# MAKE YOUR **MARK**

Serve your fellow farmers as a **FARMER-LEADER** of the soy checkoff.



As a soybean farmer, you have always played an important role in the success of U.S. agriculture, and today that role is growing. That's why the United Soybean Board — which oversees the funds of the national soy checkoff — is looking for farmer-leaders from all backgrounds to get involved on the national board. You can make your mark on how you and the industry move forward in the years to come.

Lynn Rohrscheib, Illinois soybean farmer-leader

#### WHAT IS THE UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD?

Established in 1991, the United Soybean Board — your soy checkoff — is composed of 78 farmer-leaders from across the country with one common goal: increasing return on investment for all U.S. soybean farmers. Whether it's through researching production practices, working with the supply chain or finding new markets for soy oil and meal both here and abroad, the soy checkoff has its farmers' best interests at heart when investing their funds for maximum ROI. It is overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and does not fund policy or lobbying activities.

#### MISSION

Create value for U.S. soybean farmers by investing in research, education and promotion of U.S. Soy.

#### VISION

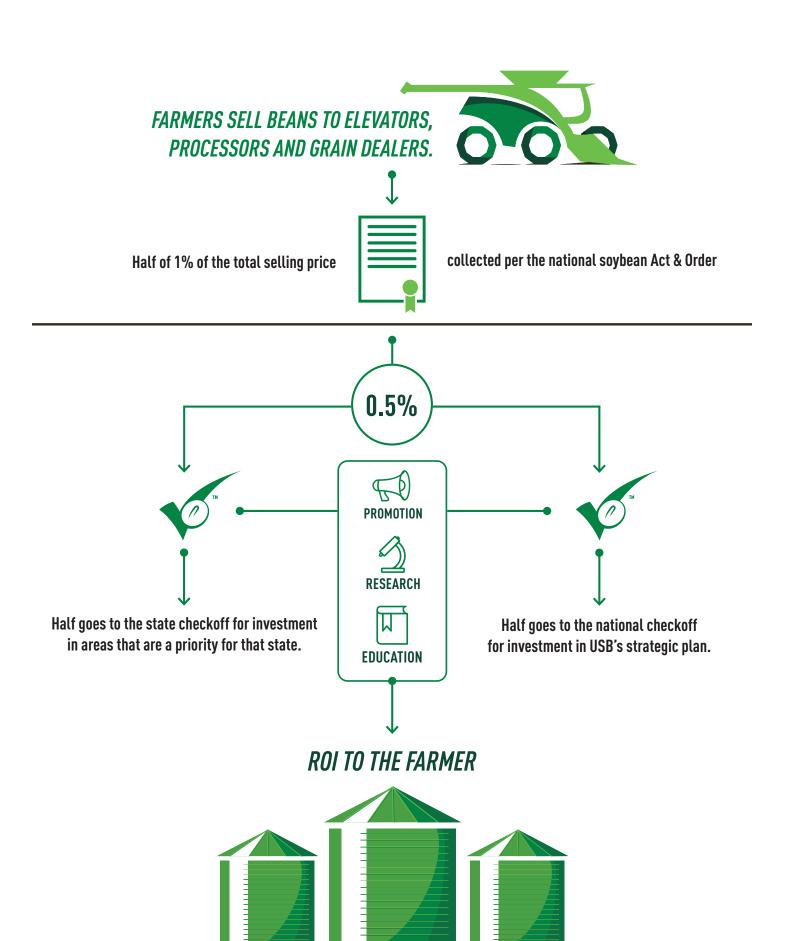
Partnering to deliver sustainable soy solutions to every life, every day.

#### HOW THE CHECKOFF BRINGS VALUE

Simply put, your soy checkoff exists to bring value back to you — boosting yields through innovation and production research, creating new revenue streams, expanding existing markets or adding new ones to increase demand and drive sales. It's the farmer-led vision and strategic thinking required to evolve U.S. Soy into the ultimate raw material on the world stage.

Tim Bardole, Iowa soybean farmer-leader Photo Credit: Joseph L. Murphy/Iowa Soybean Association

## HERE IS HOW THE SOY CHECKOFF WORKS



#### NOMINATION PROCESS AND TERM LIMITS

Soybean farmer-leaders are often nominated by their state-level checkoff organizations, called Qualified State Soybean Boards. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture will select individuals from the nominations submitted. Each year, the Secretary of Agriculture appoints approximately one-third of all board members for three-year terms. Each appointed director will then have the opportunity to serve up to three consecutive terms on the board. One term is three years.

#### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Volunteer board members act in the best interest of U.S. soybean farmers — not just the state or region they represent. They attend and prepare for all board

meetings, applicable committee meetings and trainings. Lastly, they promote a positive image of the board and ensure financial responsibility.

### **HOW EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENTS WORK**

Volunteer board members are reimbursed for travel and other expenses related to attending meetings and events on behalf of the United Soybean Board.

### TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS

As a board member, you would be expected to attend at least three meetings a year (February, July and December), participate in conference calls and represent your industry to others. Volunteer board members may also be required to travel on behalf of the United Soybean Board in support of committee or other industry-related meetings. Serving on the United Soybean Board is a commitment of time and talent to the entire U.S. soybean industry, representing over 500,000 growers.

Meagan Kaiser, Missouri soybean farmer-leader

#### DIVERSITY

All soybean farmers in the country have the opportunity to be nominated for consideration by the Qualified State Soybean Boards and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for service on the United Soybean Board. We welcome all farmers to participate on our state and national soybean boards. We're at our best when we embrace and encourage different backgrounds and perspectives. For more information on nominations and membership of research and promotion boards, visit the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service website.



April Hemmes, Iowa soybean farmer-leader

"We welcome all farmers to participate on our state and national soybean boards. We're at our best when we embrace and encourage different perspectives, which powers the soy checkoff's ability to drive value and innovation beyond the bushel."

Vally Ruhfand

**Polly Ruhland,** chief executive officer of the United Soybean Board

## **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

Make your mark and help us lead the U.S. soybean industry into the future. Contact your state soybean checkoff board to get started.

Alabama Soybean Producers 334-467-9347

Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board 501-224-4400

Delaware Soybean Board 443-812-4526

**Eastern Region Soybean Board** (Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia) 717-651-5922

#### Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans 706-542-2351

Illinois Soybean Association 309-663-7692

Indiana Soybean Alliance 317-347-3620

lowa Soybean Association 515-251-8640

Kansas Soybean Commission 785-271-1030

Kentucky Soybean Board 270-365-7214

Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board 225-922-6209 Maryland Soybean Board 443-812-4526

Michigan Soybean Committee 989-652-3294

Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council 507-388-1635

Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board 662-418-4480

Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council 573-635-3819

Nebraska Soybean Board 402-441-3240

**New Jersey Soybean Board Inc.** 609-585-6871

New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association 585-689-2321

North Carolina Soybean Producers Association Inc. 919-839-5700

North Dakota Soybean Council 701-566-9300

**Ohio Soybean Council** 614-476-3100 Oklahoma Soybean Board 918-343-2326

Pennsylvania Soybean Board 717-651-5922

South Carolina Soybean Board 803-734-1767

South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council 605-330-9942

Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board 731-668-2850

**Texas Soybean Board** 806-687-6367

Virginia Soybean Board 804-371-6157

Western Region Soybean Board (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) 402-441-3240

Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Inc. 608-274-7522





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