



Our Priorities

Production Research.

We support research for soybean farmers to have the most current information to protect their crops and the environment.

Animal Agriculture.

Our goal is to see that poultry and livestock production is welcome and its value understood in Maryland.

Emerging Markets.

We promote the use of soy-based products, such as biodiesel and bioheat, and their recognition as superior products.

Farmers Engagement.

We offer opportunities and training for farmers to engage in consumer education, public outreach, and farm organization involvement.

Consumer Education.

We strive to be a trusted source of information for consumers on the viability and sustainability of Maryland's soybean farmers.

Careers In Agriculture.

We seek to increase agriculture and plant science graduates and promote agricultural education and careers in agriculture.

Share The Road.

We promote safe transportation of agricultural products and equipment on Maryland roadways.

Maryland Soybean Board

The Maryland Soybean Board works to maximize the profitability of Maryland soybean producers by investing Maryland checkoff funds for research, marketing and education.

The Maryland Soybean Board directs the national soybean checkoff funds and program within the state. The national checkoff, directed by United Soybean Board, began in 1991.

MSB's Board of Directors is made up of ten soybean farmers elected by the board. Each director is appointed for a three-year term and is eligible to serve three consecutive terms.

MSB directors have the opportunity to serve their industry through leadership on the state board and (when open) on the United Soybean Board. Maryland has two directors on the United Soybean Board.

MSB directors have the opportunity to travel and build leadership and other skills while serving on the board. These may include local events and activities, and outreach, leadership, and trade opportunities at the national level.

MSB's fiscal year begins October 1 and concludes September 30. Meetings are held at the Caroline County Extension Office, 9194 Legion Road, Denton, MD, with the exception of the August board meeting.

- November: Research Committee Virtual Meeting.
- December: First Board Meeting of the fiscal year.
- February: Research Committee Meeting (2-Day).
- March: Second Board Meeting of the fiscal year.
- August: Third Board Meeting of the fiscal year (2-Day).

How the Soybean Checkoff Works



The MSB is financed through Maryland soybeans sold. When a grower sells soybeans, the first purchaser collects .005 (1/2 of one percent) of the net market value of the soybeans sold. The assessments are then sent to MSB, which keeps half the funds for research, marketing and education projects on behalf of Maryland soybean farmers. MSB sends half of the dollars collected to the United Soybean Board, which conducts national and international research, marketing and education.

MSB Board of Directors

We respect and value our volunteer Board of Directors. Each member brings their own unique experience, education and perspective to the board's business. We seek diversity in our board, including directors who represent different segments of farmers and farm operations.

Board members are the fiduciaries who steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission.

Members of the Board of Directors accept the following duties:

Duty of Care: Take care of the non-profit by ensuring prudent use of all assets, including facility, people, and good will;

Duty of Loyalty: Ensure that the nonprofit's activities and transactions are, first and foremost, advancing its mission; Recognize and disclose conflicts of interest; Make decisions that are in the best interest of the nonprofit corporation, not in the best interest of the individual board member (or any other individual or for-profit entity).

Duty of Compliance: Ensure that the nonprofit obeys applicable laws and regulations; follows its own bylaws;

and that the nonprofit adheres to its stated corporate purposes/mission.

Duty of Transparency: Ensure that MSB operates in a transparent manner in terms of its programs, policies and finances; ensure that the director is transparent about conflicts of interest or other issues that may arise.

Duty of Participation: Directors are expected to arrive promptly for meetings; be prepared by reviewing materials ahead of time; engage in discussions for determining the plan of actions for the board; and may, on occasion, represent the MSB at local, state and national events.

MSB Staff

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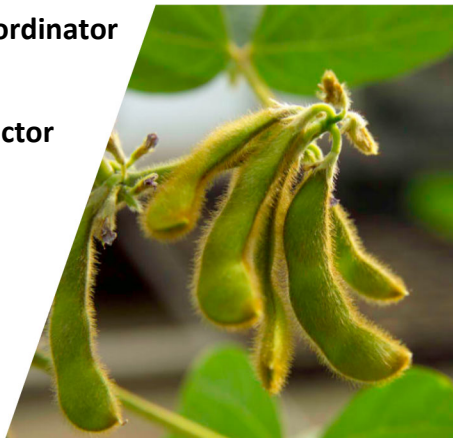
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 /MarylandSoybeanBoard

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY:

The Maryland Soybean Board requires each director to update and sign a Conflict of Interest form annually.

A potential conflict of interest shall exist if a Board member shall have a relationship, as defined below, with any person who is transacting, has transacted or may transact business with the Board or any of its primary independent contractors.

A person includes any natural person and any sole proprietorship, corporation, association, limited liability company, partnership or other legal entity.

Board members must disclose all such relationships unless they terminated the relationship more than five years prior to completing an initial or subsequent disclosure statement.

When voting on an issue that would be deemed as a conflict of interest, the Board member with the conflict shall be required to excuse himself or herself from participating in, or voting on, any matter involving the conflict. Even if no conflict of interest is found, Board members are strongly encouraged to exercise their best judgment and excuse themselves from participating in or voting on matters where there is an appearance of a conflict of interest.

Relationship – a relationship giving rise to a potential conflict of interest exists if a Board member or his/her immediate family:

- Is or has been a Director, Officer or employee of a person that has done, is doing, or is proposing to do business with the Board; or
- Is, has been or will be an owner, partner, member or shareholder of such person, or receives, has received, or may receive any financial or other benefit from such person.

For purposes of determining whether a conflict of interest exists, immediate family shall include parents, grandparents, siblings, children, grandchildren, spouse, in-laws, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces and first cousins. The financial interests or business relationship of such persons shall be ascribed to the Board member.