



# Let's Join Forces!

**PARTNER WITH ISA FOR CHECKOFF-  
FUNDED SOYBEAN PRODUCTION  
RESEARCH PROJECTS**

# Why Partner with ISA?

**Research is at the heart of innovation.** Your research plays an important role in shaping Illinois soybean production, and the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) is committed to working with you and your teams on projects that will enable Illinois soybean farmers to be the most knowledgeable and profitable soybean producers in the world.

If you have a research idea that fits one of the core areas below, our powerhouse Agronomy team is eager to talk with you.

- Agronomic practices including pest, weed, disease, and nutrient management
- Projects combining high-yield with soil-health practices
- Conservation initiatives, including water quality, soil health, best management practices, and agronomic production in a sustainable system

The 43,000 Illinois soybean farmers utilize the Illinois Soybean Board members and our Agronomy team for the latest data, trends, and technologies so they can continue to lead the world in soybean production — providing a global food supply, feed for animals, sustainable biodiesel, and more. Let's shape your research project together to give Illinois soybean farmers a leg-up!

## FINDING A RESEARCH PARTNER IN OUR AGRONOMY TEAM

We are excited to have an Agronomy team dedicated to working with you and our farmers to advance soybean production in Illinois. Our research-focused Agronomy team members are available to support you not only in preparing your research proposal, but also throughout your research project — from talking through challenges you're experiencing, to discussing observations and how to share those with our farmer audience, to answering questions as you prepare your Farmer-Focused Project Results Summary. Our team is just a phone call or email away, and they will do everything they can to help you and your project succeed!



**Jennifer Jones**  
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**"ISA recognizes the value of applied research by providing funding not available from other sources to conduct research that has direct and immediate benefits to Illinois soybean producers."**

**Dr. Aaron Hager**

Professor & Weed Science Extension Specialist  
University of Illinois

# Sharing Your Research Story

Not only will our Agronomy team support you throughout your research project, but they will also work with you to share the progress and results of your research. Collaborating with our Agronomy team will ensure farmers understand how they can put your research to work on their farms.

Our team is committed to elevating awareness about the great work you and your teams are doing to advance sustainable soybean production and profitability. This will include providing you access to various ISA communication tools and building a custom ISA communication plan for your project.



**"I like that with the RFP process there is plenty of time, clear deadlines, clear format, a relatively short, to-the-point proposal. I've also liked how they're helping us get the information out there at their winter events."**

**Nick Seiter**

Research Assistant Professor and Faculty  
Extension Specialist  
University of Illinois

## UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD

The efforts of the soy checkoff are directed by the United Soybean Board (USB), and each research project is logged into the USB National Soybean Checkoff Research Database at [www.soybeanresearchdata.com](http://www.soybeanresearchdata.com). This is another avenue where farmers can learn about research projects that can help improve how they grow soybeans.

## SOYBEAN RESEARCH & INFORMATION NETWORK

Representatives from the Soybean Research & Information Network (SRIN) provide farmer-facing education about cutting-edge research. The SRIN team works closely with the ISA Agronomy team to identify valuable research projects to feature on the SRIN website, newsletters and social media. Learn more about SRIN, follow their work and gain visibility to other states' research projects:

 **Website:** [www.soybeanresearchinfo.com](http://www.soybeanresearchinfo.com)

 **Newsletter:** <https://soybeanresearchinfo.com/check-in-on-checkoff-research/>

 **Facebook:** @SoybeanResearchInformationNetwork

 **X:** @SoyResearchInfo

# Submitting Your Research Proposal

If you have a research project that fits within the ISA checkoff parameters, we invite you to submit a proposal! The fiscal year runs Sept. 1 – Aug. 31 so be sure to keep that in mind as you define milestones and budgetary needs for your project. Our Agronomy team can work with you to build out expectations for projects spanning multiple years, as well as single-year projects that might need a budgetary extension through calendar-year end.

## HERE'S AN OVERVIEW OF THE TIMELINE AND SOME TIPS:

### February-March: The Request for Proposals opens

(Note: exact date varies and will be listed on the current year's RFP)

Details and forms can be accessed at <https://www.ilsoy.org/RFP>

### March-April: Preproposal Formulation

Discuss your proposal idea with the Agronomy team to:

- Ensure it falls within the focal research areas of agronomy, high yield and soil health, or conservation practices
- Make sure it meets checkoff funding parameters
- Account for project longevity and budgetary needs, especially considering the fiscal year of Sept. 1 – Aug. 31
- Help improve its chances to be approved by the Board of Directors

Keep in mind:

- Project budgets are not allowed to fund primary investigator salary or equipment that exceeds the life of the project

### Late April-Early May: Proposals due

(Note: exact date varies and will be listed on the current year's RFP)

The Agronomy team may reach out to further clarify and refine your proposal

**June:** Proposals reviewed by the Board of Directors

**June-July:** Researchers notified of ISA Board decisions; project details finalized, and project contract process begins

**September:** Fiscal year funding and project begins



## MULTI-YEAR PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

Projects spanning multiple years require additional thought and planning to ensure the proposal includes project details and budget needs for the duration of the project. Our Agronomy team is available to help you build out this information, per the below parameters:

**Initial, first-year submission:** The RFP will need to summarize the full scope of work and total budget estimate for all years of the project. It also must include a detailed Year 1 scope of work and budget.

**Subsequent-year submissions:** Regardless of if your project is for a single year or multiple years, funds granted in a given fiscal year must be spent in that year, unless you have specifically requested a contract extension. For subsequent years, the RFP will need to include a project update of progress and details to-date. It also must include a detailed scope of work and budget for the upcoming year.

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The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) checkoff and membership programs represent more than 43,000 soybean farmers in Illinois. The checkoff program funds market development, soybean production and government relations efforts, while the membership program, Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG) and the ISG Political Action Committee actively advocates for positive and impactful legislation for farmers at local, state and national levels. ISA upholds the interests of Illinois soybean farmers through promotion, advocacy, research and education with the vision of becoming a trusted partner of Illinois soybean farmers to ensure their profitability now and for future generations. For more information, visit the websites [www.ilsoy.org](http://www.ilsoy.org) and [www.ilsoygrowers.com](http://www.ilsoygrowers.com).

