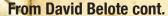
## **Welcome to Tennessee Soybean Festival 2018**

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one of the more unique and diverse commodities known to humankind, the Soybean... The Magic Bean! I want to extend a special thanks to Mr. Parks Wells and the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board for their on-going support of the Festival. Also, a BIG THANK YOU to the Tennessee soybean farmer for their contributions to our West Tennessee economy and to our general well being. It is uncanny all of the good found in that little bean... the jobs it creates, the products it produces, and the communities it brings together. As Jim Byford sings in our "Soybean Bean" song, let's all give "three cheers for the soybean, the hero of land!"

The Bean is the "Hero of the Land," and it takes community heroes in order to produce an "award winning" festival. Our 2017 festival placed in the gold, silver, and bronze in 12 out of a possible 19 regional

award categories as presented by the Southeast Festivals and Events Association. Last year, our Tennessee Soybean Festival was honored as one of the top three festivals in the South! How did this happen... It happened because we have a dedicated festival committee whose members are "all in," in striving to make this festival the absolute best. We have a host of sponsors and community players who believe in building community and who contribute resources not only to the building of this festival but for the betterment of this community. We have a city government whose leadership is forward thinking and is willing to invest in those activities, events, and programs that lead to an improved quality of life for all of us. Join me in thanking all of these wonderful folks! They are our community heroes!

Friends, we have produced what we consider to be the best festival to date and we want you to come on out and enjoy all it's many events and activities. Truly, there is something for everyone at the 2018 Tennessee Soybean Festival. 25 years of good times, good people, and special memories... Be the "Y" in SO\_BEAN... because you are!

See you at the BEAN!
David Belote
Executive Director
The TN Soybean Festival

## From Dr. Keith Carver, cont.

of Martin each year to offer the week of entertainment, food, crafts and community that make this festival such a success.

Thank you for returning to Martin this year! If this is your first festival, welcome! I hope you will make lasting memories with us and plan to be come back when we celebrate 26 years next fall,

Dr. Keith S. Carver Jr. UT Martin Chancellor

