



Sam Burchfield

Northwest



Arkansas Soybean Scholarship Contest

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In the essay I interviewed Mr. Hank Chaney, who is Faulkner County's extension agent. I learned his background in agriculture along with his reason for deciding to work in such an outstanding field of work. I also learned about what it takes in order to be successful in soybean farming and what all you have to look out for that can damage your crop. Mr. Chaney spoke about how growing soybeans helps the world and how his particular job helps as well. He also spoke on the types of soil that is best suited for a soybean crop to grow the best and some methods that help in the growing process.

My name is Sam Burchfield and I will be graduating this May from Greenbrier High School. I am from the Northwest District. I interviewed Mr. Hank Chaney from the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. He is an extension agent for Faulkner County. It will be apparent that I learned a great deal from Mr. Chaney through the process of conducting the interview.

Mr. Hank Chaney has been an extension agent for thirty-two years. In those thirty-two years, he has been an extension agent for a couple of different counties in the state of Arkansas. Mr. Chaney attended college to further his education at the University of Arkansas, graduating with his bachelor's and master's degrees. His major was Agronomy, but he said that his area of study has now been renamed Crop Science. At the University of Arkansas, he learned several aspects of row crop commodities such as soybeans. For instance, he learned about the amount of fertilizer needed, types of soil, types of diseases, different insects, methods to increase high soybean yields, and chemicals used to protect crops. Once he achieved his degree at the University of Arkansas in 1982, the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service hired him for his first extension agent job in Perry County. The main crops in Perry County were rice and soybeans.

Mr. Chaney grew up around the agriculture industry and developed a love toward the industry. He wanted to help farmers make better crops and that is exactly what he is doing. He learned that, in order to be successful, he had to know all about the crops that were grown in Perry County and how to help his farmers do a better job. He also learned about different diseases, weed control, insects, and chemicals. He emphasized to me how important it is to know what can potentially harm a crop in order to be able to eliminate the problem. Mr. Chaney's work allows him to give back to the world by helping the producer grow outstanding

soybean crops and by improving crop yield, which will provide American citizens food to eat. Mr. Chaney also told me that without agriculture we would be naked, homeless, and hungry. By helping farmers, he is helping our country; our country, in turn, provides agricultural food products to other countries in the global marketplace.

Through this interview I learned several things about the soybean production that I did not know beforehand. I learned from Mr. Chaney that it is best to farm fields that are close to the same elevation of the road in order to prevent a big rain from flooding your soybean crop. Since most of my family's soybean fields are quite a bit lower than the road, I have seen my fair share of flooded soybean crops that have resulted in either outright losses or decreased yields. I also learned how important it is to spray chemicals before you plant in order to kill weeds that could harm the crop. He emphasized that if you have the money to own and operate a pivot, it would increase crop yield. Mr. Chaney also instructed that it is important to be on the lookout for any insects that could damage the crop and to spray insecticide on the crop as soon as you notice insects. He also pointed out that it would be best if you had a healthy, loose, and workable soil to produce an outstanding soybean crop. The best time to plant soybeans is May because May soybeans generate a great yield. The soil temperature is just right for planting soybeans in May. He also spoke about how it helps if you plant your soybean crop before a rain because the rain jumpstarts the crop.

Thank you for taking my essay in consideration for your scholarship. It is evident that through my interview with Mr. Hank Chaney that I learned quite a bit about soybeans from him. As stated earlier: My name is Sam Burchfield and I will be graduating this May from Greenbrier High School, and I am from the Northwest District.