

TENNESSEE SOYBEAN PRODUCTION HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 1:
**Introduction to
Tennessee Soybean**

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Soybean is an important rotational crop in Tennessee and has been the leading row crop commodity for cash receipts in most years since 2008. The majority of Tennessee-grown soybeans are transported down the Mississippi River to New Orleans for export out of the United States. Soybean consumption in Tennessee is primarily as seed meal fed to poultry (broilers and layers) and hogs.

Each year, producers harvest about 1.65 million acres of soybeans, with a 10-year average yield of 46 bushels per acre. About 90 percent of the crop is non-irrigated, and approximately 65 percent of soybean acreage is located in west Tennessee. The state average yield increased measurably during the early 2000s (*Figure 1-1*) as producers began to incorporate indeterminate growth habit (early maturity) varieties. Additionally, new herbicide resistance traits allowed producers to better control weeds for a period of time, and seed treatments and foliar fungicide use has lessened the impact of diseases.

The lower input costs involved in growing soybean compared to other crops make it potentially profitable even in lower yielding environments. Soybean can tolerate

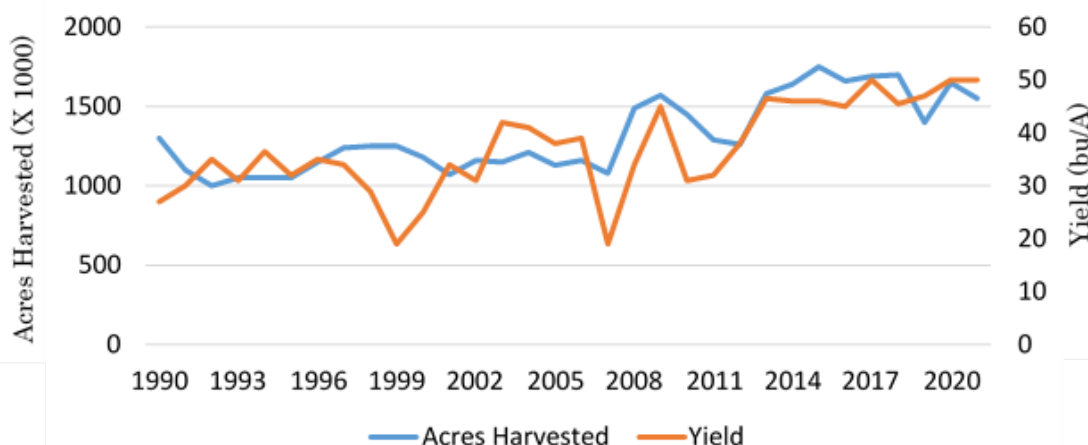
a wide range of soil conditions and planting dates and is a good fit on less productive ground or where delays in spring planting make corn or cotton unfeasible. Most soybeans grow in a rotation with corn, and approximately 25 percent of total acres are planted as double crop beans following wheat.

RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. "Tennessee Annual Statistical Bulletin." https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Tennessee/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/index.php

U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. "Tennessee Statistics." https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Tennessee/

Fig. 1-1. Average soybean yield and harvested area in Tennessee from 1990-2021.
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service.





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