



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN PROMOTION COMMITTEE

a new release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2010

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Mike Staton Receives Excellence in Soybean 2010 Coordination Award

Mike Staton, of Michigan State University Extension, was awarded the Excellence in Soybean 2010 Program Coordination Award at the Soybean 2010 meeting held in Lawrence on Thursday, February 4. The Excellence in Soybean 2010 Program Coordination Award was presented by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC).

"This award is not an annual award," said Keith Reinholt, Field Operations Director for the MSPC. "It is given when an individual working in Michigan State University Extension has a rich history of excellence in working with soybean producers to assist in the Soybean 2010 program above and beyond the general description of the position responsibilities." Nominees are selected by the soybean checkoff with an internal review responsible for selecting a recipient.

Staton is an Extension Agriculture Educator with Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) in Allegan County.

"Staton had been a dedicated MSU Extension Representative of the MSPC," said Andy Welden, MSPC president. "He has been a great asset to the Soybean 2010 program. It is a privilege to award him with this distinction."

As the MSUE Agriculture Educator in Allegan County, Staton has worked with members of the MSUE Field Crops Team to obtain MSPC funding for on-farm research projects. The projects evaluated management practices and products that have the potential to increase soybean yields and profitability. He coordinated two high-profile regional meetings entitled *Overcoming the Barriers to Higher Soybean Yields* each year since 2007, reaching over 1600 participating producers and agronomists.

Staton received numerous honors/awards during his career including receiving Senior Extension Educator status in 2009; the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award in 2008; and the USDA Certificate of Appreciation for educational activities on the 2002 Farm Bill.

Staton earned his Master of Science in Crop and Soil Sciences from Michigan State University in 1988. Following graduation, he began working for the MSUE in Gratiot County as an Agricultural Agent. Since then, he transferred from one MSUE county to the next, including Bay, Berrien, Van Buren, and finally Allegan where he resides today.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: An electronic photo of Mike accepting his award is available by contacting the soybean office at qfrahm@michigansoybean.org or 989.652.3294.