



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Hardin County Extension News Release

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Soybean Yield Gaps

Hardin County – Dr. Laura Lindsey, soybean and wheat specialist with The Ohio State University Department of Horticulture and Crop Science is embarking on a state-wide project aimed at generating some baseline producer data on current soybean management practices in Ohio's production systems. The project goal is to identify the key factors that prevent the state's soybean producers from obtaining yields that should be potentially possible on their respective individual farms. The term used for the difference between what yield is possible on a farm each year and what yield is actually achieved is called a "Yield Gap".

The past three years we have been working with Hardin County farmers doing on-farm yield-limiting factor soybean research. Now OSU Extension is asking crop producers in Ohio to provide yield and other agronomic data specific to their soybean production fields. With this data, we will then conduct an in-depth analysis of what on-farm factors might be causing a Yield Gap on producer farms. We intend to provide annual reports to all crop producers informing them of what factors we may have identified that, based on our analysis of the data collected from farms, are likely limiting farmers from achieving soybean yields closer to yield potential that is likely possible on their farms.

Farmers who enroll in the study will be receiving a two-page survey form. They will be asked to complete it and return it in the mail. Specifically, we are requesting yield and other data specific to four 2015 fields of soybeans and also four 2014 fields of soybeans that were grown on their farm. We recognize that you may best remember the yields and related agronomic data for the 2015 season because you just harvested those fields this past fall. However, we would very much appreciate additional data on the survey form for the 2014 soybean fields on your farm.

We look forward to receiving your data. All data submissions will be kept strictly confidential. In this project, our objective is to work for the local farmers to help improve soybean yields. The goal is to use the data that local farmers supply to help them get soybean yields on their farm fields that, in the future, will be closer to the potential soybean yields that are possible on those fields, knowing what production system factors are holding back current soybean yields.

Soybean producers interested in participating in this project are asked to contact OSU Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator Mark Badertscher at 419-674-2297 or at badertscher.4@osu.edu to get a copy of the survey form to complete and send to Dr. Laura Lindsey at The Ohio State University. This project is funded by the Ohio Soybean Council and the North Central Soybean Research Program.