



## MICHIGAN SOYBEAN PROMOTION COMMITTEE

# a new release



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### **Zmitko and Chaffin reappointed by Governor Snyder to Soybean Checkoff Board**

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC), organized in 1976, is a farmer created organization which operates under state and national law to research, promote, educate, and communicate information about soybeans to farmers, consumers, health professionals, researchers, and more. The Mission Statement of the MSPC is to efficiently and effectively leverage checkoff resources to increase profit opportunities for Michigan soybean producers while enhancing a positive public image of the soybean industry. The MSPC is led by a group of seven, governor appointed farmers from across predetermined districts based on equality of soybean acreage in each.

Recently, George Zmitko and Ben Chaffin were reappointed by Governor Snyder to the soybean checkoff board.

George Zmitko, farm owner/operator at Zmitko Farms, LLC in Owosso, Michigan, has farmed since 1971. During part of this time he also worked for General Motors Corp. for ten years. George's farm operation currently includes over 7500 acres of tillable land where he, along with his son, nephew, and approximately fifteen additional employees, raise soybeans, wheat, corn, oats, barley, alfalfa, and June clover seed. Part of their production is grown, harvested, processed, and sold on his farm as certified seed. Some of their soybeans are processed and shipped to a company who roasts and packages them for human consumption.

George states, "I am constantly trying to integrate modern technology into my farming practices. For example, my Global Positioning System (GPS) has been beneficial to me economically and beneficial to the community environmentally." George also raises approximately 300 beef cattle on his operation. This will be George's second full three-year term on the board representing soybean farmers in District 6 which includes Ionia, Clinton, Shiawassee, and Genesee counties.

George also served on the Michigan Crop Improvement Association's Board of Directors from 1993-2001 and is currently a committee member on the Shiawassee County Farm Service Agency.

Ben Chaffin from Ithaca, Michigan, worked on Chaffin Farms since 1995 and has been owner since 2003. He received his Bachelors degree in Agri Business Management in 2003 from Michigan State University (MSU) and his Masters in Ag Economics also from MSU in 2006.

In addition to soybeans, Ben's nearly 2000 acres of farmland are the production site for raising sugar beets, corn, corn silage, edible beans, organic corn, organic string beans, and peas. He currently farms with his dad and uncle and employ six additional full-time employees.

Ben says, "During the growing season I'm in charge of scouting fields and irrigation and in the winter all crop budgets and financials."

Ben feels that his knowledge gained from the undergraduate and master's programs, along with his farm experience, are special skills that he brings to his second full three-year term on the soybean checkoff board. Ben represents soybean farmers from District 7 which includes Allegan, Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Gratiot, Midland, Gladwin, Ogemaw, Iosco, and all Michigan counties north and west of those counties.

The MSPC holds regular meetings quarterly which are typically held at the MSU Crops Teaching and Research Farms in E. Lansing. For more information on the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, visit [www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org) or call our office at 989.652.3294.

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**Note to the Reporter:** Photos of George Zmitko and Ben Chaffin are available upon request by calling the soybean office at 877.769.6424.