

# SOYBEAN RESEARCH PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR PROFILE – STEPHEN BILES



Stephen Biles, Integrated Pest Management Extension agent, Calhoun, Refugio and Victoria Counties in Texas for soybeans, as well as cotton, corn, grain sorghum and pastures

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

*I wanted to help farmers grow their crops in a more profitable manner.*

**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?**

*I am working on IPM projects for management of stink bugs in soybeans, including scouting techniques, economic thresholds and insecticide efficacy trials.*

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

*Soybean checkoff funds have helped cover the costs of the field research projects, especially with helping cover field technician wages and travel costs.*

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

*Scout fields for insect pests weekly. Treat pest populations when they exceed economic thresholds. Check after treatment to ensure the product applied performed as expected.*

**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?**

*Discovery of new insecticides for stink bug control is critical, especially red-banded stink bugs.*



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