

Welcome to Tennessee Soybean Festival 2018



On behalf of the Board of Aldermen, staff, and residents, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to Martin—home of the Tennessee Soybean Festival and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Just like the Tennessee Soybean Festival, the City of Martin has seen positive change and growth over the years. We hope that you come to Martin to see for yourself and enjoy the festival.

While you are with us in Martin, I encourage you to take advantage of our many unique shops, parks and



restaurants.

Planning a festival has its challenges, but we always strive to find the right mix of everything to present a

bigger and better festival year after year. This year is no different as we celebrate Twenty-Five years of the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

In the pages ahead, you will find a complete event schedule, sponsor recognition, and special articles featuring agriculture, events, and local highlights happening in Martin relating to the festival.

Much recognition and appreciation is extended to the many who put in countless hours of work to make the Tennessee Soybean Festival a success.

I sincerely thank those who give of their time and contribute both monetarily and in-kind.

While the Tennessee Soybean Festival has a proven significant positive impact for our local businesses, it is the spirit of community the Tennessee Soybean Festival exudes that is the most rewarding.

Please accept my invitation to witness Historic Downtown Martin transformed into the Tennessee Soybean Festival. See you at the bean!

Randy Brundige
Mayor, City of Martin

From David Belote, Festival Executive Director

Hello Friends!

WOW! 25 fantastic years of The Tennessee Soybean Festival! I am proud to say that I have participated in some shape, form or fashion in each of the 25 festivals and I am so honored to have served the last 16 years as the Festival's Executive Director, a magnificent experience!

Today, we are able to celebrate the "Award Winning" Tennessee Soybean Festival knowing that any success we have achieved as a community festival can be traced back to its origin and to its founders. Former Mayor of Martin, Larry Taylor with the talented assistance of Dr. Jerry Gresham, the Festival's first director, gathered a group of community minded citizens and inspired a vision of a festival for our community! This enthusiastic group went to work and established a solid organizational structure and developed a host of core events that have become the foundation of our festival today. Their work has created a



highly anticipated, annual event with its primary focus to honor our heritage and culture, and to celebrate all that is good about our community. I know that we have held true to this vision and we are continuing to work diligently to make our Festival as grand as it possibly can be... We have worked diligently to make the 25th Tennessee Soybean Festival the grandest of all!

Soybeans... "There's nothing like the BEAN!" Thank goodness for the Tennessee farmer and thank goodness for their production of the

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From Dr. Keith Carver, UT-Martin Chancellor

I wonder how many thousands of people have attended the Tennessee Soybean Festival over the past 25 years. How many families have made memories here that children still carry with them to this day?

As I look back on the past quarter-century, it's obvious that the Tennessee Soybean Festival has made an impact on the culture and history of the Martin area. I have lived in Martin for seven of the past 25 years, and this is my family's eighth festival so far.

Hollianne and I loved chaperoning our children's trips to the Soybean Festival when they were in elementary school here in Martin. We enjoyed having carnival and festival activities for the kids during the day and then coming back by ourselves for a concert in the evening. There really is something for everyone here!

The festival continues to grow and improve, boast-



ing bigger concert appearances and more activities throughout the week than the year before. There is a reason so many come back year after year, and it is always a pleasure to hear their stories of festivals-past.

UT Martin has been a major sponsor of the Tennessee Soybean Festival for much of its existence, and several university employees were instrumental in its creation all those years ago. As a strong supporter of agricultural education and our local producers, the university is proud to partner with the city

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