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## Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board provides free nematode tests for farmers



*Arkansas farmers can receive complementary tests to assess nematode presence in soil.*

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** (October 23, 2023) – [Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board \(ASPB\)](#) is continuing its partnership with the [University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service](#) (UADA) to provide complimentary [soybean nematode](#) tests to farmers through a grant made available by the Soybean Checkoff.

“Nematodes pose a big challenge for farmers this year. Fortunately, these free tests will help producers across the state effectively assess the health of their crops,” said [John Freeman](#), Desha County soybean producer and chairman of the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board. “Other companies charge for these tests, so this is a great example of how producers’ checkoff dollars are working for them.”

The impact of nematodes can have a detrimental impact on both small plots to large fields. In susceptible crop varieties, the consequences can be significant, resulting in up to a 90% reduction in yield in small plots, 50% in strip trials, and 25-35% in field-wide commercial production fields.

“Nematode densities in the soil are at a peak during the fall which makes this a perfect time for farmers to test for nematodes in addition to soil testing,” [Travis Faske](#), UADA Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist. “We encourage farmers to take advantage of this opportunity to proactively address nematode-related challenges in their soybean production.”

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Nematode testing distinguishes itself from soil nutrient testing by requiring samples from depths of eight to 10 inches, where nematodes are typically found. Because nematodes are living organisms, they require specific handling and shipping procedures to allow the Nematode Diagnostic Lab to accurately assess the presence of nematodes. Failure to adhere to these specific procedures can yield inaccurate results, misleading farmers to believe their soil is nematode-free.

Producers can claim their free testing by contacting their [county's extension office](#). Learn more about the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board by visiting [www.TheMiracleBean.com](http://www.TheMiracleBean.com).

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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](http://TheMiracleBean.com).