

March 2004
BY-LAWS OF COMMERCIAL SOYBEAN BREEDERS

Purpose of Commercial Soybean Breeders

Soybean variety development funded by commercial seed interest has grown dramatically over the last 15 years. It has become apparent that an organization is needed to represent the common interest of the private sector. Therefore, the organization referred to as "Commercial Soybean Breeders" was formed in March of 1976. The reason for organizing the Commercial Soybean Breeders include the following:

1. To encourage and promote a professional image and attitude among Commercial Soybean Breeders.
2. To encourage and promote a better working relationship among private and public soybean breeders.
3. To encourage and promote more effective utilization of existing germplasm in all soybean breeding programs.
4. To provide a unified voice for Commercial Soybean Breeders in governmental or industrial policy matters.
5. To assist in developing workshops, conferences and other educational meeting designed to communicate current research findings.
6. To promote soybeans as a profitable crop.
7. To improve the efficiency of production and utilization of soybean protein and oil.

I. Membership Requirements

- A. Memberships shall be held by individuals rather than companies.
- B. Three membership categories shall be recognized: active, associate and honorary. Only active members shall have voting privileges or serve on the executive board.
 1. Active membership may be held by commercial project or program leaders who personally direct projects or programs for improving soybean cultivars through breeding and/or genetics and whose employer or company is a member of the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders.

F. Executive Board Vacancies

1. In the event of Board vacancies, the remaining Board shall have the option to fill vacancy by appointment or by general election.
2. Any member appointed or elected to fill a Board vacancy will be eligible for reelection to the Board at the end of the term he is filling only if the Board member has not served more than 1 ½ continuous years.

III. The offices and functions of the Executive Board of the Commercial Breeders shall be as follow:

A. The newly elected Executive Board shall convene soon after the election and select a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. In addition, another member shall be chosen to chair the Nominations and Elections Committee.

1. Duties of the Chairman include:
 - a. Preside over all Executive Board meetings, as well as meetings of the Commercial Soybean Breeders.
 - b. Call Executive Board meetings at least once prior to annual meeting of total membership.
 - c. Act as liaison between public soybean breeders and industry representatives for the purpose of establishing joint meetings, workshops, and advisement's on the matter of mutual interest.
2. Vice Chairman: Shall preside over meetings and otherwise fulfill the duties of the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.
3. Secretary:
 - a. Shall take accurate minutes of all Executive Board and general meetings and send copies of all proceedings to the total membership.
 - b. Shall keep a current list of membership in Commercial Soybean Breeders.
 - c. Shall notify membership of meeting, workshops, etc.
4. Treasurer:
 - a. Shall keep accurate records of moneys received and disbursed in conducting workshops and meetings.
 - b. Shall be responsible for collecting registration fees at meetings and making timely deposits into appropriate CSB checking account.

- c. Shall keep the Executive Board and membership informed of status of CSB account.
- d. Shall set registration fees for meetings and workshops in conjunction with the Executive Board.
- e. Shall serve a two year active term and serve in an advisory capacity to a new treasurer in the third year of Board Membership.
- f. Shall be responsible for having proper signatures on file with the institution holding the CSB checking account.

B. Functions of the Executive Board

1. To provide leadership to the Commercial Soybean Breeders.
2. To seek means of improving dissemination of research data from public research projects to the Commercial Soybean Breeders.
3. To expedite release of Experiment Station germplasm for use in breeding programs.

IV. Acceptance and amendments of the By-Laws

- A. These By-Laws will be effective when adopted by a 2/3 majority of the members voting at the first annual meeting.
- B. The By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of members present at the annual meeting. Amendments must be presented to the Chairman of the Executive Board six weeks prior to the annual meeting.

V. The annual meeting date and place shall be set by the Executive Board and the membership shall be notified by the Secretary at least eight weeks in advance of the date set.

2. Associate membership may be held by retired Commercial Soybean Breeders and by commercial project or program leaders who personally direct projects or programs for improving soybean cultivars through breeding and/or genetics and whose employer or company is not a member of the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders.
3. Honorary membership may be held by individuals nominated by Executive Committee and approved by the general membership.

II. Election of Officers

Six members shall be elected to serve a 3-year term of office on the Executive Board. The election shall take place at the annual meeting.

A. Tenure

1. No board member may be elected to consecutive terms, except as provided for in Item F paragraph 2.
2. Three-year term rule shall be effective retroactive to the first annual meeting.

B. The membership of the Executive Board shall not be comprised of more than five members from either the Northern or Southern Region.

C. No company shall have more than one member on the Executive Board.

D. Election Procedures

1. The Executive Board shall be elected at the annual Commercial Soybean Breeders' meeting by a simple majority of the members present.
2. The Executive Board shall select one of its members other than the Chairman or Secretary to preside over the election and chair the Nomination and Election Committee. The Executive Board shall also select two persons from the general membership to serve on this committee. The Nomination and Election Committee shall make nominations for the Executive Board. Further nominations will be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting.
3. Ballots shall be secret and shall be counted and verified by the Nomination and Election Committee.
4. Election results shall be announced as soon as tabulated and verified.

E. Commencement of duties of newly elected officers shall begin immediately after the election.