



Growers and agri-businesses **working together**
to become **global leaders** in **soybean yields.**



PRODUCING RESULTS



Be a Part of This Premier Event for the 2010 Growing Season!

Accept the challenge to test your soybean production skills and achieve the goal of Yield Challenge CHAMPION.

Grower Team Yield Challenge



Purpose

1. To reveal the management practices necessary to maximize soybean yields.
2. To encourage use of new crop management strategies that help reach higher levels of yield and profit potential.
3. To provide useful data that can be evaluated by researchers, agri-businesses, and growers for improving yield potential.
4. To promote profitable and sustainable agricultural practices.

Eligibility

- A grower (owner-operator, tenant, or tenant-landlord team) who produces soybeans within Illinois state boundaries is eligible.
- Growers participate as team members. Teams can be supported by a sponsor or can be independent (non-sponsored).

How the Challenge Works

The Yield Challenge seeks to reward top soybean growers and identify the innovative management practices used to produce the highest soybean yields across Illinois. Working together, Illinois growers can lead in soybean yield and production in the United States.

- Illinois is sectioned into nine Yield Challenge districts, and winners are identified in each district. There is no overall state winner.
- The mission is to bring together teams of growers (5 to 10 growers per team) to strategize and implement innovative management practices.
- Teams can be sponsored by businesses, or teams can be independent (non-sponsored).
- Each grower on a team sets up side-by-side plots. One plot receives the grower's normal management practices, and the Challenge plot receives the innovative, high-yield strategies. All production practices are recorded and reported.
- At harvest, all team members conduct a yield check. For each team, the average of the five highest yielding plots is used to determine the final Challenge yield for each team. The teams with the highest average yield in each of the nine districts are recognized.

Awards/Recognition

- 1st Place Team Award - \$500*
- 2nd Place Team Award - \$250*
- Economic Development Award
- Data Completion Award
- Novel Practices Award
- Innovation In Electronic Data Collection

Winning teams in each district will be recognized.

* For each team member

Everyone Receives Something

- Soil testing for nutrients in all plots.
- Soil analyses for Soybean Cyst Nematode egg counts and SCN Type testing.
- The Yield Challenge also provides protein and oil analyses of grain samples taken from all harvested plots.

What you need to do for the 2010 Soybean Yield Challenge...

- Participants are required to set up two plots for entry into the Yield Challenge. These plots must be adjacent to each other. The plot GPS coordinates must be reported to the Yield Challenge officials by July 1, 2010. The two side-by-side plots should be located on ground that is as similar as possible in order to effectively compare and identify strategies that may contribute to yield increase.
- Participants grow the same variety of soybeans in each plot and plant the plots on the same day.
- One five-acre plot is designated as the “Check plot,” in which no novel treatments are performed and soybeans are grown as they normally would be grown by the participant (See Figure #1).
- The other five-acre plot is designated as the “Yield Challenge plot,” in which growers use an innovative treatment or set of treatments that could enhance yield (See Figure #1).
- Participants are required to keep records of management practices for both the Check (normal practice) and Yield Challenge plots. Participants must provide routine crop scouting records and all crop management records throughout the season for both the Check and Yield Challenge plots.



2 Side-By-Side Plots

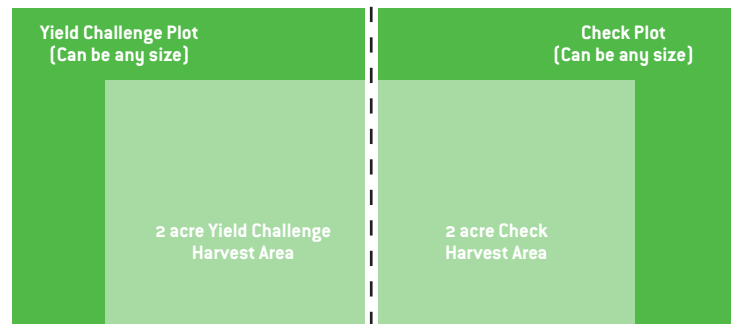


Figure #1. Example layout of a Yield Challenge field and the two-acre harvest areas for each plot.

- In order to determine accurate yield estimates, each participant must select a two-acre harvest area from each five-acre plot. The harvest area can be designated in various ways as long as a minimum of two acres is harvested. For example, if using a 30-foot-wide header, then eight swaths of 363 feet long each to total two acres can be harvested (See Figure #1).



- Harvest operations must be witnessed by one or more harvest supervisors and be calculated on the basis of No. 1 soybeans corrected to 13% moisture, then converted to bushels per acre.
- Any management used by participants in the Yield Challenge cannot violate any State, Federal or local laws. Participants who fail to comply lawfully and/or ethically as determined by a Yield Challenge review panel are ineligible for further participation or awards.



Student Team Yield Challenge

Who Can Participate

Students, community colleges, faculty and other academic professionals may participate. Yields, cropping history, and production information will be included in the Yield Challenge 2010 management summary.

- **Colleges**

Universities and community colleges located in Illinois are challenged to produce the highest yielding soybeans. The team with the highest percent yield increase over their local county average will win cash awards for their school. Each team receives a certificate of participation.

- **FFA Chapters**

FFA chapters located in Illinois are challenged to produce the highest yielding soybeans. The team with the highest percent yield increase over their local county average will win cash awards for their chapter. Each team receives a certificate of participation.

Awards/Recognition

1st Place FFA award – \$1,000

2nd Place FFA award – \$500

1st Place College Award – \$1,000*

2nd Place College Award – \$500*

Economic Development Award

Data Completion Award

Novel Practices Award

Innovation In Electronic Data Collection

Winning teams in each district will be recognized.

Plus other rewards and recognition for your participation and achievement!

* Presented to winning school's agricultural department

Requirements for Participation

- Each participating team needs a minimum of two two-acre plots, which will be harvested for the Challenge. The plots can be on privately or publicly owned land.
- **The Illinois Soybean Association pays the entry fee for student teams.**



**Earn Cash Awards
and Other Prizes!**

Entry Form

Step 1 – Check one of the following boxes and complete the information:

- I am entering the Grower Team Yield Challenge 2010
 I am entering the Student Team Yield Challenge 2010

Name: _____

Farm or Organization Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

County of field location: _____

Step 2 – Provide contact information for your team sponsor or captain:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Name of Company or Organization:

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

I understand that a harvest supervisor who will verify yield results must be identified by each team participating and authorized by the Illinois Soybean Association prior to harvest.

I hereby certify the information provided on this entry form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and agree all Challenge information shall become the property of the Illinois Soybean Association and can be used at the discretion of sponsors.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Deadline April 15, 2010

Entry Form Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROWERS: Complete this form and return it to the sponsor who provided it to you. Deadline: All growers' entry forms must be returned by April 15, 2010.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT TEAM CAPTAINS: Complete a form for each student, then mail the forms to the following address:
Illinois Soybean Association
1605 Commerce Parkway
Bloomington, IL 61704

Deadline: All student entry forms must be received by April 15, 2010.

Challenge Administration

Yield Challenge 2010 is administered by the Illinois Soybean Association, with the assistance of the University of Illinois Extension. Extension specialists; researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University and Western Illinois University; and crop inspectors may serve as harvest supervisors and assist with data collection.

Challenge Rules

Yield Challenge fields must be located in Illinois. Challenge winners agree to allow the Illinois Soybean Association and its cooperators and sponsors to use production data for promotional or educational materials, as well as activities and events.

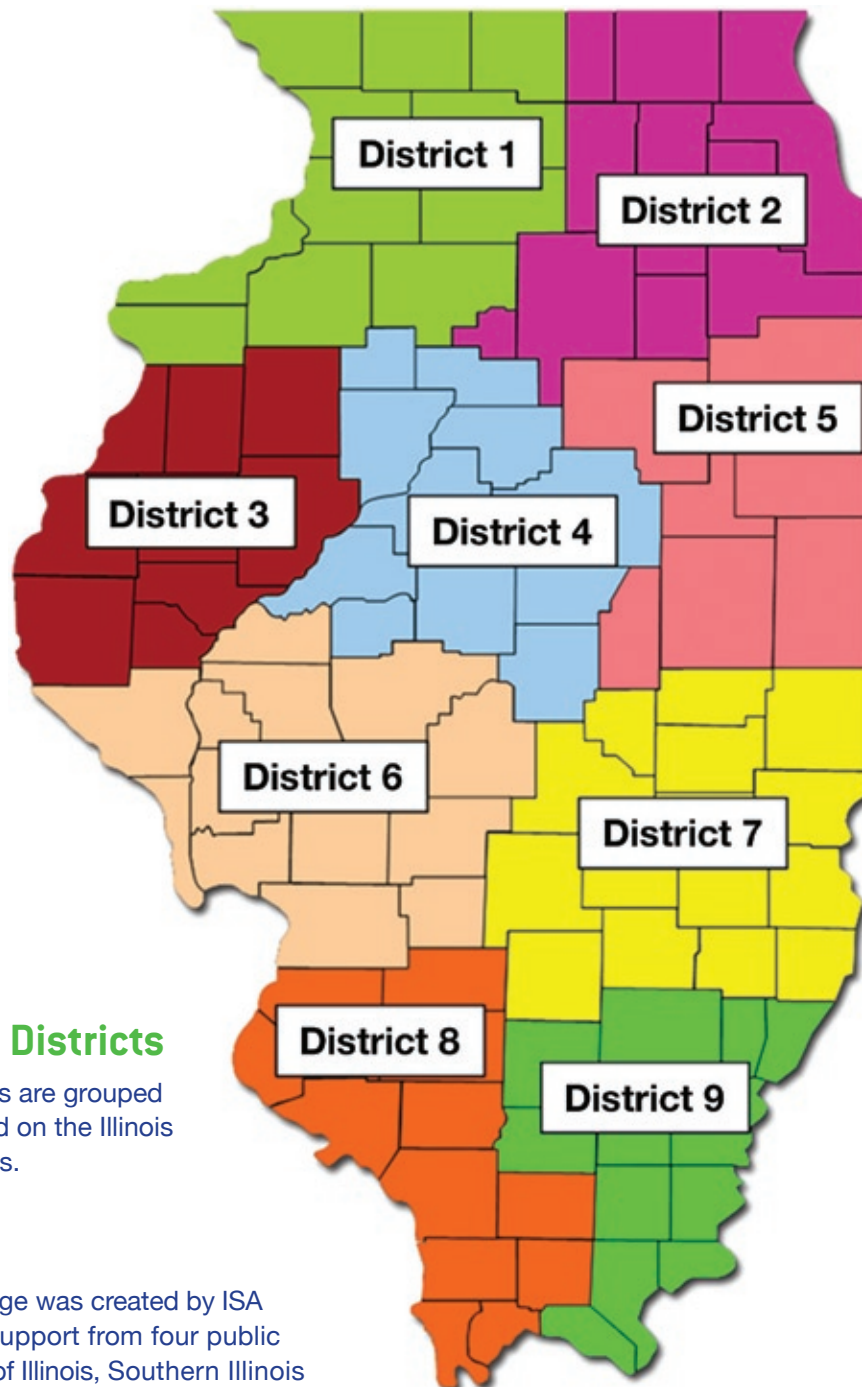
If you have questions about this entry form, please contact the Illinois Soybean Association by calling toll free: 888-826-4011.

Team Captain Training

Training will be available to help team captains enter their data and to provide tips on how to maximize their experience.

**Sign up online at
www.soyyieldchallenge.com**

**Follow us on Twitter!
<http://twitter.com/ilsoyyield>**



Yield Challenge Districts

The 102 Illinois counties are grouped into nine districts based on the Illinois Crop Reporting Districts.

The 2010 Yield Challenge was created by ISA with participation and support from four public universities, University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University and Western Illinois University, as well as the National Soybean Research Laboratory.



www.ilsoy.org

PRODUCING RESULTS

Funded by the soybean checkoff.