

# NSRL Hires Three Extension Associates

URBANA, ILL.

**T**he National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL) has hired three extension associates to inform Illinois soybean farmers about research efforts regarding soybean cyst nematode (SCN), weeds, germplasm and breeding initiatives in addition to pests and diseases. Their new responsibilities will be in addition to their current positions as University of Illinois Extension Educators and Specialists.

Robert Bellm, Edwardsville, Ill., brings 20 years experience in soybean production, weed control, soil fertility and environmental issues to NSRL. Bellm received a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in agronomy from the University of Illinois.

Marion Shier, Pontiac, Ill., brings 29 years of experience in agricultural management, soybean production and outreach programs to his new responsibilities as extension associate. Shier received a bachelors' degrees in agronomy, animal science and agricultural economics from Missouri Western State and a master's degree in agronomy from the University of Illinois.

Dr. Douglas Jones, Mt. Vernon, Ill., brings

more than 16 years of experience in entomology, crop rotation and pesticide management to southern Illinois farmers. Jones received his bachelor's degree from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark. He earned a Ph.D. and a Master's degree in entomology from Oklahoma State University.

The extension associates will work with farmers, farm managers and seed production companies on the topic of the Varietal Information Program for Soybeans (VIPS), a dynamic tool for the analysis of the performance of soybean varieties in Illinois. They will also communicate results of the soybean research funded by the Illinois Soybean Association and NSRL to farmers and industry stakeholders.

The National Soybean Research Laboratory is located on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus and assists in expanding the scope, size and profitability of the U.S. soybean industry by creating, providing and facilitating strategic research, education and outreach programs. Δ