Working together, phosphate and nitrogen create a synergy that enhances your soybeans’ ability to reach its full potential. The phosphate-solubilizing *Penicillium bilaii* and the nitrogen-fixing *Bradyrhizobium* work together to deliver better nutrition to your crop and, ultimately, better yield.


TagTeam® uses the buddy system for better soybean crop yields and excellent inoculant value.

Novozymes is the world leader in bioinnovation. Together with customers across a broad array of industries we create tomorrow’s industrial biosolutions, improving our customers’ business, and the use of our planet’s resources. Read more at www.novozymes.com.

® TagTeam and MultiAction are registered trademarks of Novozymes A/S. © 2010 Novozymes. All rights reserved.
QUALISOY™, a soybean industry initiative charged with helping to bring to market trait-enhanced soybeans that produce healthier, more functional soybean oil, has announced its board members for 2011. Victor Bohuslavsky, Executive Director of the Nebraska Soybean Board, was elected as Chairman of the QUALISOY Board for 2011. Mr. Bohuslavsky has been a member of the board since its start in 2004, and most recently held the position of vice chairman.

“I am thrilled to lead the QUALISOY board this year as we usher in new soybean products with traits that will benefit consumers, food companies and farmers alike,” said Mr. Bohuslavsky. “This is an exciting time to be involved with QUALISOY. New traits -- such as high oleic -- are providing opportunities for all members of the value chain to benefit. Consumers are getting healthier oils, food companies are enjoying increased functionality, and farmers are growing higher value, in-demand soybeans with positive agronomics,” he added.

The 2011 executive committee includes the following individuals:
• Chairman – Victor Bohuslavsky, Nebraska Soybean Board
• Vice Chair – John Jansen, Bunge Foods
• Secretary/Treasurer – Dale Profit, United Soybean Board
• At Large – Ken Dalenberg, United Soybean Board (past director)

New Board members were also announced during the meeting, and include Russ Sanders, Director, DuPont enhanced Oils Venture; Rob Hanks, a soybean farmer and member of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association; and Jane Ade Stevens, Executive director of the Indiana Soybean Alliance.

“The QUALISOY Board provides farmer-leaders, food companies, processors, and technology partners a unique opportunity to work together for the good of the industry,” said John Becherer, QUALISOY CEO. “For example, previous trait developments such as low-linolenic preserved millions of pounds of soybean oil utilization, and we have even high hopes for newer traits like high oleic and omega-3.”

QUALISOY’s 22-member Board of Directors sets research priorities, evaluates existing and emerging technologies, and helps identify future soybean trait enhancements that would benefit the food and feed industries. For additional information on new soybean oil traits, QUALISOY’s activities and its Board of Directors, visit www.QUALISOY.com.
Another growing season is here, the planters are ready and it’s time to put the crop into the field. As we go about our business of production agriculture, we need to be aware of all of the outside issues that are facing agriculture and our “Freedom to Operate”. This topic was discussed at several meetings this winter and most of us in production agriculture do not want to believe that it’s possible for others to take away our freedom to operate. But, there are outside forces such as animal rights groups, regulations and decisions being made that affect every one of us in agriculture. Agriculture is less than two percent of the population, so we need to educate others on how we operate.

Last fall, the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance was formed. It’s a national organization that is bringing together the Farm Bureau, beef, poultry, dairy, pork, corn and soybean industries with the following vision: ‘Food production partners will work together to enhance U.S. consumer trust in modern food production to ensure the abundance of affordable, safe food.’ The farmers and ranchers are trusted by the consumer, but the production methods seem to be in question. What is a factory farm and what is a family farm? That question seems to bring about a debate that is dividing agriculture and allowing others to define how we operate.

The Nebraska Soybean Board has committed funds to the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance and also other educational programs. Along with the Nebraska Pork Producers Association, we’re involved in an Ag Sack Lunch program, in which a sack lunch is provided to fourth graders when they visit the capitol and listen to a presentation on agriculture in Nebraska. Each student takes home a deck of cards that has four suits: beef, pork, dairy and poultry. The cards are also filled with many Nebraska agricultural facts. We are also involved in a program to teach elementary teachers about soybeans and how they can incorporate this while teaching science to elementary students. This project started last summer and will continue through this next school year.

There are many different food production systems and we need all of them to provide a healthy, safe and affordable food supply, to not only our U.S. consumers, but global consumers also. The U.S. consumer cares about their food and they want to know that we care about the food that we produce. Spend a few minutes every day talking to your neighbor, a business person in your community or anyone that you choose, and tell them about your agricultural story. We need to spend some time educating people about modern agriculture practices and the technology we use. As producers, we need to protect our “Freedom to Operate”.

“Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.”

—J.F. Kennedy
Politics and Soybeans
– by Scott Richert, Gresham NE, NSA President

Greetings from Gresham,

The planting season is just around the corner which means things will be getting busy soon. Your association has been busy for awhile. We have been busy testifying on bills that will affect soybean growers in the state. Since checkoff funds cannot be used to influence policy, it is the work of the Soybean Association to carry our message.

There have been two bills in the Nebraska Legislature on funding of the Water Resource Cash fund. Both of them dealing with transfers from the Environmental Trust. Another bill LB529 deals with Environmental Trust and how much money can be spent buying land and easements. We testified in support of LB 393 which requires a 2% or greater blend of Nebraska biodiesel for use by State entities. This is to support plants that are in Nebraska. Right now most of the soy biodiesel comes from Iowa.

The Association worked with freshman Senator Brasch on LB691. This bill obligates state government and state agencies to purchase bio-based products if they are available and meet other criteria such as being competitively priced. The Nebraska Soybean Checkoff is working on a website that will make the process of finding these products easier for consumers and business purchasers. This web site would compliment this bill very well.

Your Association board of Directors have also been working on your behalf at the national level. Six of your directors were in Tampa, FL at Commodity Classic in early March to help work on the national policy resolutions that will guide our lobbying in Washington, DC. I was also able to chair the Export and Trade Policy committee and work through their resolutions for ASA while attending the Commodity Classic. Five NSA directors were also busy taking the finished policy resolutions developed at Commodity Classic to Washington DC and talk to our congressional delegation earlier this month.

As you can see we have been busy working for the soybeans growers of Nebraska. I would like to thank my directors for their time and hard work this winter. All this would not be possible without your support. If you are a member of the Nebraska Soybeans Association, thank you very much. If you are not a member, I invite you to consider joining. Member dues are the only monies that can be used for all the policy efforts I listed above. Visit our web site at nebraskasoybeans.org/ne-nsa or call our state office at 402/441-3239 to learn more about our membership bonus offers. Help your association help you with your business and become a member.

Have a safe planting season!

I Believe, I Belong...

I BELIEVE my voice individually is not going to make a big impact in the State Legislature or in the halls of congress in Washington D.C. I do believe that thousands of soybean producers from across the state and the nation collectively can have an impact on the many issues facing our industry.

I BELIEVE that with an unstable global economy we need all soybean producers to join an association that will work hard to ensure the sustainability of family farms for generations to come.

That is why I am involved and why I BELONG to the Nebraska Soybean Association.

– Robert Johnston (Clearwater) District 2 Director, Nebraska Soybean Association
INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS

Nebraska Soybean Board

Seeking Candidates for Directors

BECOME a VOICE on the soybean checkoff board

There are two director seats on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) eligible for election this year. Soybean producers in Districts 5 and 7 are invited to run for election to the Nebraska Soybean Board by filing a candidacy petition by the May 13, 2011 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.

The At-Large position on the Nebraska Soybean Board is open to all producers in Nebraska and will be elected by the Directors of the Nebraska Soybean Board at the July NSB meeting. A candidacy petition must also be filed by the May 13, 2011 deadline for the At-Large position.

NSB Directors and the At-Large Position receive no salary but are reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out Board business and will serve a three-year term which would begin October 1, 2011.

Director seats open are:

District 5: Counties of Cass, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee and Richardson

District 7: Counties of Adams, Buffalo, Clay, Franklin, Hall, Kearney, Nuckolls and Webster

Candidates for the NSB seats and the At-Large position must be:

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

Prospective candidates must collect the signatures of fifty soybean producers in their district using an official Nebraska Soybean Board Candidacy Petition and return such petition to the Nebraska Soybean Board office on or before May 13, 2011, to be eligible for placement on the ballot.

To obtain a candidacy petition, contact Victor Bohuslavsky at the Nebraska Soybean Board by calling 402-432-5720 or sending an email to: victor@nebraskasoybeans.org

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.

Nebraska Soybean Board Elects New Officers

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) elected new officers for Fiscal Year 2011: Lisa Lunz, of Wakefield, NE – Chairman, Duane Lee, Albion, NE – Vice Chairman, Bill Miller of Upland, NE – Secretary and Greg Peters of Dewitt, NE – Treasurer. Each term lasts one year.

The elections were conducted by NSB directors at their November meeting.

Committee members and committee chairman were also appointed as follows:

Research Committee:
Richard Bartek of Ithaca, NE, will serve as Chairman and committee members are Lisa Lunz, Bill Miller and Greg Peters.

Domestic Marketing:
Duane Lee will serve as Chairman, and committee members are Mark Caspers of Auburn, NE, Greg Greving of Chapman, NE, Terry Horky of Sargent, NE and Ed Lammers of Hartington, NE.

All board members serve on the Communications/Producer Education committee, and the International Marketing committee, in which Lisa Lunz is the Chairman for both.

"Promoting the use of soy bio-based products and soybean meal to Nebraska farmers and international customers will be the main focus for the Nebraska Soybean Board this fiscal year. A variety of events are planned to promote soybeans and soy products to consumers in local and international markets. The goal is to make sure all soybeans grown are consumed," said NSB Executive Director, Victor Bohuslavsky.
Today’s Nebraska Soybean Farmers Depend on a Strong Future for Their Soybeans
2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) is led by a nine-member board of farmer-leaders acting on behalf of Nebraska soybean farmers to help facilitate a strong future for their soybeans’ market growth. The checkoff invests in domestic marketing, communications/producer education, research and international marketing. These investments help expand and develop markets for Nebraska soybeans. Every soybean farmer contributes one half of one percent times the net sales price per bushel of soybeans sold. The focus areas during 2009-2010 Fiscal Year:

### Research
Funds were invested to increase the yield and value of Nebraska soybeans through research projects that are being conducted by the University of Nebraska. The following are just a few ongoing or completed projects:
- Soybean Breeding and Genetics Research for Nebraska
- Winter Nursery Support for Soybean Breeding and Genetic Research
- Enhancing Soybean Germplasm through Biotechnology
- Improving Nebraska’s Soybean Seed Protein and Oil Content
- Influence of Irrigation and Crop Rotation Sequence on SCN Populations

Additional research projects were funded to increase utilization of soy by animal agriculture, aquaculture industries and industrial uses of soybeans.

### International Marketing
Focus was on U.S. meat protein consumption; increasing soybean meal consumption in international aquaculture; supported better soybean transportation options; promoted Nebraska soybean utilization in the world market and customer acceptance of soybean production technologies. The Nebraska Soybean Board utilizes partnership projects such as:
- NSB & Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) - through checkoff dollars, STC makes sure farmers maintain a competitive advantage in transportation costs and individual farmer profitability.
- NSB & United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) – a team of Nebraska representatives spent a week in Tokyo, Japan participating in a number of beef and pork promotional events that were sponsored by USMEF.
- NSB & Ag Processing Inc. (AGP) – a team of Nebraska soybean farmers and ag leaders spent 10 days on a trade mission to China for a value added soybean meal promotion.
- NSB & U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) – invests checkoff dollars in aquaculture projects around the world for the Global Soy in Aquaculture Program.
- NSB & USA Poultry & Egg Export Council (USAPEEC) – enjoy a productive partnership with USAPEEC with a main goal of increasing the U.S. poultry and egg exports to international markets.

The Soybean Board has been focused on getting all the soybeans produced, consumed.

### Communications/Producer Education
NSB partnered with UNL and other state commodities to promote farmer acceptance of soybean production technologies through educational events, such as Winning the Game and Soybean Management Field Days.
- Farmers learned the importance of animal agriculture, their number one customer, and what the success of the industry means to their operational profits.
- Farmers were informed of how valuable the international markets are to the future of Nebraska soybeans.
- Soy education classes taught by soy educators were held in Nebraska grade schools.
- Efforts were made to increase farmers’ interest of serving in leadership roles.
- Communication tools were used, such as the Soybean Drama magazine, which is mailed to 24,000 soybean farmers in the state of Nebraska four times a year. Other tools include: soy promotions using radio, TV, sporting events, soy food tastings events, printed advertising placed in Nebraska magazines and newspapers and the NSB website, which includes a NESOY TV page. Through these communication tools, the NSB is keeping farmers and consumers informed on the ever-changing world of soybeans.

### Domestic Marketing
Checkoff funds were invested to maintain a viable Nebraska animal agriculture industry and the proper utilization of soy biodiesel, as well as partnering with the poultry and livestock industries to promote responsible production. The checkoff also identified and promoted soy product marketing opportunities and the health benefits of soy.

### Administrative
Five percent of the soybean checkoff funds are used for administrative purposes.

### Funding and Expenditures

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Winter Survey Yields Positive Results

– by Drew Guiney

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) received the results from their annual Winter Survey, receiving strong support from respondents. The goal of the Winter Survey is to gauge farmers’ opinions of the projects the board is currently funding, as well as establish ideas for future projects. The survey was sent out to 4,000 Nebraska soybean farmers, of which the board received a 20 percent return.

After receiving the results, respondents showed strong backing for NSB, with 76 percent saying they support the Soybean Checkoff.

Respondents also showed their support for current NSB programs like Soybean Management Field Days and “Winning the Game,” which involve using forward contracting, futures and other risk management tools to reduce exposure to market fluctuation. More than 80 percent said they used some form of risk management for their farming operation. Nearly half of respondents also said they use soy biodiesel in their farming operation, an industry that the NSB strongly supports.

NSB awareness campaigns also showed promise over the past year. More than 60 percent of those who responded said they had heard soybean related advertising on a Husker sports broadcast. Fifty-six percent said they are aware of how their checkoff dollars are being invested. This information is disseminated primarily through the SoybeaNebraska magazine and NSB’s new website – nebraskasoybeans.org.

The survey also showed the board some areas on which they can improve. Although only seven percent of respondents said that they are familiar with NSB’s “See for Yourself” program, – a program designed to allow farmers to see firsthand how their checkoff dollars are being invested by attending state, national and international meetings – 40 percent of respondents said they would be interested in becoming more involved with checkoff activities given the opportunity.

Overall, the Winter Survey provided valuable feedback on the board’s projects and presented them with new investment ideas to maximize soybean production and profitability in Nebraska.
The Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) elected its 2011 officers and directors during their annual meeting held in Kearney in mid December at the 6th annual Nebraska Ag Classic. The annual Soybean Promoter award winner was also recognized during the annual meeting.

Scott Richert of Gresham, NE was re-elected as NSA President for a second term. Richert begins his second term as President and oversee the functions of the state organization. Richert, a LEAD 21 fellow, previously served as Vice President of NSA. Richert said "My goal is to continue to increase membership by communicating the value of belonging to the Nebraska Soybean Association."

Geoff Ruth of Rising City, NE was re-elected vice-president. Ruth serves as the district 4 director for NSA. Rodney Smith of DeWitt, NE was re-elected to serve as Treasurer and he currently serves as the district 6 director. Serving a second term as Secretary was Diane Becker of Madison, NE who represents an At-Large district.

Re-elected to a second term to fill the district 4 director position was Geoff Ruth of Rising City. Scott Richert of Gresham was re-elected to a second term to represent an At Large seat. Debbie Borg of Allen completed her final term as a director for District 1 and the board is seeking candidates for District 1. Appointed in November to fill the remaining term as a state director representing District 2 was Robert Johnston of Clearwater.

This year’s recipient of the Nebraska Soybean Association Promoter Award was awarded to Debbie Borg of Allen NE. Borg has served as an officer of the NE Soybean Association since 2006 and most recently serving as President to the association in 2009. In 2000 she was appointed to serve on the NSA's board of directors for the Northeast District. Debbie’s passion for politics is evident. Over the years she has built the relationships with Nebraska State Senators and Federal elected officials that is important to the soybean industry. She has been a strong spokesperson for the animal ag industry and understands the importance of livestock to the soybean producer. Debbie has hosted several key influencers to her family farm showing them first hand what we do on a soybean farm. She continues to help teach grade school children about the soybean industry as she serves as a Soybean Educator for the NE Soybean Board.

Debbie and her husband Terry along with their 3 children farm near Allen in Dixon county and raise corn, soybeans and have a cattle feeding operation. In 2008 the Borg’s were recognized by the Nebraska Farm Bureau as the Nebraska State Fair Ag Family.

This award is presented annually to recognize and thank an individual who has shown outstanding leadership and given many hours of their time to the betterment of the soybean industry.
Nebraska soybean farmers recently returned from their See for Yourself trade mission to Guadalajara, Mexico. See for Yourself is a program designed by the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) in order to allow soybean farmers to see firsthand how their checkoff dollars are being invested. The trade mission lasted four days and included 23 Nebraska soybean farmers and guests.

On the first day of the trade mission, attendees got the opportunity to visit a grade school in Guadalajara. There they learned how local mothers organize a state-sponsored meal program, which incorporates texturized soy protein as a high-protein meat substitute for children who experience a nutritional deficit. The government mandates that 37 percent of the breakfast diet must include protein, and it feeds 182,000 children a day in the state of Jalisco alone.

The trip also included stops at several processing plants where attendees learned how soybeans are processed into meal, soyfoods and edible fats and oils for human consumption.

On the third day, the group visited the SuPollo feed plant and chicken hatchery. SuPollo is the largest producer of broiler chickens in the state of Jalisco and it imports an entire unit train of corn and soybean meal from the Midwest every week. Here the group was also able to see the Previtep mobile lab, which allows SuPollo to test the beans for protein, oil and amino acid content levels in under a minute using an infrared scan.

The final day included a stop at Aqua Molina Tilapia Farm where the group learned how soybean meal is a growing feedstock for the aquaculture industry.

The incorporation of soy foods in Mexico has increased steadily since 2003 and...
INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS

Spring 2011

looks to have a very bright future. “The trip was very worthwhile,” said Duane Lee, chairman of the Domestic Marketing committee for the Nebraska Soybean Board. “We were able to see how openly the people of Mexico incorporate the health benefits of soy into their diets, as well as see the various ways our second largest customers process our beans and use them. I learned a lot on the trade mission and am very happy I went.”

To find out more information on how you could See for Yourself, or to see more about NSB’s recent trade mission to Mexico, visit www.nebraskasoybeans.org.

Left – Members of NSB trade mission analyze an incubation chamber at the SuPollo chicken farm.

Below – Nebraska soybean farmers Norm Husa and Ed Lammers sample soyfoods at the High Protein Plant.
www.nebraskasoybeans.org

New website launched on February 11, 2011!

Come visit our new website today and take a look around. From blogs and photos to bio-based products and videos, it’s easy to find and fun to navigate.

Social media enthusiast? Click on our Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter links to receive our latest info!
www.nebraskasoybeans.org

Want to invest your money on cleaner and safer home products?

Want to support your local farmers in Nebraska?

Go to our new website and click on the BIOBASED PRODUCTS tab to check out our interactive house!

Here you can find cleaner alternatives to use in your home, and even in the garage!
Using BIODIESEL this Planting Season

— by Meg Corp Fuel Consulting

As spring arrives and you prepare your checklist for planting season, don’t forget to make sure fuel is on the list. With the onset of warmer temperatures, spring is a great time to begin using or increasing the level of biodiesel. Both the reinstatement of the $1.00/gallon biodiesel tax credit and the EPA’s 800 millions gallon bio-massed based diesel requirement for 2011 (RFS2) should help to shrink the gap in price between biodiesel and No. 2 diesel. Biodiesel is home-grown energy that benefits farmers by adding about $2.42 (based on USB studies) to the price of a bushel of soybeans.

Biodiesel can be used in most existing diesel engines and fuel injection equipment in blends up to 20 percent with no change in performance. Biodiesel adds much needed lubricity to today’s Ultra Low Sulfur diesel, protecting wear and tear on engine parts. All major engine manufacturers accept the use of up to at least B5, and most agriculture engine companies have said the use of biodiesel blends up to B20 will not void their parts and workmanship warranties.

Regardless of your use of biodiesel or not, routine maintenance is the key to avoiding fuel related problems. Take a few moments to run through the following checklist.

Storage Tank Checklist:
- Check for water and sediment in tanks PRIOR to fuel delivery. Remove water or clean tanks if found.
- Monitor hoses, fill/vapor caps, gaskets and vents for leaks.
- Check fuel containment area for water regularly. Remove water when accumulated.
- Install a dispenser filter on a storage tank. This will keep contaminants from progressing to the vehicle tanks.
- If you have a dispenser filter, check it and change if necessary.

Vehicle/Equipment Checklist:
- Check fuel filters and change if necessary. Follow OEM specifications.
- Check fuel caps to make sure they are secured tightly.
- If you have a water separator, monitor and drain if it contains water.

Work closely with your fuel distributor to ensure that you are receiving a quality product and to minimize potential fuel problems. Ask your supplier if the fuel meets ASTM specifications. Always retain a one-quart sample of fuel at delivery. Look at a sample of the fuel in a clear mason jar. The fuel should be clear and bright. If it is not clear and bright, do not accept the fuel. Save this sample until the next load of fuel is delivered.

Final Item on Checklist: Fill your vehicle and storage tanks with fuel after the planting season is over. Keeping fuel tanks full reduces the amount of air in the tank. Air is the number one source for water in fuel tanks and can also lead to oxidation and degradation of fuel.

Look at a sample of the fuel in a clear mason jar. The fuel should be clear and bright. If it is not clear and bright, do not accept the fuel.
Nebraska Farm Women and Consumers Find CommonGround with New Program

— Information shared by the Nebraska Soybean Board and Nebraska Corn Board

It’s no secret that more Americans than ever are disconnected from farming and knowing where their food comes from. This lack of understanding about modern agriculture and food production is further hampered by those who spread misinformation to consumers in an attempt to put one type of food or farming ahead of another.

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) is partnering with the Nebraska Corn Board on a new initiative led by farmers that aims to take the truth about farming and food production to a crucial audience – women. This initiative, known as CommonGround, aims to provide women, especially moms who may not have a direct tie to agriculture, with an on-farm connection to Nebraska women who share their values and concerns.

The program, coordinated by the United Soybean Board (USB) and National Corn Growers Association, is initially being launched in Nebraska and four other states. Three farm women from each state have been selected to be key spokeswomen within the state and on a national level. Each volunteer will actively share her enthusiasm and passion for agriculture with consumers, the media and other influencers. In turn, they will work with more women who will focus on responding to local and state media requests and communicate their own personal story via social and other media.

Every woman who works with her family to run a farm and raise a family has a personal perspective on modern farming that is far more powerful than any research or statistic on agriculture. However, this insider’s perspective and knowledge is often missing in key discussions about food and agriculture and sharing it, woman-to-woman, will help build trust.

The three initial spokeswomen for Nebraska are Shana Beattie of Sumner, Dawn Caldwell of Edgar and Kristen Eggerling of Martell. More women have the opportunity to become involved and media training will be held in the state. To be considered, women can contact Kelsey Pope of the Nebraska Corn Board. For more information, including a link to the CommonGround Facebook page, go to www.FindOurCommonGround.com.

Shana: “With active kids and the farm, time is a precious commodity. Yet, I’m passionate about agriculture and want other women to understand that I’m just like them, that I buy the same things they do and want healthy and safe food. I’m looking forward to sharing my story with other women who are in the same place as me, who are working their tails off and hoping for an extra five minutes in the day.”

Dawn: “It’s really important that today’s consumers put a face with their food. The women working with CommonGround can be that face, we can give that sense of security and woman-to-woman confidence for what they are doing for their family because it’s the same thing that we’re doing for our families.”

Kristen: “Every decision we make on the farm is well thought out. Our first concern is for the land because it allows us to do our jobs. When we make decisions, we’re making decisions for our own family, too, not just those who buy our products. We eat the same foods and drink the same water as every one else.”
Nebraska Bio-based Legislation Introduced

While state lawmakers convened in January to introduce legislation for the 2011 session, the Nebraska Soybean Association worked with State Senator Lydia Brasch, of Bancroft to introduce a bill that would establish a preferential purchasing program for bio-based products for state government and related entities, such as state colleges and universities.

LB 691 that was introduced is modeled after the law that Ohio passed in 2010 and is similar to the Federal USDA BioPreferred program that was created by the 2002 Farm Bill. The purpose of the BioPreferred program is to increase the purchase and use of bio-based products. Currently there are over 20,000 bio-based products available for purchase for both commercial and personal use.

According to a survey conducted by the Nebraska Soybean Board, over 80% of the respondents say they support requiring state and local government agencies to use bioproducts if they are equivalent in price and quality to petroleum-based products. The Nebraska Soybean Board plans continued outreach and education on the bio-based products that are available.

Nebraska Soybean Association president Scott Richert presented testimony in support of LB 691 before the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs committee in February. Richert says “we are pleased that Senator Brasch a soybean producer herself sees the value in a program like this. We hope to be the next state to have Bio-based legislation in place.”
The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) promotes the amazing health benefits of soyfoods through the use of its consumer linkage program. The program, which is entering its 14th year, began as a grassroots marketing program designed to increase soyfood awareness and utilization at the retail level. The program aims to educate consumers on the incredible health benefits of a high soy protein diet and encourages consumers to ask for soy foods at their local grocery stores. The success of this program is achieved through the use of the “Bean Team,” limited mass media advertising and special events.

The Bean Team is a trained group of young adults who provide consumers with information about the health benefits of soy in grocery stores across Nebraska. The Bean Team’s in-store demonstrations are a great way to reach consumers where they are making their food purchasing decisions. These demonstrations give the team the ability to educate consumers about the health benefits of soy by utilizing samples of soyfoods and sharing healthy, great tasting recipes. These in-store demonstrations are conducted from January through April and provide consumers with practical examples of how to introduce soy into their diets.

Soyfoods are an important part of a healthy diet and fit into the USDA’s food pyramid. Most soyfoods contain no cholesterol, little or no saturated fat, high quality protein and dietary fiber. Many soyfoods also provide essential vitamins and minerals; including vitamins A, B and D, calcium, iron and potassium.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS)’s 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend the increased consumption of soyfoods. The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans cites soy products twice in the executive summary of the report, which recommends increasing the intake of soy products and fortified soy beverages.

Nancy Chapman, director of Soyfoods Association of North America (SANA), highlighted the importance of the dietary guidelines saying, “It’s clear that now more than ever the Dietary Guidelines are relevant for all Americans. Regardless of age or cultural differences, the 2010 Guidelines take a big step in helping all Americans understand what the science-based recommendations mean when it comes to sitting down at the dinner table with your family.”

Soyfoods are able to play a part in any healthy, well-balanced diet because they nourish the body with high quality protein that is low in saturated fat, full of nutrients and cholesterol-free. SANA encourages individuals and families to make the healthy, proactive choice to incorporate soyfoods as they seek a variety of lean proteins.

For more information about soyfoods and for great soyfoods recipes, check out www.nebraskasoybeans.org.
As part of the AGP Grays Harbor project, three members of the Nebraska Soybean Board traveled halfway around the world on a Christmas trade mission to the Philippines and Thailand. The Nebraska Soybean Board has been a leader in this program since its inception in 2003. Each year, one or two members of the Board have participated in the Philippine industry Christmas party. This year the Board sent Robert Bartek, Greg Greving and Sean Wagner to represent Nebraska soybean producers, to sell soybeans and soybean meal, and learn what makes the Philippine and Thai markets important to our future.

These three men were part of an 11 person team led by Chris Schaffer, Director of International Trade for AGP, and Peter Mishek of Mishek Inc. For the past six years, each December representatives of the state soybean boards from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota have set off to the Philippines and one other SE Asian country in order to promote the use of Midwestern soybeans and soybean meal shipped off of the PNW from Grays Harbor, Washington to Southeast Asia. The Philippines has become a major sales destination for the Port. AGP and MCM Enterprises (AGP agent in the Philippines) have organized this industry Christmas party for Philippine customers since 2004. This year the group traveled from November 29 through December 8, 2010.

This trip is to orient and educate. In addition to attending the Industry gathering, Nebraska producers also visit customer facilities and cultural sites to gain a better understanding of customer perspectives. This year our trade team visited Filipino feed companies, Filipino commodity trading houses, and also a large aquaculture cooperative in a volcanic lake on the island of Luzon. Over the years, the Filipino industry has been a loyal U.S. customer and has regularly shown a preference for U.S. soybean meal and soybeans. This trip, coupled with the Philippine trade missions that occurs each autumn, reinforces a strong relationship and ensure that Nebraska soybeans get the most consideration in the purchasing decision of the Filipino firm.

After completing the trip to the Philippines, the trade team went on to Thailand. While Thailand was a strong U.S. buyer until 2003-2004, the South Americans have dominated this market the last six years. The Trade Team worked at re-igniting a trade relationship and talking up the quality and dependability of our supplies and our supply system. The team talked about the shorter time to deliver soy products from the West Coast and the greatly reduced price and quality risks associated with the Grays Harbor program. In addition to visiting customer facilities and dining with customers, the team held a dinner for the Thai Industry in Bangkok to meet the various consuming sectors.

The Nebraska Soybean Board has teamed with AGP to run this successful project because AGP is a farmer-owned cooperative. Since 2003, the Grays Harbor project has shipped over $1.6 billion worth of soybean products to Southeast Asia.
Six directors from the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) joined a group of 27 industry leaders from 12 states in December on the National Biodiesel Board’s (NBB) Bioheat tour in New York City. The purpose of the visit was to let the farmers witness firsthand how the citizens of the city and state of New York are incorporating renewable forms of energy, like soy biodiesel, into their daily lives.

The Bioheat tour included stops at the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), which allowed farmers and directors to see how commodities are traded on a global scale. Here farmers traveled up to the observation deck to see the speed at which live trades take place on the floor. Greg Anderson, Nebraska soybean farmer and Technical Committee Chairman for NBB, really enjoyed his time at NYMEX. “I’ve heard a lot about the mercantile exchange, but it was something else to see it in person. It shows you the economic power that America has because we set the standard for setting crude oil prices as well as other commodities.”

Next, the group stopped at Metro Fuel Oil Corporation, a company owned and operated by the Pullo brothers in Brooklyn. Metro is a leading distributor of diesel fuel, biodiesel and home heating oil to the five boroughs of New York City. New York City, the country’s largest municipal consumer of heating oil, consuming 1 billion gallons annually, recently passed legislation to reduce its carbon footprint. In November, Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed into law an air quality bill that includes a provision to ensure that cleaner burning Bioheat is used within the city for heating homes and buildings. This law, which goes into effect in October 2012, requires all heating oil sold within the city to contain at least a two percent blend of biodiesel. Although proponents of Bioheat see a two percent blend as a stepping stone, they applaud the foresight of policymakers and look forward to higher blends, like 12 percent, which will burn cleaner than natural gas. John Maniscalco, of the New York Heating Oil Association, Inc., had these words of praise for biodiesel, “You’re my fix and my solution. You’re going to take my product and make it cleaner and greener.”

Greg Anderson said that he was amazed at the passion displayed by the Pullos. “The tour of Metro was one of the highlights of the trip for me. The Pullos’ passion is contagious. They believe in the future of biodiesel and Bioheat just as much as any soybean farmer and they are extremely committed to the cause. I like that they stand behind domestic fuel production as a cleaner, greener way to fuel our country, as well ensure energy security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil.”

Finally, the tour ended at the Department of Sanitation (NYDOS) where the group learned how the NYDOS and the Department of Parks utilize soy biodiesel as a means of meeting their objective to reduce carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030. The Department of Parks and Recreation and NYDOS have nearly 8,000 vehicles between the organizations. Both organizations are committed to going green by utilizing an increasing amount of alternative energy sources in the years to come, with 63 percent of the Department of Parks’ vehicles using alternative fuels.

NBB’s Bioheat trip to New York came at an ideal time, with the recent extension of the tax credit for biodiesel at the federal level. The tax credit extension has a lot of organizations excited about the opportunity to grow consumption of biodiesel in the U.S. Soy biodiesel is a clean, effective way to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. The NSB, in cooperation with more than a dozen other states, has decided to support NBB’s Advanced Biofuel Initiative, which aims to highlight the fact that biodiesel is currently the only fuel source approved as an advanced biofuel by the EPA.

“The passion that New Yorkers have for biodiesel and Bioheat is amazing,” Anderson said. “Home heating oil is an industry that wants us [soybean farmers] and they want us right now. The potential that the biodiesel and Bioheat markets bring are exciting, especially in light of the tax credit extension.” Anderson went on to say that he’s also happy to see some money from New York City flow back into the rural communities, and, like so many who saw the excitement and passion for biodiesel and Bioheat, he knows that growing these industries will serve Nebraska farmers well in the future.”
The board of directors of the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) and other soybean industry leaders toured the Panama Canal in conjunction with the organization’s annual meeting on December 15-16, 2010. The purpose of the visit was to see firsthand the Panama Canal in operation as well as receive an update on the progress of the canal expansion project. Representing the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) on this recent trip, were NSB Director Richard Bartek from Ithaca, NE, and United Soybean Board (USB) Director Mike Korth from Randolph, NE.

“Soybean production is increasingly a global industry,” says Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition. “The profitability of soybean farming is therefore not only dependent on supply and demand. It also depends on the logistics system that connects the two. The Panama Canal is a significant link in our global logistics chain that allows U.S. agriculture to remain competitive.”

The group visited the Panama Canal lock chambers and witnessed a number of ocean vessels transit the canal. The group also met with officials from the Panama Canal Authority to discuss the importance of the canal to U.S. agricultural exports and to hear an update on the canal expansion project. During the trip, the Soy Transportation Coalition group rode on the Panama Canal Railway from its station near the Pacific Ocean to its terminal near the Atlantic Ocean – a fifty mile journey made in little over an hour.

“Recent flooding almost ruined our trip, causing the canal to be closed for only the third time in 96 years,” Richard Bartek stated. “But we lucked out and were able to see it in action. New additions to the channels and locks will make the canal deeper and wider, and hopefully this helps with the cost of our freight.”

“Representing the Nebraska Soybean Board – Richard Bartek, Ithaca, NE and Mike Korth, Randolph, NE.

“The Panama Canal is a significant link in our global logistics chain that allows U.S. agriculture to remain competitive.”

Completed in 1914, the Panama Canal is an important artery for the U.S. economy. Forty percent of the cargo that transits the canal originates in the U.S., twenty-seven percent is destined to the U.S. and forty-two percent of U.S. grain exports transit the canal. Approximately 550 million bushels of soybeans were shipped through the canal in 2010 – the largest volume among U.S. agricultural commodities.

While much investment over the years has been allocated for canal operations and maintenance, the number and size of the lock chambers have remained the same since the canal’s opening. Currently many of the largest ocean vessels exceed the size of the canal locks. To maintain its role as a key artery for global commerce in the future, the Panama Canal Authority determined to expand the canal.

The expansion project involves the construction of a new set of locks – doubling the size of ships able to transit the canal. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2014 at a cost of $5.2 billion.

“The Panama Canal Authority was pleased to host the Soy Transportation Coalition,” explains Maria Sanchez, Coordinator of Traffic Projections for the Panama Canal Authority. “The country of Panama is making a sizable investment to ensure that the Panama Canal remains a pivotal artery for the global logistics chain. We are hopeful that the United States – the leading user of the Panama Canal – will make the necessary investments in their own infrastructure to ensure the canal expansion will benefit the U.S. economy and not become a source of congestion. Given the importance of the canal to U.S. agricultural exports, we are encouraged to see soybean farmers become active in this important issue.”

USB Director Mike Korth wasn’t so optimistic with the expansion. “The biggest cost of the expansion project is to dig the canal deeper for the bigger vessels, but we don’t have port accessibility for these bigger vessels in the United States. A concentration needs to be put on the Pacific Northwest and port access to our western region. Overall, it was a great visit. But, we need to sit down and figure out what is going to be the most profitable opportunity for Nebraska’s soybean farmers,” Korth concluded.
Q: Why does your #1 soybean customer eat like a pig?

☐ Your local diner serves tofu-bacon.
☐ He knows you’re picking up the check.
☑ Because a lot of your customers are pigs.

Your soybeans travel a lot farther than just the local grain elevator. Go to www.BeyondTheElevator.com to learn more about your number one customer AND your operation’s profitability.

You’d be surprised. In fact, there are more than 14,000 bio-based products on the market today. And by choosing these natural alternatives, you’re ensuring a brighter future for our environment, supporting Nebraska agriculture and growing our local economies. To see all the great uses for bioproducts in your home, visit NEbioproducts.org.

This message brought to you by Nebraska soybean farmers and the Nebraska Soybean Board.
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Take advantage of the 2011 Membership seed bonus promotion today!
Join as a new or renewing 3-year member for $250 and when you purchase 12 bags of soybean seed, you will receive 6 bags free! Offer good till December 31, 2011

We Proudly Recognize our 2011 Sponsoring Companies:
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If You Believe...Belong

Growing soybeans is your business. Growing satisfied customers is ours.

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We’re committed to our mission. We’re committed to you.
Soybean production has come a long way since the crop was introduced to Nebraska in 1902. A strong focus on increasing yields over the last century has resulted in more bushels from fewer acres but has also meant soybean protein and oil content have sometimes taken a back seat. New trends in the soybean marketplace call for rethinking how quality affects the bottom line.

Today’s soybean buyers are looking for soybeans with maximum protein and oil content. Due to that increasing focus on soybean quality, Nebraska producers face increasing competition from South America and from other feed ingredients here at home.

**Competitive Pressures**

South America would like nothing more than to capture U.S. export markets. And here at home, producers of competitive ingredients like DDGs, canola meal and synthetic amino acids would be happy to grab more market share from soybean meal.

Competition from South America is especially challenging. While the U.S. and Brazil have each increased exports, the U.S. share of the world soybean market is decreasing (see graph to the right).

Brazil, in particular, is poised to steal the title of largest producer of high-quality soybeans. The quality of their beans means stiff competition, especially for producers in the Upper Midwest, who face seasonal and climatic challenges that don’t exist for South American producers. Largely due to climate advantages, from 1985 to 2006, Brazilian soybeans had higher protein levels, on average, than U.S. soybeans as shown in this data collected by Japanese soybean processors (see chart on page 25).

Chuck Myers, a fifth-generation soybean producer in northeast Nebraska, has first-hand experience with the expectations of international buyers through his travels to China, Mexico and Japan. “Processors in Mexico or China aren’t buying soybeans – they’re buying protein and oil because that’s what they sell to their customers and end-users,” says Myers. “We must recognize the importance of meeting our customers’ needs.”

“If buyers can’t get high-protein soybeans from northern growing areas, they’ll look to southern states and South America for supply,” adds Gregg Fujan, a soybean grower near Weston, Nebraska.

**Protecting Profits**

“Enhancing soybean quality not only protects against competition, but it also increases...
producers’ bottom lines,” according to Chris Schroeder of Centrec Consulting. Centrec specializes in agricultural economic analysis.

“Soybean prices track with soybean quality,” Schroeder says. “Historically, soybean producers in Upper Midwestern states get paid less for their beans, partly due to the Cash Price Differential (CPD) [cash basis].” Schroeder explains that the CPD shows the cash price difference producers in two locations will get for their soybeans. The CPD varies based on soybean quality, transportation costs and other factors, and the difference between Illinois and Nebraska, for example, can be significant.

Soybean growers have little control over the differential caused by transportation and other costs, but they do have some control over the quality differential. Higher quality soybeans have a higher Estimated Processed Value (EPV) – the combined value of the oil, meal and hulls – because they have high protein and oil content. The higher the beans’ EPV, the more the processor pays the elevator and, therefore, the more profit you make as the grower.

Myers explains quality this way: “Soybean quality starts on the farm and benefits everyone right down the line. The farmer gets a higher soybean price for quality beans. The processor, in turn, can generate higher quality outputs. Higher quality soybean meal helps improve livestock production, keeping that industry profitable and ensuring continued demand for soybean meal from that sector.”

Addressing the Challenge

Myers believes growers can enhance their soybean quality by making informed choices. “If we all planted the high-quality soybean varieties already available to us, we could move the needle of soybean quality right now,” says Myers. “If you have two varieties that are close on yield, but one has higher ratings for protein and oil, pick the high-quality option.”

Gregg Fujan agrees. “Look for both high yields and high quality when choosing seeds,” he says.

Many soybean varieties will produce both the yields growers need and the quality processors expect. But varieties that deliver low quality are scattered throughout listings of varieties available in a given area. Ask your seed dealer for varieties that deliver high quality as well as high yield. A good general goal is 35 percent protein and 19 percent oil, although the optimal balance can vary by area.

Help is also available at the Soybean Quality Toolbox at www.SoyQuality.org. The Toolbox can help you identify high-quality soybean varieties, locate processors that offer premiums and provide plenty of additional information on growing high-quality soybeans.

By focusing on soybean quality, Nebraska growers can lead the way in keeping the U.S. on top in world soybean production.
UNL on Top of Soybean Cyst Nematode

– Sandi Alswager Karstens

When it comes to soybean cyst nematode (SCN), the number one disease affecting soybean production across the state and nation, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) research, extension and teaching has its bases covered. From a new variety evaluation program and UNL Extension field days, to a second year of winter annual weed research, UNL is working to stop the yield-loss culprit.

“By minimizing stress and impact of diseases like SCN, the overall soybean quality will improve and marketability of the crop will be better,” said Loren Giesler, UNL Extension plant pathologist.

Soybean cyst nematode is the most yield-limiting soybean disease in the United States. They often go unnoticed in farmers’ fields until a yield-loss is noticed. The microscopic, worm-like animal attacks soybean plant roots. It moves through the soil and is not airborne.

The new variety evaluation program, which can be found on the soybean cyst nematode section at pdc.unl.edu, will help producers find the best soybean seed varieties to stop SCN.

“All SCN resistant varieties are not the same,” Giesler said.

Most commercial SCN resistant varieties offer a genetic resistance. However, “if you took 10 varieties with the same resistance, the population wouldn’t respond the same at all,” Giesler said.

The site will post varieties with yields and the ability for the nematode population to increase or decrease with those varieties.

Some companies will rate them for susceptibility; others won’t.

“Growers tend to think if they get a bag of seed that is said to be resistant, it is,” he said. “However, with SCN, even in resistant varieties, you’ll see different levels of nematode reproduction.”

This data set will give growers the ability to select resistant varieties that yield well and that limit the potential for reproduction.

Giesler said, “When it comes to SCN, it’s important not to just plant a resistant variety and forget about it. Soybean growers need to check population numbers after a few years and see if numbers actually are going down.”

Having the appropriate tools and managing SCN using non-biased evaluation programs is critical.

The Nebraska Soybean Board also funds another project that evaluates the timing and emergence of winter annual weeds and how SCN survives on these different weed species.

Mark Bernards, UNL agronomist, explained that experiments have been established and data was collected this fall on winter annual weed emergence.

Ultimately, researchers will describe what environmental conditions promote emergence of winter annual weeds.

“Understanding when winter annual weeds emerge will enable soybean producers to target the best time to control them,” Bernards said. Graduate student Rodrigo Werle is also looking at winter annual weed survival.

In another project, a doctoral student has begun looking at corn in a rotation and how SCN population change is influenced by soil texture and moisture conditions. Using a corn/soybean rotation is very important in combating SCN.

Researchers are also studying the difference in cropping practices and soil textures as far as nematode mortality.

John Wilson, UNL Extension educator in Burt County, summarized that a critical part of the program is creating awareness of SCN. He and Giesler conduct Soybean Cyst Nematode Management Field Days across the state each summer.

Wilson said soybean growers are able to look at trials with a variety of resistant and susceptible varieties. “From that we are able to get yield data and egg count data from spring to fall, and see how the population increased or decreased,” he said.

He and Giesler also hand out SCN sampling kits so growers can sample their own fields. This is the sixth year of the Nebraska Soybean Board’s sampling program.

“For another year it is amazing the number of people that turn in a soil sample that is positive for SCN, and they had no idea it was present in their fields,” Wilson said. “This really has created a lot of awareness. We’ve collected well over 3,000 samples, and each year about a fourth of them come back positive.”

SCN has now been found in 51 counties which produce almost 90 percent of Nebraska’s soybeans. This number has doubled over the last five to six years.

The SCN sampling kits also have been used in Nebraska high schools where FFA teams have visited with farmers, demonstrating how to use the kits to prepare and analyze a sample. The 2010 Nebraska State FFA demonstration contest winner was on SCN, by Schuyler Central High School.

The soybean checkoff is at work for Nebraska through funding provided by the Nebraska Soybean Board in support of these projects.
Early Season Soybean Diseases

— David L. Wright, Ph.D
(Director of Research)

Soybean seedling diseases have the potential to cause losses in Nebraska soybean fields every year. The specific seedling diseases that occur, and their severity, vary with the environmental conditions each season.

Frequently, seedling health is ignored because plant populations are acceptable and stem and leaves do not express symptoms during early vegetative growth. Monitoring the health and vigor of your soybean stand in the seedling phase can be used to make adjustments in crop management in subsequent years and may explain symptoms of less-than-anticipated yield later in the season.

Adverse environmental conditions commonly result in stand loss from several pathogens. The most common soybean seedling diseases that could occur are Pythium, Fusarium, Rhizoctonia and Phytophthora root rot.

Pythium species cause seed decay, pre-emergence damping off and early post-emergence seedling death. Seed infected with Pythium species may decay before germination and as they do, become soft and rotted. Phytophthora sojae also causes a soft, wet rot of seed or seedling tissue similar to that of Pythium species. Infected seedlings may die prior to emerging from the soil or shortly thereafter.

Rhizoctonia seedling blight is another seedling disease caused by a soilborne fungal pathogen. Symptoms of Rhizoctonia generally show up on seedlings as dry, dark reddish-brown lesions just above the soil line. Seedling loss from Rhizoctonia seedling blight is less common that from Pythium seed decay and Phytophthora root rot but when present, stand loss can be severe.

What to do if seedling diseases are present

- If dead plants are scattered throughout the field, and no significant stand reduction is apparent, then no action is needed if the disease is Pythium or Rhizoctonia damping off.
- If seedling loss is severe, consult a certified crop advisor to determine if replanting is necessary. Replanting is not always necessary.
- Take good disease notes and use preventive measures such as seed treatment or resistant varieties to reduce the likelihood of a disease problem in the next soybean crop.

If replanting is necessary

If poor stands are due to diseases, fungicide seed treatments can be used in replanting to avoid further damping off, especially for Rhizoctonia and Phytophthora. If poor stands are due to a low germination rate, a seed treatment cannot improve seed germination rate or seed vigor.

Cultural practices to promote healthy seedlings

The first 10 to 14 days following soybean planting is the window of opportunity for Pythium and other soilborne fungi to infect the plant. Implement practices that promote quick germination and seedling emergence to prevent infection.

- Plant high quality seed and plant into a good seedbed.
- Plant seed that has resistance to Phytophthora sojae. Specific resistance is controlled by major resistance genes such as Rps1k. In addition, select varieties with high partial resistance (tolerance) when possible.
- Plant where drainage is adequate, or improve drainage if possible. Avoid low areas of fields, especially if a field has a history of seedling or root rot problems.
- Consider that germination will be quickest when soil temperatures are greater than 65°F.
See for Yourself
Nebraska soybean farmers see firsthand the impact U.S. soy plays in Mexico.