

# SOYBEAN RESEARCH PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR PROFILE – CAROLYN LOWRY

Farmer Blog



Carolyn Lowry, Assistant Professor of Weed Ecology and Management, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State University

## **Why did you decide to pursue a career that includes soybean research?**

*I love thinking about how weather variability affects weeds and weed management. Soybeans are a very important crop both regionally and globally, and using cover crops before soybeans is becoming more common. Because cover crops may play a role in resilience for weather variability, focusing on soybeans is a natural fit.*

## **What research topic have you completed in the past or are working on now that could have or has had the most significant impact on soybean production?**

*My research examining how extreme rainfall events influence the efficacy of residual herbicides of varying solubility and how a cereal rye cover crop impacts weed control efficacy has great potential to help soybean farmers protect their crops. As my first soy-focused project, it will lay a foundation for better understanding weed control under climate variability.*

## **How has the soybean checkoff enhanced your ability to find answers to production problems for farmers?**

*It is reassuring to know that a question is valuable, and that farmers see research as worthwhile. Working with the soy checkoff provides that assurance. Through those connections, I hear about issues farmers are dealing with, which builds confidence in establishing a research program to address those issues. That support also pushes me to keep asking these types of questions.*

## **Within your area of expertise, what are the top two or three general recommendations you would offer farmers to improve their management practices?**

*As a weed ecologist, I encourage farmers to incorporate diversity in herbicides, modes of*

*action, non-chemical weed control and crop rotations. Diverse weed management slows the development of herbicide resistance and preserves the longevity of effective herbicides and tactics.*

**Within your area of expertise, what do you consider to be critical soybean research needs that can impact the profitability of farmers in the future?**

*We need to continue evaluating weather variability and how that influences agronomic management practices.*



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