



# Edamame Production Facts

for Arkansas' emerging industry

## Past

- ✓ Very limited domestic edamame production prior to 2012
- ✓ More than 95% of edamame is imported from China to the U.S.
- ✓ Well-established industry in Asia for more than 30 years



## Present

- ✓ JYC Foods, a major edamame import company, has selected Arkansas to be the first major area for large scale and systematic domestic production in the U.S.
- ✓ American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame, Inc. (AVS), a sub-company of JYC Foods, has been established and will complete construction of a 32,000 sq. ft. facility in Mulberry in mid 2012 to process, package and distribute edamame products.
- ✓ More than 800 acres of conventional and organic edamame have been contracted with AR growers in 2012.
- ✓ 2 varieties will be grown in 2012; UA Kirksey was developed through the University of Arkansas breeding program, and the other is traditional Asian variety.

Freshly picked and cleaned  
▼ edamame, ready to eat

## Future

- ✓ Edamame consumption in the U.S. is rising by an estimated 12-15% per year.
- ✓ AVS will expand production capability to meet increasing demand and will contract additional acreage in AR and expand product offerings in 2013.



## Not your father's soybean - edamame facts

- ▶ Seed and harvest are provided by AVS under contract with the grower.
- ▶ Determinate varieties produce uniformity of quality and maturity.
- ▶ Seeding rate and stand establishment targets are generally lower than standard soybeans.
- ▶ Seed are larger than typical soybeans; therefore, planters must be adjusted to accommodate the size
- ▶ Soil crusting must be minimal to ensure quality emergence of the large cotyledons.
- ▶ Irrigation is vital; higher nitrogen rates than for traditional soybeans may be required.
- ▶ Pod quality may be affected by insects and diseases; frequent scouting is necessary.
- ▶ Insect thresholds are being reevaluated for edamame production.
- ▶ Many pesticides that are labeled for soybeans are not approved for edamame; always read and follow label directions.
- ▶ Varieties are non-GMO, therefore Roundup cannot be used in or around edamame.

- ▶ The Arkansas River Valley appears to be geographically and environmentally ideal for the initial production.
- ▶ Pods are harvested at R6 growth stage when green seeds are full size (touching within the pod) but prior to maturity.
- ▶ The desired product is the large, blemish-free pods.

◀ An edamame harvester-a modified green bean picker.

