

Farmers Can Win A Bushel Of Money In Soybean Yield Contest

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board is trying to put \$50,000 into the pocket of an Arkansas farmer, and all he or she has to do is be the first farmer to achieve a yield of 100 bushels of soybeans per acre.

The Race for 100 yield contest is funded by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board.

The contest is funded by the promotion board and is administered by the Arkansas Soybean Association (ASA) and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Contestants are urged to turn in their entry forms before the Aug. 1 deadline. If more than one farmer reaches 100 or more bushels per acre, the prize will be split among the winners. The harvested area of 5-7 acres must have been planted in soybeans in at least one of the last three production years prior to 2009, and the contestant must have paid the appropriate check-off assessments on soybeans.

"This goal is very achievable," said Gary Sitzer, Race for 100 committee chairman. "Recent record yields in Arkansas of 94 bushels per acre have shown producers the yields soybeans are capable of producing."

In addition to seeing if it can be done, the soybean industry leadership wants to know what it takes to accomplish the feat from a manage-

ment standpoint. Production information will be shared with other producers at grower meetings following the award presentation at the Arkansas Soybean Association's annual meeting in January.

Dr. Jeremy Ross, extension soybean specialist with the U of A Division of Agriculture, said county extension agents will verify yields for the contest. He believes the contest goal of producing 100 bushels is possible.

"If we have an exceptional summer with some of the ground we have in the state, it's doable," he said. "But everything has to be just right for it to happen. Contestants have to be exceptional farmers and have good land to coax another 15 or 20 bushels out of their crop."

Producers may also enter the ARSA Yield Challenge sponsored by Cullum Seed and BASF.

Entry forms and additional details about the contests can be obtained from local county extension offices and the Arkansas Soybean Association at (800) 247-8691 or swsoy@aristotle.net. The entry form is also available online at www.arspb.org. Soybean check-off funds will be used in the Race for 100 Yield Contest. △