

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

## and Looking Forward



In August, Soybean Management Field Days celebrated 25 years of providing growers with the latest in soybean production, management and marketing. The Nebraska Soybean Board and Nebraska Extension event provides demonstration-based presentations, interactive discussions about soybean production, profitability and local and global issues.

The field days were at the Jason Jakob farm (Rockville), UNL Haskell Ag Lab (Concord), UNL Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center (Mead) and Randy and Blake Huls farm (DeWitt). Two-hundred-seventy-four growers attended this year, learning about sprayer cleanout/setup, pest/disease management, cover crops, soil health, irrigation/technology and marketing.

Many growers have benefited from attending the field days, with an attendance of 10,460 over 25 years. There have been changes and challenges, but the goal has remained the same—to help soybean growers maximize productivity and profitability through smart decisions and efficient use of resources.

NSB executive director Andy Chvatal says, “Keeping relevance and profitability at the forefront of the field days are most important for the soybean checkoff. It was

that way in 1999, and it’s still that way in 2023. We also look forward to keeping the soybean conversation moving in the right direction for the next 25 years.”

As the field days move forward, an exciting addition is planned for 2024—featuring a new Soybean TAPS Competition. Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) is an innovative program developed by University of Nebraska research and extension specialists and educators. TAPS implements interactive, real-life farm management competitions focused on profitability, input efficiency and yield, with overall winners receiving cash prizes.

The Soybean TAPS Competition will involve growers making decisions on a variety of management options, such as seeding rate, row spacing, variety selection, seed treatments, fungicides, insecticides, planting dates, crop insurance and grain marketing.

Those competing make decisions on management options for a “farm”—three replicated soybean plots at the University of Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center near Mead. This first year, the Soybean TAPS competition will start with a limited number of management options and teams, ideally with one or two teams

### The checkoff-funded program garners positive reviews from growers, such as:

- “Very good program. Covers a lot of topics related to soybean production.”
- “I learned several new strategies to implement when making management decisions.”
- “Important issues with raising soybeans today.”
- “Excellent presentations—highly effective presenters.”
- “It shows me I am on the right track. Either am doing or looking at doing some of these things.”

from each of the 8 Nebraska Soybean Board districts.

As TAPS is rolled out as part of the field days, suggestions and feedback are welcomed on what management decisions growers would like to see incorporated into the competition, so please share your ideas with the Nebraska Soybean Board. Watch for more details on how you can be part of TAPS at Soybean Management Field Days in 2024!



Send your ideas for Soybean TAPS management options to Aaron Nygren at [anygren2@unl.edu](mailto:anygren2@unl.edu) or Andy Chvatal at [andy@nebraskasoybeans.org](mailto:andy@nebraskasoybeans.org).