

**Sydney Fuller wins 2023 Arkansas Soybean Science Challenge Award for Southeast Arkansas**

Sydney Fuller, 14, a freshman at Stuttgart High School in Stuttgart, Arkansas, won the Soybean Science Challenge award for Southeast Arkansas Science Fair on March 10.

Fuller received a $300 cash award provided by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board. Her science project titled “Effects of growing environment on plants and productivity” also placed second in Plant Science.

 Katherine Yancy, Sydney’s teacher, won the $200 Soybean Science Challenge Teacher- Mentor award. Yancy said it was a great idea for Sydney to participate in the Soybean Science Challenge. “Sydney is an absolute dream student. Sydney was super excited about her project and now that she has seen an actual competition, she is getting ready with ideas for next year.”

 Sydney says winning the regional Soybean Science Challenge Senior Division Award was an honor and she was thrilled just to be able to participate.

 Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, Sydney’s parents, were excited that Sydney won the Senior Division Regional Soybean Science Challenge Award. “We were very proud to see her win this award,” they replied.

 Yancy, Sydney’s teacher, discussed what Sydney learned by competing in the Soybean Science Challenge. “She watched all the films and participated in all the quizzes on the online course. By doing the course she gained knowledge about agriculture and some of the newer practices,” she explained.

Sydney learned a lot while working on his project. “I gained knowledge of soybeans and their importance to our economy,” she stated.

 “The Soybean Science Challenge provides an opportunity for Arkansas Junior High and High School students to participate in scientific research that can impact the State of Arkansas as well as the world. Soybean Science Challenge student researchers learn about this important commodity crop and its many uses including feeding the world, development of biofuels and sustainable products. The Soybean Science Challenge helps students develop an understanding of the challenges and complexities of modern farming,” said Dr. Julie Robinson, Associate Professor and director of the program.

 “The goal of the Arkansas Soybean Science Challenge is to engage students in “real- world” education to support soybean production and agricultural sustainability,” said Gary Sitzer, a former member of the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board. “The program also rewards scientific inquiry and discovery that supports the Arkansas Soybean Industry.”

The Arkansas Soybean Science Challenge was launched in January 2014 to 9-12th grade science students and in 2021, a Junior level award was added for grades 6-8. Students who successfully completed the online course were eligible to have their original soybean-related research projects judged at the 2023 ISEF-affiliated Arkansas Science and Engineering Fairs.

Information on the 2023-2024 Arkansas Soybean Science Challenge will be available in summer 2023. For more information, contact Dr. Julie Robinson at jrobinson@uada.edu or Diedre Young at dyoung@uada.edu.

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

**Sydney Fuller, Stuttgart High School, Stuttgart, Arkansas; Teacher, Katherine Yancy**

**Category: Plant Science**

**Project Title: Effects of growing environment on plants and productivity**

**Abstract:**

If you want to have more pepper production, my data suggests you use soil. If you want taller pepper plants, you should use hydroponics. Kale had no huge difference, but soil was numerically better than hydroponics.

In conclusion, soil and hydroponics had no clear difference after 23 days. After more time, statistics prove that there would be no difference except between peppers and kale. Kale was better than peppers and had more growth over 23 days in both treatments.



Southeast Arkansas Regional Science Fair Senior Division Winner Sydney Fuller and teacher mentor Katherine Yancey.