

PREFACE

Our motto is “We test the best” and that is exactly what we do. Each year, the best seed companies and organizations select several of their best varieties for evaluation by the MU Variety Testing Program. We use the latest scientific principles and procedures to provide farmers and others with an interest in soybean variety performance with accurate and unbiased information.

We respect the seed companies and organizations that put their varieties to the test. We are honored that they entrust us with their valuable products. It takes courage to allow their varieties to be compared with all of the others. Not every company participates in our program for various reasons. Those companies that do participate deserve your consideration when purchasing seed for the next growing season. Thank them for their courage and tell them you saw their variety in our program.

The MU Variety Testing Program has provided Missouri farmers with unbiased variety comparisons for more than 75 years, first with corn, then soybean and wheat. We have a young and ambitious staff with excellent experience with testing crop yield performance. Our plots are placed where you farm. They have the soils and weather conditions your fields have. The MU Variety Testing Program is on-farm research in the truest sense of the word. Most of our locations are on farmer fields in your communities. Several locations are MU farms. These CAFNR owned and operated research centers sample the north, central and southeast regions of Missouri and combined with the private farm locations provide you with the diversity of environments you need to select the best varieties for your farm. View the map in our procedures section to see the placement of our locations and the cooperators that are so important to the quality of our information.

Evaluating yield and making decisions based on that evaluation are difficult because yield is highly affected by environment — even the small differences that exist across a field. We use replication, plot size, and plot placement to minimize the “noise.” Please read the procedures section of this book to better understand what we do and the tools we provide you to make variety selection decisions. Our data tables are arranged to help you quickly see how varieties compare. We strongly suggest that you use information from more than one location. Our tables of “region means” provide you comparisons across multiple locations. Although yield is extremely important, please see our variety characteristics table located near the back of the book to view additional information that you might find helpful during variety selection.

Thank you for your interest and support. Please support the companies that participate in our program. If you have suggestions on how we can improve our program, please contact me directly (wieboldw@missouri.edu). The MU Variety Testing Program exists to serve your needs. We want to provide you with the best information possible.



William “Bill” Wiebold