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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board Celebrates Arkansas Soybean Month During Board's 50th Anniversary



Gov. Asa Hutchinson is joined by local media to proclaim November Arkansas Soybean Month during a special announcement in the Governor's Conference Room at the Arkansas State Capital.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (November 1, 2021) – The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board (ASPB), a producer lead organization serving the state's soybean industry through research, education and promotion, is celebrating Arkansas Soybean Month this November.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson <u>proclaimed</u> November to be Arkansas Soybean Month in 2021 to honor soybean producers and recognize the significance of the soybean industry to the Arkansas economy.

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"We do close to 3 million acres of soybean production in Arkansas," Hutchinson said. That is more than rice, corn and wheat all combined. Our number one row crop is soybean. When agriculture is our number one industry in Arkansas and soybean is the largest part of that, it deserves a month of recognition and expression of appreciation to the farmers that contribute so much to our way of life and to our economy."

Soybeans are a \$2 billion industry in Arkansas with approximately 3 million acres planted each year across the state. Fifty-percent of Arkansas's soybeans are exported. Arkansas consistently ranks among the top 10 soybean producing states in the nation.

The Board is also continuing the commemoration of its <u>50th anniversary</u>.

"We have done a lot since the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board was established 50 years ago to improve the soybean industry and to make its importance known to the state in Arkansas," said ASPB Chair <u>Donald Morton</u>. "Our research has supported industry <u>advancement</u>, our state is represented on the national <u>leadership</u> board, and we are reaching a wider audience – including <u>students</u> and <u>consumers</u>. Our work has only begun. I can't wait to see where we go from here."

The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board was established in 1971 after the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 259, providing soybean producers in Arkansas an organization through which they could work to improve the state's soybean industry. The legislation created a <u>nine-member board</u> with the responsibility of administering research, promotion and market development to foster the growth of Arkansas's soybean industry.

The Board's activities are funded by the soybean checkoff, a congressionally mandated assessment on soybeans specifically designated for research and promotion efforts. The Board is led by nine soybean producers who are nominated by certain soybean-related organizations and appointed by the Governor. To learn more about the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and its members, visit TheMiracleBean.com or click here to watch a brief documentary on the Arkansas soybean industry.

The Board has planned activities to celebrate Arkansas Soybean Month. Follow the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u> or sign up to receive the monthly <u>Bean Brief</u> newsletter to stay updated on all activities.

Editor's Note: Click here for a hi-resolution graphic of ASPB's 50th Anniversary Commemorative Badge. Board members are available for personal interviews upon request. To schedule an interview, contact Carson Horn at chorn@comgroup.com or at 501-515-0849.

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The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board is led by nine volunteer farmer-leaders nominated by various producer organizations in Arkansas and appointed by the Governor. Soybeans are Arkansas's top row crop with approximately 3 million acres planted each year, generating an annual economic impact of \$2 billion. Arkansas is consistently ranked among the top ten soybean producing states nationally, exporting 50% of its crop. ASPB invests more than \$2.2 million in research each year as part of its commitment to the continued sustainability of the Arkansas soybean industry. Learn more by visiting TheMiracleBean.com.

Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board | P.O. Box 31, Little Rock, AR 72203

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