

Brian Diersy

Was born and raised on a farm in central Minnesota and received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota. He then studied soybean breeding and genetics at Iowa State University where he received his M.S. and Ph.D. He was a soybean breeder at Michigan State University for five years and he moved to the University of Illinois in 1998. Brian is now a Professor in the Crop Sciences Department at the University of Illinois where he teaches plant breeding to undergraduate students and conducts research on soybean breeding and genetics.

His research focuses on utilizing exotic germplasm to improve the disease and pest resistance and yield potential of soybean. A major contribution of his program has been the mapping and utilization of genes in soybean that provide resistance to soybean cyst nematode, soybean aphid, and sudden death syndrome. His breeding program is currently focused on developing nonGMO varieties for specialty markets. He has received a number awards for his research including the Young Crop Scientist Award given by the Crop Science Society of America, the Paul A. Funk Recognition Award given by the college of ACES at the University of Illinois, and he is a fellow of both the Crop Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.