Asgrow soybean products designed to meet farmer needs

Growing roughly 5 million acres of soybeans every year, Nebraska is one of the top five soybean production states in the nation. This year, farmers in the eastern portion of the state faced potentially devastating hailstorms and a derecho, also known as a land hurricane. As farmers approach harvest, many are watching with a close eye to see how Asgrow® brand products have performed in these conditions. If early agronomic observations are any indication, Asgrow is already demonstrating its value to Nebraska’s soybean producers.

Early storms and branching out

According to Asgrow and DEKALB® technical agronomist Kevin Kowalski, product selection makes a difference in bouncing back from plant stand reduction after storms.

“Due to the early storms through the summer, AG2733 brand has offered great value to our farmers, by branching out in situations where plant stand was reduced by hailstorms,” explains Kowalski. “Because the plant branched out so well, it doesn’t look like yields on those farms will be impacted.”

AG2733 brand is a medium-tall plant with strong emergence and good standability. Those features combine with Phytophthora protection from Rps1K genes and very good field tolerance, along with resistance to race three soybean cyst nematode, to produce a high quality product with excellent yield potential.

High pH soils and soybean cyst nematode

“A couple of challenges we have in Nebraska are high pH soils and the soybean cyst nematode (SCN),” Kowalski says. “We address the pH challenge across Nebraska by testing our products locally in Nebraska. This way we can recommend products that will fit our customers’ needs on those high pH acres. As far as SCN, we have many products to choose from that are SCN resistant and offer protection to our growers.”

Among those SCN resistant products are AG2733 brand, AG3034 brand, AG3231 brand and AG2134 brand. For dealing with high pH soils, AG2735 brand is the star of the bunch.

Soybean yield leaders

Kowalski also explains the value Nebraska farmers can receive from planting Asgrow products.

“Asgrow brings value to our farmers by producing some of the most consistent soybean yields across Nebraska with our AG2431 brand and AG2733 brand,” he says. “With strong high yield consistency and excellent standability, both products offer our growers more profitability potential at the end of the season.”

Looking toward future developments

Leandro Mozzoni, a soybean breeder at Monsanto’s Waco breeding program, offers commentary on potential future developments in the state’s breeding program.

“New lines coming out of the program are screened for tolerance to other more regional diseases, such as sudden death syndrome, frogeye leaf spot, or chloride toxicity,” he notes. “Working on optimizing selection for white mold tolerance is still on the radar so that future Asgrow lines are protected.”

The bottom line with Asgrow brand products is that Nebraska farmers receive value from planting them. That value takes the form of higher yield potential, superb disease packages and pest resistance and the farmer peace of mind that comes with using a trusted product.
Nebraska Soybean Board Seeking Candidates in Districts 1, 3 and 6

– by Diane Muehlhausen

There are three director seats on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) eligible for election this year. Soybean farmers in Districts 1, 3 and 6 are invited to run for election to the Nebraska Soybean Board by filing a candidacy petition by the April 15, 2015 deadline. The election of directors will be conducted via direct-mail ballots and candidate information will be provided to all producers residing within the district in which an election is to be held.

This is an exciting opportunity to see for yourself how the soybean checkoff money is invested, and become a part of the decision making. You will become a VOICE representing your district on the board.

NSB board members receive no salary but are reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out board business and will serve a three-year term that would begin October 1, 2015.

District seats open are:

**District 1:** Counties of Antelope, Boyd, Cedar, Holt, Knox, Madison and Pierce.

**District 3:** Counties of Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington.

**District 6:** Counties of Fillmore, Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Seward and Thayer.

Candidates for the NSB seats must be:

- A resident of Nebraska
- 21 years of age or older
- Soybean farmer in Nebraska for at least 5 previous years

Prospective candidates must collect the signatures of 50 soybean farmers in their district using an official NSB candidacy petition and return such petition to the NSB office on or before April 15, 2015 to be eligible for placement on the ballot. To obtain a candidacy petition, contact Victor Bohuslavsky by calling 402-432-5720.

The nine-member Nebraska Soybean Board collects and disburses the Nebraska share of funds generated by the one half of one percent times the net sales price per bushel of soybeans sold. Nebraska soybean checkoff funds are invested in research, education, domestic and foreign markets, including new uses for soybeans and soybean products.
It’s hard to believe but another crop year is in the books. As you’re all hauling grain to the elevator, I encourage you to look back on the growing season and evaluate how you can improve your operation for next year. Whether it’s setting up the SoyWater tool to help manage irrigation, utilizing marketing and risk management tools developed at the university, or attending an event like Soybean Management Field Days, your soybean checkoff offers many resources to help you to reduce costs and maximize yield.

Another way your soy checkoff is working to increase your bottom line is through their efforts to market biodiesel. To date, biodiesel has been the best investment for the soy checkoff. According to a study conducted by Informa Economics in the fall of 2013, research shows that biodiesel has added $0.74 per bushel to the value of soybeans.

On the local level, the Nebraska Soybean Board has provided funding to help fuel distributors install biodiesel blending infrastructure in four locations across the state. The goal of this program is to increase the awareness and availability of biodiesel in Nebraska by creating a network of biodiesel distributors. I strongly encourage you to ask your local fuel supplier for biodiesel. If they do not carry a specific blend, you can contact the Nebraska Soybean Board for more information on where you can find it or how your fuel supplier can become involved in the program.

Another way your soy checkoff is trying to build demand for biodiesel is by supporting programs in New York City that support several blend rates for use in city vehicles and home heating oil. A recently passed mandate will require a 5 percent blend of Bioheat in all home heating oil starting in 2015. While a 5 percent blend might not seem that impressive, a 5% blend of biodiesel in home heating oil could utilize millions of gallons of biodiesel.

I am honored to be the newly elected chairman of the Nebraska Soybean Board, and I promise to do my best to maximize your investments.

Happy Holidays, Ron Pavelka
If you are like me you are glad the election is over. We can listen to Christmas carols on the radio, not campaign ads. The mail box is full of Christmas cards and not campaign flyers. We can answer the phone and not have it be a robo call or election survey.

The work for organizations like the Nebraska Soybean Association begins as soon as the elections are over. We need to start building a relationship with our new Senator Ben Sasse and Congressman Brad Ashford. This process involves educating them about the issues that affect our membership.

Some affect us positively like trade treaties, trait approvals, biofuels tax credits, 179 income tax deductions, and transportation infrastructure. The ones that affect us negatively are the EPA’s proposed water and carbon rules, the possible reduction of the renewable fuel requirements, and the burdensome national debt.

At the state level, the task of developing relationships will need to involve the membership, not just the board. With 18 new State Senators, along with a new Governor you need to become acquainted with them all. Many of the Senators form advisory committees. I encourage you to step up and volunteer to serve on one of them, they appreciate the expertise we bring on ag issues.

The normal issues dealing with education, water, and taxes will consume a fair amount of the 2015 legislative session. Finding a way to fund K-12 education while lowering the property tax requirements, especially on agricultural producers, will be the top priority. Water should take less time this year after the bills that passed last year. Funding transportation infrastructure and rural bridge repairs are issues we will be involved in. Like any normal session there will be bills introduced that deal with issues that are not on the radar screen at this time. We will need these relationships with our elected officials to deal with these matters in the most efficient and economical way that will best serve our membership.

Hoping everyone has a safe holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

I Believe, I Belong...

In order to assure a prosperous future for agriculture, all farm groups are going to have to work together. By being a member of the Nebraska and American soybean associations you have a voice representing you and your interests. They work for you when you can’t be there. Our voice needs to be heard on different policies that have been written that affect the future of agriculture and our ability to have the freedom to operate. That’s why I believe and belong.

— Shane Greving, Chapman, NE
At Large Director
Newly Elected Officers and Committee Appointments
— by Diane Muehlhausen

The Nebraska Soybean Board held its first board meeting for Fiscal Year 2015 on November 24-25, 2014 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Restructuring of the board and the committees took place for the new fiscal year, and the following officers were elected by the board to serve a one year term:

Ron Pavelka of Glenvil — Chairman; Ed Lammers of Hartington — Vice Chairman; Terry Horky of Sargent — Secretary; and Tony Johanson of Oakland — Treasurer.

Committee members and committee chairman were also appointed as follows:

**Research Committee:**
Chairman: Greg Peters of DeWitt, and committee members: Richard Bartek of Ithaca, Eugene Goering of Columbus, Darly Obermeyer of Brownville, and Ron Pavelka.

**Domestic Marketing Committee:**

**International Marketing Committee:**
Chairman: Greg Anderson, and committee members Terry Horky, Tony Johanson, and Ed Lammers.

**Producer Education Committee:**
Chairman: Richard Bartek, and committee members Ed Lammers, Daryl Obermeyer, and Ron Pavelka.

“These officers and committee members will be working hard on behalf of Nebraska’s soybean farmers. In the coming year, they will continue to make decisions to effectively invest and leverage soybean checkoff resources to maximize profit opportunities in research, domestic and international markets and producer education,” said Victor Bohuslavsky, NSB executive director.

Randolph Soybean Farmer to Serve on United Soybean Board
— by Diane Muehlhausen

This December, nineteen farmer-leaders were sworn in as directors of the United Soybean Board (USB) after their recent appointments by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack.

The 19 soybean farmers from across the United States include five new appointees and 14 returning directors. Soybean farmer Mike Korth of Randolph will represent Nebraska as one of the newly appointed directors. Korth has been a part of the soybean leadership industry since 1997, serving four terms as the District 1 Director on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB). During his time on the board, he served as treasurer and secretary and also on a number of other Board committees. Korth has also served one term as a USB director in 2008.

These volunteer farmers invest soy checkoff funds on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers in projects to increase the value of U.S. soybean meal and oil, ensure U.S. farmers and their customers maintain the freedom and infrastructure to operate, and meet the needs of U.S. soy customers.

The 70 farmer-directors of USB oversee the investments of the soy checkoff to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds to increase the value of U.S. soy meal and oil, to ensure U.S. soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate, and to meet the needs of U.S. soy’s customers. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff.
The soy checkoff is looking for farmers from diverse backgrounds to get involved in the United Soybean Board or Nebraska Soybean Board. There are a variety of opportunities to serve, and your talent and input can make a difference.

Help to lead the U.S. soybean industry into the future. Contact the Nebraska Soybean Board at www.NebraskaSoybeans.org and get involved today, or visit www.UnitedSoybean.org/GetInvolved.
Partnerships Critical to Success

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

– Henry Ford

Since their partnership began in 1999, the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) and the Nebraska Pork Producers Association (NPPA) have worked together to effectively expand the reach and impact of their missions – to maximize profitability for Nebraska soybean farmers and Nebraska pork producers, respectively.

The Nebraska Soybean Board is committed to enhancing the future for the next generation of farm families through the support of the livestock industry, which is one reason the partnership works so well. The two commodities also have a very important connection. The meal from more than 26.3 million bushels of soybeans feeds animal agriculture in Nebraska. Pork is the largest consumer of Nebraska soybeans, using the meal from 16.6 million bushels.

Youth Projects

The Pork Mentoring Program was created in 1999 to provide opportunities for agricultural youth leaders to explore areas of interest related to the pork industry. The Nebraska Soybean Board plays a role in supporting the efforts of the students including reimbursing travel, lodging, and meeting expenses, as well as allowing students to participate in a number of professional development workshops.

The momentum of the Nebraska State Fair is growing every year, providing opportunities for 4-H and FFA members to showcase their many talents. Throughout the course of the 11 day celebration, members and families share excitement and smiles as all of the hard work is recognized and rewarded with ribbons, cash prizes, scholarships, and more. The Nebraska Soybean Board partners in providing a free “Thank You BBQ” lunch to 2,000 4-H and FFA members and their families one day during the Nebraska State Fair. This appreciation event has nearly become a tradition itself, as members and families look forward to spending time together enjoying a tasty BBQ lunch.

Agriculture in Nebraska is diverse in the opportunities it offers for young agricultural leaders. A seminar has been specifically developed for students attending Northeast Community College to present current information about careers in the agriculture industry, as well as other relevant and timely topics. The seminar engages students in how to become a positive voice for agriculture, discusses current topics and trends in agriculture, as well as provides suggestions for employee readiness and professionalism. Finally, conversations with business and production agriculture leaders increase each student’s overall understanding the many opportunities available in our state.

Among other various projects, NSB also partners with NPPA to provide radio and media promotions.
Nebraskans Selected For 2015 Class of DuPont Young Leaders

The 31st class of American Soybean Association DuPont Young Leaders began their leadership journey at DuPont Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, in mid November.

The Johnston training session was the first phase of a program designed to identify new and aspiring leaders and provide them with opportunities to enhance their skills and network with other growers. Representatives from 23 states and Canada participated in training that included educational and skill-building components. The second phase of the training program will take place during the Commodity Classic held in Phoenix, AZ in late February.

“The ASA DuPont Young Leader Program has had a tremendous impact on not only ASA but the entire agricultural industry,” said Ray Gaesser (IA), ASA President. “By identifying new and aspiring agricultural leaders and providing them with training that enhances their leadership skills, the Young Leader program strengthens our industry and allows us to work more collaboratively in our local, state and national organizations.

The 2015 class of ASA DuPont Young Leaders included Nebraskans Amanda and Dustin Fairley of Fairbury, NE and Brent and Brenda Svoboda of Pender, NE. The Fairley’s have a farming operation near Fairbury where they raise soybeans, corn and certified seed wheat and own a custom farming operation. The Svoboda’s farm near Pender where they grow corn and soybeans and also do custom farming and trucking. Both couples serve in various leadership roles within their local communities.

“Agriculture faces many challenges and opportunities as American farmers work to help meet the growing global demand for food,” said Randy Wanke, senior manager of Industry Relations, DuPont Pioneer. “We are proud to support the young leader program, which is developing the future growers needed to capture those opportunities and meet those challenges.”
Ed Lammers, Hartington - District 1
From a harvest standpoint, we had a great year and a lot of bushels out in the field. Beans were anywhere from 10-20 bushels above APH in our area and it’s always a good thing to beat your APH. Probably like everyone else, timely rains and abundant moisture were the keys to having all of those bushels out there. We actually thought yields could have still been better than what we harvested, but we just didn’t get the sunlight that we needed to really push growth. We’d gladly take a year like this all of the time. It is much more rewarding to have too much moisture than having a really dry year. And, it sure is nice when you don’t have to send your pivots around very many times.

Tony Johanson, Oakland - District 2
District 2 had more variability across the entire district than we have seen in years. The northern parts of the district fared better than the southern side. Most of the soybean yields ranged from 30-65 bu/ac depending on where the hail hit this spring. For a large majority of producers, their replant beans yielded just as much as their first planted soybeans.

The largest issue that most producers faced this year was the hail storm that came through on the 3rd of June, followed by heavy rains during the middle of the month. This caused soil born diseases such as pythium and phytophthora to flare up while replant soybeans were trying to emerge. These diseases drastically reduced final plant stands which reduced the yield potential. Towards the end of the season, there were areas where sudden death syndrome showed up in a few susceptible varieties causing yield reductions of 5-15 bu/ac.

Richard Bartek, Ithaca – District 3
Overall, soybean harvest was good for most farmers. Good yields are nice when the price is a lot lower. Our harvest was good, except for fields affected by sudden death syndrome, which was prevalent in our area. We also had an August 29 flood affect a lot of acres in our area. Green stems and pods made harvest go slower this year, but better yields offset the slower pace. Take advantage of the free University of Nebraska soil test for SCN funded by checkoff. We are, because I believe it is affecting yield more than we think. Again harvest was safe and we are thankful for better than average yields.

Eugene Goering, Platte Center – District 4
Soybean harvest at our Platte County farm this year was very good. Harvest was smooth and we kept up with harvest moisture staying unusually close to where we like it. We binned most of our crop for contracted winter deliveries, but took a few early semi loads to ADM when they needed some to keep crushing.

The dryland yields were also good but the plants didn’t mature as evenly as we’d like, and there were some very green stems to run through. We helped harvest in southern York County, and they had very good yields also. There were some areas of hail damage near here. I sent in some samples for protein and oil content but have not gotten back results.
**Daryl Obermeyer, Brownville – District 5**
The 2014 soybean yields are above average in our area. There was some replanting necessary due to the May freeze. Some yields in low lying areas were hurt due to September 13th freeze.

**Greg Peters, DeWitt – District 6**
The soybean yields in my area were above average for the year overall. The growing season was hurt by hail for some producers and too much rain for others. There were more disease issues this year than most, a lot more of Sudden Death Syndrome than most years.

**Ron Pavelka, Glenvil – District 7**
Yields in my area were very good for the most part. I would say that 65 to 75 bushels per acre caught the majority of the irrigated soybeans. To be quite honest though, I thought the irrigated were going to be better than that. Non-irrigated, while they had a rough July, finished strong. Just like every other year, 2014 was not without its challenges. Severe hail brought the growing season to an early end for many producers on the western side of my district. Those producers hopefully insured well and, along with the rest of us, look forward to 2015. In my area, a late maturing crop reminded us all that we are not as in charge of things as we think, and Stem Borer showed up in many fields — whether producers knew it or not.

**Terry Horky, Sargent – District 8**
Soybean yields in our area were down. We haven’t had yields this low for a few years.

Many factors affected yields this year. We had a cool, dry spring, followed by a cloudy, wet June. Then a cloudy July with some hail close to our area. It was a cloudy August with some people getting hail and high winds again. September had below average precipitation and an early frost before the crop was mature.

**Greg Anderson, Newman Grove – At Large**
Soybean yields in my area were very good, very common to have mid-50s and above on dryland. Irrigated fields seemed to have more variance, with growers reporting between 40 and 60 bushels per acre. For my farm it has been two good years in a row, with this year topping 2013 overall. What kept 2014 from being a record production year for me was a frost on September 13th which definitely trimmed yield on fuller season varieties especially on bottom ground and low lying areas. A wet August helped beans during pod fill. A dry May (.30 of rain here for the entire month) and a freeze mid-month had some growers replanting soybeans that had emerged but froze. It was an unusual year to have such a short growing season of four months. Precipitation was 12 inches in June, 1.50” in July, and 9 inches in August. Lots of up and down with the weather.
Nebraska researchers continue to contribute to NCSRP

- by Allie Arp, ISA research communications specialist

In the recently published semi-annual report for the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) one thing was abundantly clear, there is a lot of soybean research being done in Nebraska.

Of the 12 projects covered in the report, Nebraska researchers are leading or contributing to seven of them. The projects cover a variety of soybean topics including enhancing soybean yield through genetics, disease resistance and aphid management.

“Nebraska researchers continue to deliver basic and applied results to the NCSRP member states and the soy industry,” said Ed Anderson, PhD, executive director of NCSRP.

One of the studies being led in Nebraska is “Identifying high-yield genotypes in the USDA germplasm collection” led by George Graef with input from Kent Eskridge, both of the University of Nebraska and Randall Nelson of the University of Illinois. The study is designed to screen soybean accessions to identify lines and specific genes in a breeding program that will increase soybean yield.

The second study, “Enhancing disease resistance in soybean through the tools of biotechnology,” is co-lead by Nebraska’s Tom Clemente and The Ohio State University’s (OSU) Feng Qu with collaboration from Nebraska’s Tiffany Heng-Moss and OSU’s Andy Michael and John Finer. The project is intended to phenotype current transgenic soybeans expressing small interfering RNAs (siRNA) and microRNAs (miRNA) against target aphid genes, alter promoter elements driving siRNA accumulation in soybean and test additional ways to combat aphids.

“Nebraska soybean researchers continue to be innovative and collaborative in developing and applying technologies to increase and protect soybean yields,” Anderson said.

Other projects the University of Nebraska is involved in are “Accelerating soybean yield improvement by utilizing yield genes from soybean wild relatives” with contributions by Graef. Jim Specht and Aaron Lorenz are collaborating with other researchers on “Accelerating soybean yield and composition improvement through genomic selection,” Loren Giesler is contributing to “Disease study group: focus on new and emerging soybean diseases,” Clemente is also collaborating on “enhancing soybean yield by genetic improvement of seed number per plant, seed germination and seed emergence potential under drought conditions,” Heng-Moss, Tom Hunt and Blair Siegfried are working with other universities on “Soybean aphid management, resistance, and outreach in the North Central Region.”

Preliminary results of some of these studies may be presented at the February NCSRP Board meeting at Commodity Classic. The next NCSRP Board meeting is scheduled for December 9 in St. Louis. The meeting coincides with a United Soybean Board (USB) meeting where research is a focus. For more information about the research being done by NCSRP visit the Soybean Research and Information Initiative at www.srii.com.
Featured Soyfoods Recipe:

Black Soybean Mexican Lasagna

Spice things up with soy this season to beat the wintertime blues

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 cups frozen corn, thawed
- 1 can (15 oz.) black soybeans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14 ½ oz.) diced tomatoes with basil, oregano and garlic, undrained
- 1 can (4 oz.) chopped green chilies
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 4 corn tortillas (6 inches)
- 1½ cups (6 ounces) shredded Mexican cheese blend

DIRECTIONS:
1. In a large bowl, combine the first seven ingredients.
2. Place two tortillas in an 11 in. x 7 in. baking dish coated with cooking spray.
3. Spread tortillas with half of the corn mixture; sprinkle with half of the cheese.
4. Repeat layers.
5. Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes until heated through.
6. Let stand for 5 minutes.
7. Garnish each serving with a dollop of tofu sour cream or yogurt.

NUTRITION FACTS:
Makes 6 servings
Calories: 293, 11 g fat (6 g saturated fat), 25 mg cholesterol, 779 mg sodium. 6 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 15 g protein.

Find this and more great recipes on our Vimeo channel:
www.vimeo.com/soyrecipes
Harvest just ended, which means it's already time for you to start thinking about next year's crop. This winter you'll likely service equipment, market stored grain and spend time with your family. Another important wintertime task is to decide your management strategies for the upcoming year. This includes going over data from the previous season to determine what seed, fertilizer and management practices to use in the upcoming year.

The Nebraska Soybean Board and the soy checkoff invests a major part of its budget on research to help you protect and increase your yields and profit potential. The checkoff works hard to get the results of these projects into your hands so you can put them to use.

Below are some things to consider during the winter months.

**Seed Selection:** One of the first decisions made for each growing season is selecting which varieties to plant. And choosing varieties can make a big difference in a farmer's bottom line. By selecting seed varieties that address each field's unique history and conditions, you can maximize your yields and profit potential.

"Proven yield, maturity groups and resistance to diseases and nematodes, especially soybean cyst nematodes, are important to remember when selecting seed," says Jim Specht, Ph.D., University of Nebraska emeritus professor of agronomy and horticulture. "The University of Nebraska puts out trial results in early January for seed companies that elect to put their seed in those trials."

You can find those results at www.cropwatch.unl.edu/varietytest/soybeans.

For best results, select seed varieties based on a combination of below factors:

- **Proven yield potential** - It is important to remember that the average soybean variety may yield significantly less than the best variety. Selecting a variety based on proven yield potential, not price, can help maximize your profit potential. Nebraska variety trial information is a valuable tool to help farmers choose varieties with the best yield potential.

- **Maturity Group** - Select varieties with a MG that will allow the crop to utilize all of the spring-to-fall frost-free growing season for its growth and development. Yield potential is optimized when more of the seasonally available sunlight can be captured for photosynthesis.

- **Resistance to nematodes and selected diseases** - Resistant varieties are the first line of defense against nematodes and diseases that rob soybeans of yield.

"The biggest thing farmers can do in seed selection is to look at their field history and any disease problems they had in 2014," says Loren Giesler, extension plant pathologist at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "This year, we had more sudden death syndrome, Phytophthora stem and root rot and brown stem rot. Farmers would want to look for resistance to those diseases, specifically, if they had significant amounts in their field."

**Soybean Storage:** Nebraska soybean farmers work very hard to produce a quality crop that turns into an abundant supply of food, feed and fuel. Maintaining the value of that crop doesn’t stop when it’s harvested and in the storage bin. Below are some suggestions for storing soybeans:

- **Consider allowable storage times.** Storing soybeans with 13 percent moisture at a temperature of 70 degrees would allow for maximum storage of 70 days. Moisture
should be closer to 11 percent to allow for longer storage through next summer.

• **Control spoilage and insect infestation.** Begin to cool soybeans throughout the fall and into winter. Continue to keep them cool going into summer.

• **Monitor regularly.** Pay close attention to temperature, smell, insects and carbon dioxide levels in bins to ensure obvious problems do not go undetected.

“In regards to how long farmers should hold on to the grain in their bins, the market has given them the opportunity to make sales on their old crop,” said Jeff Peterson, farm marketer and manager at Heartland Farm Partners. “The market will be paying some really good basis levels for soybeans. There will be an opportunity for farmers to hold on to their soybeans and see an improvement in basis to get those beans moved.”

**Seed treatment:** Evaluating the value of a seed treatment is not an easy task. Seed treatments do not have an outright visible effect on the plants, but treatments offer a variety of benefits that may be beneficial for your field and act as a form of insurance.

Data indicate that many fungicides are consistently beneficial, but plant health and other seed treatments depend on your operation.

Select and apply seed treatments based on the following factors:

• Select materials that control diseases, insects and nematodes that are prevalent in your area.

• Early-season pests that need to be minimized to ensure a good stand.

**Fertilizers:** Fertilizer can be one of the biggest expenses on the farm and is essential to the vitality of crops. Farmers should look at their field history and past soil samples to determine if nutrient rates are adequate for their fields. The pH level is the first thing farmers should look at because it affects the soil in many ways and has so many interactions with other nutrients.

“The first thing I would think of in soybean planting would be pH of the soil,” says Charles Shapiro, Ph.D., professor of agronomy and horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “We want to get the pH level over six so the nodulation would work well and it would provide a good source of nitrogen.

“The one area that everyone is talking about is whether soybeans need additional nitrogen,” Shapiro adds.” We have found there is a little bit of an increase some of the time, but the decision is not clear-cut whether to use nitrogen.”

**Weed management:** Herbicide-resistant weeds can significantly decrease yields and sharply increase input costs if additional herbicides must be applied. It’s important to control weeds present in soybean fields year-round: before planting, at planting, after emergence and after harvest. Therefore, successful weed management must be approached as a yearlong process.

Now is the time to create a plan of action for the coming year, considering available herbicides to control the weed spectrum in each field. Farmers should also consider alternatives to implement in case of weather delays, attend educational meetings and explore new technologies to help reduce herbicide resistance.

For more information, farmers can visit www.takeactiononweeds.com.
SOY TALK

Strong soybean yields begin with seed selection

A successful soybean harvest is the reward for making good decisions amid many conditions to produce ideal results. Growers make some of those choices, such as treatment approach for weeds or insects, during the season. Other decisions, such as seed selection, need to be made months before the crop goes into the ground.

With so many seed options available to farmers, making the smart choice requires doing some homework. Justin Dillon, Mycogen Seeds agronomist, says many considerations for soybean seed choice revolve around how well seed varieties perform in local conditions.

“A lot depends on agronomic characteristics available based on local disease pressures and their adaptability to the soils,” Dillon says. “I encourage farmers to look at the products out there and review literature to see which varieties have better ratings for their particular pressures to address their problems head on.”

He encourages farmers to consider local data to determine which varieties have performed well in the area.

“It’s about picking out a soybean variety that’s a good match, including considering local plot information and local success stories within a given geography,” Dillon adds.

He advises farmers to make their seed selection decisions early to be sure their preferred varieties are in adequate supply.

Seed delivery is changing, too, Dillon says. More growers are ordering super boxes, which are hard-sided containers holding 50 units of seed, offering increased convenience, safety and efficiency. Many seed tenders, Dillon says, are designed to work with the larger bulk containers.

“As growers plant more acres, they’ve found that bulk seed is often a better option,” he says. “Equipment is getting larger. Some planters can hold 250 to 300 units of seed, so bulk handling is becoming a necessity.”

“Look at the products out there and review literature to see which varieties have better ratings”

Brought to you by:

Mycogen SEEDS

Interested in learning more about top issues facing soybean producers?

Join us for the “See For Yourself” Industry Issues Forum March 24 - 25, 2015, Lincoln, NE. The See For Yourself program, sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board, gives farmers the opportunity to learn more about their checkoff and industry issues.

Key Topics Include:

• Industry perspective on biotech approvals and regulations
• Export market opportunities for the U.S. grains and meat industry
• Transportation challenges facing the grain industry
• Current federal regulations affecting producers
• Consumer awareness of our industry, what are we doing?
• Forum includes a tour of the Beadle Research Center on UNL’s city campus

To learn more contact the Nebraska Soybean Association at 402/441-3239 or email association@nebraskasoybeans.org to obtain an application. Space is limited.

The 20th Commodity Classic
February 26-28, 2015
Phoenix, Arizona

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New Exhibit opens at Omaha Children’s Museum
– by Michelle Chartrand, Omaha Children’s Museum

Omaha Children’s Museum is proud to partner with the Nebraska Soybean Board to create their latest community-engaged exhibit, Once Upon a Farm. Open now through April 12, this 10,000 square foot interactive exhibit educates kids about where their food and everyday products come from and how Nebraska grown products feed the world. Staff members from the Nebraska Soybean Board worked closely with museum educators to create engaging, hands-on exhibit components that teach children about the growth cycle of soybean plants, harvesting, storing, and transportation. An interactive grocery store also showcases various items that contain soy products with the goal of creating a lasting connection for kids each time they visit the store with their families. The presence of a kitchen table within the exhibit serves as the chance to make the “farm to fork” connection, giving parents and their children the opportunity to sit down in a setting similar to home sparking conversations about the foods they eat each day. “We wanted to make this exhibit as realistic as possible for our guests” said Michelle Chartrand, director of advancement. “We hope Once Upon a Farm will inspire kids to learn more about the agriculture industry and the various career opportunities available to them.”

The Nebraska Soybean Board staff also assisted with content for Once Upon a Farm’s education center where soybean related programming occurs monthly in a classroom style setting. “A partnership with the Nebraska Soybean Board is such a unique and rich opportunity for Omaha Children’s Museum as their educational resources have greatly impacted our ability to teach children in the Omaha Metropolitan area about the importance of agriculture within our state” said Lindy Hoyer, executive director at Omaha Children’s Museum. “When you grow up in the city, as a majority of our visitors do, you may read that now milk comes from a cow or soybeans grow in the ground, but we may not actually ever have an opportunity to see that or make the connection.”

Other exhibit components include a kid-sized Valley irrigation system, a Cow Café where kids can serve up their favorite beef dishes, a John Deere pedal track, crop planting station and a 40 foot climbable worm wall. Kids can also hop behind the wheel of a Claas combine or learn what it’s like to milk a dairy cow. For more information about this exhibit, visit www.ocm.org. Omaha Children’s Museum would like to extend a big thank you to the Nebraska Soybean Board for their participation in Once Upon a Farm.
Soybean meal (SBM) represents about 80 percent of the soybean’s volume and it currently represents about 70 percent of a soybean processor’s revenue. Yet, for many years, the soybean industry has taken for granted that animal nutritionists understood SBM’s value and as a result have not properly positioned SBM—its key product. United Soybean Board (USB) is now supporting a series of programs that actively position SBM to domestic feed manufacturers as a reliable product with multiple avenues for adding value to animal diets.

These include Animal Nutrition Working Group, Nutritionist Direct Outreach, Soybean Meal Information Center and the Feed Industry Marketing program. They are designed to work together—complementing each other’s efforts. The Animal Nutrition Working Group (ANWG) employs extremely targeted engagement with top-tier animal nutritionists actively formulating feed to ensure that USB’s animal nutrition research has practical applicability for industry. It also offers the participants—all volunteers—the most current information on ways to get the greatest value from SBM in their diets.

The Nutritionist Direct Outreach program pairs an animal nutritionist and a processing expert to directly engage industry animal nutritionists outside the ANWG, helping them maximize the value of SBM in their rations. This program also works with buyers, soybean processors and other key decision-makers to emphasize how quality can enhance customer loyalty. The primary focus of this program is to help industry adopt concepts proven by ANWG.

Soybean Meal Information Center is a long-standing partnership between Iowa Soybean Board,
multiple QSSBs and USB that acts as a clearinghouse for SBM information. The website provides a central point for information about SBM. Its activities include outreach through electronic newsletters and a booth at key shows, especially International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE) and World Pork Expo.

Adding Promotional Punch

The Nebraska Soybean Board is one of the forward looking states collaborating in support of the Feed Industry Marketing program, which enhances the effectiveness of Animal Nutrition Working Group, Nutritionist Direct Outreach and Soybean Meal Information Center by adding promotional punch through placing articles, developing reprints, creating handouts, sponsoring key shows and animal nutrition meetings and more.

First, the program developed articles that were placed in Feedstuffs, a leading weekly newspaper for agribusiness and especially animal nutrition. The first article that reintroduced the feed industry to the soy checkoff provided a high-level overview of checkoff work to improve SBM. A second article addressed the importance of developing an open line of communication between the feed manufacturer and how that open line of communication has the potential to benefit both.

The next program promoted the Soybean Meal Information Center booth, at the International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE) held this past January, in Atlanta, GA., which is the largest meat and poultry show in the country. Sponsorship helped drive visitors representing annual SBM purchases of over 5 million tons per year to the booth in the first year of this promotion and every year since. As a point of reference, annual domestic SBM consumption by animals tends to vary between 30 and 31 million tons per year.

A third key activity in the program is support of seminars at the Poultry Science Association’s annual meeting and American Society for Animal Science-Midwest section meeting. These seminars delivered information on how nutritionists can get more value from SBM and included respected university nutritionists, processing experts and industry consultants.

Delivering Results

The combined result of all these programs working together is a heightened awareness of SBM’s total value beyond amino acids. Increased interest in SBM from animal nutritionists can be seen through more hits to Soybean Meal Information Center along with more research being conducted that explores additional value from SBM. For instance, ways to decrease SBM variability and how to add extra phytase to animal diets which allows a higher SBM inclusion rate while lowering feed cost.

But the best testament to the effectiveness of the nutrition programs’ partnership has been the ability to maintain SBM inclusion rates while competitive protein source inclusion rates declined. For instance in 2013 SBM inclusion levels in all phases of swine diets were steady to slightly higher. Canola meal inclusion rates fell over 4 percent in nursery pigs, over 15 percent in grower/finisher diets and over 25 percent in sow diets. So, feed manufacturers are taking notice. The best part is these programs are just getting started. For a long time, the soybean industry did not position SBM—its key product that represents 70 percent of its value. Through its support of the Feed Industry Marketing program, Nebraska Soybean Board is partnering to actively position SBM as a consistent product with multiple avenues for adding value and that partnership is making a difference in domestic SBM utilization.
As we reach the end of another year, it is amazing to look back at what the biodiesel industry accomplished in the face of some immense challenges. Despite policy uncertainty all year long on the federal Renewable Fuel Standard and biodiesel tax incentive, monthly production stayed nearly on track with last year’s record highs, more OEMs support high blends, more states and cities have blend requirements. Biodiesel is in more markets than ever before, using more fats and oils than ever before, continuing to bring value to soybean farmers.

I feel a little bit like Mark Twain when he said, “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.” Many have written biodiesel off as a nice story but a thing of the past. However even with a challenging 2014, biodiesel has a bright future ahead of it as the largest, fastest growing Advanced Biofuel produced in the US. This is a direct result of the continued support of the industry and our generous champions at the state and national soybean organizations. We would most certainly not be where we are today without the leadership and financial investment of the Nebraska Soybean Board.

The biodiesel industry has seen tough times before, but we have never had to fight harder, smarter, and with more at stake than in 2014. The disastrous proposed 2014 Renewable Volume Obligation and the EPA’s delay in the final rule, combined with Congress’ delay in the reinstatement of the biodiesel tax credit caused tremendous financial harm to many members, especially our smaller producers. Meanwhile we saw a refortified effort by a powerful anti-biofuels coalition attack biofuels politically, legally, and through public opinion attacks. Huge efforts to repeal the RFS, litigation against it, and multi-media campaigns to disparage biofuels came from the petroleum lobby.

While checkoff funds can’t be used for direct advocacy, funding support from the Nebraska Soybean Board made a huge impact in combating the spread of misinformation through education efforts. And those efforts have paid off for Nebraska soybean farmers. A 2013 study conducted by Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota soy checkoff boards found that biodiesel contributed to a $15 billion increase in soy-oil revenues between 2006 and 2012. This also raised the value of soybeans by $0.74 per bushel, according to the study. It is easy to see why biodiesel is having such a large impact when you consider nearly five and a half billion pounds of soybean oil was utilized by biodiesel producers last year. And nearly that much other fats and oils were utilized as well, which is mostly either used cooking oil – recycled soy oil, or animal fats – value added soy protein.

2014 is on pace to be the fourth consecutive year of more than a billion gallons produced by the industry and last year biodiesel made up nearly five percent of our nation’s diesel fuel supply. Even though we have faced tremendous challenges this year, biodiesel certainly has a bright future and the rumors of the industry’s death have been greatly exaggerated.
Meeting the Transportation Needs of Nebraska Soybean Farmers

— by Mike Steenhok, Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition

The historic 2014 harvest is shedding the spotlight not only on the productive capacity of the American farmer, but also on the inadequacies of the transportation system responsible for accommodating it. It is becoming increasingly apparent that, for the soybean industry and other commodities to be profitable, it is not only necessary to produce abundant supply and generate substantial demand. It is also essential to have sufficient connectivity between supply and demand. Our transportation system provides that connectivity. Unfortunately, we continue to witness evidence of an infrastructure that is not fully equipped to transport soybeans and grain from where it is produced to where it is consumed in a cost effective, reliable manner.

"Farmers have known for years that we are able to produce much more soybeans and grain than what customers demand in the U.S.,” says Richard Bartek, a soybean farmer from Ithaca, Nebraska, and director on the Nebraska Soybean Board and the Soy Transportation Coalition. “We therefore have worked hard to promote exports to countries around the world. There is strong demand for these soybeans and grain, but if we don’t have a transportation that can handle it, we’ll never be successful as an industry.”

Farmers are dependent upon multiple modes of transportation in order to connect with customers. Unfortunately, each of these modes are experiencing significant challenges which negatively impact both Nebraska and U.S. soybean farmers.

Sufficient Rail Service for Nebraska and U.S. Soybean Farmers

Over the past year, rail service in many areas of the country suffered as a result of a sizable 2013 harvest, an extreme winter, and competition from other commodities, such as crude oil. In 2009, U.S. railroads transported 11,000 carloads of crude oil. In 2013, that number had escalated to 400,000 carloads. Agricultural customers, including farmers, have experienced hardship due to this decline in rail service. It is anticipated that these challenges will remain throughout the remainder of 2014 and well into next year.

The Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) is currently financing a research project, "2014 Harvest: Attaching a Garden Hose to a Fire Hydrant." While transportation concerns for the 2014 harvest are evident throughout the country, a particular region – North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska – is experiencing particular hardship due to having more limited access to alternative transportation providers and modes. Most of these areas solely rely on freight rail. As a
Better Stewardship of Rural Bridges

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Nebraska ranks sixth out of 50 states in having the most bridges rated as structurally deficient. Nebraska soybean farmers depend upon bridges to efficiently deliver to the local country elevator or processor. Many across the state and country are load limited, requiring vehicles transporting soybeans and other commodities to detour. This results in additional costs being inserted in our nation’s food delivery system and diminished profitability for farmers.

Research has documented that the reliance on visual inspection of our bridge inventory has resulted in a percentage of bridges being unnecessarily load posted or identified for rehabilitation or replacement. This not only results in unwarranted detours, but it prevents state and local governments from most efficiently allocating scarce resources to those bridges that truly are in urgent need of modernization and repair.

The Soy Transportation Coalition has been engaged with state departments of transportation in order to promote the utilization of structural health monitoring technology for bridges in the effort to better determine their true condition. Since the condition of our bridges is a significant concern and since available resources to address the problem are limited, it becomes all the more necessary to make sure we correctly diagnose the problem. The STC has reached out to the Nebraska Department of Roads to explore a collaboration to promote this technology. It is hopeful that a joint initiative can occur in the near future for the benefit of Nebraska farmers and its rural infrastructure.

Safe, Responsible Increase in Truck Weights

The decline in rail service over the past year highlights the importance of truck transportation for both agricultural inputs and outputs.

The Soy Transportation Coalition and other freight stakeholders have promoted the adoption of six axle, 97,000 lbs. semis on federal interstates and highways. Research documents that the addition of the sixth axle will displace the increased weight of the vehicle so that the impact on the road will be slightly less than a typical five axle, 80,000 lbs. semi. More importantly, the increased braking friction produced by the sixth axle will result in stopping distances being slightly less than a typical five axle, 80,000 lbs. semi.

To learn more about the work of the Soy Transportation Coalition, contact Mike Steenhoek at 515-727-0665 or msteenhoek@soytransportation.org.
This year our soybean customers got an early assessment of the soybean quality for much of the western producing areas. From October 3rd through October 13th, a team of agricultural buyers from Asia traveled through six major producing states to collect new-crop 2014 soybean samples, observe fall harvest conditions, get better acquainted with U.S. producers and our marketing and grain handling system—from the farm gate to the export elevator. This sampling tour gave them an opportunity to evaluate the impact that summer growing conditions had on the crop and get a better handle on how final soybean yields would turn out. One aspect of the tour that was particularly beneficial to the participants was to see the effects that a cooler growing season had on crop conditions, quality and yields.

Sampling tour participants this year joined us from China and Indonesia. During the ten-day period, each team logged over 3,300 miles in the countryside, visiting with producers, elevators, and processors in six Midwestern states—North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. The 2014 sampling tour was conducted a few days later than last year’s tour because we expected harvest to be delayed based upon crop development. National soybean planting progress was not seriously delayed this year as it was in 2013 and 2011 when less than two-thirds of the nation’s crop had been seeded by June 1st. Record June rainfall in key growing areas forced farmers to replant some of their beans and the cool July weather this year slowed development.

Many areas had wet and cool conditions during the critical pod-filling stage in August into early September, but there was little evidence to suggest that this adversely affected development on a northern crop like soybeans. For most of the area, warm and dry fall weather accelerated plant maturity into September and provided good momentum to finish the 2014 soybean crop. Our impression was that initial harvest yields once again surprised farmers, elevators and agronomists.

Some people walking fields in early August highlighted that soybean pod counts were not very encouraging in key growing areas west of the Mississippi River where planting delays had been quite serious. Consequently, people were braced for a more disappointing harvest result than what they saw when the combines started to roll in early October. Both soybean yields and quality turned out to be better than they had anticipated and the tour participants had an opportunity to see this firsthand rather than waiting for USDA to catch up more than a month later.

In all of the areas that we covered, the soybean harvest was unaffected by normal fall frost dates. This had been a major fear for both producers and market participants given the cool growing season. A hard freeze (< 28F) did not arrive early over a broad enough area to bring the soybean growing season to a definitive close in early September. While that clearly aided a late maturing crop, it also contributed to problems for some North Dakota producers as they struggled to bring in harvest with increased fall precipitation. There were never weather conditions that took moisture levels of soybeans down rapidly once they were fully mature, this slowed the harvest pace across the western production belt.

Heavy rain moved into the northern areas of the production belt in October just as the Sampling Tour participants headed south. Rain delays were more frequent and heavier than most producers would...
have liked. Merchandisers were drawing new-crop beans out of production areas with lighter soils where the crop was ready.

On almost every farm we visited, producers expressed surprise, delight, and/or relief that their crop yields were above expectations given the cooler temperatures and the extreme moisture swings. It was a wet start and a moist finish, but fortunately the heat during the mid-summer stayed away.

The average moisture content on our 2014 soybean samples was 1.3 percentage points higher than that of 2013, coming in at average 12.6%. Participants collected field samples and combined soybeans on each of our travel days across the six states visited. In total, we collected over 370 soybean samples this year from producers, elevators and processors, and 367 were graded.
The tour participants were generally pleased with the visual inspections of this year’s samples from the field. Due to the variable harvest, splits and shrunked soybeans were not showing up as major discount factors for grading and the yields that we were finding were universally “better-than-expected”. In many cases, they were significantly better. Foreign material (FM) was consistently very low in beans being delivered to elevators along the routes that we traveled. Many elevators were telling us that this was one of the best quality crops to handle that they have seen in terms of test weight, bean size, moisture, lack of splits and low FM.

USDA’s pre-season national soybean yield projection (May WASDE Report) was a record large 45.2 bushels per acre, indicating that they thought we would have a bumper crop before anyone had planted. The department’s initial August estimate from their objective yield survey came in at 45.4 bu/acre. That was raised again in September to 46.6 bu. /acre and once again in October to 47.1 bu/acre.

USDA’s June soybean plantings estimate was a record large 84.8 million acres. This was 11% above last year’s acreage, but more importantly it was 4% above the March intentions report and 3% above the average trade guess. What that meant, in strict terms, was that we found another 164 million bushels in new-crop bean supplies for the 2014/15 marketing year if we use USDA’s 2014 yield projection on the June Acreage Report. USDA did not provide any new guidance to foreign buyers as to the direction yields were headed with this huge acreage increase. The yield forecast on the July WASDE Report was left unchanged from June at 45.2 bu/acre.

On the September Grain Stocks Report released on September 30th, just as the team was getting ready to embark on field observations, USDA revised last year’s (2013) production estimate upward by 69 million bu. or 2.1%.

The buying team found the Sampling Tour a great benefit in helping them better understand not only the quality characteristics of this year’s harvest but also to gather firsthand knowledge of what happened to the U.S. soybean crop during this summer’s growing season. Participants obtained a better feel for where USDA would likely to go with their crop estimates on subsequent production reports for 2014 and they now better understand the imprecision in government estimates, even when the harvest has been wrapped up.

The samples collected this year from the 2014 harvest indicated this crop showed good but lower crude protein quantity and lower oil yields than last year’s harvest. Given the exceptional rain and cooler weather during August and good harvest weather, we would expect very little deterioration in quality from the samples collected from those beans received on the back half of harvest.

One would have expected the overall crop attributes for 2014 to be as good as those from the 2013 harvest. The preliminary results indicate that the crop is better on an “adjusted” basis and on an “actual” basis due to the higher moisture content in the harvested soybeans at the time of the survey. “Actual” would likely be the “state of purchasing” since adding moisture is neither legal nor practical. This conclusion holds when we calculate the crude measures at 12% moisture, which we use because that is typically the moisture where soybean meal is sold.

We continue to believe that the crude protein measures that evaluate nitrogen are too simplistic of a quality measure to accurately show the differences in protein quality between harvests. This year’s soybeans are big, yellow, and of good quality. Iowa had the largest drop in crude protein from last year of nearly a full percentage point, while Minnesota had the largest oil drop. Nebraska, Iowa, and North Dakota all had about a half point lower in crude protein levels as last year. Kansas had too few samples to be a factor in the survey. In the case of oil, sample results showed that in last year’s low oil states, crude oil content decreased by 0.4-0.9 percentage points on an “actual” basis”.

It is important to remember that this sampling survey is designed to get a quick and early first look at the harvest in order to give foreign buyers and processors a lead on what to expect in terms of quality. It is not expected to be a definitive final evaluation of the harvest. It should also be noted that the survey primarily covers the western soybean growing areas that will mostly provide beans to AGP and/or be exported off the West Coast. This was the sixth survey year.

We plan to revisit these states in future years to develop an early-harvest soybean quality information base to assist buyers with their purchase plans from these western Corn Belt locations and AGP processing plants.
All across America, everyone from fleets and motorists to companies and municipalities counts on biodiesel to power their vehicles and heat their buildings. Its demand now exceeds 1 billion gallons a year, fueling 60,000 U.S. jobs and adding 74 cents per bushel to the value of soybeans. Biodiesel works...for America and America’s soybean farmers. Thanks to farmer support and the soy checkoff, its success continues to grow. www.UnitedSoybean.org
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