

ARKANSAS SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD MEETING—DAY 1
Zoom Option

Minutes

March 6, 2025
8:30 a.m.

Members Present in Person: Brad Doyle, Boyce Johnson, Matthew Roberson, Patrick Matt Smith, West Higginbothom

Members Present via Zoom: BJ Royce Rogers II

Members Absent: Josh Cureton, John Freeman, & Donald Morton JR.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Doyle commenced the promotion board meeting at 8:45 a.m. and welcomed all members and guests. Members and staff introduced themselves and a quorum was confirmed by the Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL REPORTS

The board then reviewed the previous meeting minutes, for meetings held on November 14, 2024, and February 27, 2025.

Motion to approve the November 14, 2024, board meeting minutes; moved by West Higginbothom, seconded by Patrick Matt Smith. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the February 27, 2025, board meeting minutes; moved by West Higginbothom, seconded by Patrick Matt Smith. Motion carried.

Chairman Doyle introduced Arkansas Department of Agriculture Chief Financial Officer Inoussa Zaki to present the board's financial report. Zaki informed the board that they needed to approve all board travel and spending for the year 2025.

Motion to approve all board travel expenses for 2025; moved by Patrick Matt Smith; seconded by Matthew Roberson. Motion carried.

BOARD FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chairman Doyle then asked Zaki to present the board's financial report.

Zaki presented the board's financial report for the period ending February 28th, 2025. The board began the fiscal year with a balance of \$11,110,780. **ATTACHMENT 1**

Between July 1, 2024, and February 2025, a total of \$6.8 million was collected in assessments. Of this amount, \$2.7 million was transferred to the United Soybean Board (USB), and \$101,693 was allocated to other qualified state soybean boards.

Treasury fees amounted to \$202,000, leaving the board with a net income of \$3.7 million from the assessments collected during this period. Additional income of \$7,500 was reported, bringing the total output for this reporting period to \$3 million.

Members sought clarification on how checkoff payments are collected.

Zaki continued to review the board's expenses, which were divided between promotion and research. Total expenditures for the reporting period amounted to \$2.3 million, with \$567,000 allocated to promotions and \$2,699,614 in cash on hand, with outstanding obligations of approximately \$668,755.

This leaves a remaining allocation for the reporting period of \$2,399,199. After accounting for these expenditures and obligations, the board had \$9,235,776 available to fund future projects.

Zaki invited questions from members.

Member Smith asked about the remaining obligations, and it was clarified that that funding was for projects already approved last year. Discussion ensued.

Member Smith asked if Zaki was expecting approximately \$1 million in collections, and Zaki answered that he expected just over \$1 million.

Zaki informed the board that they were at approximately 88% collected, which he stated was above the budgeted forecast, adding that he hoped the collections to be at around \$10 million come June.

Member Smith asked about how long it takes for the collections to come in. Zaki answered that, for example, a March sale would be reported in April, with remission in May. Some discussion ensued.

Chairman Doyle asked about any rules the board had regarding a minimum reserve the board should try to retain between years. Member Higginbotham added that they traditionally ensured there were at least \$500,000 in reserve, adding that at one point in the board's history they increased that amount to \$1 million.

Zaki then concluded the board's financial report.

Motion to approve the Department's financial report; moved by Patrick Matt Smith, seconded by Matthew Roberson. Motion carried.

UADA RESEARCH PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS

The board then commenced the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA) research and promotion proposal presentations.

The first new research project proposal titled, “Designing cost-effective irrigation system for enhancing crop water productivity in soybean production in Arkansas (Year 1 of 2),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$36,050. **ATTACHMENT 2**

Chairman Doyle inquired on what soil type the research farm has, and the presenter answered that it is a clay loom type.

Admin Bray mentioned that due to limited time to hear presentations, each presenter has approximately five minutes to present. Bray further mentioned that the board may need to consider approval of all in-progress proposals in one motion for the sake of time.

Member Smith asked Zaki to total the amount of continuing the in-progress proposals. Zaki answered that the total of the in-progress proposals would be \$2,783,292.

Discussion ensued regarding the remainder of the day’s schedule with the UADA.

The first in-progress research project proposal titled, “Use of gossypol to inhibit reproduction in domestic hogs as a model for feral hog control (Year 3 of 3),” was then presented before the board, requesting a funding amount of \$30,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 88**

Members asked several questions and discussion ensued.

The next new research project proposal titled, “Development, evaluation and production of agricultural biologicals for Arkansas crop production (Year 1 of 3),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$23,857. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 1**

Members asked several questions of the presenter, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, “Optimization of fungal pathogens AF22 and AF24 as bioherbicides for palmer amaranth (pigweed) (Year 3 of 3),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$40,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 52**

The next new research project proposal titled, “Greenhouse gas emissions from long-term soybean with cover crops (Year 1 of 1),” which was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$23,110. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 5**

The next new research project proposal entitled, “Evaluating planting date decisions in the soybean/rice rotation (Year 1 of 1),” which was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$30,127. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 9**

Chairman Doyle asked whether seed treatments would vary in the study. The presenter responded that all seed treatments would follow the same planting dates. He also inquired about the straw management system, to which the presenter replied that while no firm plans are in place, management will remain consistent across research fields for each planting date.

The next new research project proposal titled, "Investigating the effect of growth regulators on soybean plant architecture and yield (Year 1 of 2)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$31,306. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 13**

The next new research project proposal titled, "Determination of tolerant soybean lines and their yield under multiple stressors: salinity and herbivory (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$54,019. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 17**

Members asked a few questions of the presenter, prompting some discussion.

The next new research project proposal titled, "Identifying soybean genotypes for enhanced water use efficiency using high-throughput phenotyping (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$60,435. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 21**

Members asked a few questions, prompting some discussion.

The next new research project proposal titled, "Evaluating the impacts of irrigation water management practices on groundwater sustainability and economic analysis in Arkansas (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$38,441. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 31**

Member Smith asked when beta testing would begin. The presenter responded that water use data is already available, but the cost data still needs to be updated and reviewed.

The next new research project proposal titled, "Artificial intelligence for early soybean disease detection and robot implementation (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$67,760. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 35**

Members asked the presenter several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next new research project proposal titled, "Predicting the end use performance of Arkansas soy protein using genomics (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$99,103. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 40**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Screening Arkansas Soybean cultivars for protein quality as a novel food preservative (Year 2 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$53,235. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 96**

Chairman Doyle provided a brief comment regarding how he would like to see this type of research project encompass seed oils.

The next new research project proposal titled, "Economics of automatic insecticide applications in Arkansas soybeans (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$43,254. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 48**

Member Smith asked about the presenter's goals for planting dates. The presenter responded that they aim to target specific dates at research stations while also collaborating with growers across the state.

The next new research project proposal titled, "Educating growers and consultants on insect monitoring and control (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$3,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 44**

Members asked a few questions, prompting some discussion.

The next continuing research project proposal titled, "Refining Insect Thresholds in Arkansas Soybean (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$67,904. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 202**

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture presented the next promotion-related project proposal, titled "2025 NASDA Annual Meeting Sponsorship," requesting \$2,500 in sponsorship funding for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture's annual meeting in Little Rock, AR. **ATTACHMENT 4**

Members noted that they could contribute more to such a significant event to increase their visibility and branding. Member Roberson asked how often Arkansas has hosted this event, and it was answered that this would be the first time.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Arkansas Soybean performance trials (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$40,754. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 56**

Members asked a few questions from the presenter, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Development of a turn-row soybean vegetative health analysis using UAS imagery for production decision support (Year 2 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$19,682. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 60**

Member Smith inquired about the specialty equipment needed on the drone to conduct this research, and the presenter answered that these are entry-level drones. Member Smith asked if

they intended for this information to be publicly available, and the presenter answered in the affirmative. Some discussion ensued.

The next continuation research project proposal titled “Arkansas Discovery Farms (Year 1 of 3)” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$28,220. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 182**

Members asked questions from the presenter and discussion ensued.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, “Comprehensive disease screening of soybean varieties in Arkansas (Year 2 of 3),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$133,242. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 64**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, “Integrated management of soybean nematodes in Arkansas (Year 3 of 3),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$71,459. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 68**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next continuation research project proposal titled “Monitor and management of fungicide-resistant soybean diseases in Arkansas (Year 1 of 3),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$59,728. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 189**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

Chairman Doyle then called for a lunch break at 12:05 p.m. Meeting resumed at 12:40 p.m.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, “Phenotypic Selection Assisted by seed-level near-infrared information (Year 2 of 3),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$52,081. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 72**

Members asked questions clarifying the research project, leading to some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, “An innovative approach to generate porous soy proteins with enhanced flavor for the plant-based industry (Year 3 of 3),” was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$43,955. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 153**

Member Freeman asked if the investigator was using food grade or commodity grade soybeans. The investigator answered that they were using food grade soybeans.

Chairman Doyle asked Dr. Nathan Slaton (UADA) about variety royalties. Dr. Slaton stated that for patented, commercialized lines produced by UADA for the board, the board receives 20% of the collected royalties.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Developing scouting, threshold and management practices for stinkbug complex in Arkansas soybean (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$49,625. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 80**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Effects of inclusion soybean oil in beef heifer diets on heifer development, reproductive function, and calf growth performance (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$24,471. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 84**

Chairman Doyle inquired about the heifers' daily ration. The presenter stated they received a grain supplement, one with soybean oil and one without.

The last new research project proposal titled, "Testing the range of soybean cultivars that can benefit from plant elicitor peptide treatment," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$25,767. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 25**

Chairman Doyle asked if they were screening commercial checks to identify high-yielding varieties, and the presenter answered in the affirmative, stating that their panel of over 500 genomes includes key cultivars, but some important U.S. soy germplasm cultivars are missing.

The next continuation research project proposal titled "Screening for soybean tolerance to metribuzin (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$16,232. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 194**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Site specific assessment of soybean response to in field variability using remote sensing (Year 2 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$75,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 92**

Chairman Doyle briefly mentioned that there may be potential to collaborate with NASA Acres Program to help certain projects.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Development of Data-driven recommendations for variable soybean seeding rate in Arkansas (Year 2 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$82,886. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 116**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Investigating emerging production recommendations for sustainable soybean production (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$229,516. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 124**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Science for Success (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$128,549. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 128**

Members asked several questions; discussion ensued.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Soybean research verification program (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$200,213. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 132**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Improving technology transfer for profitable and sustainable soybean production (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$77,443. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 120**

Members asked several questions; discussion ensued.

The next new promotion project proposal titled, "Arkansas Soybean college (Year 1 of 1)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$14,717. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 218**

The presenter clarified that they are alternating commodity colleges between rice, soybean, and corn throughout the years.

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next continuation promotion project proposal titled, "Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour (Year 1 of 3)," which was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$5,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 212**

The next promotion project proposal entitled, "Soybean Science Challenge (Renewal; Year 2 of 3)," which was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$85,525. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 216**

Member Freeman shared a story about a woman he met whose child attended the Soybean Science Challenge. She mentioned that the program changed how her children think about food sourcing and production, impacting her entire family.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Monitoring the extent of potassium deficiency and chloride toxicity in Arkansas soybean fields (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$39,574. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 112**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Fertilization of soybean (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$83,176. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 100**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Field Based determination of chloride tolerance in soybean (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$51,153. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 104**

Some discussion ensued regarding both research projects.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Influence of cover crops and soil health in soybean (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$63,142. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 108**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

Break was called at 2:55 p.m. Meeting resumed at 3:05 p.m.

The next continuation research project proposal titled "Economic analysis of soybean production and marketing practices (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$7,500. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 185**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Soybean weed management: a team approach for improved control and profitability (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$260,807. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 136**

Discussion ensued regarding the research project.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Developing a satellite-based field scouting tool (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$14,730. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 145**

Member Smith asked if the investigator had any scouts using this tool, and the investigator answered that he does not.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Determining the value of fungicide application using on-farm trials (Year 3 of 3)," which was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$52,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 141**

The investigator passed around a handout for members to review. **ATTACHMENT 5**

Chairman Doyle stated that this exemplifies the perfect type of project or service the board can provide to Arkansas soybean farmers.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Understanding taproot decline and orange leaf spot; soybean diseases of increasing importance in Arkansas (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$39,075. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 149**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next continuation research project titled, "Determining factors associated with poor grain quality in soybean and management options (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$55,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 198**

Members asked several questions, leading to discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Development of high yielding soybean cultivars with broad resistance to stressors (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$191,231. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 157**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Fast tracking MG4 cultivars with southern root-knot nematode resistance (Year 2 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$50,364. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 161**

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Genomic prediction to enhance the efficiency of soybean breeding (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$102,730. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 165**

Chairman Doyle asked the investigator about the difference between phenotypes and genotypes. The investigator answered that phenotypes are physical attributes, whereas genotypes are more genetic or DNA-related attributes.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Overcoming soybean yield plateau by leveraging physiology-efficient and yield-formation traits (Year 2 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$83,679. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 169**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Soybean germplasm enhancement using genetic diversity (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$187,872. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 173**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Utilization of winter nursery for soybean line development through back crossing (Year 1 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$51,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 207**

The next in-progress research project titled, "Soybean enterprises budgets and production economics analysis (Year 3 of 3), was presented before the board, requesting a proposed funding amount of \$10,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 177**

Members asked several questions, prompting some discussion.

The next new promotion project titled, "Soybean nutrition education through cooking lessons/schools," was presented before the board, requesting a proposed funding amount of \$27,469. **ATTACHMENT 6**

The next new promotion project titled, "Ag Day; UADA cooperative extension service, Poinsett county, participant supplies," was presented before the board, requesting a proposed funding amount of \$5,000. **ATTACHMENT 7**

Chairman Doyle emphasized the program's value in educating children about the agricultural industry in Poinsett county and encouraged other counties to adopt it.

The next in-progress research project proposal titled, "Irrigation Water Management for soybeans: moving the needle (Year 3 of 3)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$205,620. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 76**

The next continuation promotion project titled, "The Arkansas Irrigation Yield Contest (Year 8)," was presented before the board, requesting a total funding amount of \$10,000. **ATTACHMENT 3, PAGE 211**

Members asked several questions of the presenter, and some discussion about the irrigation contest ensued.

Admin Bray provided brief end of day announcements.

Meeting recessed at 5:00pm.



Brad Doyle, Chairman