

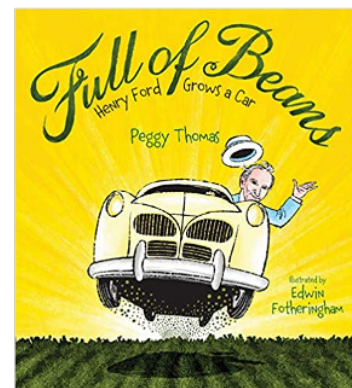
American Farm Bureau Federation Book of the Year 2020

FULL OF BEANS: HENRY FORD GROWS A CAR

by *Peggy Thomas*

Famous car-maker and businessman Henry Ford loved beans. And he showed great innovation with his determination to build his most inventive car--one completely made of soybeans.

With a mind for ingenuity, Henry Ford looked to improve life for others. After the Great Depression struck, Ford especially wanted to support ailing farmers. For two years, Ford and his team researched ways to use farmers' crops in his Ford Motor Company. They discovered that the soybean was the perfect answer. Soon, Ford's cars contained many soybean plastic parts, and Ford incorporated soybeans into every part of his life. He ate soybeans, he wore clothes made of soybean fabric, and he wanted to drive soybeans, too. Award-winning author Peggy Thomas and illustrator Edwin Fotheringham explore this American icon's little-known quest.



[YouTube link for read aloud.](#)

Fun Facts:

- * Soybeans originated in Southeast Asia and were first domesticated by Chinese farmers around 1100 BC. By the first century AD, soybeans were grown in Japan and many other countries. Soybean seed from China was planted by a colonist in the British colony of Georgia in 1765.
- *Baker County produces the most soybeans in Georgia. The 2018 Georgia Farm Gate Value for soybeans was 66,855,752.
- *About 180,000 acres of soybeans are planted in Georgia each year and are mainly used to produce cooking oil.
- *Researchers are busy exploring soybeans' value as an alternative fuel source.
- * Soybean oil remains the most common vegetable oil in the U.S.
- * Soybeans are about 18% oil and 38% protein. Because soybeans are high in protein, they are a major ingredient in livestock feed. Soybeans are processed for their oil and meal (for the animal feed industry).

Videos

- *Georgia Farm Monitor* Check Out These Products Made from America's Soybeans
- *Georgia Farm Monitor* 'Adventures' with Logan - Planting Soybeans
- *Different Uses for Soybeans | The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation
- *How Ford Is Taking Soy and Making Cars Out Of It
- *SoyFoam Seating Technology Thanks to Ford, Lear, MI Soybean and United Soybean Board
- *Pod to Plate-The Life Cycle of Soybeans

Activities

- *Italian Dressing using soybean oil
- *Soy Wax Hand and Body Butter
- *Soy Lip Balm
- *Soy Crayons
- *Full of Beans Lesson Plans
- *STEM Car Activities
- *Biography Graphic Organizer: 3 Facts and a Question