



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

a new release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan's Soybean Yield Contest Tops 96 Bushels

The 2010 Michigan Soybean Yield Contest had a record 96 bushels per acre reported. This was for the Group II, Non-irrigated class. For the second time in the five year history of the Michigan soybean yield contest, the average yield of the winners topped 70 bushels per acre. This past year, the average yield of the five class winners was over 77 bushels per acre.

For the 2010 contest there were more farmers, from more counties, with more entries than in any previous year. We received 103 entries from 87 farmers in 23 counties with an average yield of 64 bushels per acre for all the participants.

In 2010 farmers participated from Monroe, Washtenaw, Wayne, Ottawa, Kent, Kalamazoo, Shiawassee, Saginaw, Allegan, St. Joseph, Cass, Calhoun, Bay, Tuscola, St. Clair, Eaton, Clinton, Isabella, Montcalm, Berrien, and Ingham counties.

Fourteen seed companies participated including Pioneer, Asgrow, Garst, Steyer, Dairyland, Stine, Northrup King, Wellman, Great Lakes, Becks, DF Seeds, Brodbeck, Natures Genetics, and HAPI-O.

The overall highest contest yield in 2010 came in from Tom Green of Allegan in Allegan County with a Group II Non-irrigated class yield of 96.16 bushels per acre. Close behind was the Group III Irrigated class winning yield of 84.38 bushels per acre by Cameron Mendenhall of Kirkdorfer Farms from Edwardsburg in Cass County.

Other Class winners included:

- Brian Nickels of Byron Center, Group III Non-irrigated class with a yield of 72.42 bushels per acre.
- Karla Mendenhall of Edwardsburg, Group II Irrigated class with a yield of 79.84 bushels per acre.
- Greg Wagner of Reese, the Group I class with a yield of 65.49 bushels per acre.

At the awards meeting in Frankenmuth held in January, all the winners received a personalized winter jacket and a combine trophy. They also can receive \$1,000 of expenses reimbursed if they attend the 2011 Commodity Classic March 3-5 in Tampa, FL. The winners and all farmers who completed the contest received a personalized hat, \$50 worth of biodiesel bucks, and their entry fee applied toward a 2011 membership in the Michigan Soybean Association.

The Michigan soybean yield contest is a part of the *Soybean 2010* project, which has a goal to increase soybean yields and profits in Michigan. The data collected from the contest planting and harvest forms is analyzed to see what the winners do as compared to the others.

The Michigan soybean yield contest is sponsored by the Michigan Soybean Checkoff and Michigan State University. There will be another year of the contest in 2011. Any farmer in Michigan who raises at least five acres of soybeans is eligible to enter the contest. Interested farmers can contact Ned Birkey at the Monroe County MSU Extension office at 734.240.3170 for an entry form or more information.

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