

## Navigating through MU Soybean Release

### **Is there a way to trace experimental lines listed in Variety Testing data to commercial lines?**

No. If UM elects to release through a non-exclusive license, they are licensing rights to the same variety to multiple companies. The license agreement prohibits the companies from disclosing the source of the variety (UM) and UM is prohibited from disclosing which companies have the line and the name(s) it is marketed under.

### **What about in the case of certified seed?**

If UM elected to release the experimental variety as a named cultivar for production as a class of certified seed, then Missouri Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) would provide information as part of the variety description. An example of this would be 'Jake' soybeans, which were developed at UM and tested as experimental S00-9970-09.

### **Why the change from certified seed route to non-exclusive licensing to companies?**

The reality is that funding for variety development dried up many years ago and UM was forced to adopt the non-exclusive licensing method of release in order to maximize the funds flowing back to the variety development programs through royalties collected on each unit of seed sold. There have recently been changes implemented that I believe will allow for more certified varieties to be released for sale by variety name than have been available for many years, but branded product is here to stay.