**Consent for Research Participation**

**Research Study Title:** Mid-South Regional Soybean Variety Testing Database

**Researcher(s):** Virginia Sykes, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Richard Bond, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; Claire Venard, University of Kentucky, Lexington; Ryan Heiniger, North Carolina State University, Raleigh; David Holshouser, Virginia Tech, Suffolk

We are asking you to be in this research study because you are involved in soybean production (grower, seed industry, Extension, crop advisor). You must be age 18 or older to participate in the study. The information in this consent form is to help you decide if you want to be in this research study. Please take your time reading this form and contact the researcher(s) to ask questions if there is anything you do not understand.

#### Why is the research being done?

The purpose of the research study is to develop a web-based, Mid-South soybean variety testing database that allows end-users to summarize and filter yield, quality, and phenotypic data based on location characteristics that cross multiple states. This study is being conducted by researchers at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and researchers at University of Kentucky, Virginia Tech, NC State, and University of Arkansas. The research team and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is receiving funding from the United Soybean Board.

#### What will I do in this study?

If you agree to be in this study, you will complete an online survey. The survey includes questions about your role in soybean production and preferences for a Multi-State soybean variety test database and should take you about 10 minutes to complete. You can skip questions that you do not want to answer.

#### Can I say “No”?

Being in this study is up to you. You can stop up until you submit the survey. After you submit the survey, we cannot remove your responses because we will not know which responses came from you.

#### Are there any risks to me?

There is no more risk than expected in everyday life.

#### Are there any benefits to me?

There is a possibility that you may benefit from being in the study, but there is no guarantee that will happen. Possible benefits include access to a Mid-South variety testing database. Even if you don’t benefit from being in the study, your participation may help us to learn more about utility and preferences for reporting of soybean variety test data. We hope the knowledge gained from this study will benefit others in the future.

#### What will happen with the information collected for this study?

The survey is anonymous, and no one will be able to link your responses back to you. Your responses to the survey will not be linked to your computer, email address or other electronic identifiers. Please do not include your name or other information that could be used to identify you in your survey responses. Information provided in this survey can only be kept as secure as any other online communication.

Information collected for this study will be published and possibly presented at scientific meetings.

#### Who can answer my questions about this research study?

If you have questions or concerns about this study, or have experienced a research related problem or injury, contact the researchers, Dr. Virginia Sykes, vsykes@utk.edu, 865-974-7285

For questions or concerns about your rights or to speak with someone other than the research team about the study, please contact:

Institutional Review Board

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1534 White Avenue

Blount Hall, Room 408

Knoxville, TN 37996-1529

Phone: 865-974-7697

Email: utkirb@utk.edu

#### Statement of Consent

I have read this form, been given the chance to ask questions and have my questions answered. If I have more questions, I have been told who to contact. By clicking the “I Agree” button below, I am agreeing to be in this study. I can print or save a copy of this consent information for future reference. If I do not want to be in this study, I can close my internet browser.