

Arkansas Soybean Association 2017 Resolutions

I. Principles

1. The Arkansas Soybean Association (ASA) supports the American Soybean Association as the sole policy representative for the American Soybean Farmer.
2. The ASA opposes any state or national legislation or regulation that is detrimental to soybeans or soybean products.
3. ASA supports the right to farm.
4. ASA supports regulation and legislation based on sound scientific research.
5. ASA supports sustainable agricultural practices.

II. Agricultural Education

The ASA recognizes the importance of the development and training of young people as future professional farmers, scientists and educators and supports Arkansas State funding of Agricultural education at all levels and particularly the efforts of the FFA.

III. Ag Statistics Service

We support funding by the Governor, the Arkansas Legislature, and the Arkansas Soybean Research and Promotion Board (ASPB) for the Agricultural Statistics Service and urge their fair treatment in state appropriations.

IV. Biofuels

The ASA strongly supports soy-based biofuels and all public and private efforts to improve its distribution systems.

V. Farm Credit System

1. The ASA supports regulatory and legislative changes that would provide Agricultural Producers, Commercial Fisherman, Farm and Fishing related and other Rural Business, Rural Homeowners, and others in Rural America with broader access to financing by the Cooperative Farm Credit System. (FCS)
2. We support the continued financial oversight of the FCS by the Congressional Agriculture Committees and support the Cooperatives congressionally granted regulatory status.

VI. Farm Policy

1. We encourage the use of risk management tools to aid in the management of Soybean production, weather and market risk. These tools should address the unique regional requirements of Southern agriculture.
2. We urge Congress to consider the detrimental effects of currency exchange rate manipulation in farm legislation.

3. The ASA recommends that the American Soybean Association support a soybean program that keeps soybeans free of set asides, provides no price floor for competitors of domestic soybeans, and provides fair and equitable income protection to U.S. soybean farmers.

VII. Private Property

The ASA supports the protection of private property rights and the principle of just compensation being paid when these rights are infringed.

VIII. Research, Information and Technology

1. The ASA strongly supports the University of Arkansas (UA) Division of Agriculture for conducting, developing and transferring research based information to Arkansas Farmers and we believe that they should be funded adequately to continue this vital function.
2. The ASA supports the participation in and check off funding for the Mid South Soybean Board as they address regional soybean research and education needs that benefit the Arkansas Soybean industry.
3. The ASA not only recognizes the importance of research, education and promotional activities regarding agriculture in general, but also for soybeans in particular.
4. Producer checkoff funds are a major source of independent environmentally sound soybean research. Therefore we urge the continued support and expansion of these programs at all levels of industry and government.

IX. Safety

1. The ASA supports environmental regulation based on sound scientific research and urges the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to be a strong advocate in this area.
2. We recognize the necessity of crop protecting products. Therefore we urge regulatory agencies to expedite their work so that thoroughly researched safe products can enter the marketplace in a timely manner. We support special use permits for emerging soybean problems.
3. We support regulatory control at the Arkansas State Plant Board level and urge all regulators to use clearly defined tolerance levels and economic impact studies and resist broad over reach of the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

X. Seed

1. We urge the American Soybean Association to strongly encourage all companies to enter their varieties in independent university trials.
2. We strongly urge all companies to enter their varieties in the UA Soybean Variety Yield and screening trials.
3. We support all farmer seed education efforts by the ASPB and the full disclosure of all seed quality information including germination, vigor, quality, and genetics.

4. We support a farmer's right to save seed for his own use provided he pay the appropriate royalty fees and the option of farmer saved soybean seed of public non- gmo and RR 1 varieties.
5. We support a review of the Arkansas seed laws.
6. We encourage seed companies to keep Roundup Ready 1 soybean seed available to farmers through and beyond the patent expiration process.
7. **ASA supports science based regulation.**

XI. Soybean Checkoff

1. The ASA supports the National Soybean Checkoff.
2. The ASA supports the Arkansas Soybean Research and Promotion Board.
3. The ASA opposes any increase in the State 3% administrative fee for the collection of Arkansas Soybean farmer checkoff funds and urge the State Legislature and Governor to insure the sanctity and security of these monies while on deposit with the State.
4. We urge that all accrued interest on Checkoff funds be accredited to the checkoff account.

XII. Taxes

1. The ASA supports continuation of farmer's agricultural tax exemptions.
2. The ASA opposes federal or state sales tax on farm use motor fuels.
3. We support a tax exemption for irrigation water.
4. The ASA supports the permanent elimination of all estate taxes.

XIII. Trade Policy

1. The ASA supports fair trade and honoring contracts.
2. We support all parts of the U.S. government using appropriate authorities in trade negotiations that create a fair and level environment for international commerce in soybeans including U.S. export enhancement programs and normal trading status for nations that will maximize U.S. soybean market opportunities.
3. We oppose embargoes or any restrictions on the export of U.S. soybeans products and urge that all means available be used to prevent transportation or dock strikes.
4. We support expedited measures to improve the nation's transportation infrastructure.
5. We support transparency for all soybean exporters worldwide including a global standard of reporting forward sales.

6. The ASA favors maintaining a strong soybean market development program in conjunction with the Foreign Agriculture Service division of USDA.

7. We support the United States Secretary of Agriculture's team of experts delegated to the soybean producing nations which provide the American Soybean farmer timely reports on foreign soybean crop acreage and conditions.

XIV. Water

1. The ASA supports local control and incentive based water conservation programs.

2. We support and commend Arkansas farmers for their efforts to constantly increase irrigation efficiency and support the continued use of surface water for agricultural use.

3. We urge all regulators to use fact based practical data at all times in order to help insure agricultural productivity.

4. Recognizing the importance of water to agriculture, we support Agricultural representation in the formulation and implementation of the Arkansas Water Plan

XV. Energy Policy Act

We are opposed to the United States Department of Energy's use of Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to site an electric energy transmission facility without the approval of relevant State authorities, including specifically any effort to use federal eminent domain to condemn private property for the benefit of private entities.

COMMENDATIONS

1. We extend our congratulations to the American Soybean Association on their work of the past years and hereby notify them of our wholehearted support of their actions promoting the domestic and international use of soybeans and soybean products.

2. We would like to commend the University of Arkansas **System** Division of Agriculture, Arkansas State University, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, the Arkansas State Plant Board, the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board, the United Soybean Board, and the news media for the outstanding work they have done for the soybean growers of Arkansas.

3. We would like to express our appreciation to the sponsors who have generously contributed to the success of the fifty-second Arkansas Soybean Association Annual Meeting and to the city of Newport

4. To our President, Brad Doyle; Vice-President, A. J. Hood; Secretary-Treasurer, Adam Cloninger; Membership Chair, Brad Doyle; ASA Director, Ted Glaub; and our Executive Director, Dawn Howe, we express our thanks for their efforts this past year.

5. We commend our 2016 Congressional delegation. We thank them for the support they have given on behalf of the soybean industry: Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton; Congressmen Rick Crawford, French Hill, Steve Womack, and Bruce Westerman

6. We commend University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Soybean Team for their dedicated service to the Arkansas Soybean Industry.

7. We commend the Arkansas FFA, **Arkansas 4H**, and the LeadAR programs.
8. We commend Governor Asa Hutchinson, Wes Ward with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, and the state legislature for their work on behalf of the Arkansas soybean industry
9. We commend all past board members for their service to the soybean industry in Arkansas.
10. We commend all past and present members of the Arkansas Soybean Association for their past, present and future support of the Arkansas soybean industry for the economic betterment of the Arkansas soybean producer and entire Arkansas soybean complex.
11. We thank all those who participated in the **Grow for the Green Soybean Yield Contest, especially University of Arkansas staff, approved contest officials and producers.**

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