

# SOYBEAN NEBRASKA

WINTER 2022

*A Publication of the Nebraska Soybean Association and the Nebraska Soybean Board*



## GROWTH MINDSET

Our education and communication issue covers how we expand farmer and student knowledge—learn more on pages 12-21.

**7** | Discover how local soybeans are helping Lincoln Premium Poultry raise a more flavorful product.

**24-25** | Read about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which includes funding to expand rural broadband.

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# SOYBEAN NEBRASKA

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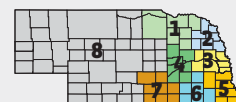


3815 Touzalin Avenue, Suite 101  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68507  
402-441-3240  
nebraskasoybeans.org

The Nebraska Soybean Board is a private, nonprofit checkoff board responsible for the research and promotion of soybeans in an effort to increase the profitability of the state's 22,000 soybean producers.

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- District 3**  
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- District 4**  
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- Catherine Jones
- Scott Ritzman
- Lois Ronhovde
- Teri Zimmerman

## On The Cover

Bryce Doeschot, Farm Broadcaster and Video Specialist at KRVN Radio/Rural Radio Network, interviews a guest at the Nebraska Soybean Board News Desk at Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln. The 3000 sq. ft space includes two audio studios, a video studio, conference room, several offices for full-time farm broadcasters, interns and more.

**Image Credit:** Craig Chandler, UNL Communication

## Note from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By Scott Ritzman

Happy New Year! I hope you had a safe and productive harvest season. As you've turned the calendar and are looking ahead to planting in 2022, the Nebraska Soybean Board continues to promote and educate customers on the quality and benefits of Nebraska soybeans.

This edition of SoybeaNebraska spotlights education and communication, which is one of the core areas that your checkoff funds and is allocated by the elected directors on the board. A new project that we recently started is the "Nebraska Soybean Board Weekly Market Roundup" that airs every Saturday morning on the airwaves of KRVN and KTIC. This provides a snapshot of the markets along with what traders and industry experts are looking forward to the next week. It provides different perspectives of the market and is an educational tool for farmers to learn and follow how global markets might be impacting things on a local level.

A lot of the programs in the education and communication area are in-person activities. We were able to once again get back in front of farmers at various events to communicate the benefits of soybeans. We continue to educate and promote the new ways that soybean oil is replacing petroleum in industrial products. We were fortunate to have a strong representation at Husker Harvest Days, Soybean Management Field Days, Nebraska Soybean Day & Machinery Expo, along with other education and outreach events.

Throughout this past year, we hope you had an opportunity to hear our media placements, see our ads in various print materials and had an opportunity to interact with us.

The staff at the Nebraska Soybean Board is excited to see what 2022 brings to our Nebraska farmers.

## View from the Chair

# NEW PERSPECTIVES

By Doug Saathoff

Nebraska Soybean Board Chairman, Trumbull



By the new byline and photo, you have probably already figured out that someone new is writing the Chairman's article, so let me introduce myself. My name is Doug Saathoff, and I was recently elected Chairman at our November board meeting. I live near Trumbull with my wife, Gail, who is a middle school English teacher at Doniphan-Trumbull Schools. We have two daughters in high school at DT—Emma is a senior and Erin is a freshman. I farm with my brother, Dan.

In this issue of SoybeaNebraska, the focus is on education and communication. This involves many different areas, but I want to highlight just a few.

- First, the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) funds a group called soy educators. Their job is to go to several hundred Nebraska schools and educate 4th graders on the importance of soy and agriculture in the state of Nebraska. It is critical that we educate them while they are young so, as they grow into adults and potential leaders, they will remember how vital soybeans and agriculture are to the state of Nebraska.
- Secondly (and my favorite), is Soybean Management Field Days. Nebraska Extension puts this event on with funding from the soybean checkoff and holds it at four locations across the state. Valuable information is delivered to the soybean farmer, who can then take it home and try out the great ideas on their own farm.
- Lastly, NSB funds several organizations that help educate the consumer, not only in Nebraska, but worldwide. Board member, Anne Meis, is Chairwoman of one such organization called U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action. She has been the farmers' voice at several high-level meetings and conferences, including the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

As you can see, educating the public about where their food comes from and giving soybean growers the tools they need to become more efficient and profitable is important to NSB.

Before I sign off, I want to thank a few people and welcome a few. At our November meeting, we said goodbye to Richard Bartek and Nathan Dorn—both put a lot of time and effort in promoting Nebraska soybeans, and they will be missed. We welcomed two new board members at the same time: Ruth Ready will represent District 3 and is from Scribner and Larry Tonniges, from Utica, is back on the board and will represent District 6. They will both be great additions to NSB. Finally, I also want to thank Eugene Goering for serving the last two years as Chairman. He did an outstanding job, and I definitely have some big shoes to fill.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!



From the Association

# MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD



By Shane Greving, NSA President

As harvest wrapped up for 2021, we can reflect on a season to be thankful. For the most part producers got the crops harvested in a timely manner and yields surprised many.

Raising a profitable crop and dealing with the challenges facing agriculture is demanding. It is times like this in agriculture we must not back down.

As you have likely heard, EPA is considering imposing significant new restrictions on herbicides, including dicamba, potentially ahead of the 2022 growing season. NSA and many agriculture groups and industry partners are concerned that, if new restrictions erode the value of products, tens of thousands of growers – many of whom have already placed seed and herbicide orders for next spring—may feel the need to seek out alternatives where currently few exist. Given recent shortages and price spikes on products, such as glyphosate or glufosinate, many growers may be unable to acquire enough alternative seeds and herbicides to meet their needs.

I will assure you, the policy team at the American Soybean Association and state soybean associations like NSA, are at work. We continue to coordinate with coalition partners and urge policymakers to prevent EPA from taking actions that would worsen supply chains disruptions even more than we have already experienced.

The past few months ASA has participated in numerous actions in Washington from sending coalition letters to EPA, the Administration and USDA on the supply chain disruptions to opposing the regulatory actions by EPA. NSA signed onto these coalition letters. ASA continues coalition meetings with Members of Congress, USDA and other agencies and we will continue to get our message across that any new restrictions would make the supply chain issues worse.

This is why we have a membership organization like NSA and ASA, to advocate on your behalf. Check-off dollars cannot. Thank you for those that are members and if you are not a member, we invite you to join. Contact our NSA office at 402-441-3239.

In mid-January, my two- year term as President will come to an end. It has been rewarding to work with and meet great farmer-leaders, industry partners and soy staff who care about our industry. We will continue our advocacy work on many of these issues in 2022. Thanks for the opportunity. Have a prosperous New Year.

## Corteva Agriscience Young Leader Program



Nebraska soybean producers **Tyler and Desiree Rezac** of Valparaiso have been selected to participate in the American Soybean Association 2022 Corteva Agriscience Young Leader program, which provides training for leaders who are passionate about the future of agriculture. Tyler and Desiree farm and raise livestock in Saunders County with their family.

Through the training program, participants strengthen leadership skills while building a strong peer network, and they may someday serve in a leadership role within the industry.

The first phase of the program took place in Johnston, Iowa, in early December. The second phase will take place in early March of 2022 during the Commodity Classic Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.



4435 O Street, Suite 210

Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone: 402-441-3239

association@nebrasokaybeans.org  
nesoybeans.org

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A member-driven, grassroots policy organization that represents U.S. soybean farmers

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Email: [tom@nebrasokaybeans.org](mailto:tom@nebrasokaybeans.org)

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Phone: 515-440-2810

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Thomas Hoxmeier ..... Editor, Staff Writer

Lori Luebbe ..... Staff Writer

Teri Zimmerman ..... Staff Writer

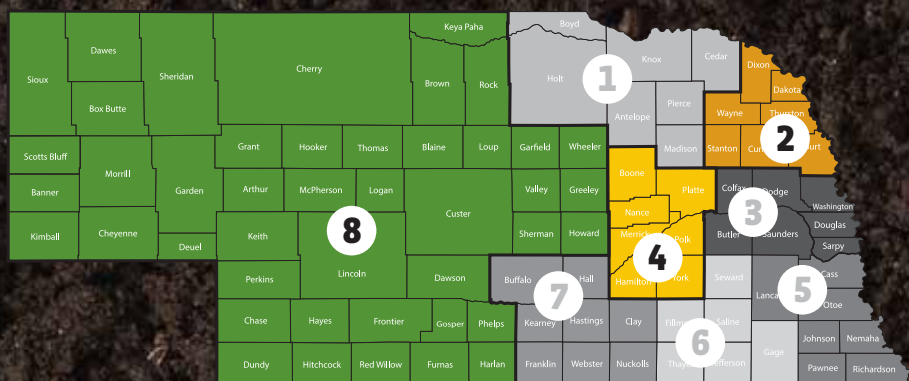
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# SOYBEAN FARMERS: LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Apply for candidacy and cast your vote in the 2022 district elections.

Districts 2, 4 & 8



Nebraska Soybean Board District Map

ELECTION SCHEDULE

2023

Districts 5, 7 & At-Large

2024

Districts 1, 3 & 6

The election is conducted by mail-in ballot in July for Districts 2, 4 and 8. Soybean farmers who reside in counties that are up for election in 2022 will receive ballots and candidate information regarding NSB's election process via direct mail.

## Election districts and counties are:

- ✓ District 2: Counties of Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Stanton, Thurston and Wayne
- ✓ District 4: Counties of Boone, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk and York
- ✓ District 8: Counties of Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Box Butte, Brown, Chase, Cherry, Cheyenne, Custer, Dawes, Dawson, Deuel, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Grant, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Howard, Keith, Keya Paha, Kimball, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Morrill, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Thomas, Valley and Wheeler

## To apply for a candidacy in District 2, 4 or 8 you must:

- ✓ Obtain an NSB Candidacy Petition by contacting NSB's executive director at (402) 432-5720
- ✓ Complete the petition and collect the signatures of at least 50 soybean farmers in their district
- ✓ Return petition to NSB office on or before April 15, 2022

## Nebraska Residents Cast the Deciding Vote

Our shared soybean farmer community determines electoral winners. These voters must be:

- ✓ Nebraska residents
- ✓ District 2, 4 or 8 residents
- ✓ Soybean farmer who owns or shares the ownership and risk of loss for such soybeans, by reason of being a partner in a partnership, or is a shareholder in a corporation or is a member of a limited liability company during the current or immediately preceding calendar year.

## ELECTION CALENDAR:

**DECEMBER 1, 2021**  
Candidacy petition period began

**APRIL 15, 2022**  
Candidacy petitions due to NSB office

**JULY 2022**  
Ballots mailed to eligible voters

**JULY 31, 2022**  
Final day to return ballots for consideration

**OCTOBER 1, 2022**  
Newly elected board members' terms begin



# FRESH FEED, FLAVORFUL FOOD

Locally grown soybeans are helping Lincoln Premium Poultry raise higher-quality poultry.



By Jessica Kolterman, Director of Administration,  
Lincoln Premium Poultry

**W**hen Costco was considering where to place their new poultry operation, one of its main considerations was the availability and proximity of grain that would be used to feed the chickens. The company found that excellent source here in Nebraska.

The second-largest ingredient in the Lincoln Premium Poultry birds' diet (next to corn) is soybean meal. Lincoln Premium Poultry birds consume roughly 13,000 tons of soybean meal in their diets each month. This equates to approximately 590,909 bushels of Nebraska-grown soybeans on a monthly basis or approximately 6,118,908 bushels of beans yearly.

Soybean meal is an excellent source of protein in the diets for the birds. More importantly, it is a valuable source of key/essential amino acids which are highly digestible (>90% of the total amino acid content) if processed correctly. Soybean meal is very high in lysine, which is important in poultry and swine as it is needed for maximum muscle deposition (yields). Soybean meal also provides the other key amino acids for poultry which are threonine, isoleucine, valine, arginine and tryptophan.

Soybean meal contributes energy to the diet due to its residual oil content after processing. It also is a good source of the vitamins choline and potassium in the

diet—which are important for overall health and growth of the birds.

From a quality standpoint, Lincoln Premium Poultry has seen great performance from their birds because of the freshness of their two main ingredients: corn and meal. From the time the soybeans are processed, turned into meal and trucked across town to the feed mill, it is only hours before they turn it into finished feeds that the birds consume.

Lincoln Premium Poultry Commodities Director Chelsea Kardell shared, “In essence, there are a lot of goodies packed into those little beans and that makes a big impact on our entire operation.”

**13,000**

tons of soybean consumed per month  
by Lincoln Premium Poultry's birds



WHICH IS ROUGHLY EQUAL TO

**590,909**

bushels of Nebraska-grown soybeans



# Rallying the VISION OF RESEARCH

**The soybean industry came together to discuss a new vision at the Soybean Research Forum and Think Tank in August.**

*By Aaron Putze, APR, Iowa Soybean Association Senior Director of Information and Education*

**S**uccess can't be left to chance. For U.S. soybean farmers to thrive, new, innovative and broad-scoped research must be coordinated with multiple partners up and down today's and tomorrow's value chain. It must also align with farmer priorities and solutions based on the needs of end users.

Easier said than done.

Undeterred, soybean leaders gathered for a first-of-its-kind Soybean Research Forum and Think Tank on August 23, 2021, in Indianapolis. The goal: to improve the industry's approach to collaborative research to accelerate short- and long-term profits, productivity and sustainability of U.S. soybean farmers. Yield, sustainable and regenerative ag and new uses and markets were topics of focus.

Attendees included representatives from 19 state soybean organizations (QSSBs), two regional checkoff organizations, the United Soybean Board (USB), 17

state land grant universities, 12 large and small companies and one federal agency. Participants devoted 48 hours of uninterrupted time evaluating the status of soybean farming and soybean uses today and tomorrow through the lens of research.

“  
The future is bright when we're focused and working together.

— **DR. ED ANDERSON,**  
**NCSRP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

“If soybean production and use are going to keep pace with market needs and farmer expectations, then you have to be intentional about identifying and pursuing the basic and applied research opportunities that feed the pipeline,” said Dr. Ed Anderson, the Iowa Soybean Association's senior director

of research and executive director of the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP). “That was the vision and the result of our time together in Indianapolis.”

## Farmer Input

A survey of soybean farmers from around the country identified priority research topics: yield improvement, soybean quality, regenerative ag, climate resiliency in genetics and production and driving new uses and markets for soybeans.

With the topics in hand before the event, Anderson and the multistate forum planning team determined speakers and an effective meeting format. Given the diverse audience of soybean industry stakeholders, panel discussions and small- and large-group dialogues were essential.

“The most difficult part of any project is getting started,” said Greg Luce, director of research for the Missouri Soybean Association. “A forum was needed to



propel us to action by identifying issues, who will lead action on those issues and rally an industry-wide effort to do better on research that matters most to farmers.”

The extensive compilation of ideas, topics and strategies were organized into a whitepaper with goals, objectives and action items for moving the visionary and strategic work to meaningful execution for the future.

### Focused Effort

From a research perspective, the primary outcome of the work was a shared understanding that this important work will only be accomplished through dedicated and directed staff and programming focus.

Four goals emerging from the months-long effort to guide research collaborations powered by the soybean checkoff are:

1. Provide research-based solutions to soybean farmers for fully integrated and intelligent production systems that meet differentiated value opportunities.
2. Provide organized and focused leadership for cooperation, coordination and alignment of

soybean farmer research priorities and investments among states, regions and the USB.

3. Establish leadership on partnerships for market research and similar work directed at attaining full connection across the soybean value chain and lead soybean research priorities that enhance farmer profitability.
  - a. This will enable delivery of short- and long-range processors, customer, end-user and consumer-driven products and solutions.
4. Establish the most cohesive, coordinated and meaningful research communications and research marketing programs to help promote US Soy.
  - a. This will be done in partnership with soybean checkoff communications and marketing teams with expertise and/or contract relationships in communicating and marketing soybean farmers, farming and science and technology innovations.

### Next Steps

The forum and goals established from it are just the beginning. Breaking

down the old barriers between production research and new uses research, states and the national programs are key opportunities raised by forum attendees. Rallying around goals developed from the forum will enable the industry to complement and leverage work happening across all soybean checkoff organizations.

“Greater coordination and transparency on soybean research is essential,” said Dr. Jim Specht, Emeritus Professor of the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. “This will enhance the pace and success of research and maximize every soybean checkoff dollar invested.”

Anderson said the soybean industry is energized by the opportunities that greater collaboration will bring and is already acting on the goals. The first step is organizing focused leadership to coordinate and align soybean farmer research priorities and investments nationwide.

“It’s rewarding and exciting to see progress on a nationwide, coordinated approach to research,” Anderson said. “Every acre of soybean production and every soybean farmer will be the beneficiary.”



Nebraska researchers, Nebraska Soybean Board district directors and staff were in attendance at the Soybean Research Forum & Think Tank in August.

# BRIDGING THE GAP



Images from the bridge testing project in Ceresco, Nebraska in July

**In conjunction with the Soy Transportation Coalition, the Nebraska Soybean Board is working to address rural infrastructure shortcomings and opportunities.**

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) works with the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) to deliver results intended to advance the infrastructure in our state that may be limiting the success of our agricultural communities. STC's goal is to position soybean industry stakeholders to benefit from a transportation system that delivers cost-effective, reliable and competitive service.

STC Executive Director Mike Steenhoek has most recently worked with engineering firm Kirkham Michael to test the structural integrity of various bridges in rural communities across Nebraska. Nebraska farmers depend on rural bridges to efficiently deliver their commodities to local cooperatives. Bridges are a crucial part of the supply chain, but many rural bridges in Nebraska are load-limited, which requires farmers to detour and costs them time and profit.

"Farmers and their families are utilizing these bridges on a daily basis. Therefore, safety is the highest priority," explains Mike Steenhoek. "Promoting load testing technology helps arrive at a more precise evaluation of which bridges truly need repairs and which ones can safely handle the trucks that transport the soybeans and corn produced in the state."

In an effort to promote better evaluation and management of the state's rural bridges, the Nebraska Corn Board and NSB have supported the testing of various rural bridges in Nebraska, demonstrating the effectiveness of load testing technology when assessing the condition of rural bridges.

In Nebraska, ten bridges were tested. By testing these bridges, counties were able to remove much of the subjectivity from a visual inspection approach, often increasing the load-bearing



Testing locations

weight. Testing occurred in Sarpy, Saunders and Dixon counties.

"It is our hope that by supporting a project like this we are optimizing Nebraska soybean checkoff dollars and bettering the operating conditions for farmers and their rural communities," said Scott Ritzman, NSB executive director. "We hope to continue projects like this in the future."

Rural roads and bridges are essential to the U.S. economy and businesses everywhere. With a quality rural infrastructure system, communities and businesses can stay connected.



# On World Food Day and every day, WISHH'S strategic partners take local action.



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*WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.*

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

# GROWTH MINDSET

Through broadcasts, research and the classroom, the Nebraska Soybean Board is expanding farmer and student knowledge.



**13 | On Air with Ken**

You've heard Ken Rahjes on the NSB Weekly Radio Report—now hear his side of the story.

**14 | Market Meanings**

The NSB Weekly Market Roundup helps farmers learn about trends with commodity brokers.

**15 | Investing in Farm Women**

NSB is a proud supporter of the AG-ceptional Women's Conference and CommonGround Nebraska.

**16-17 | Investing in Soybean Research and Outreach**

The Soybean Research Information Network puts the latest studies at farmers' fingertips.

**18 | Rockets' Ag Learning Lifts Off**

The new FEWS<sup>2</sup> program at Lincoln Northeast High School is helping students see a future in ag.

**19 | See For Yourself: Your Gateway to Global**

Get a first-hand look at the impact made by soybeans and the checkoff during the 2022 tour.

**20-21 | 8 Questions with Sharon Ryan**

We checked in with the educator who's spent her career teaching "Soybeans: A to Z" to Nebraska students.



Ruth Ready

Doug Saathoff

Jason Penke

Anne Meis (chair)

## EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE





**For 13 years, the Authentic Ag broadcaster has shared the stories of Nebraska farmers and industry leaders by hosting the Nebraska Soybean Board Weekly Radio Report.**



**F**rom a tractor cab to the main street cafe, one form of communication brings a sense of clarity, awareness and a touch of nostalgia to its listeners. Farm radio has improved the sharing of agricultural information to remote, rural farming communities, and its importance is unwavering for those communities.

Behind our beloved farm radio is where we find our dedicated farmer broadcasters—like Ken Rahjes with Authentic Ag.

Ken has been hosting the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) Weekly Radio Report for Nebraska listeners for 13 years. Over that span, he has conducted nearly 700 interviews with farmer-leaders and individuals within the ag industry.

His time on the show has allowed him to share critical information for farmers and learn in the process. Just take it from Ken himself:

“I got interested in hosting the NSB Weekly Radio Report when Rex Messersmith (KRVN) retired from doing them, and he said, ‘You should apply to do them.’ And, as they say, the rest is history. I have been talking to farmers and stakeholders for 13 of the last 15 years. I had a two-year break when I was on staff with Nebraska Congressman Adrian Smith.

“I know this is a program that is well-listened to as many people say they hear it and others who are featured receive positive feedback. The diversity of guests, I believe, continues to make it an important program to get the message out about all the good things going on with the investments made by Nebraska soybean farmers through their checkoff.

“From SCN and gall midge to biodiesel and exports, there

are very important issues, and the NSB Weekly Radio Report can give a concise capsule of what the latest is on these topics. I think a couple of the ones I enjoy learning about are aquaculture and poultry and the role soybeans play in adding value back to farmers, as well as how these industries continue to expand and the soy products that are with them every step.

“I really enjoy the people I get to interact with. It may be a farmer or someone on the frontline of important research, every week is a new adventure and I learn something from all the interviews. Also, I enjoy talking with the farmer-leaders on NSB. I always suggest they tell me what they know, not what they think I want to hear, and our interviews are more like a conversation between two people and usually that puts them at ease. Over time, I have built real friendships with many on the board, and the intelligence and integrity they bring should make Nebraska soybean farmers feel good that NSB is in great hands.

“I believe everyone has a story and as someone who grew up on a farm/ranch and did that for a living, I can truly relate to an audience who are concerned about food and agriculture practices. In today’s world of so many outlets to obtain information, I hope I bring a level of trust and reliability that people know I care about agriculture and will share the knowledge in honest and concise methods.”

The role of farm broadcasting, ag radio and television is just as important today as it was when it began. Even with advances in technology, farm broadcasting remains a vital tool for communicating with producers today. Whether tuning in on the radio, streaming on the computer, downloading a podcast or watching television, producers still seek out news from their trusted and knowledgeable farm broadcasters.

# MARKET MEANINGS

Tune in to the Weekly Market Roundup on-air, on podcast services or social media.



**M**arketing your grain is hard work. Luckily, over the years, there has been gradual improvement in the number of tools available for farmers. With the increase of data, technology and information, farmers have also been able to increase their real-time knowledge to make more informed marketing decisions.

One new tool that farmers can access is the Nebraska Soybean Board Weekly Market Roundup, a weekly video and podcast marketing program. This weekly roundtable discussion, hosted by farm broadcaster Susan Littlefield, will dive into specifics of the week's markets to give producers much deeper insight. The unbiased dialog helps link soybean farmers to their end users, domestically and abroad.

On top of growing crops, producers are faced with many things outside of their control. The Weekly Market Roundup is designed to be a tool for producers to help manage risk and stay in the know with unpredictable and inherently volatile markets.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HOST: *Susan Littlefield*

Anytime you can sit down with a couple of commodity brokers and have a conversation about the week's market trade, it's guaranteed to bring up some interesting points that they will agree and disagree with, all while keeping the farmer and rancher in mind.

I am fortunate to have a nice variety of commodity brokers from around the U.S. who bring a different perspective to market trade. They each have their area of expertise, including chart and graph knowledge, trade and movement, global trade, U.S. movement all for grain and livestock. Talking with two brokers at the same time has opened up the world of markets even wider. It also makes for great conversation when you can have a soybean expert, for example, bring something up that a livestock broker can relate it to in the livestock industry.

For the farmer and rancher watching the program, they get to hear the difference of opinions and the agreements on the week's trade. It showcases that they, as someone involved in ag, are doing marketing right or giving them some new things to think about. Each week, we highlight the biggest market mover, provide updates on bean growth in South America, how corn and wheat have traded along with the movement in livestock. Some weeks might be more heavily grain-focused as that would be the big market mover for the week.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to have the conversation with two outstanding commodity brokers, in a conversational manner that brings the needed information to those in and out of the ag industry.

Listen to the Nebraska Soybean Board Weekly Market Roundup.

### ON-AIR

Saturdays and Sundays on  
**KRVN 880 and KTIC 840.**

### ON-DEMAND

Delivered **every Friday** on streaming services and social media.

FARMER FEEDBACK

*It feels like I am sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee, right in the conversation with us.*

*The program is relaxed, not stiff, and it does not have a rehearsed feeling like the public channel show or other national programs.*

*I like how it's conversational.*

*Even as a cattle guy, it gives me a better understanding of the grain markets. Even though I do not grow the crop, (I) raise the animals that eat it.*



KRVN Video



Nebraska Soybean Board



# INVESTING IN FARM WOMEN

Sarah Sindelar and Crystal Klug, both volunteers with CommonGround Nebraska, presented at the 2021 AG-ceptional Women's Conference.

## NSB supports and celebrates women's contributions to agriculture through the AG-ceptional Women's Conference and CommonGround Nebraska.

**W**omen are a critical part of farm and ranch operations across the country and around the globe. They contribute to changing the agriculture industry and the challenge of meeting the world's growing food, fuel and fiber needs.

Here in Nebraska, women in agriculture are also an integral part of the success of our neighborhoods, communities and industries. The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) continues to support organizations that back women in agriculture.

Last fall, women in agriculture came together at the 13th-annual AG-ceptional Women's Conference in Norfolk, Nebraska, on November 19, 2021. The conference, supported by NSB, showcased the theme "SEASONS" and featured inspiring and dynamic keynote presentations and workshops, along with opportunities for networking, professional development and personal growth.



This year, Joan Ruskamp received the conference's AG-ceptional Woman of the Year award. Ruskamp and her husband, Steve, run J & S Feedlot and Farm near Dodge, Nebraska, which has been in the Ruskamp family for more than 100 years. Joan and Steve place a great deal of value on respecting the

generations that came before them, while at the same time, finding innovative ways to improve the farm and strengthen the path for future stewards of the land. Joan dedicates much of her free time to telling the story of agriculture, especially the beef story. From sharing information about sustainably growing row crops to prioritizing animal welfare, the Ruskamps have created a legacy of openness and integrity in their operation.

In addition to the conference, the NSB also supports CommonGround Nebraska, a movement of farm women who want to share agriculture's story and information about the food. CommonGround hosted a pair of breakout sessions at the AG-ceptional Women's Conference titled, "Engaging in the Meatless Meat Debate." These sessions aimed to provide the tools to engage with consumers on this topic as

well as examine the nutritional aspects of various products and the positive impact of livestock on the environment.

CommonGround Nebraska has a multitude of events on the calendar each month. While still keeping up on social media and writing blogs, volunteers are busy with school and club presentations, food-related conferences, fairs, cooking demonstrations and TV interviews. Volunteers also have opportunities to attend state and national CommonGround conferences. These yearly events provide a chance to gather together with other women who have the same goals, share ideas and recharge for another year of connecting with consumers.

Attendees also emphasized their commitment to finding ways to connect with others through shared values that create opportunities for conversation.



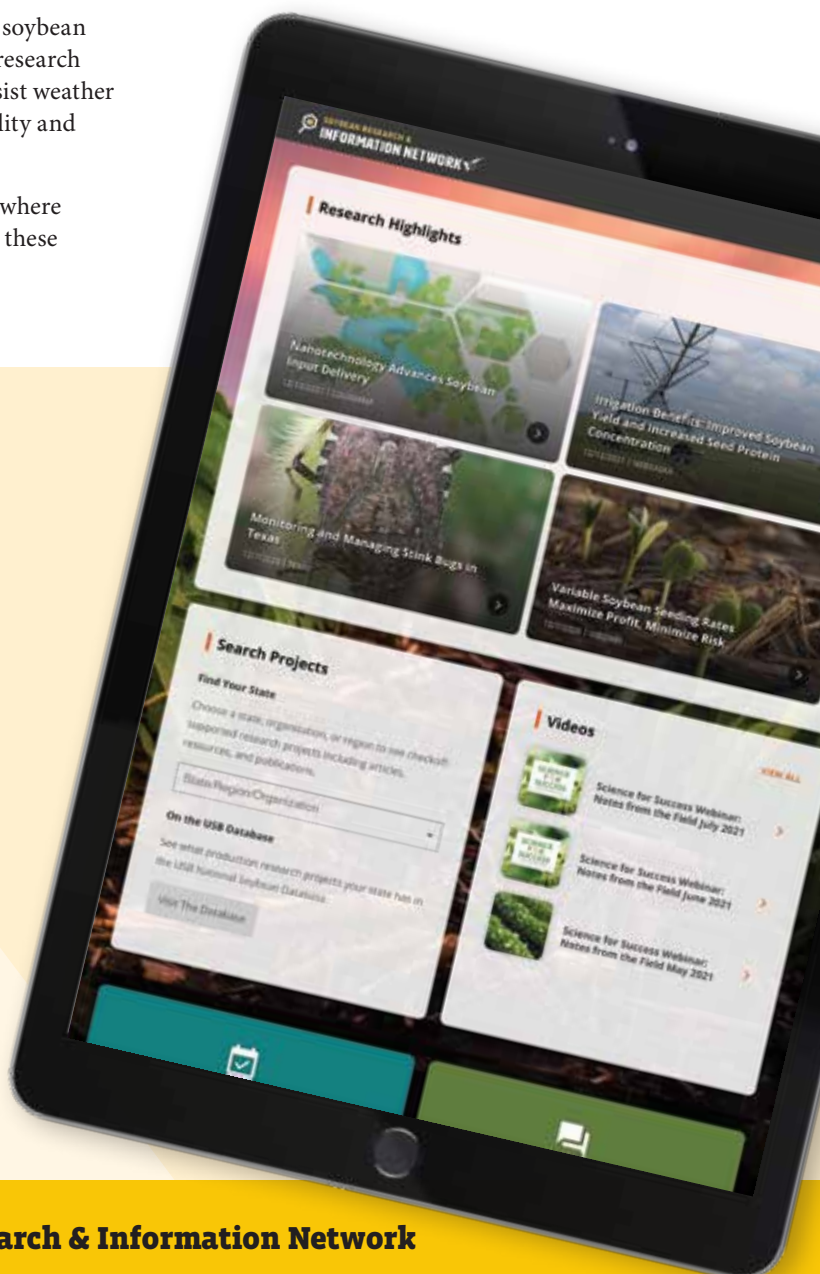
If you would like to share your agricultural story and be a part of CommonGround Nebraska, contact **Karen Brokaw** at [karen@brokawmarketing.com](mailto:karen@brokawmarketing.com).

# Investing in Soybean Research and Outreach

**For farmers to grow their most profitable crops, there's a wealth of researchers behind the scenes helping them to do so.**

**S**cientists across the country are studying all aspects of the soybean plant for better production and expanded markets. Their research focuses on breeding and genetics for new varieties that resist weather extremes and disease, best management practices for soil fertility and sustainability, and finding new uses for soybean oil and meal.

The Soybean Research Information Network is the place to go where farmers can find the latest information that has emerged from these checkoff-funded projects. *But it's more than just a website.*



@SoyResearchInfo



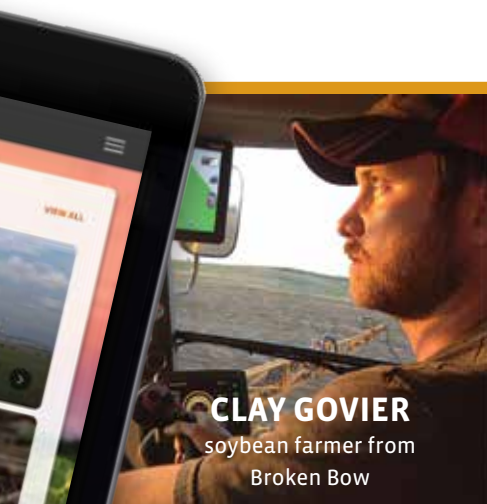
Soybean Research & Information Network



The Nebraska Soybean Board, along with other state soybean associations, are joining forces with SRIN to bring farmers the latest research results. In addition to the website, farmers can subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter, #Soy Snippets, which features a different topic every issue. The new Q&A videos highlight farmers and researchers discussing an assortment of subjects such as weeds, irrigation, technology and checkoff support in their state.

Producers can also learn about SRIN on the radio, in state publications and connect through social media including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. These outreach tools cover the variety of ways that producers use to find information needed for improved productivity on their farms. And the information is based on sound science through results from checkoff-funded research projects from across the country, regions and states.

The investment in research made by the Nebraska Soybean Board and other states is crucial to support scientists who are working to advance the science behind the bean. Their support for SRIN enables state and regional soybean boards to boost outreach to producers so they can make the best decisions possible for their farm's productivity and profitability.



**CLAY GOVIER**  
soybean farmer from  
Broken Bow

“

SRIN is a one-stop-shop for farmers to learn about all things soybeans. It combines soybean research from state checkoffs, as well as regional research organizations and should be one of the first places farmers visit to learn more about growing a successful soybean crop.

”

## Current fiscal year checkoff investment in production research: \$2,328,427

Production research provides up-to-date soybean management information that growers can use to optimize profitability via resource-efficient increases in sustainable crop productivity. The USDA has estimated that the national checkoff investment in public production research amounts to about \$9-12 in added value per dollar invested since 1991, and it is likely that this is also the case for Nebraska soybean checkoff-funded research.

JOIN THE SRIN  
NEWSLETTER



**www.SoybeanResearchInfo.com**

Funded by the soybean checkoff

OUR ONLINE  
NEWSLETTER  
reached

**1,000**  
SUBSCRIBERS

Q&A VIDEOS

**134**

FARMER VIDEOS  
published

THIS YEAR, WE'VE  
PUBLISHED

**194**

ARTICLES

about research projects  
from across the U.S.

#SOYSNIPPETS

features new

**Topics**

EACH MONTH

SOCIAL MEDIA

increased

**200%**

THIS YEAR

# ROCKETS' AG LEARNING LIFTS OFF



The first semester of the FEWS<sup>2</sup> program is underway, helping Lincoln Northeast students understand the impact of and opportunities in farming.

*By Bailey Feit, Early College and Career STEM Focus Program Coordinator UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources*



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

The fuse at Lincoln Northeast (LNE) High School has been lit. The FEWS<sup>2</sup> (Food, Energy, Water and Societal Systems) program—pronounced “fuse”—is a new and first-of-its-kind partnership between Northeast High School and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The program launched in August with two tracks: 9th/10th-grade Pre-Pathway and the 11th/12th-grade Early College & Career Pathway (see Table 1).

Through these pathways, LNE students will learn more about agriculture and related career opportunities. They will also participate in college-level

immersive experiences. The first such event happened in November, when all freshmen and sophomores visited UNL's East Campus and engaged in hands-on learning activities covering topics in irrigation (Images 1–2), entomology, hydroponics, food science, animal science, trees and levees and dams.

Feedback about the FEWS<sup>2</sup> program from both students and teachers has been very positive. One student was excited to discover that “there are many things to do with an ag science degree.” Meanwhile, teachers indicated they enjoy being able to connect the concepts they teach in the classroom with how they are applied in business and industry.

Not only did the students attend the immersive campus experience last semester, but they also:

- Explored careers and career-readiness skills during the “Connect the Dots” simulation (Image 3) in November.
- Toured the Nebraska Ag Equipment Expo (Image 4) to learn about education and career opportunities in December.
- Participated in weekly hands-on learning with university experts (Image 5). These experiences build on the FEWS<sup>2</sup> concepts Northeast teachers integrate daily.

## Pre-Pathway Program

- ▶ Food, Energy, Water, Societal Systems (FEWS<sup>2</sup>) concepts integrated into daily classes.
- ▶ Experiential learning opportunities on UNL's East Campus with the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).
- ▶ Career exploration.

## Early College & Career Pathway Program

Table 1

- ▶ Opportunities to attend college classes and earn credit through Nebraska Now for those planning to pursue a two- or four-year degree.
- ▶ Earn non-credit competencies that will give students an edge as they look for employment.
- ▶ Academic advising and mentoring.
- ▶ Career exploration, internship or job shadowing opportunities, and research experience.



Learn more about the program by visiting [eccsp.lps.org](http://eccsp.lps.org) or emailing [bailey.feit@unl.edu](mailto:bailey.feit@unl.edu).



In mathematics, students learned about inputs and outputs by relating it to the concept of adding water to create a positive yield in crops. The science classes explored how to store food safely in their plant respiration unit. Students in world history investigated how mechanization has impacted the size of the agricultural workforce and farms themselves.

As one semester ends and another begins, the teachers will continue integrating and applying FEWS<sup>2</sup> concepts into daily lessons. Students will continue to participate in weekly hands-on learning and attend another immersive event on East Campus. UNL hopes, as both the pre-pathway and early college and career pathway continue to expand and lift off, it will continue to lead LNE students to establish a resilient and sustainable future in Nebraska.



Image 4



Image 5



See for Yourself is a program designed to let farmer-leaders see firsthand the impact of soybeans and their checkoff at the state, national and international levels. For nearly a decade this program has continued to add value to producers through education.

The Nebraska Soybean Board is currently planning visits within Nebraska as part of this year's in-state tour, which will take place in **March 2022**. Program highlights include:

- Observe a variety of ways soy is transported to end customers—from water to rail
- Walk through a poultry harvesting facility and learn the importance of soy to their business
- Explore a soybean processing plant and oil refinery
- Learn about the manufacturing of on-farm equipment used to facilitate soybean output

The Nebraska Soybean Board is committed to increasing the profitability of your soybeans and wants to give you the opportunity to gain a better understanding of your commodity's supply chain and checkoff activities. To apply or learn more about the program, contact the Nebraska Soybean Board office at **402-441-3240** or email [teri@nebrasikasoybeans.org](mailto:teri@nebrasikasoybeans.org).



# 8 QUESTIONS

## WITH SHARON RYAN

In our conversation with the longtime soy educator, we talk about the history of the Soybeans: A to Z program and the changes she's seen in the classroom over the last 27 years.

**M**ost Nebraskans remember 1995 for Husker football's dominant undefeated season, culminating in Tom Osborne's second national championship. But for Sharon Ryan, it was the year she stumbled across a job ad that turned into a decades-long career that has taken her around the state. Our recent conversation with Sharon ranged from how her Soybeans: A to Z lesson has changed and her favorite recollections of teaching across Nebraska.

**Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB):** Tell us a little about your history as a soy educator with the Nebraska Soybean Board.

**Sharon Ryan (SR):** 1995 seems like years ago, but that's the year I was hired to teach Soybeans: A to Z, and it seems like yesterday. I found the job in the newspaper, applied, interviewed and was hired 27 years ago—and still loving it.

**NSB:** How has the Soybeans: A to Z program evolved over the years?

**SR:** At the beginning, I had a limit on the number of programs I was to teach. At that point, we were using overheads and carried a lot of soy products, including a heavy magnetic game board. What a struggle it was in an older school with stairs! Overheads were phased out. Now, we use computers or smart boards, and I carry one larger tote into classrooms. My limited number of classrooms served turned into over 200 presentations each year.

**NSB:** How would you summarize student response to the program over the years?





**SR:** Students' expectations were, "I have to listen to a boring presentation on soybeans!" They were surprised at the number of products that they come in contact with every day that contain soybeans, like candy, makeup and peanut butter. Now the presentation includes more humor with a 10-page math problem and a rubber chicken that is thrown in the air. One student wrote in a thank you note to me that said, "You've filled my brain to the brim with soybean facts, and I loved the rubber chicken." I always enjoy reading their thoughts.

**NSB:** Have students changed over the years?

**SR:** When I first started teaching this program, it seemed like more students were connected to farming in some way. They understood more about agriculture, but not to say they understood the many uses of soybeans. But as the family farms shrink, we don't see those connections as much, and you don't hear the students talk about "being" on the farm. So this makes me feel the presentation is even more important.

**NSB:** What kind of benefits have you seen with teachers/educator relationships?

**SR:** The trust gained by repeated visits over the years into classrooms of many teachers has built a close relationship with them. If they move into

a new school, they contact me to present at their new school and/or district. This is one reason I've been able to expand this program to the many schools and students each year.

The thank you notes from the students and the comments from the teachers make me smile.

**NSB:** What is your favorite part about the program?



**SR:** My favorite part about the program is throwing the rubber chicken out, seeing the surprise on students' faces, then hearing the gasps and laughter afterwards. Also seeing the relief on the faces of the students when I tell them, "I really didn't bring you a 10-page math problem." I've appreciated the thank you notes written from the students and teachers and the many questions I get from the students.

**NSB:** How has this program impacted you?

**SR:** Not being raised in the Midwest, my knowledge of agriculture was limited. My move to Iowa, living in the country surrounded by corn and soybeans and raising 4-H cattle, expanded my knowledge.

Teaching this program has become one of the highlights of my life! I've learned so much about soybeans, corn, agriculture and sharing with students how important the soybean crop is to Nebraska, as well as how it benefits all the people that live around us. I've been asked to present the soybean program with women's groups, and they are amazed—even when they are wives of farmers!

**NSB:** Any specific memories from your years of teaching this program that stick out to you?

**SR:** After 27 years, my memories are many. The dedicated teachers I've met, the funny stories from students, the heavy metal game board I carried and the soy candy—which I no longer give out due to peanut allergies. One day a new teacher told me that she had this program when she was in fourth grade, and I was the presenter. Talk about old!

But I'm not ready to retire just yet. Marla Hunt joined forces with us in 2018 and has been a great asset to this program. This year, Marla and I have expanded the number of schools we are presenting at, and we cover many more classrooms at the same time, which the teachers love! We are also traveling together to save on mileage and resources.

I need to thank the Nebraska Soybean Board for their ongoing support of this educational program and the ongoing support from Teri Zimmerman, NSB director of education and outreach, who has been an asset to the soy education program. I love teaching this educational program and feel privileged to be part of presenting Soybeans: A to Z to fourth-grade students.



Learn more about Soybeans: A to Z and other NSB education programs at [NebraskaSoybeans.org/education](https://NebraskaSoybeans.org/education).






[unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)

# MAINTAINING OUR REPUTATION TO DELIVER

*Whether shipping by river, road or rail, the soy checkoff is committed to ensuring America's infrastructure is a significant advantage for U.S. soybean farmers. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.*

*See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at [unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)*



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# MEET YOUR 2022 LEADERSHIP

See our board officers and committees for the next fiscal year.



Brent Steinhoff

Doug Saathoff

Clay Govier

Jason Penke

## FY22 Nebraska Soybean Board Officers

**Chairman:** Doug Saathoff  
District 7 – Trumbull

**Secretary:** Brent Steinhoff  
District 5 – Syracuse

**Vice Chairman:** Clay Govier  
District 8 – Broken Bow

**Treasurer:** Jason Penke  
District 2 – Craig

## FY22 Nebraska Soybean Board Committees

**Research Committee:**  
Larry Tonniges (*chair*);  
Brent Steinhoff;  
Eugene Goering; Clay Govier;  
Greg Anderson



**Education & Communication Committee:**  
Ruth Ready; Doug Saathoff;  
Jason Penke; Anne Meis (*chair*)



**International Marketing Committee:**  
Brent Steinhoff;  
Anne Meis; Clay Govier;  
Eugene Goering (*chair*)



**Domestic Marketing Committee:**  
Larry Tonniges; Doug Saathoff;  
Jason Penke; Ruth Ready (*chair*);  
Greg Anderson



## An update from the United Soybean Board



Ed Lammers

A Nebraska farmer-leader has been elected to the United Soybean Board (USB) Executive Committee. Ed Lammers, from Hartington, will serve as USB Secretary in 2022.

Farmer-leaders of the soy checkoff also elected Ralph Lott from Seneca Falls, New York, as the 2022 Chair.

## Your Soy Checkoff Needs You

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) is seeking soybean farmers interested in filling two of Nebraska's four director positions with USB. To be eligible, farmers interested in applying must:

- ✓ Be involved in a farming operation that grows soybeans
- ✓ Be a resident of Nebraska
- ✓ Be at least 21 years of age

To be considered for the national leadership position, interested farmers need to submit a USDA Background Information Form before the **March 17, 2022**, deadline.

"This is a great opportunity to get involved with your soy checkoff and work toward the common goal of increasing return on investment for all U.S. soybean farmers," said Scott Ritzman, NSB Executive Director.



To learn about applying for NSB or obtaining forms for a national leadership position, call the Nebraska Soybean Board at **402-432-5720**.

# HOPE FOR HIGHER SPEEDS

The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes billions for improving broadband in rural areas, which would help Nebraska farmers take advantage of new technologies.

**F**aster internet can't come fast enough for rural areas.

The absence of broadband across much of Nebraska is a longstanding problem magnified by the ongoing advancements for internet-enabled technologies and tools. For farmers, it's a missing piece that could boost their business.

So when Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act—coined the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal—in November, it signaled to farming communities that broadband may not be far away. The bill sets aside \$65 billion specifically for building the infrastructure to deliver reliable, high-speed internet access to Americans across the country.

According to the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC), the legislation offers hope that rural broadband will become a reality, but there's still much work to be done.

"I consider the infrastructure bill another piece in the puzzle for getting broadband

to rural Nebraska, but it is far from the first effort," said Cullen Robbins, Director of Telecommunications/ NUSF at the Nebraska Public Service Commission. "The new infrastructure bill definitely has some promise for continuing progress, but it is a large problem to tackle."

The NPSC has been working for over a decade on rural broadband efforts in Nebraska. Over 10 years ago, it was involved in the Nebraska Broadband Initiative, a joint effort administered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Information Technology Commission's Community Council, Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Though that group is more informal now, the NPSC is deeply involved in the Rural Broadband Task Force—bringing together a larger and broader group of organizations—signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts in 2018.

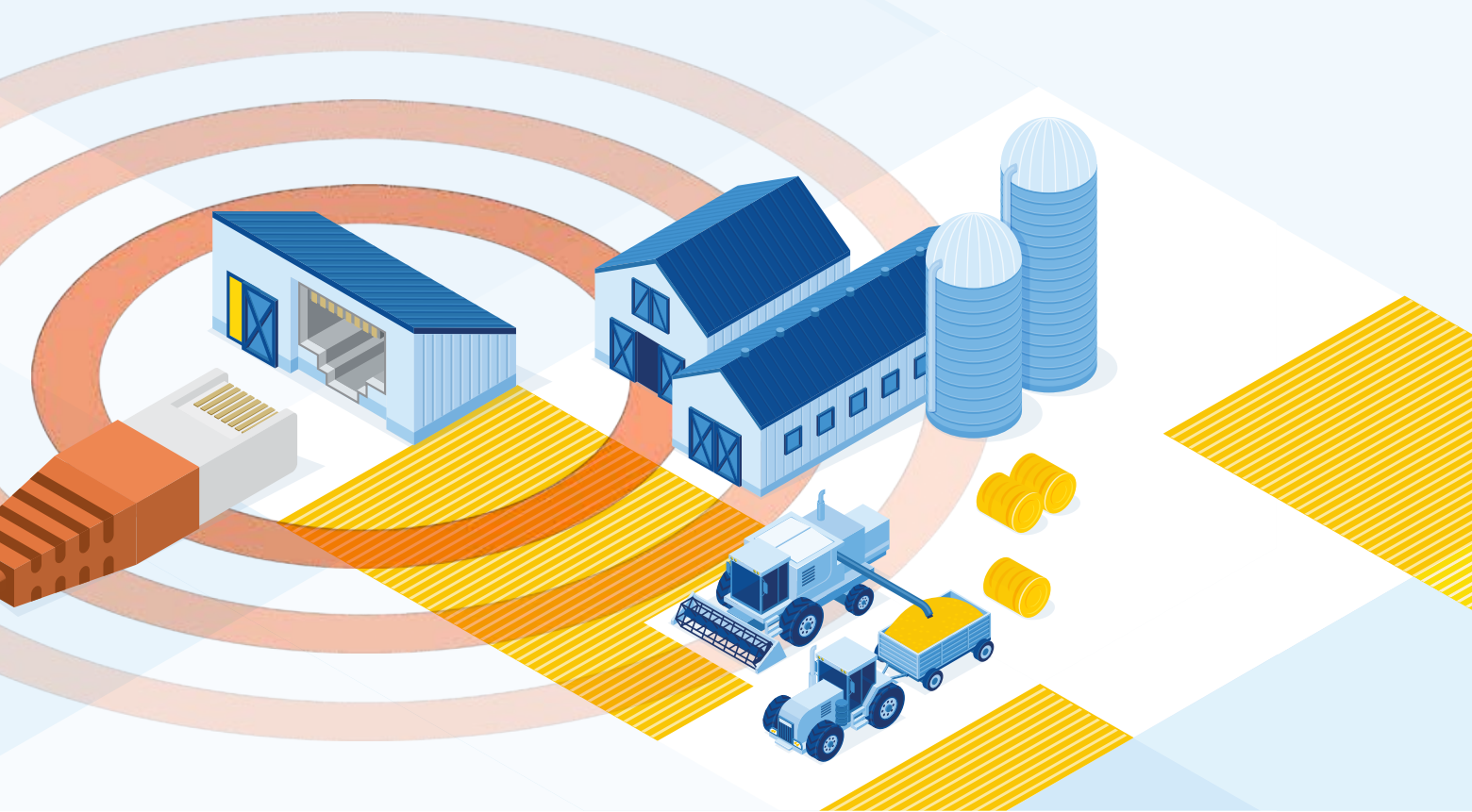
Across its many efforts, the NPSC directly administers the Nebraska

Universal Service Fund (NUSF) and the Broadband Bridge grant program. The USDA and the Department of Economic Development have administered their own broadband-grant programs in recent years, and NPSC works to make sure that the support from its programs are targeted to areas that need it, and not to areas that have already received grant support. Yet even with all of these avenues, getting broadband into the rural expanses of Nebraska has been difficult.

According to BroadbandNow, a publisher of independent broadband research, Nebraska ranks in the lower half of the U.S. for internet speeds. Though the state climbed from No. 48 to No. 30 in BroadbandNow's rankings from 2020 to 2021, the fastest average download speed in Nebraska was only 270 megabits per second (Mbps)—lagging well behind top-ranked states Virginia (458 Mbps) and Maryland (455 Mbps).

Nevertheless, Nebraska has made strides with high-speed internet in rural areas and smaller communities.





“

Like many other industries, technology has transformed agriculture. From selective application of fertilizer, seed and water, to equipment monitoring, technology has the potential to reduce waste and improve yields. Many technologies rely on broadband to actively run or to process and share information.

— **CULLEN ROBBINS, DIRECTOR OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/NUSF AT NEBRASKA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

”

“To me, broadband isn’t purely a rural/urban issue,” Robbins said. “There are plenty of rural areas in the state that have state-of-the-art fiber broadband

networks, and there are communities that still lack basic service. It has more to do with the companies that serve those areas and how aggressive they have been getting modern networks built throughout their territories.”

Cost has been the biggest inhibitor to giving more Nebraskans and farmers broadband connectivity. The internet companies serving rural areas face a steep price tag for building the necessary infrastructure. Urban areas with denser populations allow for telecommunications companies to serve hundreds, and even thousands, of customers off of each mile of internet line, and each one of those customers represents revenue. Meanwhile, rural areas often have sparser populations with greater distances between households. This means greater infrastructure that ultimately reaches fewer people and creates less revenue.

“In many parts of rural Nebraska, one mile of infrastructure may reach one or two homes or maybe even no homes

because maybe it is two or three or 10 miles to the next home, and so it will be hard to recoup that investment,” Robbins said. “To justify building out to those remote locations, often outside sources of funding have to be used to offset the costs of construction.”

That’s where the massive funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act can help. Now that the bill passed, farmers are likely to see their communities opening up conversations about the status quo of internet service in their area.

“I think it is important for farmers, and everyone for that matter, to understand their landscape with respect to broadband,” Robbins said. “To me, that means understanding what they have now, what is available to them today and what their options might be if they don’t have what they need. It is certainly possible that broadband construction projects are already happening in and around their community and in the rural areas where they live and work.”



See where broadband deployment projects are planned and underway in Nebraska at **[broadbandmap.nebraska.gov](https://broadbandmap.nebraska.gov)**.



Todd Baker

# Soy Sweet

**Thirty-five years ago in tiny Greenwood, Nebraska, Bakers Candies began making their renowned, soy-infused “Blue-Collar Gourmet” chocolates.**

**T**odd Baker is a lifelong chocolatier. He has his father, Kevin Baker, to thank for that.

In the 1980s, the elder Baker left his career in the aerospace industry to channel his knowledge of automated, mechanical production systems in a different direction. He went from manufacturing missiles to meltaways—the chocolates their company is known for today.

“In 1987, we became the first candy company in the world’s history to

start with a 100-percent custom, fully automated, production process and no recipe,” said Todd, a second-generation owner/operator at Bakers Candies.

The company was founded in 1987. The next year, the Bakers Candies retail store in Greenwood—just off Interstate 80 between Waverly and Ashland—opened to the public, selling its signature chocolates twist-wrapped in colorful foils.

Innovation in production is Bakers Candies secret ingredient. With all

of the money saved by their efficient production process, the business could afford to source the best food ingredients for its recipes.

“The process is our own invention, which allows us to make gourmet chocolates at a fraction of the price,” Todd said. “With the money we save, we buy better ingredients, and the result is better chocolates for less money. When you’re not a businessman, you need a simple formula that works and making better





for less has always served us well!”

And one of the staple ingredients?  
Soy lecithin.

“We use soy in the form of soy lecithin, which is the primary emulsifier in our chocolates. Without it, even the best chocolates in the world would separate and fall apart,” Todd said. “Virtually all chocolate contains soy lecithin—it helps suspend the cocoa butter in the cocoa solids. We’ve used it for 35 years. You simply can’t make good chocolates without it.”

Every year, the smalltown business produces over 30 million chocolate meltaways from Greenwood, a town of less than 600. In 2018, Bakers Candies expanded its outlet store, making it Nebraska’s largest candy store. When the pandemic shut down in-store

business, Bakers began selling its chocolate online for the first time, and 2020 actually turned into a record year for the chocolate makers.

The family-owned business has grown into a point of pride for the Cornhusker State.

“Bakers Candies is the only chocolate manufacturer in the world mass producing the chocolate meltaway the way that we do,” said Todd, “so much so that the chocolate meltaways we make here have become world-renowned and synonymous with Nebraska.”

The business is Nebraska through and through. From its small-town roots to the use of its fresh ingredients, Bakers Candies feels a deep connection with the state’s agricultural community.

“We absolutely have shared values,” Todd said. “Chocolate is a combination of cocoa, cocoa butter, milk, sugar and soy—all of which come straight from the farm fields and dairies to the chocolate factory. Manufacturing food and farming are lifetime partners. We need each other!”

“  
We’re a family business in the truest sense of the word. There are currently 15 members of the Baker family working together to make Nebraska’s chocolates.

— TODD BAKER, BAKERS CANDIES

”



Learn more about the Bakers family business and chocolate outlet at [BakersCandies.com](https://BakersCandies.com).

# On World Food Day and every day, WISHH'S strategic partners take local action.



**Connect with WISHH**  
**[www.wishh.org](http://www.wishh.org)**



*WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.*



# FISH’N FOR SOYBEANS

Soybeans are *the* protein replacement in aquaculture, the fastest growing protein sector.



As U.S. soybean farmers know, our soybeans are consistent and dependable. That consistency has proven to be a dependable protein replacement for fishmeal, a costly addition to aquaculture diets.

What is the value in growing the soy market in aquafeed? According to a 2020 study, total soybean demand in U.S. aquaculture in 2018 was 8.6 million bushels.<sup>1</sup> These numbers are only continuing to grow; aquaculture is the fastest growing domestic protein sector, with a market value of \$160 billion and an expected compounding annual growth rate of 2.5% until 2030.<sup>2</sup>

The potential is enormous. Americans today eat an average of 16 pounds of seafood a year<sup>3</sup>, amounting to about 900 million pounds of salmon and trout alone. However, the U.S. is only producing about 80 million pounds of those fish.

The benefits to U.S. soybean producers are clear: While almost all U.S. based aquaculture feeds are sourced from U.S. farmers, there is significant opportunity to increase this amount with the increase of domestic aquaculture. Increasing soybean inclusion rates in those diets will also increase the opportunity in this growing segment for U.S. soybean farmers. The consistency and dependability of U.S. soybeans has already led to over 240 million bushels of soybeans used globally.

The Soy Aquaculture Alliance is dedicated to expanding the use of U.S.-grown soybeans in domestic aquaculture diets by supporting research that pushes forward the conversation around soy use in aquafeed, growing partnerships and sharing the story of this growing sector.

## Increased Soybean Demand with Projected Inclusion Rate Increases

U.S. aquaculture sector	Current soybean demand (bu)	Potential increase in soybean demand (bu)	Maximum increase in soybean demand (bu)
<b>Catfish</b>			
Minimum <sup>a</sup>	4,910,668	3,629,697	8,540,365
Average <sup>b</sup>	7,707,327	5,263,492	13,404,160
Maximum <sup>c</sup>	11,230,677	8,301,099	19,531,776
<b>Trout</b>			
Minimum	141,612	130,868	272,481
Average	212,419	196,302	408,721
Maximum	283,225	261,736	544,961
<b>Salmon</b>			
Minimum	25,377	874,134	899,511
Average	50,754	1,748,797	1,799,022
Maximum	95,163	3,278,004	3,373,167
<b>Shrimp</b>			
Minimum	12,277	34,785	47,063
Average	16,575	46,960	63,535
Maximum	34,377	97,399	131,776
<b>Tilapia</b>			
Minimum	124,223	152,109	347,077
Average	194,968	238,737	433,705
Maximum	284,097	347,874	542,842
<b>Marine finfish</b>			
Minimum	600	101,396	101,996
Average	900	152,095	152,995
Maximum	1,200	202,793	203,993
<b>Total</b>			
Minimum	5,493,602	4,922,989	10,208,553
Average	8,620,834	8,079,724	16,700,558
Maximum	12,568,208	12,488,905	25,057,133

<sup>1</sup>Potential Economic Value of Growth of U.S. Aquaculture to U.S. Soybean Farmers  
 Carole R. Engle, Engle-Stone Aquatics LLC, Ganesh Kumar, Mississippi State University  
 and Jonathan van Senten, VA Seafood AREC, Virginia Tech University  
<sup>2</sup><https://kepleybiosystems.com/aquaculture-feed/>  
<sup>3</sup><https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/fisheries-united-states-2018>

<sup>a</sup>Minimum inclusion rate of soybean meal.  
<sup>b</sup>Average inclusion rate of soybean meal.  
<sup>c</sup>Maximum inclusion rate of soybean meal.

# FULL-CIRCLE RETURN

**HERE'S HOW THE SOY CHECKOFF WORKS.** The national soy checkoff was created as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The Act & Order that created the soy checkoff requires that all soybean farmers pay into the soy checkoff at the first point of purchase. These funds are then used for promotion, research and education at both the state and national level.



\* Led by 73 volunteer soybean farmers, the United Soybean Board (USB) invests and leverages soy checkoff dollars to MAXIMIZE PROFIT OPPORTUNITIES for all U.S. soybean farmers.

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# A CHANCE TO BRIDGE THE GAP

After the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Nebraska is poised to come out on top.

By Ken Boswell, American Soybean Association

It is easy to criticize our political system and point out its stalls and missteps—but harder to stop and acknowledge when that system gets something right. Our government does, however, get many things right, and when that happens, we the people come out on top.

In August, the Senate came together in a truly bipartisan fashion to pass an ambitious infrastructure plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Senate summoned the political will to get this much-needed infrastructure package across its chamber's finish line, which means Nebraska now stands on the brink of getting nearly \$2.5 billion in direct investments for our roads, bridges, public transportation, broadband, clean drinking water, airports and so much more. It may look technical and boring on paper, but believe me, this bold package can help our families thrive and our small businesses continue to grow.

As a farmer, I know how important this bill is to saving our family farms, keeping our products on the open market and putting ag first. Farm products like soybeans (America's No. 1 agriculture export) rely on the health of our roads and bridges, rail systems and waterways—not to mention rural broadband connectivity—to stay ahead in an increasingly competitive global market. Putting that into perspective for our state, Nebraska is the fifth-largest soy-producing state by crop value and contributes quite a significant slice annually to the \$46 billion national soy pie, which bolsters our economy both directly and indirectly.

Nebraska currently has 15,348 bridges, including 1,302 classified as “structurally

deficient.” These bridges are paramount to our farmers, allowing them to remain competitive and supply their products on the open market. Thankfully, the infrastructure package provides Nebraska—directly—with \$225 million for bridge replacement and repairs and allows for additional bids within the \$12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program for our “economically significant bridges.” We know that most of these bridges are economically significant to many people—whether rural, urban or suburban.

Perhaps most importantly, Nebraska could receive more than \$2 billion in federal-aid highway apportioned programs, upgrading and repairing nearly 1,125 miles of highway currently in poor condition. These roads and highways are the lifeline of our rural economy and will save consumers almost \$461 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. This may not seem like much, but over time, it adds up. What would you buy with an extra \$461? Every penny counts in this economy, especially with the pandemic still making life hard for our families and small businesses. It's especially tough in our rural enclaves.

Nebraska currently ranks sixth nationally in terms of being the best state for infrastructure. With these new federal dollars pouring into the state, we have the potential to lead the pack. With innovative governance and local control of these funds, we can become one of the most competitive states in the country. And, by continuing to close its energy, transportation and broadband gaps, Nebraska can improve the quality of life for its residents and protect vital economic security.



Ken Boswell, a Nebraska farmer from Shickley, has been on the American Soybean Association Board of Directors since 2016. He has served as president and vice president of the Nebraska Soybean Association.

Passage of this once-in-a-generation package was in large part made possible by Senator Deb Fischer and Congressman Don Bacon, who both worked tirelessly to put Nebraska's needs first. I'm proud of Senator Fischer and Congressman Bacon for working across the aisle.

I am genuinely optimistic for Nebraska's future. Our state will have the opportunity to compete again, and the upgrades we'll see to our roads, bridges, inland waterways and broadband connectivity will save consumers millions of dollars a year.

This is our chance to shore up jobs and businesses lost, close the trade gap and secure our state's economic prosperity for generations to come.

## Investing in Infrastructure

On Nov. 5, 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (H.R. 3684), and it was signed into law by President Biden Nov. 17.

Overall, the bill pledges funding over five years for the following key programs in Nebraska based on formula funding alone:

- **\$2 billion** for federal aid highway-apportioned programs.
- **\$225 million** for bridge replacement and repairs over five years.
- **\$100 million** for broadband coverage access.
- **\$16.8 million** for wildfire protection.
- **\$12.7 million** for cyberattack prevention.
- **\$358 million** for water infrastructure.
- **\$111 million** for airport infrastructure.

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