

Project Number: (20-17-R) Final Report

2020 Funds Granted: \$19,800

Project Title: Technical Support for Soybean Specialist Research Area: Agronomy

Personnel Involved:

Angela McClure, Principal Investigator, Professor Plant Sciences
Andrew Denton, Research Technician Level III

Justification:

Funding provided partial salary support for Mr. Andrew Denton, a full time Research Technician Level III, who assisted the soybean specialist during the year. This technical support allowed the soybean specialist to implement projects addressing current production concerns that are not supported by other sources, generate data to create new or change existing extension recommendations, and provide assistance to the county variety testing program.

Objectives:

1. Fund a technician to support soybean demonstration work both on research centers and in counties in the areas of technology evaluation, cultural practices, poultry litter use, and crop establishment behind cover crops.
2. Fund a technician who maintained research plots, collected data from small plot and on-farm demonstration work, developed and maintained demonstration equipment and supervised student workers.
3. Support a technician who assisted the area grain specialist and county agents as needed to plant and harvest county standardized variety plots.

Project Status:

Grant funds supported the salary for Mr. Denton, with all funds used before December 31, 2020. Drew assisted with the planting and maintenance of replicated trials at the Research and Education centers (REC) as well as involvement in on-farm research. He was directly involved in several soybean research projects at the RECs including biomass management and planter attachments for successful planting into cover crops, maturity group evaluations, poultry litter application to soybean and an investigation of cover crops as part of the GoBeans project.

Other highlights of the year are:

- Drew planted and maintained over 10 small plot studies, assisting with collection of over 1,500 pieces of data in replicated plots just at Jackson and Milan RECs.
- Drew provided training and guidance to two summer student interns
- Drew continued to maintain, utilize and haul plot demonstration equipment in a safe and effective manner.
- Current and previous technical support funding is gratefully acknowledged.