

# Soybean Group Asks For Research Funds

Rising soybean production costs and static yields are major factors demonstrating a need for more intensive soybean research, according to Vernon Scott of Tillar, Ark., chairman of the American Soybean Association (ASA) Research Committee.

In testimony recently before the House and Senate appropriations subcommittees on agriculture and related agencies, Scott

contended that soybean research has been hampered by lack of funds and asked Congress to increase its soybean research appropriation.

Although soybean production costs have doubled since 1972, Scott said, yields have reached a plateau.

"When figured on a five-year average, our yields have increased less than 10 percent since the late 1950s,"

he stated.

Scott said cost per unit of production must be reduced if soy oil is to compete with Malaysian palm oil, which costs very little to produce and currently is priced about \$200 per ton less than soy oil on the domestic market. Palm oil production has increased 49 per cent since 1970 and will be a continuing source of future competition, he added.

A lack of basic knowledge about the soybean plant, said Scott, has kept soybean scientists from understanding why the plant loses 70-80 per cent of its production capacity by aborting flowers at an early stage, why the soybean plant does not respond to nitrogen fertilizer the way most plants do, and why water moves less freely within the soybean plant than in other plants.

"Considering the limited funds available to soybean production research, our scientists have done an admirable job," he said. "The problem stems from the fact that we have not had enough funds, nor enough scientists."

Noting that the U.S. soybean crop is currently valued at \$8 billion, Scott said the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will spend only \$5 million on soybean production research this year, or .06 of one per cent of the crop's value.

The ASA representative asked Congressmen to support an additional \$1.4 million appropriation for ARS soybean research and a funding increase of \$1,252,000 for soybean research by the Cooperative States Research Service (CSRS).

"CSRS makes excellent use of the federal funds supplies," Scott contended. "For every dollar of federal appropriations, the CSRS invests another \$2.60 from other sources in soybean research."

Scott said research to help lower per unit production cost would be beneficial to the nation's consumers, who annually use about 600 million bushels of soybean per year in the form of soy oil, meal-fed meat and poultry, glue, food products and medicines.

## Mt. Joy Photography Club Meets

The Mt. Joy 4-H Photography Club held its second meeting on May 1. Members discussed the parts of the camera and how they work. Discussion was held on areas to visit for field trips.

The next meeting will be held at the Glossbrenner's Church in Mt. Joy.

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 10, 1975—43

## SEW WHAT?

THIS WEEK'S PATTERNS



The Ascot Blouse  
This blouse with scarf neckline

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## SOUTHEAST GRAPE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION FIELD DAY and BARBECUE SATURDAY, MAY 17

[Rain Date, Saturday, May 24]

12:30 to 1:30 Registration  
Pequea Valley Winery, Willow Street  
1:30 to 4:30 Field Demonstration on Grape Culture  
5:00 to 7:00 Barbecue and Business Meeting  
COST OF TOUR & BARBECUE

Members \$4.00 Non Members \$6.00

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