



For Immediate Release
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**DEBORAH JOHNSON OF NORTH CAROLINA PORK COUNCIL
RECEIVES MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD FROM
STATE SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION**

RALEIGH, N.C. – Deborah Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of North Carolina Pork Council received the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association’s Meritorious Service Award at the association’s 47th annual meeting in Durham, N.C. on Jan. 16, 2014. The award recognizes one producer and one individual in the industry for their outstanding contributions to N.C. soybean farmers. Johnson received the Meritorious Service Award for her partnership and leadership in communicating about and promoting agriculture to a statewide audience. Bernard Lennon, president of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, presented the award to Johnson.

Johnson has served as the chief executive officer of the North Carolina Pork Council since Nov. 2005 and has worked in the livestock and poultry industries since 1980. She has twice been appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the National Pork Board. Johnson is a founding co-chair of the North Carolina Animal Agriculture Coalition, where she has partnered with other livestock organizations, row crop associations, the Farm Bureau and other statewide agricultural associations to support animal agriculture.

For more information, call Charles Hall, Chief Executive Officer of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association at (800) 839-5775.

The North Carolina Soybean Producers Association is a statewide trade association representing all N.C. soybean producers, responsible for research, education and promotion programs to benefit the state’s soybean farmers. The association is the qualified state board responsible for administering national soybean checkoff programs in North Carolina. The association is the state affiliate of the American Soybean Association (ASA.)

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