

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FROM KENTUCKY'S FARM FAMILIES



Soybean Board ✓

www.kysoy.org

KENTUCKY FARMERS CARE!

Kentucky's soybean farmers value our customers! With more than half of our crop being sold to buyers outside the U.S., we especially appreciate the relationships we've developed with our international customers.

Kentucky soybean farmers are honest, friendly people. We work hard to bring our trade partners a high-quality, high-protein and sustainable crop year after year, and we work closely with the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC) to sponsor buyers conferences, in-country representation, communications, and trade missions to the countries that use our crop. We invite our trade partners to come visit our farms, as well.

When buyers think of U.S. soybeans, we want them to think of Kentucky soybeans, and seek them out specifically.



FARMING IS A FAMILY BUSINESS.



Approximately 98 percent of farms in the United States are family farms.

Farmers have many options in their seed selection and the farming practices they choose to utilize. They are free to choose what brands and varieties of seed they plant along with what products they use to protect their crop.

We use the same grain here in the United States that we export to our international buyers.

Multiple generations living and working on the farm isn't a trend – it's a tradition. A tradition fueled by passion for the land, a commitment to family and the desire to leave behind something valuable.

This generation of farmers works hard to leave the land better than they found it in the hopes that their children and grandchildren will take pride in farming that same land.

KENTUCKY FARMERS ARE SUSTAINABLE!

Kentucky's soybean farmers were implementing successful conservation and sustainability practices long before those terms became trendy.

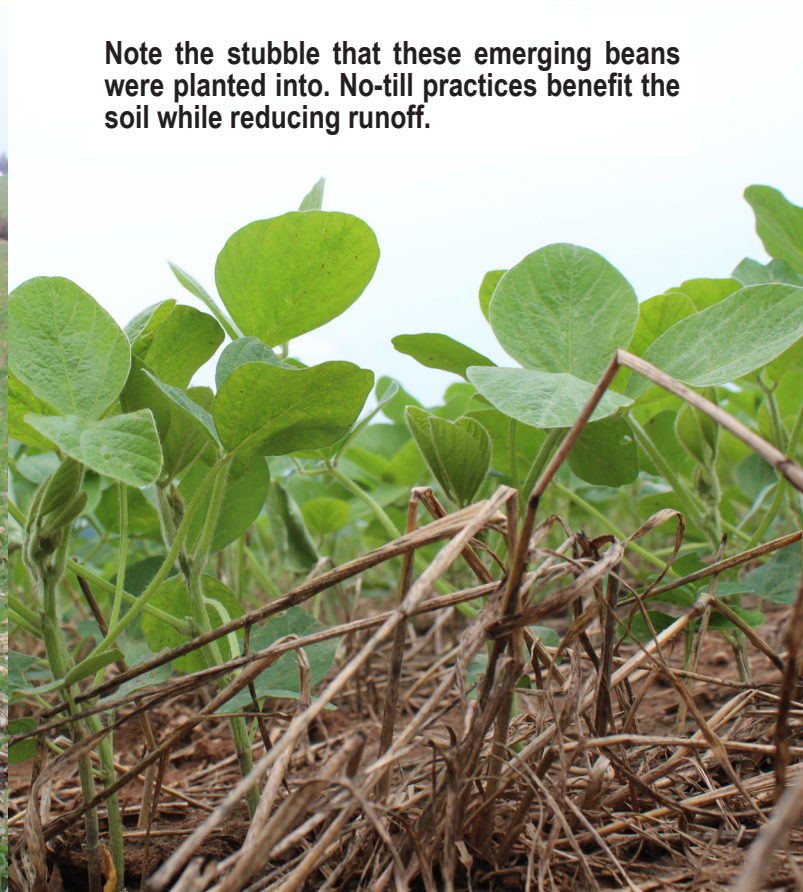
Our farmers take care of their soil by employing a number of techniques. Cover crops such as cereal rye and tillage radishes hold the soil in place over the winter and help to keep the soil from becoming compacted. Many soybean farmers plant soybeans in the stubble of recently harvested winter wheat, getting a "double crop" from the field.

Most Kentucky soybeans farmers practice crop rotation, with the most common rotation being soybeans and corn. Some advantages to a soybean/corn rotation include the ability to better manage weeds, insects and crop disease, and less net use of nitrogen fertilizer.

Another best management practice that many Kentucky farmers utilize is no-till farming. No-till became popular in Kentucky in the 1960s, when farmers learned that choosing not to plow under the stubble of the prior year's crop could help cut down on erosion, while the soil still retained the nutritional benefits of the crop grown the year before.



Cover crops such as these tillage radishes hold soil in place over the winter and help prevent compaction.



Note the stubble that these emerging beans were planted into. No-till practices benefit the soil while reducing runoff.

KENTUCKY FARMERS USE PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY ON THEIR FARMS

While input costs including seed, crop protection products, fuel and labor are big expenses on U.S. soybean farms, perhaps one of the most important investments our farmers make is that of technology.

From auto-steer on tractors to automatic row shutoffs on planters and sprayers all the way to overlaying planting data with yield results captured by the combine, Kentucky soybean farmers depend on technology to help them make business decisions and measure the results of those decisions.



QUICK FACTS:

Ninety-eight percent of U.S. farms are FAMILY FARMS.

Full-season soybeans are generally planted in early to mid-May and harvested mid-September through mid-October. Double-crop soybeans are planted in late June immediately following the harvest of winter wheat. The wheat acts as both a cover crop and a cash crop.

Farmers generally harvest their soybean fields in the same order that were they planted or stagger their maturity groups so that all of their soybeans aren't ready to harvest at the same time.

Many of Kentucky's soybean farming regions have easy access to riverport terminals, eliminating the need for rail shipments to the rivers.

Transportation by barge from Kentucky to the Port of New Orleans only takes about five days, and there are several points of entry onto the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers that Kentucky farmers may utilize.





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