



# REDUCING UNNECESSARY INPUT COSTS FOR SOYBEAN FARMERS

## Challenges

- Mississippi soybean producers typically plant more than 2 million acres annually. Extension faculty estimate that half of these acres receive an “automatic” foliar fungicide application where an additional insecticide is added to the tank because they are making a trip across the field.
- The additional insecticide is often not needed because insect pests at this time are well below economic thresholds. This unnecessary application kills beneficial insects, often causing a “flare” of other insect pests on about 25% of the acres, requiring an additional application.
- Unnecessary chemical applications are not beneficial to the environment.
- Unnecessary chemical applications decrease producer profits and diminish farm sustainability.

## Extension Response

Extension faculty and professional staff address this practice to achieve the goals of increasing farm sustainability and decreasing potentially negative effects on the environment.

- Extension faculty and professional staff develop and deliver targeted educational programs and technical assistance activities to assist soybean producers and crop consultants.
- Many of these programs directly address the fungal and insect risks associated with soybean production relative to growth stages when fungicides are generally applied.
- Research demonstrations, educational programs, publications, and one-on-one technical assistance are part of Extension’s comprehensive approach to assist producers.
- Extension provides research-based information on proper scouting and detailed explanations of the cost savings and unnecessary environmental impacts from convenience sprays.

## Economic Impacts

- It is estimated that 15% of affected acres did not receive this co-application due to educational programming. As a result, producers could realize an estimated savings of **\$8 million** statewide.
- This increase in savings (also defined as an increase in farm income) could support an estimated additional **47 jobs**, earning **\$2.1 million**, in the Mississippi economy.
- This savings to producers could also increase value-added in the state by **\$4.3 million** and output by **\$7.5 million**.
- Local taxes could increase as a result by an estimated **\$32,318** for municipalities, **\$80,401** for local special districts (e.g., school districts), and **\$65,278** for county governments.
- State taxes could increase by an estimated **\$354,762** and federal taxes by an estimated **\$505,551**.
- Increases in tax revenues are based solely on increased output by producers. This analysis assumes no increase in tax rates or change in the current tax structure.



[extension.msstate.edu](http://extension.msstate.edu)

M2480-01 (10-25)

**Whitney Crow**, PhD, Associate Professor, Agricultural Science and Plant Protection