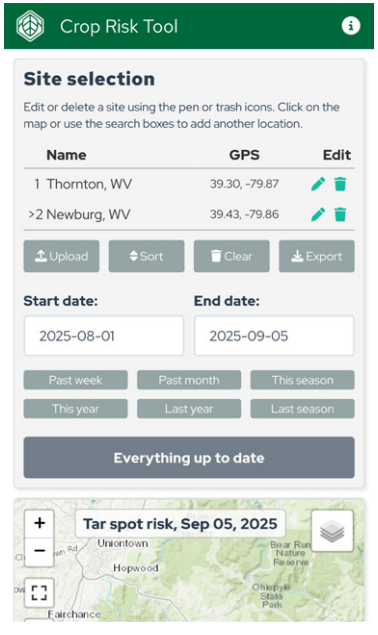
Swede, a farmer from upstate New York, also attended the ceremony. Swede previously participated in the "Farm to Fire" live demonstration event in March 2024, where fire departments across the U.S. saw firsthand how SoyFoam™ performs in field conditions.

A NON-TOXIC ALTERNATIVE

SoyFoam™ TF-1122, made from sustainably grown soy protein, is 100 percent free of PFAS — the so-called "forever chemicals" that persist in the environment and are increasingly banned in firefighting products. The foam is GreenScreen Certified® Gold, readily biodegradable by OECD standards and 84 percent biobased under USDA BioPreferred® certification.

The Green Chemistry Challenge Awards, established in 1996, honor technological breakthroughs that reduce or eliminate hazardous substances in chemical processes. The joint EPA-ACS program recognizes innovations that provide both environmental and economic benefits, with SoyFoam™'s win marking a notable convergence of industrial science and farm-grown inputs.

NEW ONLINE CROP DISEASE FORECASTING TOOL REPLACES POPULAR SMARTPHONE APPS



Mobile view of the Crop Risk Tool interface.

Farmers know to get the biggest bang for their fungicide buck, timing is everything. A new online resource from the Crop Protection Network (CPN) can help guide timely application decisions and manage foliar diseases in both corn and soybeans.

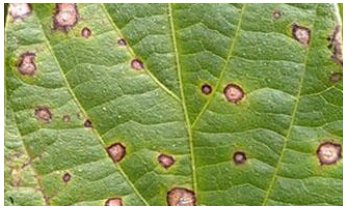
The Crop Risk Tool is a free web-based platform that forecasts the risk of key foliar diseases by feeding local weather data into validated risk models. The tool currently has models for white mold and frogeye leaf spot in soybeans and tar spot and gray leaf spot in corn.

"This tool is replacing previous smartphone apps, including Sporecaster and Tarspotter," said Damon Smith, University of Wisconsin Extension field crops pathologist who was involved with the tool's development. "So, instead of standalone apps for one disease, everything is now in one spot. Farmers can break it out by a particular crop and see all the diseases for that crop at the same time, which can help make those fungicide decisions a little easier."

Users can select specific locations to monitor, either by uploading a file containing latitude and longitude coordinates or by navigating to the location on the tool's map and dropping a pin. A user then selects a timeframe, setting the start date to the approximate date of crop emergence for that location.

Risk levels are updated daily based on recent weather conditions, and the tool provides a 7-day forecast to assist in fungicide application planning. The models do assume the disease is present at the selected location and the crop is in a growth stage vulnerable to the disease. Corn is most vulnerable to tar spot and gray leaf spot from the V10 to R3 growth stages. Soybeans are most vulnerable to white mold from the R1 to R3 growth stages and to frogeye leaf spot from R1 to R5.

"This tool is replacing previous smartphone apps, including Sporecaster and Tarspotter."



The Crop Risk Tool also helps forecast the risk of key foliar diseases, such as frogeye leaf spot in soybeans.

The application uses data from the IBM Environmental Intelligence Suite gridded site-specific weather data source. Crop disease models were developed based on disease information from university researchers around the country, including CPN partners. The project is powered by the National Predictive Modeling Tool Initiative, a part of the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Each crop disease forecasting tool is sponsored in part by the National Corn Growers Association, United Soybean Board and the North Central Soybean Research Program.

Scan to access the Crop Risk Tool