



ALABAMA  
**SOYBEAN  
& CORN**  
ASSOCIATION  
**2020 REPORT**





## New Year. New Opportunities.

We're looking forward to a productive 2021 at the Alabama Soybean and Corn Growers Association. A new Administration brings new opportunities to grind more corn. Working on your behalf in both Montgomery and Washington D.C., our priorities for the year include:

- Supporting our animal agriculture customers
- Increasing sales of higher ethanol blends; and
- Expanding market access for our corn

We're grateful for your membership and grateful for your support.

Thanks for all you do to support Alabama agriculture.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Wilson



## Checkoff Update

It's been a challenging couple of years on my farm, as I'm sure it has been on yours. Input prices are through the roof while, it seems the prices we receive lag behind. Equipment prices send my blood pressure up.

It is my pleasure to serve as chairperson of the Alabama Wheat & Feed Grain Producers. Our committee members are Clay Hastings, Richard Parrish, James Walker, Mike Dee, Ben Looney, Dan Rhyne, Jeremy Wilson, John Bevel, Stewart McGill, Scott Saucer, Brady Peek and Don Glenn. Carla Hornady is our director. Checkoff funds can only be allocated for education, research and promotion.

Research projects are funded to help increase yields and control farmer input costs. *Ag in the Classroom* and *Farm City* are events we sponsor as education and promotion. The committee takes its role as stewards of producer checkoff money seriously.

Our committee allocates funds for research and promotion. These funds are collected from wheat and feed grain producers that pay a penny a bushel checkoff at the point of sale.

Fifty-nine percent of Alabama's corn is grown in Limestone, Madison, Lawrence, Jackson, Colbert, Lauderdale, DeKalb and Cullman Counties.

Sincerely,

Stanley Walters



## 2020 In Hindsight

Enough unbelievable things happened last year to fill an entire history book, including an expansive chapter on corn alone. After a forgettable 2019, 2020 started off strong.



First came the signing of the China trade deal at the White House. Then, a few days later, the Tenth Circuit Court agreed with our position that the EPA was improperly issuing small refinery exemptions. Five days after that, we were back at the White House for the signing of the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA). Not a bad way to start the year if you ask me.

We rode that momentum into a record-setting Commodity Classic in San Antonio, celebrated those wins together and returned home to an emerging crisis that would define the remainder of the year. As winter turned to spring, COVID-19 flipped the world on its head and knocked farmers off our feet. Instead of giving in, we helped our neighbors out.

Commodity prices have rallied since September, lifting spirits and raising expectations for a strong run into 2021. And Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL) introduced the Next Generation Fuels Act, a game-changing bill that paves the way for the future of our fuel.

My pledge to you is that I will leave no stone unturned as we search for ways to capitalize on this momentum in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

John Linder  
NCGA President  
Ohio Farmer

## A Message from Your Executive Director



It's been an exciting year for the Alabama Soybean and Corn Growers Association. As you'll read more about it in this report, we had a very productive year in our corn fields. And on the soybean side, our influence is growing at the national level with the addition of a second United Soybean Board member from Alabama.

Madison County farmer Sam Butler will join Dallas County farmer Wendy Yeager on the board. Yeager was appointed last year. Butler, sworn in December and will serve a three-year term. Sam and Wendy both serve on the board of the Alabama Soybean and Corn Association.

I look forward to an equally productive 2021.

Sincerely,

Mark Hall

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that help serve Alabama agriculture:**

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**Alabama Farmers  
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**Bayer (Jordan Toombs  
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**First South Farm Credit**

**Nutrien Ag Solutions**

**Steve Tate Crop  
Insurance**

**TriGreen Equipment**

**Woodall Grain**



Left to right: Mike, Jackson, Chad and Stuart.

## Henderson Farms Producers Cite Business & Technological Savvy and a Passion for Farming as Critical to Success

Since its establishment almost 120 years ago, Henderson Farms has weathered all manner of storms – for starters, two world wars and the Great Depression. Add to that numerous national farm crises, the perennial boll weevil threat, which was resolved only in the 1990s, and the beet armyworm infestation, which finally was addressed with the adoption of transgenic cotton two decades ago.



As the operation begins its third decade of the 21st century, its challenges are different, though no less acute. In 2006, family patriarch Mike Henderson, the great-grandson of the intrepid farmer who purchased the first 240 acres of Henderson Farms for \$10 an acre in 1903, resolved to grow corn in a region of Alabama where cotton was once the undisputed king. Complicating matters, they farm Wheeler Wildlife Refuge land in an area of the Tennessee Valley struggling with the relenting forces of urban encroachment.

Along with corn, Mike and his family produce wheat and soybeans.

The challenges have been daunting, but Mike and his family have surmounted these challenges in a number of ways, turning out record corn yields that have qualified them as the winners in four of six categories of the 2020 Alabama Corn Yield Contest.

How has this been achieved? Mike, seasoned producer that he is, has been aided immensely by his partners, his son, Chad, grandson Jackson Henderson, nephew Stuart Sanderson and Stuart's son Spencer, each of whom has added his own unique perspectives and expertise to the operation.

Grandson Jackson Henderson credits much of the success to a careful, diligent spraying program.

"Timeliness is the key to high yields," Mike says, stressing the importance of a well-calibrated herbicide and fungicide sprayings at the optimal intervals.

He also stresses what people in the corporate world would describe as institutional knowledge – what he succinctly characterizes as "listening to your elders." He regards the experience of older, seasoned producers such as his grandfather as a critical factor in anticipating potential problems



**Mike Henderson**

along the way.

Mike's nephew Stuart Sanderson brings business knowledge to the operation. A 1998 graduate of the University of Alabama with a degree in Commerce and Business Administration, Mike stresses the importance of farm management efficiency, which, he believes, is best achieved by



**Jackson Henderson**

acquiring new technology "to do more with less."

Moreover, he emphasizes the importance of conducting frequent on-farm research to determine what technological innovation works best within any farming context.



**Chad Henderson**

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**“If I had one bit of advice for young farmers, it’s that you have to have a passion for farming. If you don’t, you need to be doing something else.”**

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**– Mike Henderson**

However, he cautions younger farmers not to invest all their hopes in technological acquisition.

Stuart Sanderson believes that farm-to-debt ratio is a critical concern in any farming operation, even large, comparative well-capitalized ones, and young farmers should be reminded that new equipment does not necessarily translate into more bushels, he contends.

Chad Henderson cites seed emergence as another critical factor of success.

“I believe in getting my seed to emerge within 24 hours of each other,” he says, adding that seed placement, uniformity and emergence have been greatly enhanced with the use of their John Deere Exact-Emerge planter.

It’s important, too, to get corn off to a fast start – a task that has been helped along significantly on Henderson Farms with the use of a Conceal Starter Fertilizer Applicator.

“I applied 10 gallons an acre of 28-0-0-5 and 3 gallons of 10-34-0 in a two-inch-by-two-inch

placing, with the start fertilizer split into both sides of the row during planting.

Mike also emphasizes that producers are afforded only a single chance for a good start. He advises them to make sure that their planters are in first-rate mechanical working order for an optimal beginning.

Even so, Mike states that business and tech-savvy will carry growers only so far.

One of the biggest factors of all, especially in the present-day farming environment, is a passion for farming, which goes a long way toward carrying farmers through all the inevitable daily challenges.

“My approach has always been doing better, striving to be the very best,” Mike says.

“If I had one bit of advice for young farmers, it’s that you have to have a passion for farming. If you don’t, you need to be doing something else.” ■





# NATIONAL CORN YIELD CONTEST®



## National Corn Yield Contest 2020

U.S. farmers not only planted and harvested a large crop successfully in 2020, but they also rolled out some impressive yields in the National Corn Growers Association's National Corn Yield Contest despite weather challenges, wildfires, and a pandemic.

Don Stall, Charlotte, Michigan, produced the highest yield in the contest with a yield of 476.9052 bushels per acre, reflecting farmers' resilience and the value of modern seed varieties, advanced production techniques and innovative growing practices.

"This contest brings farmers together to create, innovate and explore ways to optimize the nation's largest and arguably most important crop," said Debbie Borg, chair of NCGA's Member and Consumer Engagement Action Team. "At both the state and national levels, contest winners find new ways to excel while using a variety of techniques. Ultimately, the invention and improvement by farmers and input providers enable U.S. farmers to continue to meet the future demand for critical food, feed, fuel and fiber."

*The following pages list the Alabama state winners from this year's contest.*

## CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED

**Jackson Henderson**

**313.9462 bushels/acre**

**Limestone County**

Jackson planted Pioneer P2089VYHR on May 7 with a planting rate of 30000. The crop was fertilized with 320 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphorus and potash and 57 pounds of sulfur. Soybeans were grown on the field last year.



**Janson Patterson**

**299.2565 bushels/acre**

**Madison County**

Janson planted AgriGold A6659 VT2PRO on April 2 with a planting rate of 35000. Corn was grown on the field last year.



**Greg Key**

**200.6294 bushels/acre**

**Marshall County**

Greg planted Great Heart Seed HT-7486 on April 29 with a planting rate of 28500. The crop was fertilized with 150 pounds of nitrogen, 60 pounds of phosphorus, 80 pounds of potash and 15 pounds of sulfur. Soybeans were grown on the field last year.



## NO-TILL NON-IRRIGATED

**Ben Haynes**

**266.3950 bushels/acre**

**Cullman County**

Ben planted Pioneer P1847VYHR on May 1 with a planting rate of 28000. The crop was fertilized with 225 pounds of nitrogen, 60 pounds of phosphorus, 120 pounds of potash and 15 pounds of sulfur. Soybeans and wheat were grown on the field last year.



**Jamie Roberts**

**262.5080 bushels/ acre**

**Dekalb County**

Jamie planted Pioneer P1847AML on May 1 with a planting rate of 30000. The crop was fertilized with 300 pounds of nitrogen, 115 pounds of phosphorus, 115 pounds of potash, 38 pounds of sulfur, .25 pounds of zinc and .5 pounds of boron. Soybeans were grown on the field last year.

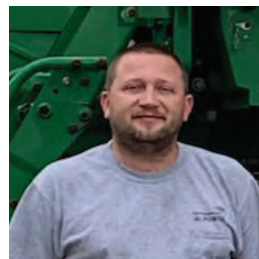


**Dennis Dean**

**254.0682 bushels/acre**

**Jackson County**

Dennis planted Pioneer P1464VYHR on May 4 with a planting rate of 34200. The crop was fertilized with 300 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphorus, 180 pounds of potash and 70 pounds of sulfur. Soybeans were grown on the field last year.





## ALABAMA CORN YIELD CONTEST WINNERS

### STRIP, MIN, MULCH, RIDGE-TILL NON-IRRIGATED

**Mike Henderson**

**291.4699 bushels/acre**

**Limestone County**

Mike planted Pioneer P2089VYHR on April 6 with a planting rate of 30400. The crop was fertilized with 280 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphorus, 60 pounds of potash and 50 pounds of sulfur. Corn was grown on the field last year.



### NO-TILL IRRIGATED

**Steve Tate**

**273.8373 bushels/acre**

**Madison County**

Steve planted Pioneer P1870YHR on April 6 with a planting rate of 36000. The crop was fertilized with 295 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphorus and 210 pounds of potash. Corn was grown on the field last year.



**Elvie Hunter**

**284.2988 bushels/acre**

**Madison County**

Elvie planted AgriGold A644-32TRC on April 29 with a planting rate of 38000. The crop was fertilized with 260 pounds of nitrogen, 60 pounds of phosphorus, 140 pounds of potash and 1 pound of copper. Soybeans and wheat were grown on the field last year.



**Stewart McGill**

**270.7379 bushels/acre**

**Madison County**

Stewart planted Pioneer P1847VYHR on April 15 with a planting rate of 36000. The crop was fertilized with 295 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphorus and 210 pounds of potash. Corn was grown on the field last year.



**Jessie Hobbs**

**272.8110 bushels/acre**

**Limestone County**

Jessie planted DeKalb DKC65-20RIB on March 28 with a planting rate of 34000. The crop was fertilized with 250 pounds of nitrogen and 2 tons of poultry litter. Cotton was grown on the field last year.



**Jeff Tate**

**267.0157 bushels/acre**

**Madison County**

Jeff planted Dekalb DKC68-69 on April 5 with a planting rate of 36000. The crop was fertilized with 295 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphorus and 210 pounds of potash. Cotton was grown on the field last year.



### STRIP, MIN, MULCH, RIDGE-TILL IRRIGATED

**Stuart Sanderson**  
320.0824 bushels/acre  
Limestone County

Stuart planted Pioneer P1870AM on April 4 with a planting rate of 36000. The crop was fertilized with 320 pounds of nitrogen, 60 pounds of phosphorus, 60 pounds of potash and 50 pounds of sulfur. Soybeans were grown on the field last year.



### CONVENTIONAL IRRIGATED

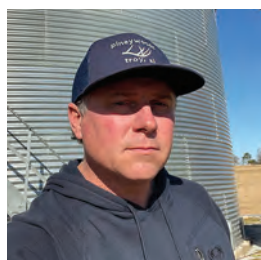
**Chad Henderson**  
319.0791 bushels/acre  
Limestone County

Chad planted Pioneer P2089VYHR on April 3 with a planting rate of 36000. The crop was fertilized with 320 pounds of nitrogen, 40 pounds of phosphorus and 30 pounds of potash. Soybeans were grown on the field last year.



**Will Curtis**  
314.2504 bushels/acre  
Pike County

Will planted Dekalb DKC68-69 on April 15 with a planting rate of 38000. The crop was fertilized with 240 pounds of nitrogen and 200 pounds of potash. Soybeans were grown on the field last year.



**J. Howard (Dickey) Hobbs**  
285.7938 bushels/acre  
Limestone County

Dickey planted DeKalb DKC65-20 on March 28 with a planting rate of 36000. The crop was fertilized with 250 pounds of nitrogen and 2 tons of poultry litter. Cotton was grown on the field last year.



**Myron Johnson**  
277.2595 bushels/acre  
Henry County

Myron planted Dekalb DKC62-08 on April 1 with a planting rate of 35000. The crop was fertilized with 10 pounds of zinc, 250 pounds of phosphorus and 250 pounds of potash. Peanuts were grown on the field last year.



**Seth Moore**  
262.9121 bushels/acre  
Pickens County

Seth planted DeKalb DKC68-69 on May 1 with a planting rate of 34000. The crop was fertilized with 300 pounds of nitrogen and 64 pounds of phosphorus and 117 pounds of potash. Corn was grown on the field last year.





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