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## OILSEEDS NEWS

### ALL IN THE TIMING FOR TOFU-QUALITY SOYS

Soybeans which are moisture-stressed in the final stages of grain ripening are more likely to make poor quality “sloppy” tofu, according to new research.



At last week’s 14<sup>th</sup> Australian soybean conference in Bundaberg, CSIRO soybean breeder Andrew James said that getting the timing right of the last irrigation of soybeans was crucial for producing grain which makes high-quality tofu.

“Moisture stress late in the season often results in small grain – even if the variety has the potential for large grain, and results in poor quality tofu. Bigger grain tends to make better tofu,” he said

He said that moisture-stress in the final stages of pod ripening will reduce the

**BETTER TOFU:** A late irrigation of soybeans leads to better tofu quality.  
PHOTO COURTESY CSIRO.

level of a certain protein in the grain which helps tofu gel together.

Dr James said that the protein, known as “11S globulin” forms within the grain in the later stages of ripening, about four or five weeks after flowering. If the crop is stressed by dry conditions at this stage, the grain is often smaller and contains less of the desired protein. The final product is sloppy tofu.

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