OHIO SOYBEAN COUNCIL

Headquartered in Worthington, Ohio, the Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) is governed by a 18-member volunteer farmer board, which directs the Soybean Promotion and Research Program. The program's primary goal is to improve soybean profitability by targeting research and development, marketing, promotion and educational projects through the investment of farmer-contributed funds.

The Soybean Checkoff

Soybean farmers collectively invest a portion of their revenues to fund research and promotion efforts. This collective investment is called a checkoff. Since 1991, the soybean checkoff has been building soybean demand in some of the most important markets for U.S. soybeans. At a rate of ½ percent of the net market value per bushel sold, soybean farmers across the nation are investing in their future through their checkoff dollars.

Focus Areas

- **Animal Agriculture** – The largest market for soybean meal is animal agriculture. Nearly 98 percent of U.S. soybean meal is consumed by livestock and poultry, making this industry a primary market for soybean farmers. Because of the direct connection to the production of soybean meal, animal agriculture plays a vital role in the value of soybeans. More than 47,000 Ohio jobs exist because of animal agriculture. Each year, livestock and poultry farms generate more than $229 million in tax revenue that stays in Ohio communities and schools.

- **Business Climate** – OSC works closely with economic development stakeholders to improve the business climate for agriculture in Ohio and to strengthen the overall Ohio economy. OSC also focuses on business attraction opportunities that can utilize soybeans and soybean byproducts which in turn strengthen the market for Ohio soybeans.

- **International Marketing** – Ohio soybean producers and Ohio's economy benefit from increasing demand in global markets. Every year, nearly half of U.S. soybeans are exported to buyers in markets such as Asia, Europe and Latin America. China is the largest export market, accounting for approximately one-third of all U.S. soybean exports. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates, soybeans are Ohio's number one export among agricultural products.

- **New Uses** – Through a broad range of research and development initiatives, soybeans play a vital role in the creation of new products, solutions and chemical alternatives for the future. That is why new industrial, office and home uses for soybeans are a priority for OSC and the soybean checkoff.

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918 Proprietors Rd., Suite A ▪ Worthington, OH 43085 ▪ (614) 476-3100 ▪ Fax (614) 476-9576 ▪ www.soyohio.org

- **Production Research** - Disease resistance and increasing yields are vital to the continued success of Ohio soybean farmers. But a growing demand for soybeans that can deliver specific compositional traits in regards to oil, protein and fiber content has also fueled the need for and development of new soybean varieties. Through this type of research, the soybean checkoff is helping Ohio farmers make the most of their soybean crops.

- **Soy Biodiesel** – Soy biodiesel is a clean-burning, renewable fuel made from soybeans. It is most commonly blended with petroleum diesel and can be used in any diesel engine without modifications. Most common blends are B2, B10 and B20 (20-percent biodiesel and 80-percent petroleum diesel). Soy biodiesel not only contributes to Ohio's economy, but it is environmentally friendly and helps reduce dependence on foreign oil.

- **Transportation –** The soybean checkoff is working to identify transportation opportunities and overcome challenges that impact producers' profitability. Where soybeans are delivered and how they get there is becoming more and more important to producers' bottom lines.