

2026 Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest Categories, Rules, and Rewards

The Wisconsin Soybean Association (WSA) Soybean Yield Contest is organized to encourage the development of new and innovative management practices that highlight the importance of using sound cultural practices in Wisconsin soybean production systems.

Contest contact: Dr. Shawn Conley 608.800.7056

Contest web page: www.coolbean.info; www.wisoybean.org

Contest Committee Members:

Dr. Shawn P. Conley, Patrick Mullooly, Steve Wilkens, Doug Rebut, and Steve Trzebiatowski

Contest Description

Any soybean production system can enter in the contest. Two winners will be selected from each of the four geographical divisions in the state. Divisions are based on long-term county soybean yield averages. Additional awards in the contest include the Planting Green Award, New Contestant Award, and WI 100 Bushel Soybean Club. The WSA is not responsible for incorrect or missing entries. All rules set forth herein apply to all entries.

Contestant Qualifications

Contestant must be at least fourteen (14) years of age or older on or before December 1, 2026. More than one person in a family can enter, but each must have a separate entry.

Release of Contest Entry Field Records

If requested, the contestant agrees to provide records to WSA of their methods of handling and preparing the land; cultivation and weed control methods; insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and rates of same that are used; the brand and variety of seed, seeding rate; date of planting, type and brand of soybean planter, row width and date of harvesting; and amount of each application and type of irrigation used. Failure to provide such records may lead to disqualification.

Contest Field and Entry Qualifications

Contest field must be in the state of Wisconsin. Entry field must be at least 5 contiguous acres of one variety with the actual contest harvested area being at least 3 acres. In the interest of Best Management Practices, grass waterways may be a part of the contest plot area. The land entered in the Contest must be owned or leased by the contestant and located in Wisconsin. The variety entered must be currently commercially available.

Multiple Contest Entries

Any individual contestant may enter more than one entry in the contest. Any individual can win only one geographic division award. Multiple entries must be designated on the Entry and Harvest Forms.

Deadline

Yield Contest Entry Forms must be postmarked by August 31, 2026, to be eligible for the contest. Yield Contest Harvest Forms must be postmarked by December 1, 2026. No late entries will be accepted.

Supervisor Eligibility Qualifications

A supervisor is required for overseeing all computations and field measurements and must be present during harvesting, weighing, and moisture testing. The Wisconsin Soybean Program will only approve supervisors meeting the following qualifications: FFA Advisor, Agricultural Education Instructor, County Extension Educator or Assistant, Natural Resources Conservation Service senior staff, Farm Service Agency CED/Loan Manager/Officer, Farm Credit Services Officer, Bank Ag Loan Officer, Private Crop Consultant, College of Agriculture Instructor, American Society of Farm Managers accredited farm manager, Crop Insurance Agents/Adjustors, or retired individual with listed job title. Also, current Soybean Association Production & Stewardship and Grower Services Action Team members and WSA Board members are eligible. A supervisor cannot have financial or direct business ties to the contestant or a company that sells agribusiness supplies, i.e., totally independent nor employed by the contestant. Call Dr. Conley when unsure of your selected supervisor's qualifications. The supervisor's name must be on the contest Harvest Form along with their title, address, telephone number, and email address. WSA reserves the right to contact harvest supervisor to validate compliance with contest rules. **WSA ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT, WITH ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, TO OBSERVE ANY HARVEST.**

Contest Awards

Plaques and cash prizes will be awarded to the first (\$1,000) and second (\$500) place winners in each geographic division (see map below). The winner is the entry that has the highest soybean yield based on bushels per acre at 13% moisture. In the event of a tie, both contestants will be recognized as co-winners. Each contestant is eligible to win only one plaque and cash prize in the geographic division portion of the contest. If a contestant has two or more entries and all entries place as a winner or runner-up, a plaque and cash prize will be awarded only for the highest yielding entry. Duplicate plaques will not be awarded in the event of multiple names on one entry. Awards will be presented at the Corn•Soy Expo held in Wisconsin Dells in January 2027.

Planting Green Award

One \$1,000 cash award will be presented statewide to the highest yield from a contestant that qualifies for the Planting Green category. The Planting Green category requires contestants to plant directly into a living cover crop without killing it by herbicide or mechanical means prior to planting.

New Contestant Award

One \$500 cash award will be presented statewide to the highest yield from a first-time contestant that does not place first or second in their geographic division.

WI 100 Bushel Soybean Club

Each contestant that achieves 100 bushels/acre or more will be inducted into the club and awarded \$1,000. This is a one-time award.

Contest Results

No information on the Contest results will be released until all results are finalized. There will be no exceptions. Results will be released on or before December 31, 2026. Decisions of WSA's Contest Committee in all matters are final. The WSA committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry for violation of any rules.

Disqualifications

Incomplete entries may be disqualified. WSA reserves the right to have a designated representative view and/or inspect, with prior notice, any field entered at any time. WSA also reserves the right to disqualify any entry in violation of the WSA Contest Rules.

Harvest Rules

The contest entry must be from a field of soybeans 5 or more acres in size of one variety. The actual harvested area for the contest entry must be at least 3 acres. The contest area may be any shape but must be in one contiguous block of soybean.

- Contestants and harvest supervisors are responsible for giving accurate measurements for the harvested area.
- A total of 3 acres or more must be harvested.

A supervisor must be present at harvest. The supervisors are responsible for completing all computations and field measurements and must be present during harvesting, weighing (gross and tare), and moisture testing. The contestant is responsible for mailing the information.

The supervisor must require the contestant to run their combine and any transfer augers to be certain they are empty prior to harvesting the contest area. All wagons or trucks must be checked to make certain they are empty.

Measuring

Preferred measurement tools are a tape or chain. Measuring wheels and GPS are also acceptable for measurement. Each measurement must be recorded on the Contest Harvest form. Proper tape and chain measurements are taken with the measurement tool pulled taut but not off the ground surface.

Calculating Acres Harvested

Area harvested will be determined by measuring the length and width (in feet) of the plot. Length and width are multiplied, and then divided by 43,560 (square footage of 1 acre) to determine the number of acres in the plot. Refer to the Yield Contest Harvest Form for calculating acres harvested.

Weighing

All soybeans must be weighed on a state-inspected scale by the supervisor(s) or the supervisor(s) overseeing. On-farm scales must be state inspected.

Original weigh ticket (no photocopies) must be attached to the Contest Form. It must have the name of the company where the weighing was done and the name of the person doing the weighing. **WEIGH WAGONS ARE PROHIBITED.**

Moisture

An experienced person must make a moisture determination of a representative sample of the soybean. Moisture percent must be listed on weight ticket or attach a moisture ticket.

Calculating Yield

Refer to the Yield Contest Harvest Form for calculating yield. All Harvest Forms will be verified for accuracy by the Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest Committee when received.

2026 Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest Geographic Divisions

DIVISIONS

Based on 2014-2023 NASS county yield average

- DIV 1: < 48.0 bu/a
- DIV 2: 48.0-51.9 bu/a
- DIV 3: 52.0-55.9 bu/a
- DIV 4: ≥ 56.0 bu/a

