

Sites could make beans more profitable

By JOSH FLINT

BEFORE making soybean seed decisions this year, it may be worthwhile to peruse two Web sites from the Illinois Soybean Association.

The first is the Varietal Information Program for Soybeans site, located at www.vipsoybeans.org. The site includes comparisons for yields, protein content, oil content and disease resistance for 600

popular varieties. Ten years of trials at 13 locations across Illinois back up the VIPs data. Users can pinpoint information on specific trials.

Despite the wealth of information VIPs offers, a survey conducted during the University of Illinois' Corn and Soybean Classic in Bloomington revealed 75% of the audience does not use VIPs. In many cases, growers did not realize the source exists.

If poring over numbers on a computer screen doesn't sound like fun to you, the information is also available as a printed booklet.

Research for VIPs is conducted by the University of Illinois. Funding is provided by soybean checkoff dollars.

The Soybean Premiums Web site, which can be found online at www.soybeanpremiums.org, is another resource farmers can use to make more on this year's



bean crop. The program was created to connect buyers of differentiated soybeans to the farmers who grow them.

Premiums are posted by the companies themselves, and growers can search for local premiums without registering or providing any information.

The most common premiums are for non-GMO, low-linolenic and seed soybeans. Premiums as high as \$2 a bushel are currently available.

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