

Looking for *Best* Soybean Combo

Dr. Ernie Clawson is looking for a combination that produces optimum soybean yields. Clawson, an LSU AgCenter agronomist at its Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish, is studying row spacing, planting dates and maturity groups to find the best combination for soybean production.

In the study, soybeans were planted in narrow rows – 20 inches apart – and wide rows were on a 40-inch row spacing. Results in 2006 showed that when beans were planted in late March or early April, narrow rows yielded more than wide rows.

Photo by Mark Claesgens

The yield difference between row spacings was less when the beans were planted from mid-April to mid-May. “There’s not as much pronounced difference,” Clawson said.

His work confirms that Maturity Group IV is

higher yielding than MG III. Within a given row spacing, yields of MG IV generally were greater than MG III, regardless of planting date. And a single MG V variety performed well at early planting dates.

“We’re not ready to make a recommendation for Maturity Group V beans, but we are pleased with the results so far,” Clawson said.

Further research is needed to verify the results obtained in 2006, and a similar study is under way in 2007, he said. Bruce Schultz



LSU AgCenter agronomist Dr. Ernie Clawson explains some of his 2006 research with soybean maturity groups, planting dates and row spacing at a field day this year. Clawson is continuing the work, which is aimed at finding the optimum combination for soybean yields.