Edamame Production Facts
for Arkansas’ emerging industry

Past
✓ Very limited domestic edamame production prior to 2012
✓ More than 95% of edamame is imported from China to the U.S.
✓ Well-established industry in Asia for more than 30 years

Present
✓ JYC Foods, a major edamame import company, has selected Arkansas to be the first major area for large scale and systematic domestic production in the U.S.
✓ American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame, Inc. (AVS), a sub-company of JYC Foods, has been established and will complete construction of a 32,000 sq. ft. facility in Mulberry in mid 2012 to process, package and distribute edamame products.
✓ More than 800 acres of conventional and organic edamame have been contracted with AR growers in 2012.
✓ 2 varieties will be grown in 2012; UA Kirksey was developed through the University of Arkansas breeding program, and the other is traditional Asian variety.

Future
✓ Edamame consumption in the U.S. is rising by an estimated 12-15% per year.
✓ AVS will expand production capability to meet increasing demand and will contract additional acreage in AR and expand product offerings in 2013.

Not your father’s soybean - edamame facts

➤ Seed and harvest are provided by AVS under contract with the grower.
➤ Determinate varieties produce uniformity of quality and maturity.
➤ Seeding rate and stand establishment targets are generally lower than standard soybeans.
➤ Seed are larger than typical soybeans; therefore, planters must be adjusted to accommodate the size
➤ Soil crusting must be minimal to ensure quality emergence of the large cotyledons.
➤ Irrigation is vital; higher nitrogen rates than for traditional soybeans may be required.
➤ Pod quality may be affected by insects and diseases; frequent scouting is necessary.
➤ Insect thresholds are being reevaluated for edamame production.
➤ Many pesticides that are labeled for soybeans are not approved for edamame; always read and follow label directions.
➤ Varieties are non-GMO, therefore Roundup cannot be used in or around edamame.

➤ The Arkansas River Valley appears to be geographically and environmentally ideal for the initial production.
➤ Pods are harvested at R6 growth stage when green seeds are full size (touching within the pod) but prior to maturity.
➤ The desired product is the large, blemish-free pods.

➤ An edamame harvester—a modified green bean picker.