

# Pest & Crop Newsletter

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service  
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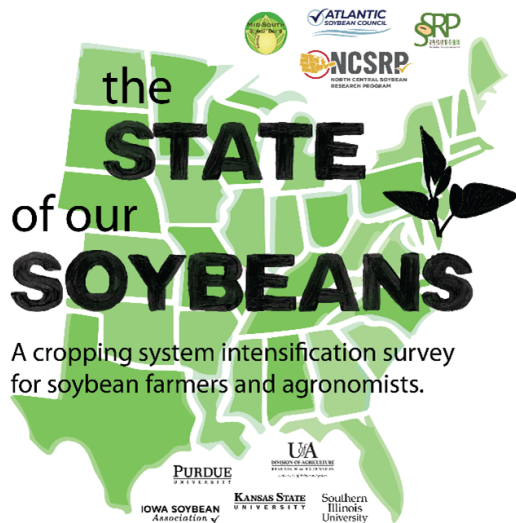
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## The State of our Soybeans: A cropping system intensification survey for soybean farmers and agronomists

(Tommy Butts)



Hello to all

of our faithful readers! I hope that the 2025 growing season has started to wind down for most of you and that you're catching a well-deserved break before harvest season kicks into full gear. I'm writing this post to request your help once again with completing a survey (<https://bit.ly/soy-survey>) as a part of national research effort between agronomists and weed scientists. This survey will help provide insights into current soybean production practices, weed management strategies, and opportunities for the implementation of alternative production strategies. Agricultural scientists from Kansas State University, Purdue University, the University of Arkansas, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and the Iowa Soybean Association (in collaboration with the checkoff-funded North Central, Mid-South, South, and Atlantic soybean regions) would like your help in gathering

soybean management information, perspectives on intensification methods (including double cropping and intercropping), and economics regarding these management strategies.

We would appreciate you taking the time to complete a survey regarding these concepts. The survey includes questions detailing production information (including agronomic and weed-control practices) for various soybean-based production systems, perspectives on intensification methods (including double cropping and intercropping), and the economics associated with such practices.

If you do choose to participate, we appreciate your feedback and all information will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by applicable State and Federal law. No names, contact information, precise locations, or computer IP addresses will be collected. By completing the survey, you are agreeing to allow the use of your responses for research purposes. If you do not wish to complete the survey, your refusal to do so will have not any effect on your relationship with the universities or entities listed. To opt out of taking the survey, simply do not complete the survey. Response volume updates by state and more information are available here: <https://bit.ly/soy-survey-info>.

If you have questions or concerns about this study, you may contact Dr. Rachel Cott (785-532-5402, email [veenstra@k-state.edu](mailto:veenstra@k-state.edu)), Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Yeager (785-532-4935, email [eyeager@k-state.edu](mailto:eyeager@k-state.edu)), or Dr. Thomas (Tommy) Butts (765-494-0598, email [buttst@purdue.edu](mailto:buttst@purdue.edu)). If you have questions about your rights while taking part in the study or have concerns about the treatment of research participants, please call the Kansas State University Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects at 785-532-3224, email ([comply@k-state.edu](mailto:comply@k-state.edu)) or write to: Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects - K-State, 1601 Vattier St., Fairchild Hall #203, Manhattan, KS 66506-1100. To report concerns anonymously online, see <https://www.k-state.edu/internalaudit/anonymous-hotline/>.

Information gathered from the survey will provide direct insights into current soybean management practices across the United States, awareness and experience with intensification strategies in different cropping systems, and perspectives of economic and production benefits of these strategies by region. This will allow participating researchers to better understand soybean intensification needs and opportunities to prioritize in future research, teaching, and Extension efforts.

Please click on the link here (<https://bit.ly/soy-survey>) or scan the QR code below to access the survey. It should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.



Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey, and we look forward to your insightful responses. Good luck with wrapping up your cropping season!

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## New Ag Climate Dashboard makes climate resources more accessible for Midwest farmers

(Devyn Raver)

***This article was originally posted on the Ag Climate Dashboard, located at <https://ag.purdue.edu/news/2025/08/new-ag-climate-dashboard-makes-climate-resources-more-accessible-for-midwest-farmers.html>***



The Ag Climate Dashboard offers tools to help monitor extreme weather events in addition to crop growth, pest threats and climate anomalies.  
(Agricultural Communications)

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The [Midwestern Regional Climate Center](#) (MRCC), with support from the [United Soybean Board](#), has launched the [Ag Climate Dashboard](#) — a centralized digital hub offering streamlined access to integrated climate and agricultural data and decision-support tools for producers, advisors and researchers in the Midwest.

Designed to support on-farm decision-making, the Ag Climate Dashboard offers up-to-date weather data, National Weather Service forecasts, Climate Prediction Center outlooks, historical records and interactive tools for monitoring crop growth, pest threats, climate anomalies and extreme weather events.

The dashboard also connects users to regional ag climate products and a variety of state-specific resources. State-specific pages, such as Indiana's, link to tools and resources like the Purdue Mesonet and the Indiana State Climate Office.

"We want to provide as much clear, well-organized information to producers and advisors as possible so they can make confident management decisions, whether that's on their own farms or helping clients," said Austin Pearson, climatologist at the MRCC and Indiana State Climate Office.

By placing these tools in a single, easy-to-navigate platform, the dashboard allows users to make better-informed decisions and support profitability and yield.

The idea for the dashboard stemmed directly from farmers. "In 2023, we hosted workshops with farmers and one of the biggest takeaways was that while many ag climate tools exist, they aren't found in one location," Pearson said.

The dashboard hosts tools both developed by Purdue University and trusted external sources. For example, MRCC's [Corn Growing Degree Day tool](#) helps track crop progress and predict maturity, while the [Pest Forecasting Map from the Iowa Environmental Mesonet](#) alerts farmers to threats like alfalfa weevil. Within the dashboard, users also have access to the [Climate Prediction Center](#) outlooks for temperature and precipitation, interactive maps, crop and disease forecasting, fieldwork planning tools, and localized climate summaries — all designed to support timely, informed decision-making throughout the year.

"The forecasting tools help farmers understand what pests — whether weeds, insects or diseases — could be an issue and when management is crucial," Pearson said. "I encourage users to get into the dashboard and explore, as new tools are frequently added."

Users can also consult climatologies through the platform to gain insights into historical weather patterns that may influence marketing and management strategies.

Beth Hall, director of the MRCC and Indiana State Climate Office, emphasized the broader vision of the project. "We're discovering that individual states provide tools that are limited geographically. While searching for information, we found that there are missing tools — those that cover the full soybean production region. This inspires us to keep growing the dashboard to create a dynamic system that's helpful for both a small geographic area and the whole region."

Future enhancements will be guided by feedback from farmers and advisors. One requested addition is an irrigation planning tool, as several farmers are seeking region-specific guidance on how much water to apply to minimize waste. While isolated tools like this exist, they often lack the geographic specificity needed for practical field use.

Looking ahead, the MRCC plans to incorporate more interactive, user-friendly features, such as location-based maps that respond to ZIP code input, providing a customized experience for each user.

“This is just round one of the dashboard,” Hall said. “We really

wanted to provide people a taste and hopefully get them excited about the future. I envision more and more of our tools offering a greater user experience.”

Additional information about the Ag Climate Dashboard can found on the Midwestern Regional Climate Center’s [website](#).

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