

The North Carolina Soybean Producers Association hired Owen Wagner of Raleigh as its new chief executive officer, effective April 15. Wagner will lead the association's checkoff-funded soybean research and promotion programs, as well as advocacy and membership programs to improve farm profitability.

Wagner most recently worked at SAS Institute in Cary, where he was manager of agricultural analytics supporting the use of predictive analytics software at the USDA and land grant universities. Prior to that, he worked as an agricultural economist at LMC International in Washington, D.C. In that role he worked in support of the United Soybean Board, the U.S. Soybean Export Council, the National Biodiesel Board, and Qualified State Soybean Boards, where he gained experience with soybean markets and technical developments.

Wagner also has a background in research with USDA and agricultural policy, including with soybeans, and served as a regulatory manager for the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association. He holds a bachelor of science degree in agronomy from N.C. State University, a master's degree in agricultural and applied economics from Virginia Tech and is working on a second master's degree in biological and agricultural engineering from NCSU.

"I am excited to lead an organization with the strong reputation of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association and look forward to working to positively impacting the operations of our growers through our research, marketing, outreach and advocacy efforts," Wagner said.