The Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System also allows growers to make a post application to their Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans to help fight tough-to-control and late-emerging weeds. Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans are anticipated to be the Asgrow brand’s largest soybean trait launch ever. Pending regulatory approvals, Asgrow is expected to offer the largest number of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend products next season, with a total of 25 products spanning eight maturity groups.

Elite Genetics with High Yield Potential

Dicamba is proven to be effective in controlling 274 weeds, including many of the problem species that are resistant to glyphosate. Once dicamba is approved for over-the-top use, benefits of the Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System will include more flexibility for herbicide application before, at, and after planting. Additionally, dicamba can provide up to 14 days of residual weed control on small-seeded broadleaf weeds. Traditional residual herbicides should still be used as part of the Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System.

Through Ground Breakers® Field Trials Under Permit, Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans have demonstrated improved soybean production with enhanced agronomic packages.

“The Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System will offer farmers flexibility in their early-season broadleaf burndown programs,” says Asgrow® and DEKALB® Technical Agronomist Kevin Keller. “It will provide a level of residual that will compliment any soybean pre-emergent herbicides the farmer may be using, offering exceptional early-season weed control.”

Key Asgrow Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybean products that are expected to be available in 2016 to Nebraska farmers include:

• AG25X6 brand – 2.5 RM with top end yield potential and tolerance to SCN, PRR, SDS and white mold.
• AG20X6 brand – 2.9 RM with a combination of high yield potential and defensive traits, including resistance to Phytophthora and SCN.
• AG30X6 brand – 3.0 RM with solid agronomics, a broad defensive package and high yield potential.
• AG31X6 brand – 3.1 RM with excellent standability, SCN resistance and high yield potential.
• AG34X6 brand – 3.4 RM with high yield potential, good standability and key defensive traits.

“The Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System also allows growers to make a post application to their Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans to help fight tough-to-control and late-emerging weeds,” adds Keller.

How to Maintain Clean Fields

Weed control is an essential part of farming, as it can impact the crop’s ability to reach full yield potential. Follow these tips to keep fields clean throughout the season:

• Target weeds that are four inches or shorter with herbicide application
• Start clean on every field: apply a pre-emergence residual herbicide on every acre
• Include multiple mechanisms of action in tank mixes to ensure best results of tough-to-control weeds
• Nebraska farmers can find weed management recommendations – and information on financial incentives – by visiting the Roundup Ready PLUS Crop Management Solutions website at RoundupReadyPLUS.com

This information is for educational purposes only and is not a promotion or offer to sell Roundup Ready® or LibertyLink® soybeans. These products are not yet registered or approved for sale or use anywhere in the United States. Commercialization is dependent on multiple factors, including successful conclusion of the regulatory process. The information presented herein is provided for educational purposes only, and is not and shall not be construed as an offer to sell, or a recommendation to use, any unregistered pesticides for any purpose whatsoever. Bayer CropScience LP is a member of Excellence Through Stewardship® (ETS). Bayer products are commercialized in accordance with ETS Product Launch Stewardship Guidance, and in compliance with Monsanto’s Policy for Commercialization of Biotechnology-Derived Plant Products. These products are not yet registered or approved for sale or use anywhere in the United States. Always read and follow RM, where applicable, grain marketing and all other stewardship practices and pesticide label directions. Asgrow and the Asgrow design, Asgrow®, LibertyLink®, Roundup Ready®, Roundup®, XR® and DeKalb® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC, LibertyLink® and the Water Droplet Design® are registered trademarks of Bayer. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2015 Monsanto Company.
SOYBEANEASTRASKA
A Publication of the Nebraska Soybean Association and the Nebraska Soybean Board

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Interested in Learning more about the Soybean Checkoff? Come See for Yourself this year!
– by Drew Guiney

We are currently in the middle of the tenth year of the Nebraska Soybean Board’s “See for Yourself” program. Although we have completed the international marketing seminar in Washington State where attendees toured the Ports of Grays Harbor and Tacoma, as well as learned about aquaculture and biodiesel production, plenty of opportunities still exist for you to check out what the checkoff is doing.

The See for Yourself program is designed to give Nebraska soybean farmers the opportunity to learn more about their checkoff. Farmers selected to take part in the program will attend checkoff-sponsored activities in an attempt to gain a better understanding of how their checkoff dollars are being invested to build demand and increase profitability.

See for Yourself includes opportunities to attend state, national and international activities. The in-state program gives farmers the chance to attend functions in Nebraska that are vital to the continued success of the soybean industry at the local level. The national program includes attending meetings sponsored by the United Soybean Board, United States Meat Export Federation, National Biodiesel Board, United States Soybean Export Council, United States Poultry and Egg Export Council, as well as many other important national meetings and activities. The international program is designed to show soybean farmers first-hand what the checkoff is doing to build global demand.

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 checkoff activities. To get involved or learn more about the program, please contact the Nebraska Soybean Board office at 402-441-3240. Thank you for your support of the Nebraska Soybean Board and this exciting program, and we hope to see you at our next event!
For many of us, this spring has been a stark reminder of the unpredictability of Mother Nature. Reports indicate that soybean farmers in the state are well behind getting their crop planted compared to last year. While there isn’t a lot we can do to control the weather, we can spend this time to think about how management practices can affect yield and profitability.

Water is critical to raising a crop in Nebraska. And although we’ve received above average moisture in many areas, producers will no doubt face water-related challenges in the future. In an effort to help producers better manage water issues, the Nebraska soybean checkoff has partnered with the University of Nebraska to develop tools and best management practices to give producers the tools they need to maximize their profit potential.

One of the tools that you may have heard about over the last few years is SoyWater – an irrigation management tool developed by Dr. Jim Specht and his colleagues at UNL. SoyWater works by pulling local weather data, or information from installed Watermark sensors, to help farmers better understand moisture levels, when they should apply water, and how much they should apply. Information like this has helped farmers across the state with water management. Dr. Specht and his team have made SoyWater presentations at events around the state including Soybean Management Field Days, which will occur August 11-14 this year. I encourage you all to attend one of the field day events in your area to learn more about checkoff funded research projects and current best management practices. (See the SoyWater article on page 14)

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) partners with the university and extension in order to disseminate research to farmers in a timely manner. In an effort to increase the usability of this information, NSB has funded a project that will develop a web portal that summarizes best management practices research in Nebraska. This portal will feature research results and a management calendar that will describe timely issues and research backed management practices.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to remind everyone that using biodiesel to power their irrigation pivots is a great way to support your own product. Also, if there is an election in your district for an open position on the soybean checkoff, I strongly encourage you to VOTE.

Here’s wishing everyone a happy and productive growing season.  

Ron
from the Association

Things hoped for

– by Ken Boswell, Shickley, NSA President

This year’s Legislative session has been like some years of farming. You have great hope for a large harvest after seeing your great stands in the spring. But come harvest the yield is just not there.

There was a lot of hope for property tax relief after seeing the number of bills dealing with lowering property taxes introduced. As the hearing process proceeded the hope began to dwindle. The only bill with significant property tax relief to advance from the revenue committee exempts the first ten thousand dollars of value on your personal property statement. This will save the average farmer about $135 in personal property tax.

The most property tax relief came from the Appropriation Committee. They added $68 million to the property tax credit program for the next two years. This means the program will have $400 million over the two-year budget.

A resolution was introduced to form a committee to study school financing, to find a way to fund schools besides relying so heavily on property taxes. This failed to advance as they could not agree on who would serve on the committee. There is some indication the Education committee is going to start the work of looking at the school aid funding formula.

As modern agriculture requires good roads and bridges we are encouraged the legislature has provided extra funding to repair them, however it comes at a cost with an increase in the gas tax.

The Legislature debated several bills to assist with livestock expansion in Nebraska. One such bill to receive the Governor’s signature was LB 175 the Livestock Growth Act. The bill focuses on providing a grant program for livestock friendly counties to use for infrastructure improvement needed for livestock expansion.

At the Federal level ASA has been working on the review of the Waters of the United States Rule (WOTUS), proposed renewable fuels volumes, biotechnology approvals, surface transportation board renewal, and of course effective trade policy.

Just like several producers this spring had too many “rainy days” the Legislature sure didn’t flood the gates with property tax relief like we had hoped. We will continue our work towards effective property tax policy with the Legislature and our efforts in D.C. will be more important than ever in the coming months.

Wishing you a favorable growing season.

I Believe, I Belong...

I believe in the Nebraska Soybean Association because it gives farmers a united voice on policy issues both here in Lincoln and in DC. We need to be certain that we have fair policy to protect our farms for the next generation, like my son Dalton who hopes to farm someday. I believe we need to unite as fellow producers to protect our interests from attacks and radical groups that at times say we are harming the soil and air. We are the same people that raise our families and eat the same foods as they do. That is why I believe and belong to the Nebraska Soybean Association.

– Doug Bartek, Wahoo NE, Saunders County Representative, Nebraska Soybean Association
Nebraska Soybean Board Holds Election for Director Seats in Districts 1, 3 and 6 — by Diane Muehlhausen

Election ballots for the Nebraska Soybean Board Districts 1, 3 and 6 will be mailed on Monday, July 13, 2015, to soybean farmers in those districts. Farmers eligible to vote in the election must produce soybeans, be a resident of the district and pay the soybean checkoff. Qualified farmers who do not receive a ballot by July 17, 2015, can call 402-466-1969 to request a ballot. The voting farmer must sign and print their full name and hometown on the return ballot envelope for their vote to be valid. Ballots must be postmarked by July 31, 2015.

The elected directors will serve a three-year term beginning October 1, 2015 and ending September 30, 2018. NSB directors are reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out board business.

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.

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

Edward Lammers
Hartington, NE - Cedar County

My wife Michelle and I produce corn, soybeans and alfalfa. Also produce beef, with a sizable herd of stock cows. I feed the calves to sell in the fat cattle market.

**Comments by Ed:** I will continue to support the efforts of the Board in the promotion of soybeans, through domestic use, livestock production, biodiesel, Bioheat and new products. I feel it is important to help fund research and education. This funding helps find new genetics and resistance packages to help keep us the most productive producers in the world. An important job of the board is to share this information through educational seminars, brochures and advertisements to producers and consumers of Nebraska soybeans.

Anne Meis
Elgin, NE - Antelope County

Jim and I are part of a family operation along with Jim’s brother Joe and wife Pam and Jim’s parents. We raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa and also feed beef cattle that we sell each year as fat steers. This year we plan to raise 2/3 of our acres in corn and 1/3 acres in soybeans. Jim started farming in 1981, and I joined the operation in 1987. We are proud to be 3rd generation on this land and our son Jonathon plans to return to the farm operation after college.

**Comments by Anne:** As a former classroom educator and recent Nebraska LEAD 33 graduate, I believe I have skills and background to be involved in decisions about how soybean checkoff dollars are used. Jim and I have been soybean producers for over 27 years. I believe that producers need to be more involved in marketing and promoting their products. I have long believed the checkoff dollar supports our farm business through education and marketing. I would like to be a member of the Nebraska Soybean Board and be a voice for soybean growers.

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

Jason Arp,
Kennard, NE - Washington County

As fourth generation farmers, my wife Jennifer and our three girls Cassidy, Taylor and Hayley work alongside my parents near Kennard, Nebraska. Our farming operation consists of a large custom swine feeding operation. In addition, we raise soybeans, corn and alfalfa. We also own and manage a liquid manure pumping company.

**Comments by Jason:** Being a Nebraska LEAD graduate, course work has prepared me to be an agricultural leader. I strongly feel contributing valuable life skills, farming experience and expertise would further increase the impact of the Nebraska Soybean Board and help in advancing its mission in serving all soybean farmers. My desire “to move onto new pastures” and serve on the Board would be an exciting personal opportunity, but would also allow for my family and me to help shape a positive public perception of agriculture.

Richard Bartek
Ithaca, NE - Saunders County

I currently farm near Ithaca with two brothers. We are involved in a family-farm operation producing both soybeans and corn in a 50-50 rotation. Our operation consists of mostly rented areas with 75% being no-till terraced and dryland acres and 25% irrigated acres. We have no livestock at this time. We are also a seed dealer for L.G. Seeds and do some custom planting, spraying and combining.

**Comments by Richard:** I would like to continue serving on the checkoff board because I feel the need to work hard to insure soybean production is profitable for Nebraska soybean producers. I am dedicated to see that research continue resulting in better hybrids that
will improve yield, disease and insect resistance, weed control as well as new uses being developed. Promoting biodiesel is also essential. I have hosted many trade mission groups for the Nebraska Soybean Board as well as the University of Nebraska to promote foreign sales and I would like to continue to do so because of its importance.

**Rebecca Kreikemeier**
**Bellwood, NE - Butler County**

My husband Gary and I with the partnership of our son Tony have a farming operation that includes soybeans, corn and cattle. We farmed in Dodge County for 15 years and then moved to Butler County and have lived near Bellwood for nearly 20 years. I currently provide my office management expertise in running the feedlot and farming office computers. We have five children that live in Nebraska, one currently living in China, that grew up knowing the value of hard work and challenges presented to them by growing up on a family farm. We try to incorporate and work hard to stay updated on the latest information, marketing and technology to become the most efficient that we can. Traveling to see our children around the world has shown us that we don’t just live in Nebraska and that our lives are more internationally intertwined as we become more involved in the marketing of our products to stay competitive.

**Comments by Rebecca:** Running for a leadership position on the Nebraska Soybean Board representing Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties would be an honor. I believe every checkoff dollar should be appropriated to reach its most potential. All the appropriated categories of research, education and domestic and foreign markets, plus finding new uses are so vital to give our soybeans more added value. I would appreciate the opportunity to be part of the decision making and represent my district to be heard in that process. As a member of LEAD Class 30, I feel more than qualified to be an Ag leader on the Nebraska Soybean Board and make decisions for the counties that I would represent. As the mother of five, I feel a female voice would be a positive influence on the board that influences production profitability and promotes soybeans. The soybean is one of the most influential grains in our daily lives and investing in its future with checkoff dollars is money well spent.

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

**Terry Hackbart**
**Seward, NE - Seward County**

I have been farming for the past 40 years by Seward. After college two of my sons joined my operation. We raise soybeans, corn and alfalfa, a sizable spring and fall cow/calf herd and a custom feedlot. Along with our farming operation we have a custom hay service and also do a fair amount of custom farming as well as a tassel cutting business for seed corn producers. We also enjoy raising club calves and purebred seed stock bulls and heifers.

**Larry Tonniges**
**Utica, NE - Seward County**

I began farming fulltime in 1982 and worked my way through the hard times of the early 80’s. Farming started to get better in 1989 when we signed a seed corn contract with Funk’s Hi-Bred to grow seed for them and had the first contract signed at the York, NE production area. We raise soybeans, corn and seed corn, have a very small beef herd, and do custom harvesting for Pioneer. I farm in a partnership with my brother, Douglas and together we grow around 60% corn and seed corn and 40% soybeans.

**Comments by Larry:** As a soybean producer I have always had an interest in how our soybean checkoff dollars are spent. I would like to offer my money management and organizational skills to help in any way I can to promote the use and sale of soybeans. I am or would be interested in the research of new ideas for the use of soybean products, and I feel that would be a good place to use part of the promotional dollars. I would appreciate your vote to let me help grow the use of soy products.

**Mike Tomes**
**Utica, NE - Seward County**

I have been involved in production agriculture near Utica for 37 years. My operation includes irrigated acres of corn and soybean rotation. Hybrid seed corn production has been a part of this farm since 1989. I have two sons involved on the farm. The three of us custom harvest seed corn for Dupont and Monsanto. I recently sold my share of a large sow unit even though swine production was a rewarding part of this operation for 40 years.

**Comments by Mike:** I am seeking the Nebraska Soybean Board director position to promote profitability for all Nebraska producers. I will help determine where best to invest our checkoff dollars. As a member of the Nebraska LEAD 24 Class, I gained perception of the importance of commodity boards and associations in securing a profitable future for Nebraska agriculture. I’ve also served on the Nebraska Ag Leadership Council. Prior experiences will allow me to be an effective knowledgeable director of the Nebraska Soybean Board.

**Terry Hackbart**
**Seward, NE - Seward County**

I have been farming for the past 40 years by Seward. After college two of my sons joined my operation. We raise soybeans, corn and alfalfa, a sizable spring and fall cow/calf herd and a custom feedlot. Along with our farming operation we have a custom hay service and also do a fair amount of custom farming as well as a tassel cutting business for seed corn producers. We also enjoy raising club calves and purebred seed stock bulls and heifers.

**Comments by Terry:** I am seeking to be on the Soybean Board because I feel it is important that every farmer is involved with his commodity organization. So that we may be knowledgeable about the product we raise and to have good markets and support. Also knowing how our checkoff dollars are being used to promote our soybean products here and abroad. Over the years I have served on several boards and feel I have gained knowledge and experience to be an asset to the Nebraska Soybean Board.
Visit Raising Nebraska This Year at the 2015 Nebraska State Fair
August 28 – September 7, 2015

Visit Us at the Ag Commodity Building in Grand Island!
September 15, 16 and 17

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August 28 – September 7, 2015

Visit Us at the Ag Commodity Building in Grand Island!
September 15, 16 and 17
The American Soybean Association (ASA), Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) and DuPont are seeking applicants for the 2016 ASA DuPont Young Leader Program. For more than 30 years, the ASA DuPont Young Leader program has identified and developed grower leaders that truly shape the future of agriculture. The program provides industry leader training an environment that fosters collaboration between farmers throughout the U.S. Participants not only gain ‘real-world’ experience but build lifetime friendships.

The ASA DuPont Young Leader program is a challenging and educational two-part training program. Phase I of the training will take place at the DuPont Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, Dec. 1-4, 2015. The program continues March 1-4, 2016 in New Orleans, LA, with training held in conjunction with the 21st Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show.

The ASA DuPont Young Leader program offers the opportunity for participants to strengthen their natural leadership skills, expand their agricultural knowledge and develop strong peer relationships with other soybean growers from across the country.

Applications are being accepted online through September 15, 2015. Apply online at https://soygrowers.com/learn/young-leader-program or contact the NSA at 402-441-3239 for more information.

Raise Your Voice For Agriculture
Apply for the 2015-16 Young Leader Program

The Legislature wrapped up the 2015 session on May 29th. The final week of the session was eventful with the successful override votes on the repeal of the death penalty and issuance of drivers licenses to immigrant children covered under the federal DACA program.

For agriculture and the Nebraska Soybean Association, the session had a mix of action on bills related to property tax relief. Areas of interest included the state budget which contained an additional $108 million in funding for the Property Tax Credit Program over the 2-year budget cycle, and legislation passed to exempt the first $10,000 in personal property for taxation. Yet efforts to reduce the taxable value of agricultural land, provide additional state aid to rural schools, or broaden the tax base at the local level to fund schools fell short.

Looking ahead, property taxes will likely remain the top issue which senators focus on in the interim.

Growth of the livestock industry, which was another priority of legislation for the NSA, saw a few bills pass including LB 106 which directs the NDA to develop a scoring matrix that could be used by counties to evaluate livestock operations for conditional use permits. Another bill LB 175 directs the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to develop a grant program for counties designated Livestock Friendly to be used for strategic planning, examining zoning regulations, livestock growth programs or infrastructure needs related to livestock.

Several NSA directors presented testimony on these issues during the hearing process this session and will continue to monitor interim hearings over the summer months. Only membership dues support policy efforts at the Statehouse and in Washington DC.
2015 SOYBEAN MANAGEMENT

FIELD DAYS

1 Day Events * 4 Locations * 4 Rotating Field Stops

- 1-Hour presentations rotate from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Register at 9 a.m.)
- Unbiased, research-based information
- Field tours and presentations in tents
- University presenters and industry consultants
- Complimentary admission and lunch
- CCA Credits available

Grain Marketing/Farm Financial Outlook
- Tina Barrett, Executive Director, Nebraska Farm Business, Inc.
- Clint Hoffman, Risk Management Consultant, The ARC Group LLC.

Integrated Soybean Production Study
- Tony Adesemoye, Nebraska Extension Plant Disease Management Specialist
- Loren Giesler, Nebraska Extension Plant Pathologist
- Keith Glewen, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Thomas Hunt, Nebraska Extension Entomologist
- Brian Krienke, Nebraska Soils Extension Educator
- Josh Miller, Doctoral Student, UNL DPH and Plant Pathology
- Julie Peterson, Nebraska Extension Entomology Specialist
- Ron Seymour, Nebraska Extension Educator – Entomologist
- Charles Shapiro, UNL Soil Scientist – Crop Nutrition

Role of Water Quality and Nozzle Selection in Weed Management
- Greg Kruger, Nebraska Extension Weed Science and Application Technology Specialist
- Fred Whitford, Coordinator, Purdue University Pesticide Programs

Soybean Irrigation Management
- Chuck Burr, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Troy Ingram, Nebraska Extension Educator
- Gary Zoubek, Nebraska Extension Educator

Truth (Soil Fertility Concepts for Soybeans) and Dare (Test it Yourself)
- Brian Krienke, Nebraska Soils Extension Educator
- Charles Shapiro, UNL Soil Scientist – Crop Nutrition
- Laura Thompson, Nebraska Extension Educator

Aug. 11
Rick & Chuck Bergman Farm
near Holdrege 1139 741 Rd.
From Holdrege, go north on Burlington St. US-183 for 8 mi. Go 1.25 mi. west on Cty Rd. 741. 2 R from I-80, take Exit 257 and go south on US-183 for 8.5 mi. Go 1.25 mi. west on Cty Rd. 741. Field site is on north side of road.

Aug. 12
Jason & Dennis Bonsack Farm
near Alda 3170 S 91th Rd.
From Alda go 1 mi. southwest on Hwy. 30. Go west 1 mi. on Wildwood Drive. Go ½ mi. north on Cty Rd. 90. Field site is on west side of road.

Aug. 13
Mike Anderson Farm
near Wakefield 1235 58th Ave.
From Wakefield, go south on Hwy. 33/Hwy. 76 for 5 mi. Go east onto Cty Rd. 855 for 2 miles. Go north ½ mile on Cty Rd. 71. Field site is on east side of road.

Aug. 14
Kent Moravec Farm
near Greenwood 3500 E. Rock Creek Rd.
From I-80 take exit 409 and go north 2 mi. on Hwy. 63. Go west ½ mi. on Rock Creek Rd. DR From Greenwood go northeast 3 mi. on Hwy 63. Go east ½ mi. on Rock Creek Rd. From Ashland go southwest 2 miles on Hwy. 6. Go ½ mi. south on Hwy. 63. Go west ½ mi. on Rock Creek Rd. Field site is on south side of road (across from the Ashland Country Club).

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With support from:

Connect with us and get the latest updates on Soybean Management Field Days and research updates. Links available on our website.
A disease with a broadening distribution has been plaguing soybeans in the North Central region and the losses can be staggering. From 2006 to 2010, sudden death syndrome (SDS) was estimated to cause annual losses averaging 34 million bushels of soybeans in the U.S. each year. Previously only a significant problem in the South, the geographic area affected by this pathogen has recently expanded and become a major threat to Nebraska and its neighboring states.

Due to the magnitude of the impact caused by this yield-robbing disease, the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP), has dedicated 17 percent of its 2015 budget to SDS research, with the majority being focused on improving the genetics of SDS resistant soybean varieties. Currently, the most effective management option for growers to control SDS is resistant varieties that have shown a reasonable tolerance of the disease. However, the issue is further complicated because the inheritance of this resistance is controlled by many genes and therefore extremely complex.

The NCSRP’s targeted focus on the analysis of genetics will allow breeders to become more efficient in developing new, high-yielding, SDS-resistant varieties. Growers will see the benefits of this project through increased SDS resistance in both private and public varieties.

Summaries of the recent SDS research projects are below. For more information about research results, and tips on preventing and recognizing SDS, visit [www.soybeanresearchinfo.com](http://www.soybeanresearchinfo.com) and click on Sudden Death Syndrome under the Soybean Diseases tab.

- A research team led by Brian Diers (IL), Osman Radwan (IL), Jason Bond (IL), Dechun Wang (MI) and Glen Hartman (USDA) mapped gene locations on chromosomes that confer resistance to SDS and developed molecular markers linked to resistant genes. In 2014, the group made progress with a population of 153 lines and a validation population of 167 lines. These were evaluated for SDS resistance in a disease nursery with genetic markers to map new SDS resistance genes. A high level of disease was observed in these tests and results will be beneficial for future mapping of resistance genes. The team also mapped five SDS resistance genes using a new method of genetic mapping called association mapping and conducted field tests to confirm the effect of previously mapped SDS resistant genes. The positive effect of three genes was confirmed, which means these genes will be especially useful in breeding programs.

- B. Diers transferred 11 new experimental lines to a commercial seed company for seed expansion, final evaluation and commercialization. The majority of these lines are classified as resistant or moderately resistant to SDS and they vary in maturity from MG 2.1 to 3.7.

- J. Bond coordinated the screening and testing of the advanced experimental lines public soybean breeders submitted to the Northern and Southern Regional Tests.

- Soybean Breeders B. Diers, D. Wang, Jim Orf (MN), Pengyin Chen (AR) Stella Kantartzi (IL) and Silvia Cianzio (IA), conducted field evaluations of advanced experimental lines in regional tests, made crosses to develop populations, advanced experimental lines and conducted field evaluations in each state on replicated field tests.

- Soybean pathologists Daren Mueller (IA) and Leonor Leandro (IA) led a diverse team composed of Greg Tylka (IA), J. Arbuckle (IA), S. Cianzio, Kiersten Wise (IN), Virginia Ferris (IN), Jamal Faghihi (IN), Martin Chilvers (MI) and Albert Tenuta (Canada), to evaluate and develop an integrated management and communication plan for soybean SDS. Because genetic resistance alone will not always provide adequate protection, these researchers looked at soybean cyst nematode and SDS interactions as well as overall soybean root health, planting date, other production practices and new products such as seed treatments. They then sought diverse ways to combine their findings and communicate them to farmers.

As with all research and outreach activities funded with soybean checkoff dollars through NCSRP, the work by various researchers on SDS is shared with Nebraska scientists and farmers for their mutual benefit. Furthermore, the basic and applied work on SDS will complement the strong NCSRP funded biotechnology and breeding work being accomplished by Nebraska researchers Tom Clemente and George Graef.

Clemente’s team is working to develop basic tools and techniques for gene silencing that will protect plants from insects, nematodes and viral and fungal pathogens, like the SDS-causing fungus. Graef is leading a team to identify high-yielding soybean genotypes in the USDA collection. These high-yielding soybeans can be crossed with SDS-resistant genotypes being identified and characterized by D. Diers, J. Bond, S. Cianzio and their colleagues.

NCSRP-funded research at the University of Nebraska, and other member states, is shared and leveraged for the broad improvement of yield potential, disease resistance and enhanced soybean production practices.
After you’re finished planting, you may be tempted to dump your remaining seed in with any soybeans you still have from last year’s harvest. Don’t.

“It is illegal in the United States to put treated seed into your soybeans and take them to the elevator. It is unacceptable not only in the United States, but worldwide, as well,” says Dwain Ford, United Soybean Board international opportunities target area coordinator and a soybean farmer from Kinmundy, Illinois. “It’s important that U.S. soybean farmers use and know the laws here in the United States for disposing of treated seeds and that they’re very conscious in ensuring that those are disposed of in the proper, legal manner.”

Providing high-quality, contamination-free soy shipments helps the United States remain the preferred supplier of soybeans around the world and helps U.S. farmers maintain their access to key markets.

As soybean seed treated with crop-protection products has become more popular in recent years, it has also become more important for farmers to properly dispose of leftover seed. Some international customers forbid the presence of any treated seed in commodity soybean shipments, and farmers violating U.S. laws on treated seed disposal may be subject to legal action.

Keep Soybean Grain Safe

“I believe that U.S. soybean farmers are very conscious about this and do a very good job in segregating and keeping those treated seeds out of commercial soybeans,” Ford adds. “However, customers can reject a whole shipload of our soybeans over just a few soybeans that have been treated, and that could cost all of us millions of dollars.”

For additional information visit: http://unitedsoybean.org/

Best practices to prevent treated seed in deliveries

1. Clean up spills and dispose of left-over treated seed responsibly.
2. Consider using dedicated bins for treated seed when possible.
3. Clean all equipment, bins and vehicles thoroughly after seeding and before harvest.
4. Visually inspect equipment and bins for treated seed:
   - Before harvest
   - Before transferring grain between bins
   - Before transferring grain to a truck or railcar for delivery
Education in today’s world of technology is rapidly changing. The way children access information once was dependent upon books, teachers in the classroom, community members, and for many, life experiences on the farm or ranch. Today, however, educators face a new reality. Most children enter a formal classroom environment, knowing how to access information on a smart device using an application or search engine to find information on the Internet. Growing up with real life experiences on the farm or ranch is much less common. That’s why the Nebraska Soybean Board has joined a partnership that has developed a new form of accessing Nebraska agricultural information and soybean data in our changing world of information and technology.

As part of a team with the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (NFBFA), Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Beef Council, a new Nebraska Interactive Map will be available this fall to teachers, students and consumers to learn more about soybeans and our state. Initially, fourth grade teachers will be targeted to include this tool in teaching Nebraska studies, as it is a state requirement for all fourth graders in Nebraska. Math, science and English studies at multiple grade levels can use the NFBFA Interactive Map as well. Additionally, it has the potential to be used in consumer education efforts across the state.

Soybean information, including county specific production data, will be available for students. This data shows students and consumers how the soybean industry has evolved over time by comparing today’s production to that of 1924 and 1965. A video on how soybeans are grown and their uses is also featured. By using technology, the Nebraska Soybean Board’s partnership with NFBFA will help to educate children and the public about soybeans, corn, beef and so much more. We know that agriculture is vital to our future in Nebraska. We also know that our youth will determine what the future holds. By being part of the team that has the vision to create a new form of technology to engage our youth in classrooms across Nebraska, we believe more kids will know what soybeans are, how they are grown, what they are used for and how all Nebraskan’s use and need soybeans and all of their by-products to make Nebraska strong into the future.

Pictured is an example of the Nebraska MAP Project which is a web-based tool to help students learn more about soybeans and other agriculture commodities produced in Nebraska.
Water is critical to raising a crop here in Nebraska. However, an unusually wet spring has presented challenges for many farmers, who faced muddy conditions and late planting. Although we seem to be on one end of an every-changing spectrum, the wet spring clearly illustrates the critical role water plays in our state.

Dr. Jim Specht, UNL professor emeritus of agronomy and horticulture, noticed the importance of water to Nebraska producers long ago and dedicated a significant portion of his career working to address water issues. “I have conducted research on soybean yield response to water (whether abundant, as in irrigated production systems, or scarce, as in some years of rain-fed production systems) for the past 40 years at UNL,” Specht said. “I was born and raised on an irrigated farm in western Nebraska, where my interest in water was piqued. This early passion translated into water research at UNL later in life.”

**SoyWater**

Nebraska farmers irrigate nearly 8.5 million acres, more than any other state in the country. Farmers depend on water from a variety of sources in order to raise a crop each year. In an effort to make this process more effective and efficient, Dr. Specht and his colleagues developed the SoyWater irrigation management tool. According to Dr. Specht, during the mid-1990s, irrigation scheduling had become the standard practice for optimizing the effectiveness and efficiency of crop irrigation. However, doing so manually was simply too overwhelming a task for producers to do for each field. Even after software was created for use on personal computers, there was a steep learning curve, and the inputs needed by a user were still overwhelming.

“In 2006, I was working with Gregg Fujan, a NSB board member at that time, to help him do irrigation scheduling with one irrigated field of soybeans. I asked him how he estimated the daily crop water use (required for manually tracking of crop depletion of soil water). Gregg told me he got that daily information from an ag radio station that...
reported evapotranspiration (now known as Crop ET),” Specht said.

The increase in Internet availability led Specht to start formulating the idea for a website that would allow producers to provide key inputs – field name, soil texture, planting date (or crop emergence date), and the maturity group number for the variety that was planted. I put together a project that was funded by NSB, and with the help of talented collaborators, notably, Jessica Torrion and Tri Setiyono, we developed a web site now called UNL SoyWater and released it in 2008. Today, SoyWater is being used by more than 1,000 producers, crop consultants, and researchers across the state.

SoyWater Successes
Aside from the large success of SoyWater’s irrigation management application, Specht was surprised to learn that rain-fed soybean producers also use SoyWater to predict well ahead of time when the variety planted in given field will attain certain vegetative or reproductive stages. For example, applying a fungicide to the soybean canopy is most effective if it is applied very close to stage R3 (beginning pod development) and is less effective if that fungicide is applied too early (R2 flowering) or too late (R4 end of pod development). With SoyWater, the producer gets a very precise prediction of the calendar date for stage R3 and gets that prediction many weeks before it occurs. This allows him to beat everyone else in getting a precisely timed fungicide application on that field’s soybean canopy. This is particularly advantageous if the producer relies on a custom applicator, since that custom application can be scheduled well before anyone else does so.

The Importance of Irrigation Timing
If a soybean producer can only apply just one irrigation during the growing season (perhaps using water from a large pond on the farm), our NSB-funded research over many years has shown that that single irrigation event should occur at stage R3. This single application gives the producer the greatest yield “bang” for the irrigation “buck.”

Obviously, if producers have enough available water to optimize irrigation events during the entire season, they want to optimize yield while minimizing the amount of water needed. Our research indicates that most producers using SoyWater, will reduce the amount of water applied between two and three inches throughout the growing season. This reduction in water application occurs without any yield reduction, and often with a yield enhancement, because users of SoyWater will be applying irrigation in a “just-in-time” fashion so as not to over-irrigate or under-irrigate.

Knowing When to Call It Quits
SoyWater has a feature that helps predict when the last irrigation application is needed at the end of the growing season. This feature is extremely valuable because it allows producers to avoid stopping irrigation too early, which leads to a yield penalty and stopping too late, which wastes, water, energy and money.

Due to their dependence on water for irrigation, Nebraska farmers understand just how fickle Mother Nature can be. When compared to this spring, recent growing seasons clearly illustrate just how fine the line can be between too little moisture and too much. However, the soybean checkoff aims to provide producers with resources, such as the SoyWater tool, and educational opportunities, like Soybean Management Field Days, in an effort to arm them with the tools and information they need to enhance profitability.
Biodiesel is getting us where we need to go.

17 years ago, Medford School District Director of Operations Joe Biluck had a challenge: “We saw alternative fuel legislation in New Jersey that would trickle its way down to the local level.” Joe decided to get out ahead of it and test his existing school buses on clean-burning biodiesel.

The results really surprised him.

“I knew it would reduce emissions and my buses ran like they always did, but biodiesel also reduced our operating expenses!”

Diversifying the energy supply also led to diversifying the students’ education: “We’re using our fleet and facilities as learning labs—the kids’ environment is better and they’re being exposed to whole new career paths.” And for Joe, that’s just as important as what the kids are not being exposed to!

AmericasAdvancedBiofuel.com

Sponsored by the United Soybean Board, the National Biodiesel Board, State Soybean Checkoff Boards, the U.S. Canola Association, and the Northern Canola Growers Association.

Make it a Priority to Tell Your Conservation Story

Make it a priority to take stock of your farm conservation practices and submit an entry in the Conservation Legacy Awards program, presented by the American Soybean Association (ASA).

You could join soybean farmers like Steve Berger of Wellman, Iowa, Mike Starkey of Brownsburg, Ind., and Jimmy Thomas of Timberlake, N.C., who all won 2015 Conservation Legacy Awards.

Just tell the story of conservation practices on your farm and you could be one of the next regional Conservation Legacy winners. Entries will be judged in five areas: soil management, water management, input management, farmstead protection, and conservation and environmental management. All U.S. soybean farmers are eligible to enter.

Winners from three regions (Midwest, Northeast and South) receive an expense-paid trip for two to the next Commodity Classic, March 3-5, 2016, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Regional winners will be featured in video stories and a special insert in Corn & Soybean Digest. A National Conservation Legacy Award winner will be chosen from the regional winners.

Submissions are due by August 10, 2015, but don’t wait. Make it a priority to tell your conservation story now. All applications must be submitted online. See the brochure and online application at: www.soygrowers.com/award-programs/conservation-legacy.

The annual Conservation Legacy Awards program is sponsored by ASA, BASF, Monsanto, the United Soybean Board/soybean checkoff and Corn & Soybean Digest.
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Dairy farmers and industry leaders from across Nebraska came together Thursday, May 7th in Lincoln, to discuss how to help the state’s dairy industry grow and thrive. Under the theme of “Stronger Together,” the Grow Nebraska Dairy Summit reflected the efforts of the Grow Nebraska Dairy Team consisting of the (Nebraska State Dairy Association (NSDA), the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN), the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), and the Midwest Dairy Association (MDA).

There are 195 dairy farms and 55,000 dairy cows in Nebraska. In the past 30 years dairy cow numbers have fallen thirty-one percent. The good news is the downward trend is starting to turn in a favorable direction for Nebraska dairy farmers. There has been an increase of 4,000 to 5,000 dairy cows in the past six months. Grow Nebraska Dairy hopes in the next five years, there will be another 30,000 cows.

Last year, Legislative Bill 941 tasked NDA with analyzing the state’s dairy industry and attitudes toward expanding the dairy industry. This included a survey of all dairy producers in the state, as well as Nebraska’s ten in-state processors and four in Iowa that use Nebraska milk.

The main message coming out of the study was in order for Nebraska to grow its dairy sector, the state will need more dairy processing.

Producers see promise in expansion

Nebraska Director of Agriculture Greg Ibach said they are making progress. “I believe we are at a point where Nebraska is an attractive alternative to processors. As we continue to work with the Department of Economic Development, it’s only a matter of time before we find the right processors to step forward and declare their intentions within our state,” said Ibach.

Most processors also saw opportunities for expansion, including those outside the state. These opportunities lie in the availability of land, water, feed, and ethanol coproducts - what has been referred to as Nebraska’s “golden triangle.” But it also includes infrastructure. “What we heard back from producers and processors is we’ve got I-80 and a good rail line system, let’s talk about what we can do for the rest of the state,” Bobbie Kriz-Wickham, Assistant Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture said. “With our central location we can get to most of the population centers and ports within two days along our I-80 corridor.”

Moving the dairy industry forward

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture gave some recommendations for moving the dairy industry forward, including strategies for retaining existing operations and helping the next generation get started, as well as recruiting new dairy farms and processors. “It’s always been a kind of chicken or egg thing as long as I’ve been working with the Department of Agriculture. Which is supposed to come first, the processing or the cows?” Kriz-Wickham said. “But through the analysis and looking at other states, we’ve found that in those other states where there’s a lot of growth going on, the processing came even before the cows were there, and that helped spark the cattle into those areas. That gave us really some firm understanding that we need to do both simultaneously.”

*Information used with permission copyright 2015 Penton Agriculture
BIODIESEL WORKS FOR NEBRASKA ANIMAL AGRICULTURE by creating demand for soybean oil. More demand for soybean oil results in more domestic crush of U.S. soybeans, which results in more soybean meal on the market and decreases the price that poultry and livestock producers pay for feed. Biodiesel demand also increases the value of tallow, which can also be used to make the fuel.

As Biodiesel production INCREASES
The price of soybean MEAL DECREASES

$4.8 BILLION
Saved by poultry and livestock farmers over 5 years

HERE’S HOW:
- as demand for soybean oil increases U.S. crush
- The supply of soybean meal increases
- Which lowers soybean meal costs

HOW MUCH MONEY ARE NEBRASKA FARMERS SAVING?

Total Industry savings:* $60,047,440
Nebraska Pork savings: $8,806,300
Nebraska Dairy and beef savings: $51,241,140

Cumulative of meal and increased drop value impacts.
Practical Economics for Rural Nebraska
– by Willow Holubek, A-FAN

A-FAN, The Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska is dedicated to the growth of livestock in Nebraska. In partnering with the Nebraska Soybean Board and other commodities, a strategic plan has been developed and implemented this past year and into the future. Nebraska’s unique system of crop, livestock and biofuel production presents unmatched opportunities for creating jobs and economic vitality across the state.

Adding value to row crops such as soybeans and corn through meat animal production is a tremendous opportunity. Nebraska is the number one state in the nation for irrigation, growing a sustainable feed source. For each $1.00 of crop production value, $0.59 in additional receipts for Nebraska businesses is created. In addition, each $1.00 of livestock sales yields an extra $0.62 in final sales for NE business outside of the ag industry. These additional funds create jobs and support businesses in communities both rural and urban.

A-FAN is working on a two-prong approach to livestock development in Nebraska. The first is to empower communities with the awareness of the economic impact of livestock production to their success and to make informed decisions. When invited to a community, A-FAN assists with awareness, researching the resources of the county/region and works with farmers/ranchers, elected officials, influencers and business leaders to formulate a strategic plan for growth of livestock and related industries. This practical approach to rural economic development through protein production creates jobs, increases tax base and supports the main street businesses.

Through the partnership with the Nebraska Soybean Board, A-FAN has held lunch/learn programs in nine counties and is currently working with these counties to develop their goals.

Secondly, A-FAN works within the pork, dairy, beef and poultry industries with private individuals who are building new or expanding current livestock facilities and operations. A-FAN has assisted with 13 public hearing meetings by organizing support and increasing the awareness of the importance of livestock development. These hearings require hours of research and communication along with significant travel. Conflict resolution skills and developing community support is vital to the success of these hearings.

A-FAN has developed criteria for supporting new and expansion development with the following principles:
1. Economically viable,
2. Socially responsible, and
3. Environmentally sound.

These criteria must be examined and shared with neighbors and other community leaders for a successful hearing. This takes time, and we urge anyone who would like A-FAN’s assistance to call us early in the process. It is much more effective to build support and have local residents talk in support of a project than to have an A-FAN team member speak at the hearing.

Presently Nebraska exports approximately 80% of its soybean meal, 25% of the annual pig crop and 33% of its corn crop. For every bushel and ton of crop commodities and head of feeder livestock shipped out of state, Nebraska drops potential value-added economic activity. A-FAN along with our many partners is committed to adding value within our state with livestock production as practical economics for rural Nebraska. Please contact us if we can be of assistance at our office number 402.421.4416 or email us at willowh@afan.org.
Biofuels: Focusing on the Clean Air Choice

– by Todd Sneller, Nebraska Ethanol Board

According to the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest (ALAUM), motorized vehicles are the No. 1 single largest source of air pollution. The deadly health effects and crippling economic impacts of air pollution hasn’t gone unnoticed by Clean Fuels Omaha partners.

Clean Fuels Omaha is a public-private coalition focused on improving air quality and human health through the increased availability, adoption and use of clean transportation fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol. The Nebraska Soybean Board is an initial sponsor of the program aimed at expanding the use of biodiesel and higher ethanol blends as part of a transportation related ozone mitigation strategy in the Omaha Metro Area.

“When drivers use biofuels they’re improving air quality and reducing toxics in the air known to cause asthma, heart disease and lung cancer,” said Todd Sneller, Nebraska Ethanol Board administrator. “Biofuels help reduce air pollution, improve human health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is not only important for our health, but also when attracting new economic development to the Omaha metro.”

Higher blends of biodiesel and ethanol are considered a Clean Air Choice® by ALAUM. American Lung cites using E85 can reduce ozone-forming pollutants and evaporative emissions, while biodiesel can significantly reduce air toxics and other harmful emissions.

Through consumer education and market development, the diverse group behind Clean Fuels Omaha is bringing the clean air message to Omaha/Council Bluffs residents by reminding them they have a cleaner-burning fuel choice at the pump.

Thanks to Clean Fuels Omaha outreach and education efforts the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) has recognized biofuels’ role in air pollution mitigation. In addition, MAPA’s annual “Little Steps. Big Impact.” air quality initiative, which educates the public on the impacts of ground-level ozone on air quality, and the steps that can be taken to reduce emissions, now includes a recommendation to use more biodiesel and ethanol blends.

Clean Fuels Omaha partners – Nebraska Soybean Board, Nebraska Corn Board, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Nebraska Ethanol Board, Clean Fuels Development Coalition, Urban Air Initiative and other public and private partners – will continue to work together to share the benefits of biofuels.
Biodiesel Growth at a Crossroads in 2015 – by Joe Jobe, CEO, National Biodiesel Board

The time is now to protect the investment, secure the future of America’s Advanced Biofuel

The biodiesel industry has had a tremendously successful history and 2015 is a crossroads moment for America’s fastest-growing Advanced Biofuel. Stuck in uncertainty since late 2013 with delays from EPA on the Renewable Fuel Standard volumes and the 2014 expiration of the blender’s tax incentive, the EPA finally provided an opportunity to get out of the holding pattern we’ve been in the last 18 months.

In April, the EPA announced that it would finalize by November 30th the RFS biodiesel volumes for 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. This commitment from the EPA set the biodiesel world into a frenzy of activity to ensure this opportunity for growth wasn’t missed.

The 1.75 billion gallon market in 2014 supported more than 60,000 jobs and was a $6 billion dollar industry providing a cleaner-burning, American-made alternative to petroleum diesel. The industry has produced more than a billion gallons each of the last four years, reduces lifecycle greenhouse gas by 78 percent compared to petroleum, and replaced nearly five percent of our diesel fuel needs.

The industry is bigger and better than ever, but this is not the time to sit back and enjoy that success. This is the time to fight for our future.

While checkoff funds can’t be used for direct advocacy, funding support from the Nebraska Soybean Board continues to make a huge impact in combating the spread of misinformation through education efforts. There has been a refortified effort by a powerful anti-biofuels coalition to attack biofuels politically, legally, and through the court of public opinion. Huge efforts to repeal the RFS, litigation against it, and multi-media campaigns to disparage biofuels continue from the petroleum lobby and their allies.

The leadership and vision of soybean farmers for the last 24 years has been instrumental in getting this industry to where it is today. Those investments through time, energy, and especially soybean checkoff support, have paid off. Independent research shows that the biodiesel industry added $18 billion dollars in revenues to soybean producers from 2006-2014. The added demand for soybean oil also greatly benefited soybeans’ number one customer, the animal agriculture industry, reducing soybean meal costs by more than $5 billion over the same time period.

A savvy investor wouldn’t go to their financial advisor, pick out their highest performing stock, and take all of their money out of it after nine years of great returns. They would double
down on that successful investment and do everything possible to protect it. And for the soybean industry, biodiesel is that investment.

The success of the biodiesel industry 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 commitment of the Nebraska Soybean Board.

Over the next five months, the biodiesel industry is pulling out all the stops to make sure the EPA’s final rule on November 30th includes growth for the biodiesel industry. NBB has been aggressively pressing the Administration to end the delays by focusing on the difficulties facing producers without a functioning RFS. This had included advocating directly with senior leaders in the Administration, working closely with our supporters in Congress, and raising awareness through the media. We are turning up the pressure with additional member fly-ins to Washington, more meetings with officials at the EPA, USDA, DOE, and the White House; coordinated letters from industry supporters to senators and members of the House; education efforts through public media campaigns; opinion pieces and letters to the editor; and everything else imaginable.

We are encouraging all supporters to remain engaged in the process as we move towards November 30th. A collection of documents including talking points about job creation, emissions reduction, and other benefits, as well as a compilation of op-eds and past news coverage can be found on our website at www.biodiesel.org/policy.

With recent production volumes and the already extensive funding support from the soybean checkoff, more equipment manufacturers than ever before support higher biodiesel blends, and more states and cities have blend requirements as part of their sustainability strategies. Biodiesel is in more markets and is using more fats and oils than ever before. Private industry investment is now contributing more resources than ever before – NBB is one of the leading biofuel trade associations in advocacy spending. Utilizing over one fourth of the domestic crush, the biodiesel industry has become a leading customer to the soybean industry, creating a powerful partnership in leveraging resources.

The past has been extraordinarily successful and the future of the industry is bright, but we can’t get there without winning 2015. Now is the time to stand up and protect soybean producers’ most successful investment.

All U.S. equipment manufacturers support at least B5 in their equipment with more than 78 percent supporting up to B20 blends. This includes on and off road, heavy duty, medium duty, and light duty diesel vehicles.
This spring, diesel technician students at Southeast Community College in Milford and Metropolitan Community College in Omaha received an in-depth education about diesel fuel on such topics as diesel physical characteristics, how diesel has changed in recent years, and how to trouble-shoot common filter plugging issues. They were then given similar information about biodiesel and how the two fuels work together to help support energy independence, support local economies and reduce harmful emissions. Lester Breidenstein, Program Chair for Diesel-Ag Equipment and Diesel Technology-Truck says, “The training covers engine fuels and exhaust emissions and reinforces what instructors have been teaching.”

As a part of their support of biodiesel, the Nebraska Soybean Board has been sponsoring diesel and biodiesel education at the state’s technical schools for several years through the soybean check-off. Soybean oil makes up about half of the feedstock for biodiesel and studies have shown that biodiesel has increased the price of soybeans for farmers by a minimum of 73 cents per bushel. The education is conducted by MEG Corp Fuel Consulting. This program was started in response to repeated reports of diesel technicians blaming biodiesel for problems customers were experiencing with their vehicles. Mechanics have quite a bit of influence with their customers, whether it is about where to fuel up, the type of motor oil they should use or frequency of service. Hoon Ge from MEG Corp says, “It was very troubling when we would hear that farmers were being told not to use biodiesel by their local mechanic.” With this training, students receive a better understanding of diesel and biodiesel which will help them to accurately diagnose filter plugging issues, give recommendations to customers about proper handling and use practices, and advance the image of biodiesel by providing the correct information about biodiesel to co-workers and customers.

Diesel technicians are in high demand nationwide. Between the two schools that MEG Corp visited this spring, 145 students were educated about diesel and biodiesel. Instructors have come to count on the regular visits to their classrooms and have made this fuel workshop part of their curriculum. As a part of the program, the students usually work at shops in addition to the classroom experience. Breidenstein says that, “Because of the training, the students are able to answer biodiesel questions they get from customers while on the job.” Jeff Bexten, Diesel Technology Instructor from Central Community College in Hastings, says that “Students get value out of the seminars. They can troubleshoot problems better and explain biodiesel to customers.” Nebraska Soybean Board has realized that diesel technicians are key players in the success of biodiesel use in Nebraska. This fall MEG Corp will visit Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, Central Community College in Hastings and Northeast Community College in Norfolk.
By 2050, the world’s population is estimated to be nine billion. The demand for seafood is rising, which in turn is putting increasing pressure on capture fisheries. Aquaculture offers the only viable route for a plentiful and safe fish supply to meet the future demand. However, aquafeed protein and oil components are derived from marine sources, anchovies, sardines or menhaden. The fisheries for the respective harvests are able to meet the current demand, but will not sustain the expected expansion of farm raised fish operations. Hence, the aquaculture industry needs alternative, sustainable feedstocks, for protein and oil for aquafeeds. An avenue to address this challenge is to design aquafeed formulations in which the marine-based ingredients are displaced with terrestrial sources. Soybean is an ideal candidate for a terrestrial feedstock for aquaculture, given its high quality protein and oil components. To this end we have assembled an interdisciplinary team of researchers, with financial assistance from the Nebraska farmer soybean checkoff, who have expertise in aquaculture, metabolic engineering, algal biology, biotechnology, feed science and agriculture economics to design a sustainable soybean-based feedstock for aquaculture. This team has formulated a feed for the high-quality finfish Seriola rivoliana (Kampachi), with soybean protein concentrate inclusion level of 40%, and half of the lipid component sourced from a high omega-3 fatty acid soybean that is enriched in linolenic acid and synthesizes stearidonic acid, a precursor to the fish oil omega-3 fatty acid, eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA). This effectively displaces fishmeal down to 11.5%, from greater than 60%, along with half the fish oil component of the feed currently used in S. rivoliana production.

Feeding trials conducted with the soybean-based formulation revealed no impact on feed conversion ratio, as compared to the commercial diet, and an estimated feed cost of the soybean-based formulation very competitive to current available aquafeeds. Moreover, harvested filets contained more total omega-3 fatty acids in the tissue relative to the filets derived from fish fed the commercial diet. Importantly, a consumer taste-testing panel was unable to differentiate sashimi prepared from fish fed the soybean-based feed versus those derived from fish fed the commercial diet. Our team is currently further enhancing the oil component of soybean to strengthen its attractiveness for aquaculture. Here we are using synthetic biology tools to create a set of gene stacks that will lead to the simultaneous accumulation of EPA and the carotenoid, astaxanthin, the latter being the coloration ingredient used in many aquaculture production systems.
Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln had a unique and educational opportunity to learn about modern agriculture on UNL’s City Campus on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

Husker Food Connection started four years ago in hopes of creating an event that links students through a common connection – food. Organizers addressed some of the common myths associated with modern food production, answer questions and get the conversation started about where food comes from. Students that attend the event have the opportunity to see live farm animals, sit in farm equipment such as a tractor, and interact with ag students and commodity experts.

Organizations and commodities boards such as the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) were willing to help organize, sponsor and volunteer at the event since its inception. The soybean farmers of Nebraska have been the driving force behind the t-shirts that are given out to nearly 2,000 students.

“This year’s theme was Food: Fact or Fiction. The reason we picked that theme was to separate myth from reality in modern food production,” said Lukas Fricke, Husker Food Connection coordinator. “Our goal was to put agriculture up front with transparency and answer the hard questions.”

This year’s event included:
• Free lunch – pork, beef, chicken BBQ sandwich, deviled eggs, sweet potato chips, milk and Pepsi
• Dairy cow-calf pair from Prairieland Dairy
• Feeder pig – from Union Farms Inc.
• Fistulated research steer – from UNL Mobile Beef Lab
• Chickens – from Kriefel Family Farms
• NSB’s informational handouts, Dorothy Lynch samples, and free t-shirts
• Nebraska Corn and Ethanol giveaway and educational displays
• Articulated John Deere tractor
• UNL Rodeo demonstrations
• Nebraska Wheat Board Mobile Baking lab
• Nebraska crop display from UNL Agronomy Club

The event impacted around 7,800 students through social media, free lunch, and promotional giveaways. The meal was catered by Skeeter Barnes and featured pork, beef, and chicken sandwiches and deviled eggs. Sponsors included Nebraska Pork Producers, independent beef producers, Nebraska Poultry and Egg Association, and the Nebraska Wheat Board, respectively.

More than 60 students, commodity organizations, and friends of agriculture helped with this year’s Husker Food Connection – making it the biggest year of volunteering, fundraising, and impact to date.

“I want to thank everyone that helped and donated to make Husker Food Connection a truly great event. Every year we impact more and more students, and each year the event gets bigger!” Fricke added.
Featured Summer Recipe:
Dorothy Lynch BBQ Wings

Become a grill master this summer with this homegrown favorite.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 cup Dorothy Lynch Home Style Dressing
- 1/2 cup of your favorite BBQ sauce (mild or spicy)
- 2 TBSP honey
- 12 chicken wings

DIRECTIONS:
1. Mix ingredients (except for wings) together in a bowl.
2. Arrange chicken wings in a baking dish and pour your Dorothy Lynch BBQ sauce over the wings.
3. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes, turning once, or grill over medium heat for 15-20 minutes, turning and basting often. Bake or grill longer if you prefer crunchier wings.

Let’s fire up the grill and get summer started!
Make sure to log on to www.TasteoftheTailgate.com for great summer giveaways, recipes and grilling tips.
BIG YIELD. BETTER LAND. BEST FEELING.

YOU KNOW THAT BIG YIELDS AND GOOD LAND GO HAND-IN-HAND.
That’s why you care so much about what you put in it. IntelliFarms’ new Biologicals offerings for soybeans are made of naturally-occurring enzymes and bacteria in the soil to boost health, vigor, fruit set and ultimately, yields. They simultaneously improve water-holding capacity of the soil and add nutrient-rich organic matter that will make a difference for harvests to come.

So you get healthy land and healthy, profitable yields to match. In fact, soybean field trials using IntelliFarms’ Biologicals treatments have shown a 20% yield increase.

IT’S A WIN-WIN-WIN YOU CAN’T HELP BUT FEEL GOOD ABOUT.

ASK ABOUT OUR LIMITED TIME OFFER
If you purchase 320 acres of Biologicals, you receive an additional 80 acres free.*

Call IntelliFarms at 855.244.7136 to learn how our Biologicals products can deliver healthy returns to you and your land.

Intelligent solutions for today’s farmers

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*Subject to research contract.