

## Considering an Insecticide Treatment?

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Insecticide seed treatments (IST) have provided a positive return in the Mid-South in nearly 80% of research trials when compared to an untreated check (with a fungicide), according to multiple studies conducted over seven years by entomologists from the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Louisiana State University, the University of Tennessee and Mississippi State University.

There may be several reasons for this, but changes in production practices in recent years have changed the pest spectrum and made ISTs a very viable option for growers. Many growers are moving toward reduced tillage production practices, which are more favorable for soil dwelling insects. Increasing costs of production, along with the increasing value of soybeans, add more pressure to growers and make it even more important to get the crop up to a good, healthy start. Soybeans grown under the early season soybean production system face the most stress. Often, when growers plant in early-April or even late-March, it can turn cold and wet, making it a struggle for plants to survive. While these plants are stressed, pests can attack and cause damage to the developing plant.

With over 110 trials conducted in the Mid-South, we see an average yield increase of about 3.5 bu/A with ISTs. However, when evaluating early planted fields in these trials, average yields almost double to over 6 bu/A.

We have documented control of several pests, including grape colaspis (lespedeza worm), thrips, grubs and threecornered alfalfa hoppers, as well as suppression of bean leaf beetles. Another positive attribute to ISTs is an increase in plant stand and vigor; while not as consistent as the insect control, it is often observable and the more stressful the situation the more pronounced it can be seen.

ISTs are especially useful if you have had a history of pests in a field, have a lot of plant residue in the field at planting, have other stress factors associated with the field or if you're concerned about weather.

Growers have several IST choices for 2011. Cruiser and Gaucho were the first products available and the ones we have the most data on; however, there are two new seed treatments which should provide similar attributes. These are the Inovate system and Acceleron. We encourage growers to price these seed treatments, being careful to consider fungicide packages along with the IST component to get the best value. Based on this research data, ISTs can provide real value to growers.

## Arkansas Soybeans Information Available by Blog or Facebook

You can now follow the latest news about Arkansas soybeans via your favorite social networking sites ... Facebook and Blogspot. Keep up with the latest soybean news by accessing the new "Arkansas Soybean" blog at:

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## Economics News

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This market economics component looks at cash market & forward pricing quotes from selected markets as reported to National Agricultural Statistics Service in Arkansas.

The Arkansas cash soybean market lost 9 cents over the weekend and opened at \$14.12 (Figure 1). The market showed strength early in the week, climbing steadily to a high of \$14.38 on Wednesday, but then declined over the final two trading days. The Friday closing price was \$14.02, an overall 19-cent fall from the previous Friday closing mark. Friday's average price still represented the second straight weekly close above \$14.00 since January 14. High individual market daily average for the week was \$14.61 at both West Memphis and Old Town/Elaine on Wednesday. Helena-West Helena reached \$14.57 on the same day, the only other market to exceed \$14.51 during the week. The lowest individual market daily average was found on Friday, with \$13.80 reported at both Jonesboro and Wheatley.

Figure 1.

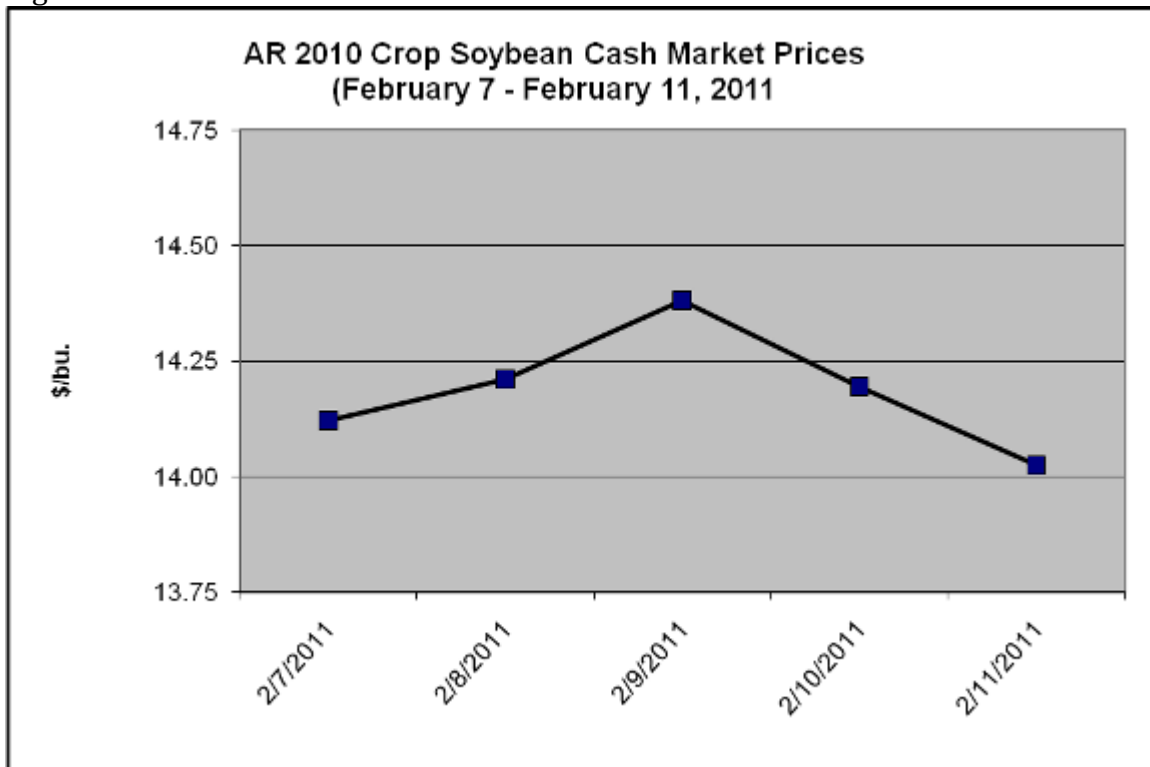
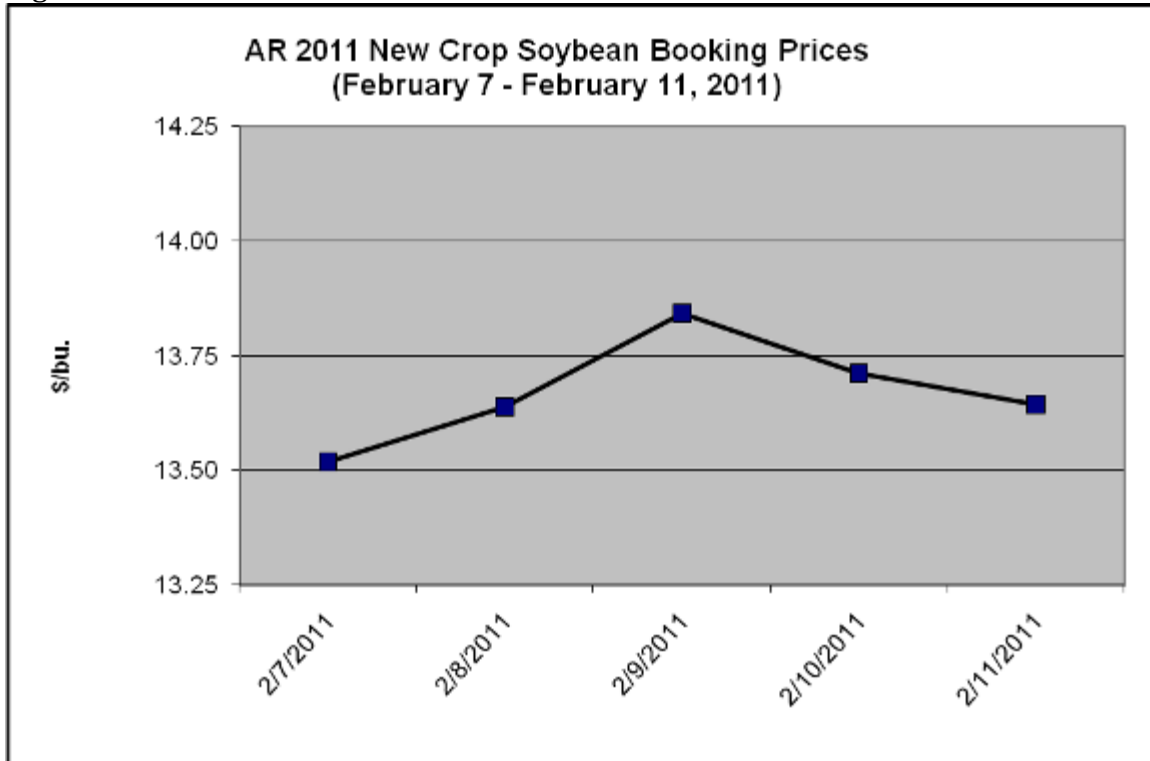


Figure 2.



Forward booking prices for 2011 crop beans again saw a stronger movement than the cash market. Over the past weekend, the forward market lost only 3 cents to open at \$13.52 on Monday (Figure 2). New crop beans price improved through midweek, reaching a high point of \$13.84 on Wednesday. The new crop booking market then went down through the remainder of the week to close on Friday at \$13.64, a 9-cent overall gain from the previous Friday closing price. West Memphis again posted the top daily price of the week, with \$14.03 on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday, Old Town/Elaine, at \$14.02, and Helena-West Helena at \$14.00 were the only other markets that broke the \$14.00 level during the week. The lowest price of the week was \$13.26 at Wynne on Monday. The price margin between cash market old crop beans and new crop booking prices decreased sharply from 66 cents to 38 cents, a narrowing of 28 cents.

(Market average prices stated in this report are unweighted averages of the state markets surveyed by NASS. Price data was based on USDA LR GR111 Arkansas Daily Grain Reports.)

## Contact Information

Please contact your local county extension agent in Arkansas or the author(s) if you have questions or comments regarding the newsletter. You may also contact Jeremy Ross, extension agronomist for soybeans at [jross@uaex.edu](mailto:jross@uaex.edu) or 501-944-0621.