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USSEC Shares U.S. Food Soybean Grower Reports on 2017 Anticipated Crop Yields

St. Louis, MO, September 5, 2017—Despite a challenging start for the 2017 U.S.-grown food soybean crop in some areas of the country, growers’ optimism has proven to be well-founded. Food soybean growers from many areas across the country report that they are anticipating normal, better than average or, in some cases, excellent crop yields. The U.S. Soy Export Council (USSEC) continues to provide periodic updates from growers to keep its partners and overseas importers current on the state of annual soybean crops.

Tim Daley of Stonebridge, Ltd. says that farms in **Northwest Nebraska** expect very good soybean yields. Many areas may have better than normal yields. “Last year’s organic beans in Nebraska went to 55- to 72-bushel yields per acre. We expect the same, if not even better, this year.... Some of our high protein tofu-type beans are yielding along with GMO soybean yields.” Based in Cedar Falls, IA, Stonebridge Ltd. grows soybeans in 15 states.

Bob Sinner SB&B Foods in Casselton, ND, reports that the soybean crop in parts of **North Dakota** has been improving and doing well since the rains have been good. “I would say

that North Dakota can expect at least an average soybean crop, if not maybe some better than average.” SB&B Foods manages the marketing and sale of a line of Identity Preserved (IP), Non-GMO, and organic products to customers worldwide.

Gene Leach, Crop Production Specialist at Healthy Food Ingredients in Fargo, ND, shares additional details about soybean crops in **North Dakota** and **Minnesota**. He says the overall crop in Minnesota and North Dakota has improved since July. “Rains have been more timely, and have arrived without hail or other damaging weather. Most incidents of disease and insect outbreaks have been isolated, and the crop yield at this point looks to be very good in **Central and Southern Minnesota**, to average in most of the soybean-growing areas of **North Dakota**.”

Soybeans in the **Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota** also continue to look like there will be an average to slightly above average yield, according to Paul Holmen of Brushvale Seed. Based in Breckenridge, MN, Brushvale Seed is dedicated to identity-preserved food grade crops. Holmen continues, “Rainfall during the growing season has been variable in the region, thus yields from field to field will also be a bit variable. Maturity seems to be advancing as normal.”

For the past month, soybean conditions in the **Central Belt of Illinois** have also remained mixed, according to Jim Traub of Clarkson Grain Company based in Cerro Gordo, IL. “More rain would be welcome,” he says, “in the belt from Mattoon, Decatur and Champaign, Illinois.”

Craig Tomera of Grain Millers, Inc. in Eden Prairie, MN, reports that their Non-GMO and organic soybean crops in ten states—**Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio** and **Missouri**—are averaging slightly below the five-year average, due to weather extremes. “In growing areas where weather extremes have moderated, crops have been able to make good progress in catching up in development,” he adds.

Soybean grower Ray Gaesser of Gaesser Farms in Corning, IA, anticipates that his crop in **Southwest Iowa** will be an average one. “The August 11 USDA crop report estimated the U.S. soybean production at about 48.5 bushels per acre; from other reports and surveys, that seems to be fairly accurate.”

Gaesser adds, “I believe our whole farm yield will be 55 to 60 bushels per acre. Our five-year average is 59 bushels per acre.” He says soybeans in his area of Iowa should be ready to harvest during the last few days of September— the normal harvest time.

Thanks to timely rainfall, Gene Leach says the soybean crop looks outstanding in some parts of **Central and Southern Minnesota**. “Growers in those areas are pleased with their crop thus far and expect good yields.”

Stonebridge, Ltd. production areas in **Northern Illinois, Indiana** and **Ohio** are expecting excellent yields, says Tim Daley—providing there is an October frost rather than one in September.

Visit the USSEC website at www.ussec.org for more information about the 2017 U.S. commodity soybean crop.

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***About the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC):** The U.S. Soybean Export Council is a farmer-owned, non-profit entity 100% devoted to improving the value of and export demand for U.S. soy. It operates internationally, connecting overseas importers with opportunities to improve human nutrition, livestock production and aquaculture. USSEC accomplishes its mission with a science-based technical foundation and a global network of partnerships, including soybean growers, reporters, agribusiness and agricultural organizations, researchers and government agencies.*



Figure 1 Minnesota/North Dakota Red River Valley



Figure 2 Nebraska



Figure 3 Clay County Minnesota

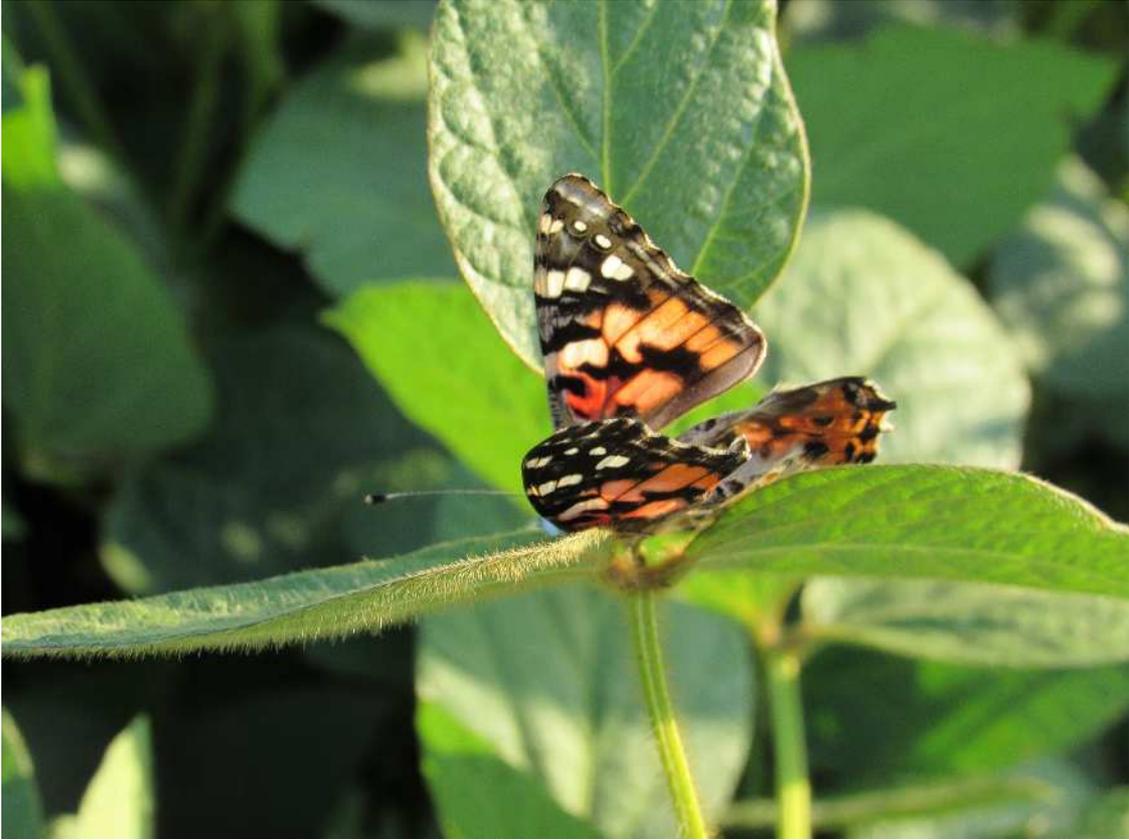


Figure 4 Cass County North Dakota



Figure 5 Pope County Minnesota