

ARKANSAS SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD SPECIAL CALLED MEETING—DAY 1
Zoom Only

Minutes

May 26, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Members Present via Zoom: Josh Cureton, Brad Doyle, West Higginbotham, Matthew Roberson, Patrick Matt Smith, John Freeman

Members Absent: Boyce Johnson, Donald Morton JR., BJ Royce Rodgers II

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:00am. A quorum was established and confirmed by the AR Department of Agriculture (department).

UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD (USB) MEMBER NOMINATION

The board discussed the need to submit two names for United Soybean Board (USB) director nominations on behalf of Arkansas. Administrator Caleb Allen explained the USB nomination process, stating that appointments are three-year terms and members may serve up to three consecutive terms. **ATTACHMENT 1**

Members mentioned that they would prefer an active soybean farmer in this role, prompting discussion.

Several possible candidates were discussed. Jason McGee was suggested and noted as a strong option. Other names were discussed, with some members declining interest due to time constraints.

Admin Allen mentioned that a better outreach program for USB nominations may be developed in the future to make this process easier.

The board agreed to reconvene the next day, May 27, 2026, at 10:00am in a special called meeting to finalize the two names after members reached out to potential candidates.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM – SOYBEAN AG READER MATERIALS APPROVAL

Donette Spann (Arkansas Farm Bureau) gave an update on board-funded projects and asked the board to approve the Soybean Ag Reader for printing. She showed updates made to the publication, including lessons on soybean growth, classroom activities, and Arkansas soybean facts. **ATTACHMENT 2**

Chairman Doyle requested adding information explaining that most vegetable oil sold in stores is soybean oil. Spann agreed to add this.

Chairman Doyle asked Spann if Ag in the Classroom was a national organization and Spann answered that it was.

Motion to approve the Soybean Ag Reader with the added soybean oil information; moved by Matthew Roberson, seconded by Matt Smith. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next summer meeting date is July 23, 2026, at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

Admin Allen requested specific research topics to address in marketing film highlights on behalf of the board's marketing company, the Communications Group.

Members recommended planting timing, fungicide work, irrigation, and insect issues. They also suggested filming with crop consultants or county extension agents to show real field issues.

Chairman Doyle requested that the summer meeting activities include presentations from new funding recipients to explain how they use checkoff dollars. He also suggested a tour of the department's seed laboratory.

RECESS

Meeting recessed at 10:41am until the following morning, May 27, 2026, at 10:00am.

Brad Doyle, Chairman

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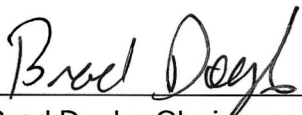
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RECONVENE

Chairman Doyle reconvened the special called meeting at 10:00am. A quorum was established and confirmed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (department). This meeting was a follow-up to continue discussion on the United Soybean Board (USB) director nominations.

UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD (USB) NOMINATIONS

The board reopened discussion on nominations for the USB director seat. Members had reached out to possible candidates after the previous day's meeting to confirm their interest. **ATTACHMENT 1**

Member Smith reported that Matt Miles is willing to serve as a nominee. Board members agreed he is well known in the Arkansas soybean industry and actively engaged in farming. Jason McGee had previously been discussed as another strong candidate and confirmed her would serve if selected.

Board members stated both candidates are qualified. Each brings strong experience in soybean production and outreach, representing Arkansas well on the national stage. Discussion ensued.

Motion to nominate Jason McGee as the primary USB nominee and Matt Miles as the secondary USB nominee; moved by Matthew Roberson, seconded by West Higginbothom. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned around 10:11am.

Brad Doyle, Chairman

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Brad Doyle, Chairman



Appendix 01

USDA Seeks Nominees for the United Soybean Board

HOME › **USDA SEEKS NOMINEES FOR THE UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD**

Date: April 15, 2026

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is seeking nominees for the United Soybean Board for 22 members and three alternates with terms that expire in December 2026. The nominees will represent the following states and regions.

Member Seats:

- Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Alternates Seats:

- Alabama, South Carolina, and Texas.

The deadline for nominations is May 29, 2026. Individuals appointed to the board will serve three-year terms beginning in December 2026.

Soybean producers in the United States who own or share ownership and risk of loss in soybean production are eligible for nomination. To be nominated, a soybean producer must be endorsed by a qualified state soybean board and complete a background application. The Secretary of Agriculture will select individuals from the submitted nominations.

A list of qualified state soybean boards, nomination form, and information about the board are

available on the AMS [United Soybean Board](#) web page and on the board's website, [unitedsoybean.org](#) . For more information, contact Barbara Josselyn at 202-713-6918 or Barbara.Josselyn@usda.gov.

Since 1966, Congress has authorized the development of industry-funded research and promotion boards to provide a framework for agricultural industries to pool their resources and combine efforts to develop new markets, strengthen existing markets and conduct important research and promotion activities. AMS provides oversight of twenty-two boards, paid for by industry assessments, which helps ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

[Return to top](#)



United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2026 United Soybean Board Vacancies

****Names in bold are not eligible to be renominated because they have met their term limits****

State	Number of Vacancies	Current Board Member
Alabama	1	Sam Butler
Alabama ALT	1	David Wilson
Arkansas	1	AJ Hood
Delaware	1	Vacant (2-Year Term)
Illinois	1	Gary Berg
Indiana	1	Tom Griffiths
Iowa	2	Timothy Bardole Brent Renner
Kansas	1	Charles Atkinson
Kentucky	1	Keith Tapp
Maryland	1	Mary Stewart
Michigan	1	Laurie Isley
Minnesota	1	Lawrence Sukalski
Mississippi	1	Philip Good
Missouri	1	Kyle Durham
Nebraska	1	Greg Greving
North Dakota	1	Vacant (2-Year Term)
Ohio	1	Dave Dotterer
South Carolina	1	Fitzhugh Bethea
South Carolina ALT	1	Charlie Whiten
South Dakota	1	Todd Hanten
Tennessee	1	Eric Maupin
Texas	1	Andrew Scott
Texas ALT	1	Sam Sparks
Virginia	1	Vacant (2-Year Term)
TOTAL	22 Members & 3 Alternates	



Arkansas Ag in the Classroom Program Update

Donette Spann

Director, Ag in the Classroom

Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

May 26, 2026





ARKANSAS ELEMENTARY
AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION



Elementary Ag Education Professional Development Workshop

- The Elementary Agriculture Education Pilot Program (Act 243 of 2023)
- To engage elementary students with agriculture curriculum specifically written for K-6 students
- Earn Elementary Ag Education endorsement
- Hands-on training



Elementary Ag Education Professional Development Workshop

- 22 teachers from 15 schools
 - 2-day Summer PD Part 1 (July 2025)
 - 1-day Winter PD Part 2 (Jan 2026)
 - Curriculum Specialist from the National Center for Ag Literacy
- Year 2 of the Pilot Program (2026-2027)
 - 12 schools (20+ more teachers)
 - 2-day workshop with all curriculum in July
 - Quarterly webinars
- SPB helped fund workshops, materials, and curriculum for \$20,000 in FY26





Schools Participating in the Pilot Program

Year 1 (2025-26)

Elkins Primary School
Kirby Elementary School
NLR 6 Academy of Ag & Vet Science
Alma School District
Monticello Intermediate School
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Wynne Primary School
Cave City Elementary School
Calico Rock Elementary
Nettleton STEAM Elementary
Izard Co. STEM Elementary
Lamar Elementary
Atkins Middle School
Pangburn Elementary
Cedar Ridge Elementary

Year 2 of EAEPP (2026-27)

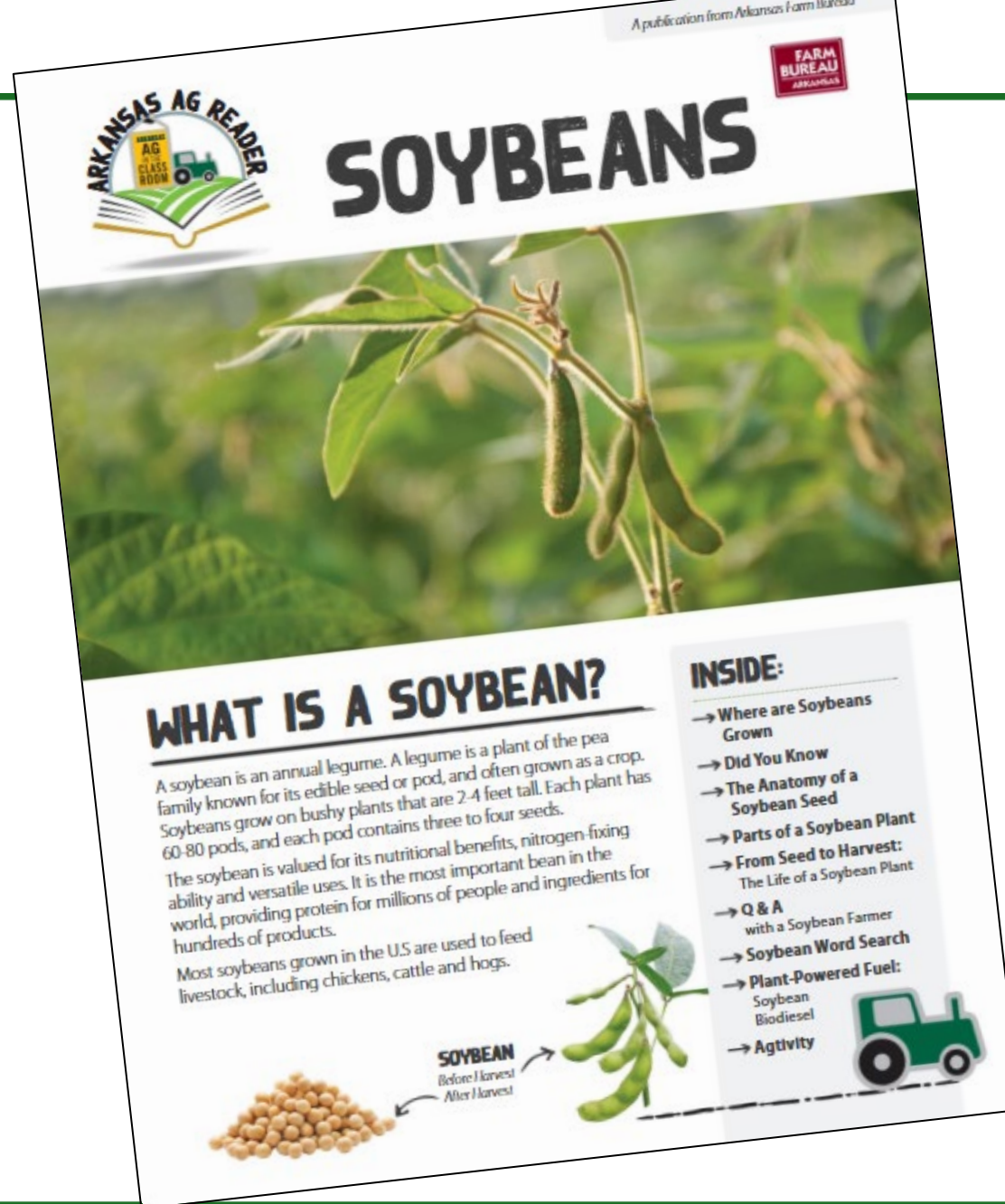
Gurdon School District- Cabe Elementary
Cabot School District- Ward Central Elem.
Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy
Bradford Elementary
Lead Hill Elementary
Viola Elementary
Prairie Grove Primary & Intermediate Schools
Hamburg School District- Allbritton Elementary
Beebe Elementary
Paragould Primary School
Mountain View Elementary
Arkansas Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School





Soybean Ag Reader





Questions?





SOYBEANS

Appendix 2



WHAT IS A SOYBEAN?

A soybean is an annual legume. A legume is a plant of the pea family known for its edible seed or pod, and often grown as a crop. Soybeans grow on bushy plants that are 2-4 feet tall. Each plant has 60-80 pods, and each pod contains three to four seeds.

The soybean is valued for its nutritional benefits, nitrogen-fixing ability and versatile uses. It is the most important bean in the world, providing protein for millions of people and ingredients for hundreds of products.

Most soybeans grown in the U.S are used to feed livestock, including chickens, cattle and hogs.



SOYBEAN
Before Harvest
After Harvest



INSIDE:

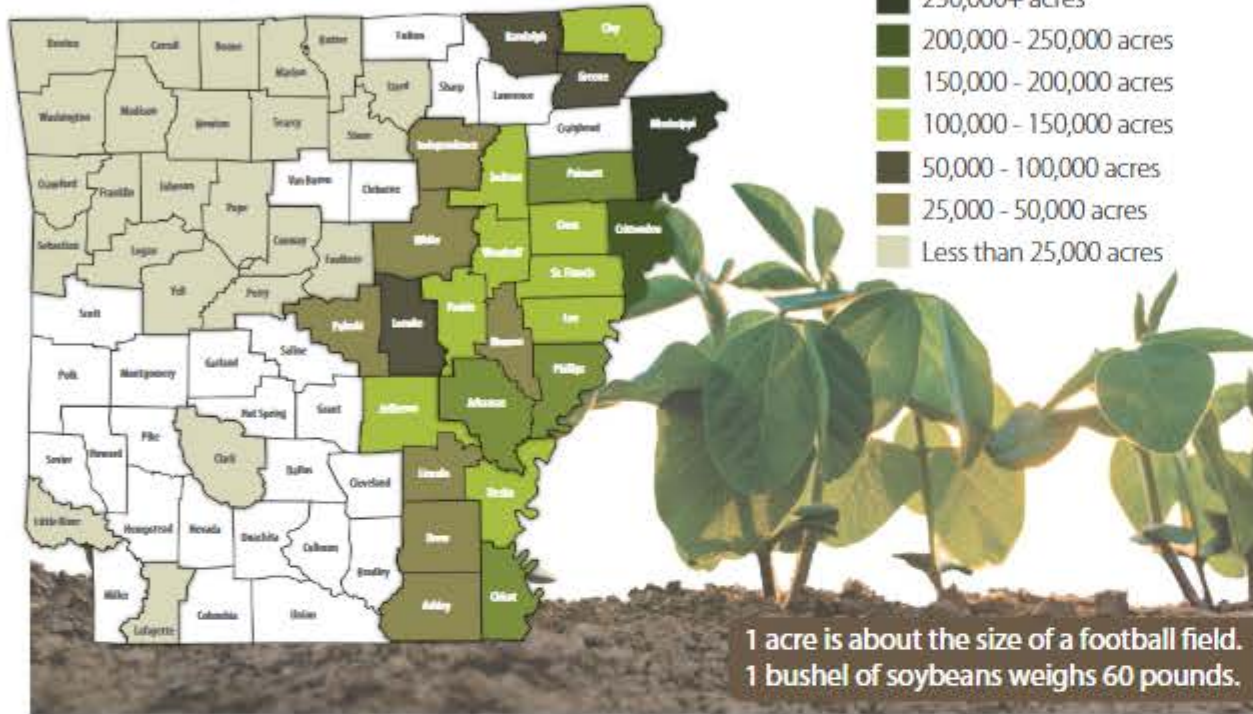
- **Where are Soybeans Grown**
- **Did You Know**
- **The Anatomy of a Soybean Seed**
- **Parts of a Soybean Plant**
- **From Seed to Harvest:**
The Life of a Soybean Plant
- **Q & A**
with a Soybean Farmer
- **Soybean Word Search**
- **Plant-Powered Fuel:**
Soybean Biodiesel
- **Agitivity**



WHERE ARE SOYBEANS GROWN?

Soybeans can grow throughout the state, but are most common in the Delta region along the Mississippi River, where loam soil is found. Soybeans can grow in just about any soil, but they prefer this type. This sandy, claylike mixture holds water well and gives its roots plenty of room to grow.

ARKANSAS COUNTIES THAT GROW SOYBEANS



DID YOU KNOW?! Arkansas has...

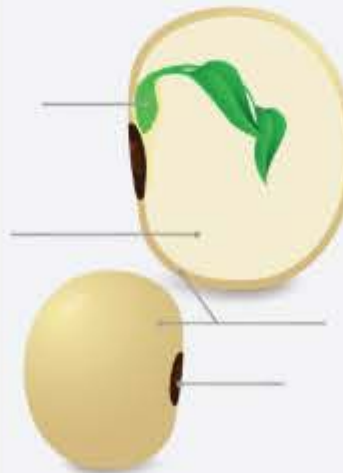
- a soybean crop value of more than **\$2 BILLION.**
- on average **2.9 MILLION** acres of soybeans planted each year.
- a ranking in the **TOP 10** for soybean production each year in the U.S.
- an average crop yield of **55 BUSHEL PER ACRE.**
- **3,140** farms that grow soybeans.
- **150 MILLION** bushels of soybeans grown each year.



THE ANATOMY OF A SOYBEAN SEED

Soybean varieties can grow up to 50 inches tall! Typically planted in spring and harvested in late summer or fall, the state has shifted toward earlier planting in March, utilizing specific maturities to optimize yield.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE PART OF THE SEED?



WORD BANK:

Cotyledon Embryo
Seed Coat Hilum

PARTS OF A SOYBEAN PLANT

IDENTIFY THE PARTS OF THE PLANT

WORD BANK:

Roots Stem
Leaves Seed Pod



FROM SEED TO HARVEST:

The Life of a Soybean Plant

1 Germination begins when the seed coat softens enough for the primary root, called the radical, to emerge from the seed into the soil. This can take 5 to 15 days after planting.



2 Emergence occurs when the hypocotyl is pulled up through the soil like a hook. Once out of the soil, the stem straightens and the first true leaves, or cotyledons, emerge at the top of the stem. Vegetation consists of leaves that develop along the stem. Leaves occur in sets of three and attach to nodes on the stem.



3 Reproduction involves flowers blooming and pollination taking place. Fertilization occurs, and seed pods begin to develop.



4 Maturity is reached when all the pods are filled with fully developed seeds. The plant turns brown and dies, and is now ready for harvest!



Q & A with a SOYBEAN FARMER

Q How did you start farming.
My name is Josh Cureton. My wife Melissa and I have three kids, and I'm a 6th generation Arkansas soybean farmer. I grew up farming soybeans and rice with my dad and grandpa. I started driving equipment when I was young, and even though farming is hard work, I enjoy being outside and doing something different every day.

Q When do you plant and harvest soybeans? Do you irrigate?

In Arkansas, soybeans are planted in the spring, depending on the weather. Most summers are dry, so we irrigate using poly pipe or levees, which moves water across the fields. We harvest rice first, then soybeans, usually in October. With good weather, harvest goes quickly and can wrap up by Halloween.

Q What machines do you use?

We use tractors and plows in the spring, then a large sprayer with a 90-foot boom to control weeds and pests. A pump system brings water from the river to irrigate beans. At harvest, combines gather the soybeans and unload them into grain buggies and then trucks headed to the mill.

Q What's your favorite part of being a soybean farmer?

I enjoy watering the beans and watching them turn green with new growth. I also like running the sprayer. We spray crops to keep plants healthy by protecting them from bugs, weeds and sickness. But harvest is my favorite — seeing the grain come in after a year of hard work. It's the busiest time of year, and all of our crew works together to get the crop in.

Q What are soybeans used for that kids might know about?

Most soybeans are made into soymeal for animal feed and soy oil for foods like french fries, brownies and cereal. Soy oil is also used to make things like truck fuel, candles, crayons and even road materials.

MEET JOSH
He's an Arkansas
soybean farmer.



ANNE
Josh's best friend.





Word Search:

SOYBEANS ARE EVERYWHERE!

D O G F O O D P I G F E E D Z S E O C V
 A Z V Q D D O Q S X M P Y Z H N W K E Y
 I W H E F H D F D Q P Y P T N H T I U Y
 J J V D F T P E B V E Q M E C I T O W S
 A F D A N C A T F O O D H K Q D C A X A
 X U G M C Y S B T O F U N W L E S O A P
 V L W A F W U L O F O Z M U U D K B E R
 V W P M T F N T W Y B W K C E R E A L I
 L R G E F G S X S D M K X I K J F Z L Z
 T S L Y U C C U R C A T T L E F E E D I
 C I N U I A R L S B B C R X J F X I I N
 Y N C U K N E S X P K D Z C R A Y O N S
 X K A A C D E P P R O T E I N B A R S U
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 X U H N C S S Z V J Z K I U H G J X C T
 X D D W U S O Y M I L K E J B R X X X I
 I Q V H H W O Z N F I S H F O O D O V O
 U B P N N Q I C J P F X Z S F L Z E T N
 S O Y S A U C E C O O K I N G O I L D S

Search List

Dog Food	Fish Food	Cooking Oil	Tofu	Insulation
Cat Food	Pig Feed	Cereal	Crayons	Candles
Cattle Feed	Soy Milk	Edamame	Sunscreen	Soap
Chicken Feed	Protein Bars	Soy Sauce	Medications	Ink

PLANT-POWERED FUEL:

Soybean Biodiesel

Biodiesel is a clean fuel made from things we already use at home and on farms — like used cooking oil, soybean oil and even animal fats. It's easy to use, safe for the environment and breaks down naturally.

Biodiesel is used to power trucks, tractors and even your school bus! It also powers trains, boats and airplanes.



BIODIESEL

is commonly described as "carbon neutral."

Being carbon neutral means balancing the carbon we put into the air with the carbon we take out so the Earth stays healthy.

ONE ACRE OF SOYBEANS produces about **57 GALLONS** of biodiesel.

ACTIVITY

BEANIE BABY

Now that you know about soybeans, why not grow your own?

Materials Needed:

- Jewelry-sized resealable bags
- Cotton balls
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle of water
- Soybean seeds
- Yarn

Directions:

1. With your finger, press a little indent into the cotton ball.
2. Spray the indent with water three times. Seeds need moisture to grow.
3. Place the seed in the indent. Do not scrunch up the cotton ball. Seeds need oxygen to grow.
4. Put the cotton ball inside the plastic bag.
5. Hole punch the corner of the bag and thread the string through.
6. Tie the ends of the string together to make a necklace.
7. Put the necklace on and tuck it under your shirt. Seeds need warmth to grow. Wear it all day and watch it sprout!





AG READER PROVIDED BY



ARFB.COM/AITC

PRINTED USING SOY-BASED TONER.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture,
American Soybean Association, United Soybean
Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture and
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

Ag Reader is an agricultural magazine for kids
produced by Arkansas Farm Bureau.

ACTIVITY ANSWERS

ANATOMY OF A SOYBEAN SEED:

- 1) Hilum 2) Seed Coat
- 3) Cotyledon 4) Embryo

ANATOMY OF A SOYBEAN PLANT:

- 1) Leaves 2) Seed Pod 3) Stem 4) Roots

