

ARKANSAS SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD MEETING
Zoom Only

Minutes

February 7th, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Members Present via Zoom: Brad Doyle, John Freeman, West Higginbotham, Boyce Johnson, Matthew Roberson, Royce "BJ" Rogers II, Patrick Matt Smith, Josh Cureton

Members Absent: Donald Morton Jr.

WELCOME

Chairman Brad Doyle commenced the board meeting at 3:00 pm via Zoom. With eight members present, a quorum was confirmed by the Department.

JOINT FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR ARKANSAS FFA & 4-H OFFICERS

Chairman Doyle gave a brief overview of the proposal before the board, which was initiated by AR Corn & Grain Sorghum Promo Board Member Tommy Young. The proposal included jointly funding students to attend the national Commodity Classic meeting and associated events.

ATTACHMENT 1

Chairman Doyle mentioned that the offer was contingent on both boards agreeing to joint-fund the proposal. He further added that the primary objective is to provide a huge return on investment for these students by investing in their education and showing them the latest and greatest in agriculture.

Member Matt Smith noted that Tommy Young's family member is the AR State FFA Secretary, and that Young recused himself from the discussion and vote before the AR Corn & Grain Sorghum Promo Board.

Member Cureton mentioned that he believed this would be a great opportunity to investment in young members of the agriculture industry with the corn board.

Further discussion ensued. Member Freeman asked about only funding Arkansas students in the proposal. Chairman Doyle clarified that it would only be for Arkansas and for executive officers, which is he believed to be maximum of 6 per organization, exclusively for Arkansas FFA and 4-H.

Chairman Doyle also highlighted that the proposal has a maximum of \$15,000 per board per year with no carryover. Funds would be used for travel, lodging, and food under normal travel guidelines.

Further discussion ensued.

Motion to accept the offer to fund the proposal for \$15,000; moved by Josh Cureton, seconded by Matthew Roberson. No further discussion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Admin Scott Bray mentioned a point of business regarding the American Soybean Association awards ceremony at Commodity Classic.

Chairman Doyle asked about upcoming funding proposals for the board members to review. Admin Bray replied that he would have all proposals ready for members to review within the next week.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Doyle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Brad Doyle, Chairman

ATTACHMENT 1

Tommy Young
107 Young Street
Tuckerman, AR 72473
Phone: 501-412-0598
Email: Bestsprinkler@aol.com

January 31, 2025

Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board, Kenny Falwell, Chair
Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board, Brad Doyle, Chair
c/o Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Scott Bray, State Executive Administrator to the Boards
1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205-1539

Attn: Joint Funding Proposal for Promotion of Education Concerning Corn, Sorghum and Soybeans for Arkansas Youth.

Mr. Bray, Doyle and Falwell

I am writing this letter with joy and excitement. I recently attended the American Farm Bureau Federation meeting held in San Antonio, Texas. While there I noticed that both the Arkansas State FFA Officer delegation and the Arkansas State 4-H delegation were in attendance. These groups of youth were very visible with the 4-H green jackets and the Blue FFA jackets with Arkansas in big letters across the back. It made we feel real good to know that these freshman in college were attending this farmer advocacy event. I was very active in FFA during my high school career but nothing past that point. The FFA helped me to develop leadership skills, public speaking skills and how to conduct proper meetings as well as educate me on various aspects of agriculture. My farming partner nephew Jim Young has a son whose name is Noah Young he is currently serving as the Arkansas State FFA Secretary. I have watched and talked to Noah throughout the past year and it truly is amazing at all of the work these young leaders do to promote FFA and 4-H throughout the state. We did not see Noah only for two days this summer because he was busy traveling around the state visiting various donors and going to schools promoting membership. We need to support our agriculture youth in our state.

I am proposing that the Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Board and the Arkansas Soybean Board jointly and equally provide funding to sponsor each states entire delegation or variation thereof of both FFA and 4H State Officers including staff or chaperones to attend the NCGA Commodity Classic each year. I am proposing to provide enough funding to pay for transportation, lodging, food, registrations, tours, admissions or any other related expense that is deemed necessary by each organizations staff or administration. Each organization will bill for expenses incurred and these expenses will be divided equally between the boards not to exceed \$15,000.00 per/board/per/year. All unused expenses will not transfer to the following year.

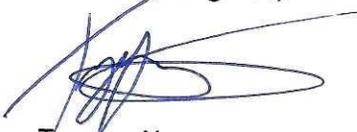
I believe Commodity Classic is a perfect campus to allow these students to see grassroots advocacy and innovation first hand. This event is a classic in that it encompasses all of the commodities that each of our boards represents. It provides excellent networking among agriculture industries. It showcases the most up to date technology. It creates pride in each of our related fields. This show is the one stop shop for letting these youth see how an idea, need or a problem can possibly be resolved from your local town or county all the way up to the national level.

We must invest in our youth who are interested in agriculture. The average age of farmers today is in the mid 50's and rising. These students we are funding are the spearhead leaders who promote agriculture to thousands of youth all across the state. I believe we should fund this perpetually and ask that they come back and give us a short report on how attending this event helped them and also let us know the value it returns to us.

This letter/proposal was written in haste and I am sure there are many many more things I could say. However time is of the essence and the 2025 Commodity Classic is a month away. The State FFA Advisor Jason Binz believes he can get a few students to this year's event if this is passed. I urge you to pass this proposal and I strongly ask that it be looked at each year following to keep the crops of youth motivated toward agriculture and especially row crop agriculture such is what we represent with our boards.

NOTICE: BEING FULLY TRANSPARENT, I do have a family member that will benefit from this action if passed. I will recuse myself from the vote while the Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum board considers this proposal.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Young', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tommy Young
Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Board Member

cc: Scott Bray
Brad Doyle
Kenny Falwell
John Thomas
Jason Binz

Enclosures/







CONVENTION

DRIVE FORWARD

ARKANSAS



ASSOCIATION

ARKANSAS



ASSOCIATION



Man in suit eating

Frank S...
in the...
2024-2025

Jose
2024-2025

Ryan Johnson
State Representative
2021-2025

Rainlyn
Rainlyn Talavera
Arkansas Tea