

Dear Michigan Soybean Producer:

This is the final year of a three-year, multi-state effort to help soybean producers identify and overcome the barriers to achieving higher soybean yields and we need your help. Participation is voluntary, however we need to collect field-specific information about yields, crop inputs and management practices from at least 200 fields to be able to generate meaningful results (more fields will produce better recommendations). Please complete the enclosed survey and provide all of the requested information for two to four soybean fields from 2017. **Select fields that represent the range of management practices you used on your farm (earliest and latest planted, tilled and untilled, narrow rows and wide rows, with and without foliar applications or seed treatment, highest and lowest yielding, etc.).** The information you provide will be kept confidential, combined with information from other Michigan soybean producers and used to identify yield barriers and ways for overcoming them.

Producers that provide all the requested information for four fields will be entered into a drawing for \$1,000. Producers that provide all the requested information for two fields will be entered into a drawing for \$500. You must include your name and address and return the completed survey form before March 31, 2018 to be eligible for the drawings. Only one survey form per farm can be submitted.

Return completed forms to Mike Staton by fax (269-673-7005), by email (staton@msu.edu), or by U.S. mail (Allegan County MSU Extension, 3255 122nd Ave., Suite 103, Allegan, MI 49010).

Survey Form Explanation and Instructions

- **Producer name and mailing address:** Please provide this information as it will be enable us to follow-up if necessary. Your information will be kept confidential. If you don't want to include your name and address, please provide a detailed location for each field.
- **Field location:** This information is essential to retrieving soil and weather data for your fields. The options for providing field locations are provided below:
 - Legal land description with the field boundaries identified in the diagram
 - GPS coordinates for the center of each field
 - Provide the county, nearest intersection and indicate the field location relative to the intersection
- **Dryland or irrigated and field size:** Only producers in Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Van Buren, Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties should report irrigated fields. Non-irrigated fields can be reported in all counties. Please indicate the total number of acres in each of your reported fields.
- **Field drainage:** Please indicate the level of drainage in each of the four fields and list the spacing between tile lines in fields having systematic drain tiles.
- **Inches of irrigation water:** Please indicate the total amount of irrigation water applied to each field.
- **Soybean yield:** Please indicate the average yield for each field adjusted to 13% moisture.

- **Lowest/highest yields (bu/ac):** Please list the lowest and the highest field-average yields produced across all of your fields for the year. Do not mix dryland and irrigated yields together (report the lowest and highest field-average dryland yields or the lowest and highest irrigated field-average yields for the year and not for each field).
- **Planting date:** Do not include fields where planting was not completed within a couple of days.
- **Variety name (company and variety name):** Please try to provide this information if possible. At a minimum, please list the maturity group to the nearest 10th of a group. For example: 1.9.
- **Seeding rate:** Please list the actual seeding rate in seeds dropped per acre.
- **Row spacing:** Please indicate your row spacing for each field. For twin rows, list the distance between the two twin rows first and then the distance between the center of the twin rows and the adjacent set of twin rows. For example: 7.5" twins, 30" centers.
- **Seed treatment:** Please indicate yes or no. If a seed treatment was applied, please be as specific as possible. If you don't remember the specific product(s), contact your seed supplier. If you can't provide product names, please list the categories (insecticide **I**, fungicide **F**, nematicide **N** or Rhizobia inoculant **R**).
- **Tillage after prior crop:** If your specific tillage practice is not listed on the form, please write your practice on the form. Please use **FC** to indicate field cultivator and **F** for a finisher. Please list the month and year for all tillage operations.
- **Prior crop in this field & residue harvested or grazed:** Please indicate if the corn stalks were chopped either with the corn head or a separate operation, harvested or grazed.
- **Any (non-starter) fertilizer applied after the prior crop (rate and timing):** Do not report starter fertilizer here. Only report nutrients applied after harvesting the previous crop. Please report the pounds per acre of the actual nutrients (N, S, Zn, Mn, Mg, B, K₂O and P₂O₅ not the fertilizer. For example, if you applied 150 lbs. of 0-0-60 per acre, please report 90 lbs. of actual K₂O per acre. Please report the date of all nutrient applications.
- **Any starter fertilizer (yes/no) and nutrients applied:** If a starter was applied, please indicate placement (2x2 or in-furrow) and nutrients applied. Application rates are not required.
- **Lime (L) and Manure (M) and timing:** Only report lime and manure applications made after harvesting the previous crop. Please indicate the year and month for any lime and manure applications. Application rates are optional.
- **Herbicide Program (pre-emergence or post-emergence or both):** Please indicate application timing (pre, post or both). Product names and application rates are not needed.
- **Any in-season fungicide (F) and/or insecticide (I) (yes/no):** Please indicate if a foliar fungicide (**F**), foliar insecticide (**I**) or both was applied. Product names and rates are not necessary.
- **Soybean Cyst Nematodes (SCN yes/no or I don't know):** Only answer "Yes" or "No" if the field has been tested for SCN. If the field has not been tested for SCN, please answer "I don't know".
- **Iron chlorosis deficiency (ICD; yes/no):** Iron chlorosis is a potential problem on only calcareous soils (lake bed) having pH levels of 7.4 or higher. Only answer yes, if iron chlorosis has been positively diagnosed in the field.
- **Any significant yield loss due to other factors (insects, diseases, weeds, frost, hail, flooding, and lodging):** Please report yield losses due to any of these problems only if the problem occurred in at least 1/3 of the area in the field and the yield loss exceeds 5%.