



# SOY TRANSPORTATION COALITION

## *FARM TO MARKET: A SOYBEAN'S JOURNEY*

### Farm to Market Pipeline Distribution at Harvest

Approximately three out of four bushels of the soybeans either remains on-farm initially or is delivered to a country elevator during harvest.

- On-farm storage is an important asset in terms of managing harvest pressure and making marketing decisions.
  - The combination of higher yields and larger harvesting equipment results in large quantities of soybeans needing to be handled in a short period of time. A farmer's response to increased harvest pressure has been to add more trucks delivering soybeans to the next step in the value chain, increasing the size of the trucks, and building more on-farm storage.
  - After harvest, approximately one-quarter of the soybean production remains on-farm and is then delivered to market position from April through September.
- Harvest pressure makes the nearby availability of storage valuable. For farmers that are not located within 50 miles of a container yard, barge terminal, shuttle elevator, and/or crush facility, the country elevator is essential during harvest.
  - Interviews of country elevator operators indicated that the main draw area is 20 miles to 50 miles. Farmers west of the Mississippi River typically drive farther distances than farms east of the Mississippi River.
  - Farm to country elevators account for an estimated 55% of first moves.

Approximately 20% of the soybean harvest is shipped directly from the farm to direct use, export position or crusher.

- To consistently utilize containers requires a farmer to be located within close proximity of a transloader or container yard. Currently, container movements represent less than 1% of soybean production, but shows promise of expanding from 4% to 7% of soybean exports.
- It is assumed that during the two peak months of harvest the farmer delivers directly to the barge terminal, shuttle elevator, and crushing plant.
  - Farm to barge terminal represents an estimated 5% of soybean production.
  - Farm to shuttle elevator is approximately 5% of soybean production.
  - Approximately 7% of soybean production moves directly from farm to crushing plant. According to crush plant managers located in the Corn Belt, the average reach of their facilities is 40 miles and nearly all soybeans arrive by truck.



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### U.S. Soybean Farm to Market Pipeline Distribution at Harvest

	Thousand Bushels	Average Distance (Miles)	Total Ton-Miles (Thousands)	Truck Ton-Miles (Thousands)	Rail Ton-Miles (Thousands)	Barge Ton-Miles (Thousands)
<b>Crop Size</b>	4,000,000	26	3,072,450	3,072,450	-	-
<b>On-Farm Storage</b>	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Country Elevator</b>	2,200,000	35	2,310,000	2,310,000	-	-
<b>Direct Use</b>	120,000	35	126,000	126,000	-	-
<b>Container</b>	600	50	900	900	-	-
<b>Barge Terminal</b>	200,000	25	150,000	150,000	-	-
<b>Shuttle Elevator</b>	199,400	25	149,550	149,550	-	-
<b>Crushing Plant</b>	280,000	40	336,000	336,000	-	-

Source: USDA, USACOE, USITC, Informa

*"Farm to Market: A Soybean's Journey" can be accessed at [www.unitedsoybean.org](http://www.unitedsoybean.org) or [www.soytransportation.org](http://www.soytransportation.org)*

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