Farmers across Nebraska are still shaking off the challenges of last season’s weather. With tornadoes, hail and heavy rain in some areas, farmers had to work extra hard to keep their soybean yields high. For some, replanting was required. For a few, several replants were necessary. Luckily, Asgrow® has replant promises that benefit farmers who operate in challenging environments.

Acceleron® Seed Treatment Products 100% replant promise

With an increasing number of farmers planting their soybeans as early in the season as possible, it is more important than ever for farmers to protect their seeds from potential damages. Johnsen acknowledges, “The earlier farmers plant, the better opportunity for nodal development and yield potential.” However, he warns, “Sometimes we put ourselves at risk going in too early with soil temperature and rainfall factors.” Due to this, the addition of Acceleron® Seed Treatment Products really gives farmers added protection against the uncertainty of early-season disease, insects, early frost and weather. Because Acceleron Seed Treatment Products come with a 100 percent replant promise, it is especially beneficial for farmers in Nebraska who have been faced with the challenge of needing to replant after environmental damages like last season.

Another innovation from Asgrow, the Acceleron® Seed Treatment Products are seed treatments that farmers can obtain from an Asgrow facility or their dealer. These products may have either insecticide and fungicide components, or fungicide only, which gives farmers an edge right from the start with their seed. Johnsen indicates that many Nebraska farmers have been opting to add an inoculant when the Acceleron Seed Treatment Products are being applied – especially for acres that have been corn-on-corn for a long time. This is a simple extra step that can be done at your local dealership.

Agronomic insight into spring 2015

Over the last three to five years, Nebraska yields have been exceeding expectations despite challenges the often unpredictable and varying Nebraska environments have brought. “It’s a high-yielding environment, with diverse soils, management challenges and unpredictable environmental factors – such as annual rainfall,” Johnsen explains. He adds, “Nebraska farmers deal with a little bit more than the rest of the world, but remain high in overall performance even though the yields will vary by region based on that diversity.” Looking ahead, keeping up with a strong weed management plan will be important for farmers. Diseases to look out for include soil-borne seedling diseases such as Pythium, Phytophthora and Rhizoctonia, which all made a large impact on Nebraska farmers last year.

Staying ahead of the game in technology, breeding and products

Top technology development representatives and breeders in Nebraska work tirelessly to make sure farmers’ needs are addressed in their unique environments. This effort helped change the game previously with the advancement to Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield®. Farmers can also be confident that more products will be available to add to their strong arsenal. Pending regulatory approvals, Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System will be another mode of action for farmers to take control of their acres. Johnsen says, “Farmers are already confident in their Asgrow soybeans, but are always looking ahead to new ways to help maximize yields.” For Nebraska farmers, experts are making those advancements happen in their own backyards every day.

PREPARING FOR NEBRASKA’S DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTS THIS SPRING

Information provided by Steve Johnsen, Asgrow® and DEKALB® Technical Agronomist

www.asgrow.com

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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 beginning of the tenth year of the Nebraska Soybean Board’s “See for Yourself” program. We have just concluded our 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. Although the international marketing seminar is over, 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 is designed to include the opportunity 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. 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!
As we gear up for another planting season, I’d like to touch on what your soybean checkoff is doing to help add value to your operation. Whether the checkoff is working to expand markets at home and abroad or developing new uses, increasing your bottom line happens in a variety of ways.

One of the most important ways the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) works to enhance your profitability is by working with partners to conduct soybean research. Soybean research is a valuable tool that helps farmers, address critical production, profitability, and natural resources questions.

The Nebraska Soybean Board works closely with University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL), UNL Extension, and other research partners in an effort to optimize yield and lower input costs. NSB’s work with UNL is heavily focused on tackling challenges facing Nebraska producers. Some of these projects work to help mitigate risk associated with yield loss caused by soybean aphids, soybean cyst nematodes, sudden death syndrome, and glyphosate-resistant weeds. Much of this work is featured in our magazine or during on-farm research trials, such as Soybean Management Field Days and Weed Resistance Field Days.

The checkoff also works to implement long-term, highly technical research programs that aim to bring new varieties back to Nebraska or increase yields. While these programs may be long-term investments, the goal is to look at challenges and opportunities on the horizon and find ways to maximize our potential for success.

This two-pronged approach of utilizing short-term and long-term research creates a research portfolio for soybean farmers in the state. We believe this combination of practicality and aggressiveness maximizes your investment by giving you the tools you need to succeed in an ever-changing marketplace.

Another goal for the board that we are currently working on is to make this research data more readily available to farmers in real time. This year, we will be working closely with the university to create a web portal that allows farmers to access research data from all the checkoff-funded research as it becomes available.

Finally, if you have ideas for research projects, I strongly encourage you to speak to the board member in your district. We are always looking for good ideas that will help producers in the state. By working together, I believe we can successfully meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Have a safe and successful spring, Ron Pavelka
from the Association

Membership and the Soybean Checkoff – So what’s the difference?
– by Ken Boswell, Shickley, NSA President

This is one question I hear a lot of the time when I’m out recruiting, so what is the difference between the Association and the Checkoff? I already pay my checkoff I thought I was a member. When you sell your soybeans, a check-off fee is deducted from the settlement. This does not make you a member of the Nebraska Soybean Association. By law, soybean checkoff dollars cannot be used to fund policy or lobbying activities. The NSA is a dues paying membership organization where producers voluntarily join to support policy efforts.

So what does a member receive for their membership dues? The most obvious is the bonus seed and seed treatment from the participating companies for a three year membership. If you live in Saunders county, you have a county organization that sponsors events throughout the year. Their main event is the soybean expo in December of each year. I would like to see more counties become organized.

At the state level, you receive the work of ten volunteer producers that serve as board members. The association has one fulltime employee that keeps us organized and informed of events. As board members we monitor legislative bills, present testimony during the hearings, and visit with individual Senators concerning bills that will affect soybean producers. The position we take is based on the policies that were passed at our annual meeting.

To increase our effectiveness we work with other organization that have similar positions on a bill. These are usually Agriculture related organizations.

Being a member of NSA also makes you a member of the American Soybean Association (ASA). NSA has two producers serving on ASA board of directors. ASA represents us on national level in Washington D.C. and on the international issues. They follow the policies developed by the affiliated 26 state associations voting delegates. The ASA staff in DC represents and informs us on Federal issues affecting soybean producers. Our job at the state level is to communicate our message with the Nebraska Congressional Delegation on the Federal issues.

By being a member you receive an abundance of representation on both state and national issues for just a small investment. The more members we have the more effective our voice to impact your profitability. So if you believe, belong. Contact our office at 402-441-3239 for membership information.

I Believe, I Belong...

Today’s producers growing grain, livestock and other ag products are dwindling in numbers. The need to be heard when an issue arises is great, but by ourselves we may not be heard. As policies on environmental regulations, farm policy and taxes are being decided by lawmakers the American Soybean Association (ASA) and Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) makes certain our views are heard.

Change happens so fast in today’s environment we know sometimes issues come about during times of the year when we are focused on production. We as growers may not even be aware of the issues until it is too late to take action. I’m glad the ASA and NSA are there to be our representation in Lincoln and Washington D.C. That’s why I believe and belong!

– Craig Frenzen, Fullerton, NE, At Large Director
In early January, the Nebraska Corn Board and the Nebraska Soybean Board teamed up and hit the road for their first annual Corn and Soy Checkoff Tour. The goal of this tour was to familiarize farmers with their checkoff by giving them an update on investments in the areas of research, market development, promotion and education. The two-day event took place in the following four locations across the state—West Point, Mead, Broken Bow and Minden.

Each two-hour program included a meal, a presentation by both boards, and a question and answer session. Board members representing their respective districts from both the Corn and Soybean Boards were also in attendance to answer questions from their fellow farmers regarding investments and to discuss issues facing producers. Representing the Soybean Board were Richard Bartek of Ithaca, Terry Horky of Sargent and Ron Pavelka of Glenvil.

Representatives from the Soybean Board gave a presentation on the history and structure of the Nebraska soybean checkoff program, which started in 1975 as the Soybean Development, Utilization, and Marketing Board before changing to the Nebraska Soybean Board in 1995. Farmers also learned that investments made by the board normally fall into one of five target areas: Domestic Marketing, International Marketing, Communications/Producer Education, Research, and Soy Education.

Some of the NSB projects highlighted under each target area were:

- **Domestic Marketing**
  - Animal agriculture
  - Biodiesel/Bioheat

- **International Marketing**
  - Investments made with strategic partners including the U.S. Meat Export Federation, the U.S. Soybean Export Council, and the U.S.A. Poultry and Egg Export Council
  - Trade Team visits to Nebraska

- **Communications/Producer Education**
  - Soybean Management Field Days
  - Weed Resistance Field Days
  - Risk management workshops

- **Research**
  - Breeding and genetic research
  - North Central Soybean Research Program
  - Water use efficiency research

- **Soy Education**
  - Ag Sack Lunch program
  - Ag in the Classroom
  - Summer Soybean Institute

Many attendees had common questions regarding checkoff activities. Over the course of the two days, questions were raised regarding investments in animal agriculture, biofuels, exports, market development, new uses, research and transportation of ag products. The estimated total attendance for all four stops was 130.
This year, there are three district seats on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) eligible for election. Soybean farmers in Districts 1, 3 and 6 are invited to run for election to the Nebraska Soybean Board by filing a candidacy petition by the **April 15, 2015 deadline**. The election will be conducted via direct-mail ballots and candidate information will be provided to all soybean farmers residing within the district in which an election is to be held.

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

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

**District seats open are:**

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

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

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

**Candidates for the NSB seats must be:**

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

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

The nine-member Nebraska Soybean Board collects and disburses the Nebraska share of funds generated by the one half of one percent times the net sales price per bushel of soybeans sold. Nebraska soybean checkoff funds are invested in research, education, domestic and foreign markets, including new uses for soybeans and soybean products.

For more information about the Nebraska Soybean Board, visit [www.nebraskasoybeans.org](http://www.nebraskasoybeans.org)
Perhaps you’ve attended a soybean management field day event, seen an advertisement promoting biodiesel or animal agriculture, participated in a “See for Yourself” activity, or walked through the Raising Nebraska exhibit at the State Fair. These are just a few of the many projects your checkoff dollars were invested in this past year by the volunteer farmer-leaders of the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB).

The fiscal year 2014 annual report below shows how checkoff dollars are invested in the four projects areas: Promotion/International Marketing, Research, Communication/Production and Domestic Marketing. The volunteer farmers-leaders of the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) work to ensure that your checkoff investments will grow demand for Nebraska soybeans.

While half of your checkoff dollars go to work at the state level – supporting marketing and research programs right here in Nebraska, the other half goes toward improving profits opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. The following report shows the investment areas of Promotion/International Marketing, Research, Communication/Production and Domestic Marketing. These areas helped to expand, develop, and increase markets for Nebraska soybeans. But whether it’s a state project or a national initiative, rest assured that your soybean checkoff’s number one priority is the continued investment in programs that grow demand benefitting each and every U.S. soybean farmer.

### TOTAL FUNDING
- Checkoff Assessments: $8,498,248
- Interest: 7,959
- Miscellaneous: 1,131,473
- **Total Revenues**: $9,637,681

### TOTAL EXPENDITURES
- Promotion/International: $1,263,811
- Research: 1,634,023
- Communication/Production: 2,370,531
- Domestic Marketing: 3,035,744
- Administrative: 353,426
- **Total Expenses**: $8,657,535

**Change in Unrestricted Net Assets**: 980,146

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year**: $8,658,879

**Net Assets, End of Year**: $9,639,025
The Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) elected its 2015 officers and directors during their annual meeting held in York in early December.

Ken Boswell, Shickley, NE was re-elected as NSA president for his second term.

Other officers elected to serve a second term were Dennis Fujan of Prague serving as vice-president, Robert Johnston of Clearwater serving as Treasurer and Nathan Dorn of Hickman serving as Secretary. Geoff Ruth of Rising City will serve as the Chairman. Craig Frenzen of Fullerton and Shane Greving of Chapman were elected to serve as At Large directors and Robert Johnston was re-elected to serve as a District 2 director.

This year’s recipient of the Nebraska Soybean Association Soybean Promoter Award was awarded to Eugene Glock of Rising City. This award is presented annually to recognize an individual who has shown outstanding leadership and support to the betterment of the soybean industry in Nebraska.

Eugene began as one of the founding members of the Nebraska Soybean Association back in the early 1970’s. He served as the first president of NSA as well as serving on the board of directors and research committee for the American Soybean Association during his soybean career. He has served on the boards of directors of Ag Builders of Nebraska and the Farmers Co-op in Rising City. He is a member of the Water Policy Task Force and served as the state agriculture representative for U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey’s staff for 12 years.
Soil Residual Herbicide Options after Soybean Emergence

by Amit Jhala
Extension Weed Management Specialist,
Lowell Sandell
Weed Science Extension Educator

Tips for Applying Soil Residual Herbicides after Soybean Emergence

Early season weed control is imperative to maximize soybean yield. Many soybean growers were not able to apply pre-emergence, residual herbicides prior to soybean emergence. A few residual herbicides such as Anthem, Dual II Magnum, FirstRate, Intro, Outlook, Prefix, Pursuit, Warrant, and Zidua can be applied after soybean emergence. Some of these herbicides such as Anthem, FirstRate (only for broadleaf weeds), Pursuit, and Prefix have foliar activity to control small, emerged weeds.

Given most soybeans grown in Nebraska are glyphosate-tolerant, glyphosate can be tank-mixed with residual herbicides with no foliar activity, such as Dual II Magnum, Warrant, or Zidua to control weeds already emerged at the time of application. It is also possible to tank-mix some other post-emergence soybean herbicides such as Cadet, Classic, Cobra, Flexstar GT, Fusilade DX, Phoenix, Ultra Blazer, and Select Max to control emerged weeds. This would add a different mode of action and might effectively delay or control glyphosate-resistant weeds. Tank-mix...
partners may cause other effects regardless of the application timing. Follow application timing and other restrictions of tank-mix herbicide partners as noted in the herbicide label.

**Treatment Guide**

Several important factors should be considered when addressing weed control with residual herbicides applied after soybean emergence:

- soybean growth stage,
- tank mix partner, and
- weed growth stage

Following is more specific information for residual herbicides that can be applied after soybean emergence.

**Anthem** is a pre-mix of Zidua (Pyroxasulfone) and Cadet (Fluthiacet-methyl). It can be applied post-emergence in soybean up to the V3 stage. The application rate is in a range of 4 to 9 fl oz per acre depending on soil type. It provides effective residual activity for control of common lambsquarters, velvetleaf, and grasses.

**Dual II Magnum** can be applied at a rate of 1 to 1.33 pints per acre as a post-emergence treatment to soybeans from emergence up through the 3rd trifoliate leaf stage. Dual II Magnum will not control emerged weeds, so it must be applied to a weed-free soil surface or in a tank mixture with products that provide post-emergence control of weeds present at the time of application. Do NOT apply Dual II Magnum if S-metolachlor products such as Dual Magnum or Dual II Magnum have already been applied.

**FirstRate** may be applied any time prior to the 50% flowering stage of soybeans; however, application prior to full emergence of the first soybean trifoliate leaf may cause temporary yellowing or chlorosis of soybeans. Tank-mix partners may cause other effects regardless of application timing.

**Pursuit** can be applied early post-emergence in soybeans when weeds are actively growing and before they exceed a height of 3 inches. Apply Pursuit before soybean bloom at an application rate of 4 oz per acre. Base application timing on weed size and not soybean growth stage. Use a crop oil concentrate at 1 gallon per 100 gallons of spray solution.

**Prefix** can be applied at 2 to 2.33 pints per acre as a post-emergence application from cracking through the 3rd trifoliate stage of soybeans. Necrotic spotting, leaf crinkling, or curling of soybean leaves may occur following post-emergence application, but soybean soon outgrow these effects and develop normally. Prefix alone may control or partially control some emerged broadleaf weeds; however, for broad spectrum control, tank-mix with other herbicides. Add non-ionic surfactant at 0.25% v/v to the final spray volume. Do NOT use crop oil concentrate when applying Prefix post-emergence as these spray adjuvants may increase soybean injury.

**Outlook** is a selective residual herbicide for controlling annual broadleaf, grass, and sedge weeds. Emerged weeds will not be controlled and must be controlled with an appropriate post-emergence herbicide. Outlook can be applied from emergence to 5th trifoliate leaf stage. The application rates in a single application are 12 to 18 fl oz per acre on coarse-texture soils and 14 to 21 fl oz per acre on medium-texture or fine-texture soils. This can also be influenced by soil organic matter content. If Outlook is applied in two split applications, maintain a minimum 14 day-interval between applications and do NOT exceed a seasonal total of 24 fl oz per acre.

**Warrant** is an encapsulated acetochlor herbicide that can be applied post-emergence in soybeans after soybeans are completely emerged, but before they reach R2 (initiation of flowering) growth stage. It can be applied at 1.25 to 2 quarts per acre, depending on soil texture and organic matter content. The optimum timing and rate of application is when soybeans are V2 to V3 stage at 1.5 quarts per acre. Warrant is a residual herbicide, so it must be tank-mixed with a burndown herbicide to control existing weeds.

**Zidua** is a selective, rate-dependent residual herbicide for control of annual grasses, broadleaf, and sedge weeds. It can be applied to soybean at 1st to 3rd trifoliate leaf stage. Do NOT apply Zidua to soybean from emergence (at cracking) through unifoliate stage or injury may occur. The early post-emergence application rate is in a range of 1 to 3.5 oz per acre, depending on soil texture. Zidua has no foliar activity, so it must be tank-mixed with a foliar active herbicide for control of existing weeds.

**Residual Activity**

Length and effectiveness of residual activity from in-crop application will vary depending on:

- weed species,
- herbicide application rate,
- rainfall following application (minimum of 0.5 inches of rainfall within a week of application is ideal),
- density of the weed and crop canopy at the time of application, and
- length of subsequent weed germination events.

For more information, see 2015 Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska (EC 130) published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension (http://ianpubs.unl.edu). Always read label before applying herbicide in the field.
The North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) has been a leader in increasing efficiency, reducing redundancy and driving collaboration for a greater return on checkoff dollars for more than two decades. This past year, NCSRP advanced targeted agronomic research to the next level by endorsing the Multi-State On-Farm Partnership.

Combining both new and existing on-farm programs, the Multi-State On-Farm Partnership was launched in spring of 2014 as a framework to facilitate regional and national projects benefiting all U.S. growers. The partnership consists of 14 university, commodity group and non-governmental organization partners who will collaborate and coordinate research to advance U.S. agriculture in a meaningful way.

“There are a number of opportunities where collaborating across state lines on similar and robust protocols allow us to take data and aggregate it further to broaden the benefit to farmers,” Ed Anderson, NCSRP executive director, said.

Along with providing direct benefit to farmer participants, the data generated by the project is intended for universities, regulators, agricultural retailers and commodity groups. In addition, interaction through on-farm programs also serves a key role in producer engagement offering a valuable connection point to stakeholders.

**Accelerated soybean yield gain**

During the past 40 years, soybean yields have increased about 0.44 bushels per acre per year. This is far below the advancement of corn yield — and farmers are taking notice.

Evidence suggests about one-third of the increase in average soybean yield can be attributed to agronomic improvements and management practices. While the Multi-State On-Farm Partnership will continue to advance the agronomic piece of the soybean puzzle, a core team of scientists will put a concerted effort to build holistic collaborative programs for elevating the larger two-thirds — genetics.

The University of Nebraska is very involved in soybean yield research projects. One of those projects “Accelerating soybean yield improvement by utilizing yield genes from soybean wild relatives,” has input from George Graef. The project’s objectives include genetically mapping chromosomal regions that differentiate the domestic soybean from the wild soybean and use that information to select high yielding experimental lines from domestic/wild soybean crosses to improve soybean yields.

Another project the University of Nebraska is collaborating on is “Enhancing soybean yield by genetic improvement of seed number per plant, seed germination and seed emergence potential under drought conditions.” Nebraska researcher Thomas Clemente joins others in efforts to generate transgenic soybean plants that improve overall yield and drought tolerance as well as identify which genes could hold the key for future research.

**Seeing progress**

The NCSRP Multi-State On-Farm Partnership will continue to enable the design, development and implementation of the most relevant and timely in-field agronomic product and practice evaluation projects for 2015. This may include edge-of-field and conservation practices for nutrient management and water quality. The on-farm partnership is expecting to have a focus established this spring and the first research trials established this year. While coordinated agronomic studies are ramping up, the multi-state programs on genetics and basic biology are launching for a combined positive impact on soybean productivity.

“We’re trying to be responsive in coordinating the best and brightest researchers across the country to address, with a sense of urgency, the needs of farmers and to help the soybean industry,” Anderson said. “We focus on farmer interest in driving efficiency, reducing redundancy and guaranteeing a greater return on investment of their checkoff dollars.”

Updates on the Multi-State program’s progress will be published to the NCSRP-funded website, Soybean Research and Information Initiative (SRII), www.soybeanresearchinfo.com.
UNL Researcher Receives ASA Service Award at 2015 Commodity Classic

— by Drew Guiney

When looking at Dr. Jim Specht’s list of achievements, it doesn’t take long to realize that his body of work speaks for itself. His distinguished career at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln brought many benefits to soybean farmers.

Dr. Specht recently retired from UNL, but still holds the title of emeritus professor of agronomy and horticulture. Among Dr. Specht’s many accomplishments are his work in determining plant populations and planting dates as key determinants of yield. He was also a key contributor in helping to map the soybean genome. Dr. Specht has worked extensively to study and improve water management practices. He and his colleagues have been pioneers in helping Nebraska soybean farmers use water more efficiently when irrigating.

Due to these and his other accomplishments, the American Soybean Association selected Dr. Specht as the recipient of their 2015 Special Meritorious Service Award.

Ron Pavelka, chairman of the Nebraska Soybean Board, said Dr. Specht was an extremely worthy recipient of this year’s award. “Dr. Specht was an integral part of the success of Nebraska soybean farmers. His body of work has helped Nebraska soybean farmers become more profitable through increased yields and reductions of inputs. His dedication to the industry and passion for helping farmers are clearly evident through all that he has accomplished in his distinguished career.”

Ken Boswell, chairman of the Nebraska Soybean Association, echoed Pavelka’s thoughts saying, “Dr. Specht has been instrumental in providing soybean producers with accurate research findings that can be easily applied to help our operations profitability. We look to his university-based research findings and expertise when commenting on federal regulatory issues that could have an impact on soybean producers. He is very deserving of this recognition.”

Congratulations Dr. Specht.
When looking at worldwide demand for soy, most people would point to China as the most important market for U.S. soybean farmers. And for good reason. Last year, China imported roughly $13.5 billion worth of soybeans and soybean oil. However, many people often forget that Mexico, our neighbors to the south, are the second largest importer of whole beans, and the largest importer of both meal and oil from the U.S. Mexico’s strong demand for U.S. soy, coupled with their favorable location and a stable trade partnership make them an ideal area to focus international marketing efforts in the future.

Recently, a group of farmers and soybean staff from three states attended a trade mission to Mexico to learn more about the needs of their end users. Another main goal of the tour, which took place from February 15-21, was to help build relationships with these foreign buyers and to answer any questions they may have about the U.S. soybean crop. The trade mission was organized by Mishek Inc. & Associates – an organization with strong ties to AGP that brings foreign buyers from all over the world on crop sampling tours across the Midwest during the fall.

Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota all sent farmers on the trade mission and they were joined by representatives from AGP.

The group visited several feed mills and feed integrators in the areas of Culiacan, located in the state of Sinaloa, and Guadalajara, located in the state of Jalisco. At many of the stops, Mexican buyers had many
questions about the 2014 crop and also wanted to know if farmers predicted an increase in acres for 2015. While, many of the buyers had a strong preference for the quality of U.S. soy, they also highlighted that price eventually played a role in where they would source their soybeans and soybean meal.

One of the stops included ProAn – an integrated business that imports feed and raises dairy, swine and layers. ProAn is a large integrator that purchases soy exclusively from the U.S. To put their operation into perspective, they have 125,000 metric tons of storage, which is enough to house two Panamax ships. With more than 26 million birds, ProAn is one of the largest egg producers in Latin America. They also feed 5,000 dairy cows and 57,000 sows, with plans to increase to 100,000 next year.

During the stop at ProAn, a key point was raised regarding the crude protein content of soy raised in the northern U.S. Although he wasn’t directly responsible for the logistics of importing soy from around the world, Feed Nutritionist Pedro Dávalos asked several questions about the crude protein and amino acid levels of soy from the states represented on the trip. While northern states can’t compete with warmer climates on crude protein, Peter Mishek, the leader of the trade mission, was able to explain that northern states are looking to start compiling data for a second, arguably more important measurement – amino acid profile. Customers like Dávalos are interested in feed that features balanced amino acids because highly digestible amino acids mean drier feces, less foul odors, and no wasted nitrogen.

Having the opportunity to answer key questions like Dávalos’ are what trade missions like these are all about. Dennis Fujan, a soybean farmer from Prague who attended the trip said, it was well worth it. “I think people often forget about Mexico as a trade partner,” Fujan said. “This trip was very eye opening for me. It was a great opportunity to see how important that market is for U.S. soybean farmers. We want to establish ourselves as reliable suppliers, and trade missions, as well as hosting buyers on our farms during harvest, go a long way in building strong relationships. Even in a global economy, people still appreciate getting to know their customers and who they’re buying from.”

In 2014, Mexico imported just under $2.5 billion worth of soybeans, meal and oil. While the Mexican market may pale in comparison to China, it’s important to remember the value of diversifying the export pool. By committing ourselves in investing in relationships with buyers south of the border, we are hedging our bet that demand from China will be consistent. The Mexican market has a lot of growth potential, and trade missions like these will help secure U.S. soybean farmers’ place at the table in the big business of feeding Mexico.
Corn and Soybean Mentors 2015

During the course of this year, ten University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, as part of the Corn and Soy Collegiate Mentoring Program in 2015, are getting the chance to learn more about the agriculture industry.

The Nebraska Corn Growers Association and Nebraska Soybean Association launched the Corn and Soy Mentor program to give students a comprehensive understanding of the industry. The program’s goals, to educate the students about state and federal policy issues affecting agriculture and about opportunities available by supporting industries like the Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Soybean Board and Ag Businesses.

**2015 members of the corn, soy mentoring program are:**
- Shawn McDonald of Philips
- Victoria Talcott of Bennet
- Yichuan Hu of Lincoln
- Allison Leising of Seward
- Clark Rathman of Farwell
- Emily Long of Springfield
- Tyler Statsny of David City
- Laura Lundeen of Minden
- Whitney Walters of Shickley
- Kelsey Scheer of Saint Paul

During the year, mentors take part in four seminars as well as assist with promotional activities.

Salute to our Corporate Relations Partners

Corporate partners are extremely important to the overall effort of the Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA). Not only do they provide the association with financial support, they are a link to the industry that serves soybean farmers with inputs and capital to run successful operations. NSA relies on corporate partners to keep us up to date on the latest in production technologies and we work in partnership to implement policies that benefit our soybean farmers.

**2014-2015 partners include:**
- Ag Processing Inc;
- Farm Credit Services of America;
- IntelliAir;
- Monsanto/Asgrow & Monsanto BioAg;
- Pioneer and Syngenta.

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**Soybean Quality Matters**

If Nebraska farmers increased the protein content in their soybeans by just 1 percentage point, they could earn an additional $12.96 per acre.

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FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN IMPACT YOUR QUALITY AT www.BEYONDTHEELEVATOR.com
Raising Soybean Meal’s Profile with Key Customers – by Philip Lobo, United Soybean Board

For the past 10 years, soybean meal (SBM) has been under competitive pressure from alternative ingredient marketers who worked to define their products against SBM in order to displace it in animal diets. As a result, about three years ago the United Soybean Board – in partnership with many QSSBs and with Nebraska Soybean Board in a leadership position – launched a Feed Industry Marketing Campaign. It was designed to rebrand SBM by reminding animal nutritionists and other key decision makers in the food chain why SBM has been a key component in their feed formulations for over 60 years.

Just recently that program created a “Sustainability of U.S. Soybean Meal” handout as a resource for animal nutritionists. The handout emphasizes sustainability gains made since 1980 in reducing energy, land use, soil erosion, irrigation water applied and greenhouse gasses emitted in soybean production. The piece also emphasizes that U.S. farmers are dedicated to continuous improvement whether it’s improving the land, reducing pesticide use or saving energy.

“The Advantages of Soybean Meal” is another key marketing piece developed by the program to help enhance the brand of U.S. SBM. USB’s domestic technical feed programs – Animal Nutrition Working Group and Nutritionist Direct Outreach program – collaborated in the handout’s development.

“The Advantages of Soybean Meal” handout highlights the nutritional benefits of SBM – including amino acids, energy, minerals and vitamins. The handout also focuses on other benefits like availability, reliability, a long-established claims process and transportation options. In addition it discusses the ability to work with the processor to adjust grind, flowability characteristics and moisture.

Both these documents were added to the Fact Sheets section of the Soybean Meal Information Center website at http://www.soymeal.org/factsheets.html and e-mailed individually to key poultry nutritionists in advance of the International Production and Processing Expo in Atlanta, Georgia held January 25-29. As a result of the coordi-
Open Up for Livestock

by Lukas Fricke, Communications Intern, AFAN

Agriculture is a pillar of Nebraska’s economy. That pillar has been maintained by generations of livestock producers; farmers and ranchers who have close knit ties to their communities, who, with the help of the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN), are hoping to strengthen those economies through strategic economic partnerships. AFAN helps farmers and ranchers by supporting rural communities through livestock development, a key contributor to a thriving agricultural economy in Nebraska.

Retaining nearly 50% of all agricultural receipts originating from livestock sales, livestock is Nebraska’s largest and broadest agricultural entity. The economic impact that it creates is huge. In 2010, the economic impact of Nebraska’s livestock production industries totaled over $12 million dollars and employed 41,000 people. To break it down, each $1 of livestock sales yields $0.62 in additional final sales for Nebraska businesses outside of the agricultural production complex.

AFAN creates prosperity throughout Nebraska’s counties and communities with the added value from livestock production. By developing Nebraska’s livestock industry and infrastructure, the communities that are impacted will continue to flourish. It can create long term economic and community development, including job creation and retention, as well as increase vitality, economic stability and tax revenue for rural communities across the state.

These instances of job creation will be opportunities to bring the next generation home to the farm or ranch.

Developing and implementing strategic plans to empower livestock producers is what AFAN’s Livestock Development Program is all about. AFAN has partnered with the Department of Agriculture’s “Livestock Friendly County” program as a way to encourage the growth or addition of livestock operations in those counties.

Besides the sustained benefits for communities and producers, the value of family and tradition play a large part in what AFAN does. AFAN strives to help families and their farms expand in an environmentally conscious, community beneficial, and neighborly driven ways. We strive to help educate both producers and consumers of the importance of livestock production.

So the next time that you drive past a feedlot, pig farm, or poultry operation, think about the important role that a farm plays in a rural community. We are all in this together and when you support a farmer or rancher, you are directly helping support your local schools, roads, and other amenities. Be that strong foundation for the pillar of Nebraska agriculture.

Keep Calm and Raise Livestock

by Lukas Fricke, Communications Intern, AFAN

For most, livestock production is in our blood. We are a select group that stands away from the herd and helps meet people’s needs both down the road and across the globe. But, at times this livelihood we know and love is something that comes under heavy scrutiny.

More times than not, we as farmers, ranchers and supporters, use science when it comes to explaining our practices to the emotionally charged opposition. at open hearings or public forms. Below are some pointers in responding to a critic or opposition.

Remember you are raising livestock for a reason. What is that reason?

- Use words like: tradition, family values, history, opportunity, farm viability, diversification, community building, local, family based – rooted – grown – owned.
- We know it is hard with the constant negativity surrounding your dream. BUT, hold tight and do what is right every single time. Consumers depend on us the producer, to stay focused and keep growing.
- Even though family farm continuation is important, remember that we do farm for a profit. Money is something that we all need, but don’t make it the only thing you care about. Those animals are what you care about every single day, make sure that the opposition knows that we care for our animals out of respect and not just for a profit.

The environment is becoming a constant thought on many people’s minds. Statements like, “manure will ruin our water, soil and air” can be daunting! Don’t get caught up in the negativity. Below are some great thoughts about the element of nature we use daily.

- **Water:** One of our most precious resources is water. My family drinks it, my neighbors drink it and my animals drink it. WHY would I ever risk the chance to pollute the water that they drink!
- **Air:** I am happy with each breath of air that I take; why would I ever do something to make that less enjoyable to me? Facts show that energy production, driving of vehicles and metropolitan cities do more harm on the air than animal agriculture.
- **Land:** Here is simple math. Dirt + Seed + Water = food for my animals. Why would I ever try to ruin the soil that grows the food products for your family and mine? This answer is simple, I wouldn’t.
- **Manure:** Animal manure is the best ORGANIC fertilizer in the world and is filled with vital nutrients that plants can use to grow. Most people use commercial fertilizers derived from foreign sourced refined products. The economics are simple; animal nutrients is efficient and can reduce input costs!

If the need for using facts arises you can always call us and we will get you the information you need. Our office number is 402.421.4416 or Willow’s phone is 402.421.4455 or her cell 402.710.1110. Or email us at willowh@a-fan.org
All across America, everyone from fleets and motorists to companies and municipalities counts on biodiesel to power their vehicles and heat their buildings. Its demand now exceeds 1 billion gallons a year, fueling 60,000 U.S. jobs and adding 74 cents per bushel to the value of soybeans. Biodiesel works...for America and America’s soybean farmers. Thanks to farmer support and the soy checkoff, its success continues to grow. www.UnitedSoybean.org
Biodiesel is the Winning Ticket for Nebraska Livestock Producers

— by Alan Weber, Senior Economic Advisor, National Biodiesel Board

Last month the Powerball jackpot reached $564 million. I was struck by the enthusiasm to stand in line for tickets, the news coverage, the dollars put at risk for a chance of big returns. What if I told you that as a livestock producer in Nebraska your industry could “win” more than $60 million each year and you didn’t have to stand in line AND didn’t have to actually buy a ticket. All that is required is support of the biodiesel industry.

And here are your winning numbers:

1. $25 per ton reduction of soybean meal relative price
2. 10.6¢ per pound increase in inedible tallow
3. 10.2¢ per pound increase in choice white grease

Supporting 2.55 million head of cattle on feed, 3.1 million hogs and pigs, and 6.3 million cattle and calves, animal agriculture is very important to the Nebraska economy. USDA’s National Agriculture Statistics Service recently released their cattle inventory numbers and confirmed Nebraska can claim the number one spot as the state with the most cattle on feed.

It is not uncommon for me to be asked whether or not the growing biodiesel market has been positive for livestock producers. The unequivocal answer is “yes.” And here is how.

More Biodiesel, More Meal

Diesel users consumed more than 1.7 billion gallons of biodiesel last year. Approximately half of the biodiesel produced in the U.S. was from soybean oil. Soybean oil and meal are co-products from oilseed crushing that are produced in fixed proportion to one another. Additional demand for one co-product will simultaneously result in a greater supply of the other co-product.

Informa Economics has estimated livestock producers paid $25 per ton less for soybean meal due to increased biodiesel production and use. This means dairy producers could see per head feed costs reduced by more than $5 each year, feedlots almost $4 per head, and wean-to-finish hog producers could see a reduction of almost $2 per head.

More Biodiesel, Increased Carcass Values

The connection between soybean oil and biodiesel is well known. U.S. biodiesel producers used close to 5 billion pounds in 2014. But what surprises many people is how important the livestock industry is to biodiesel producers. Approximately one fourth of all animal fats produced in the U.S. now goes into biodiesel. So, not only are animal fats important to the biodiesel industry, but the biodiesel industry is increasingly important to livestock producers.

More demand of animal fats for biodiesel has led to increased value of those fats. While the price of animal fats are not primary drivers in determining the prices paid for fed cattle and market hogs, they do affect the profit margins in these industries by increasing what is referred to as the by-product “drop value.” Regression analysis conducted by Centrec Consulting Group in September 2014 concluded biodiesel demand increased tallow prices by 10.6¢ per pound and contributes $16 per head of increased value to beef producers. Hog producers realize an additional $1.25 per head from increased choice white grease prices of 10.2¢ per pound.

More Biodiesel, More Sources of Energy for Rations

Another value to the livestock sector of a growing biodiesel market that is not typically discussed is the additional supplies of crude glycerine, a feed ingredient that can be utilized by livestock producers for energy in rations. Crude glycerine is a by-product of the biodiesel production process. It has a tentative definition for use as an animal feed ingredient by the Association of Animal Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). It has been evaluated by multiple universities in beef, pork, and poultry rations and represents another potential energy source for livestock feed rations.

Biodiesel is reducing your feed costs, increasing the value of animal fats, and adding a potential energy source to your rations. For Nebraska livestock producers, a healthy biodiesel industry is the only $60 million dollar-a-year jackpot where you don’t need to buy a ticket but still win every time.
The U.S. soybean industry has had many great and inspiring leaders throughout its history. Oftentimes these leaders have had the vision to turn daunting challenges into opportunities. The commercial biodiesel industry wouldn’t exist without the vision of farmer leaders who got together in the early 1990s to look for a new market for soybean oil. However, the contributions of long-time farmer leader Greg Anderson of Newman Grove, Nebraska have been almost as impactful as those original industry founders. Because of his contributions, the National Biodiesel Board honored Greg with the Inspiration Award at its annual conference in January.

Anderson, a longtime biodiesel advocate, is considered by many an inspiration for his full-time devotion to his fellow soybean farmers. He has served in more volunteer roles than can be named, but a few include past chairman of the United Soybean Board, board member on the Nebraska Soybean Board, a long-time representative of NSB to the National Biodiesel Board, former NBB technical committee chair, current NBB marketing committee chair, and he was re-elected as NBB secretary last fall.

“The biodiesel industry is full of inspiring, innovative, pioneers,” said Joe Jobe, NBB CEO during the Eye on Biodiesel Awards presentation at the 2015 National Biodiesel Conference & Expo. “It takes the efforts and visionary leadership of many great people to go from next to nothing in 1993 to the fully commercialized advanced biofuel industry that we are today. I’m proud to recognize Greg Anderson as one of the tremendous leaders in that effort.”

When Anderson suffered a near-fatal accident in August where he was severely burned on his head, back, arms and hands while working on his fifth-generation family farm, his inspirational nature was never more apparent to those close to him.

“While his physical recovery from his painful injuries was spectacular, even more so was how incredibly positive, grateful, and upbeat he remained throughout the process” Jobe said. “His tremendous attitude, along with his continuous selfless service to the biodiesel industry are truly inspirational.”

Over the years, Anderson’s personal leadership has not only helped develop the biodiesel industry, but has moved the Bioheat® fuel industry forward. Heating oil is used extensively in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions for heating homes, buildings and operating boilers. With a market of nearly 7 billion gallons of fuel oil annually, the potential of biodiesel to expand into that market would be a huge boost to the industry.

Anderson, along with others at the Nebraska Soybean Board, recognized this potential and has worked in cooperation with heating oil industry leaders to jointly invest in the future of Bioheat. Anderson and his fellow board members on NSB were pioneers in the advancement of Bioheat. Their vision, dedication and leadership paved the way for the expansion of the Bioheat industry, bringing substantial value to fellow soybean farmers.

Other support from NSB and other state soybean checkoff groups have opened the door for more biodiesel innovation in heating oil. Late last year ASTM International, an organization which sets industry consensus standards for fuels and lubricants, voted to approve performance specifications for blends of 6 to 20 percent biodiesel with traditional heating oil. The NBB and the National Oilheat Research Alliance have invested millions of dollars in Bioheat research, outreach, and education through funding provided by oilheat dealers, biodiesel producers, and state soybean checkoff programs, with Nebraska at the forefront.

While the biodiesel industry has had many excellent leaders over the years, Greg Anderson is truly one of the best.
As today's world becomes more environmentally conscious, the soybean industry has made strides to include soy in that movement. Soy products offer numerous health benefits, decrease our dependence on foreign oil, and reduces exposure to toxic chemicals. In fact, more than 800 soy-based products have been developed with checkoff support since 1990, with 33 new soy-based products commercialized in 2014.

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) promoted green living at the Nebraska Builders Home and Garden Show by showcasing renewable products made from soy to thousands of attendees. The show took place Feb. 13-15, 2015, at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. NSB staff and board members were on hand throughout the show to talk to consumers about how soy-based products are a practical addition to any room in the home.

In an effort to share information with consumers about how soybeans help make everyday products more renewable and environmentally friendly, NSB’s booth featured several soy-based products. These products included cleaners, household degreasers, interior and exterior paints, lubricants, plastics, lotions, carpet and a soy-foam Broyhill couch. “Most people don’t realize the variety of products that are made with soy, especially common items such as Aveeno moisturizers or Palmolive dish soap,” said Victor Bohuslavsky, NSB Executive Director.

A main attraction, however, was a 10-foot mural displayed at the booth. Retail partner Sherwin-Williams supplied the soy-based paints used to create the piece. Visitors, ages 4 to 84, helped paint the masterpiece and complete it in just 3 days. The mural theme was “From Farm to Market” and featured a combine, field and city image to depict the various areas where soy-based products are used and where they start—the farm.

“It was great to see consumers of all ages interact in the booth with soy-based products. We wanted to show everyone that soybeans are a very versatile crop and can be used in a large variety of products, even those in their own home,” says NSB Director and Chairman Ron Pavelka.

As a Nebraska soybean farmer, Pavelka believes new industrial and commercial uses for soybeans are a viable way to stay competitive and raise demand for U.S. soybeans.
MEG Corp, a fuel consulting company located in Minnesota, has been a long-time partner of the Nebraska Soybean Board. In their time working on behalf of Nebraska’s soybean farmers, MEG Corp has provided technical expertise, conducted educational training programs, and promoted the expansion of biodiesel in Nebraska, for the Nebraska Soybean Board.

The staff at MEG Corp is well versed in issues surrounding diesel fuel, biodiesel, and how the two fuels work together. They bring their expertise to tradeshows, meetings with fuel distributors and educational seminars for diesel mechanics students and end users. MEG Corp operates a fuel quality testing lab and the Regional Diesel Helpline where they troubleshoot filter plugging issues and provide guidance to fuel distributors and end users.

You may have run into MEG Corp staff at Nebraska Soybean Management Field Days or Husker Harvest Days. They are on hand at these events to promote biodiesel to farmers and answer any technical questions. MEG Corp also staffs a biodiesel exhibit at the PACE (Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Expo) to lend its expertise in areas like economics, technical advice and supply chain management recommendations for fuel distributors so they can make more biodiesel blends available in Nebraska. Starting in 2008, the Nebraska Soybean Board has also utilized MEG Corp to conduct educational workshops for diesel mechanic students at technical and community colleges in Nebraska. The goal of this program is to present the correct information about diesel and biodiesel to students who will soon join the workforce. Diesel mechanics are an important audience for biodiesel education, since they have influence over their customers and are in the position to spread information. Luke Klingbeil, an instructor with the Diesel Technology program at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, says that the training provided by MEG Corp “brings the latest information to the students and instructors.”

MEG Corp has also helped increase the availability of biodiesel in Nebraska by promoting and facilitating the Nebraska Soybean Biodiesel Infrastructure Program. In 2014, MEG Corp helped establish 3 new sites to make biodiesel more readily available for customers: Jerry’s Service in Hartington, Shoemaker’s Travel Center in Lincoln, and a loading facility for fuel distributors in North Platte. More than 500,000 gallons of biodiesel flowed through these 3 facilities in 2014 with anticipated volume of over 3 million gallons for 2015. MEG Corp continues to provide technical support to the distributors/retailers as a part of this program with fuel quality testing and help with promotion by creating informational pieces, conducting workshops and one-on-one meetings. More facilities in the planning stages for 2015 and 2016.

If you ever have questions about diesel or biodiesel, feel free to contact the Regional Diesel Helpline at 800-929-3437.
The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) has supported soybean education for youth for many years. One program that has quite a history in Nebraska is the “Soybeans: A to Z” presentation created for elementary level students, though currently specified for 4th grade.

The program was created in 1992, and originated from an idea inspired from an article in the Soybean Digest. The article contained the original A to Z placement which illustrated soy information relative to each letter of the alphabet. After some updates and revisions, the bright and colorful placemat serves as the key component for the “Soybeans: A to Z” presentation still today.

For each presentation, all students receive a placemat to use as a guide while the presenter explains the uses of soybeans for each letter of the alphabet. After the students learn all the benefits and applications of this miracle crop, they get to test their knowledge and listening skills while playing the “Use Your Bean” board game.

The “Soybeans: A to Z” presentation includes concepts and skills that contribute to satisfy many of the Nebraska State Education Standards. Teacher feedback has indicated that this program aligns with their classroom studies of Nebraska, plants, and renewable and nonrenewable resources.

“Soybeans: A to Z” is presented in 4th grade classrooms throughout the state from Wayne to Wymore and from Auburn to Sargent. This program as a whole now reaches over 15,000 4th graders across the state! In order to accomplish this, NSB currently contracts with four soy educators to share information about the “miracle crop.”

Joy Ullstrom, Lincoln: In 1992, I contracted with NSB to write soybean presentations and present them to Nebraska elementary students. As a result, “Soybeans: A to Z” was developed, and I began scheduling classroom presentations throughout eastern Nebraska.

As a former 5th and 6th grade teacher, I enjoy sharing this educational program with students! I think they are as amazed as I am about this incredible crop! It is very rewarding to have been able to witness the growth of this program and what it has become today. I truly believe it has made a difference in our youth’s education of agriculture and soybeans.
Sharon Ryan, Omaha: After migrating to the Midwest from "sunny" California, I finished my degree in Elementary Education at Buena Vista University. For many years, I helped develop and teach a sexual abuse program for Iowa State University Extension, while attending workshops and youth development classes.

I started working with NSB in 1995, and feel so fortunate in my career to educate Nebraska’s youth about agriculture and soybeans. I present at schools in the Omaha and metropolitan areas.

I really enjoy teaching 4th graders about soybeans and agriculture, especially when I hear the students say, "Wow! I had no idea that soybeans were that important. I learned so much today, and it was fun!"

Alice Holtz, Nebraska City: I am a long time educator who grew up on a dairy farm in Northeast Nebraska. I taught for a total of 34 years. My most recent experience was at Peru State College (PSC) where I taught in the business school and finished as Director of Career Services.

I have been employed with the Nebraska Soybean Board since December 2013. I primarily educate at schools in extreme Southeast Nebraska, as well as some schools in Lincoln and the surrounding areas.

I am an avid bicyclist who loves to travel, read, play bridge and volunteer at the Henry Doorly Zoo. I live in Nebraska City with my husband, Dan, who is a Professor of English at PSC. We have two grown sons.

Janie Score, Elgin: I am the soy educator for Northeast Nebraska. I have been in the education field for nearly 35 years. As graduate of Kearney State College with degrees in Elementary and Special Education, I have taught stateside as well as overseas.

I began as a soy educator in the fall of 2013. Having grown up on a farm with 9 brothers and sisters, I recall chopping noxious weeds in the soybean fields before the time of herbicide application. I feel the "Soybeans: A to Z" program is so important to share with students as it truly enlightens their perspective on our #2 cash crop. Each class is always amazed to learn about all the products that contain soy let alone how farmers grow and harvest soybeans.

I am the mother of three grown children, Jim and wife Jenny, Bill and Katie. My hobbies include reading, biking and playing bridge.
Grower leaders from Nebraska and 6 other states recently expanded their knowledge of the growing market potential of soybean use in feed for global aquaculture, at the Aquaculture Educational Opportunity in San Diego, California, January 13 - 16, 2015.

Presented by the Global Soy in Aquaculture Program of the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), the event brought together soybean farmers, regional aquaculture representatives from various countries around the world, and aquaculture industry associates to learn about Aquaculture Program activities and opportunities for soy-optimized feed in the growing global aquaculture industry.

“Currently, 13 million metric tons of soybean meal is manufactured for fish feed, with the potential to double in the next 5 years. There is a real need for soybean meal and soy oil to be a major part of the aquaculture industry,” said Greg Peters, Nebraska Soybean Board Research Committee Chair.

Participants attended a day of presentations at Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute given by USSEC Aquaculture Program regional representatives. The group provided overviews of the aquaculture industry globally and in targeted USSEC regions around the world, and detailed opportunities and activities to promote the use of U.S. soy in aquafeed. Other presentations featured Aquaculture Program Public Relations activities; soy industry funded research coordinated by the Soy Aquaculture Alliance on feed formulations for various species and genetics; an overview of the Aquaculture Program at Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute; and a look at consumer acceptance and aquaculture sustainability from the viewpoint of a seafood distributor based in Los Angeles.

Site visits to a hatchery and working marine farm provided a comprehensive look at the entire hatch-to-harvest process of farming fish. Participants were given a tour of the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute’s hatchery in Carlsbad, California by Mark Drawbridge, Hubbs’ Senior Research Scientist, to learn about breeding wild-caught brood stock and raising fish from eggs through to the fingerling stage of growth, where juvenile fish are viable for stocking in marine cages.

A visit to Pacifico Aquaculture at Isla Todos Santos, seven miles off the coast of Ensenada, Mexico, provided an up-close look at the grow-out process of White Seabass, Striped Bass, and California Yellowtail in ocean net pens. Pacifico co-owners Eric Pedersen and Rex Ito talked about the importance of site selection for a pristine marine environment, and sustainable farming practices to minimize impact and ensure fish health and a high quality product. The group was treated to a delicious sampling of cooked and raw sashimi-grade White Seabass and Striped Bass farmed at the site.

Many of the grower leaders in attendance were unfamiliar with fish farming or the potential market for soy-optimized aquafeed. This event provided an opportunity for a thorough overview of global aquaculture and efforts to promote soy use.

“Our soybean checkoff has long supported the use of U.S. soybeans in aquaculture. It is a tremendous opportunity for not only the sustainable fish production, but also an outstanding new market for our soybeans,” stated Ron Pavelka, NSB Chairman. “For the first time this past year, worldwide aquaculture production outpaced worldwide beef production. Soybeans are well positioned to be a major part of the worldwide aquaculture industry going forward.”

Soy’s Role in Global Aquaculture – by Teri Zimmerman

Employees of Pacifico Aquaculture are reinstalling an ocean net pen after it was taken up and cleaned.

Pacifico Aquaculture provided the group with fresh samples of striped sea bass that was raised in their ocean net pens.
Featured Soyfoods Recipe:

Edamame Bites

It's easy being green with Edamame. Soyfoods come through in a pinch.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 packages (or 2 cups) of frozen or fresh edamame (in pods)
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- Water

DIRECTIONS:
1. Cook edamame in water according to package.
2. Toss edamame with salt (You can also spice up this recipe up by using your favorite Cajun seasoning instead of salt).

NUTRITION FACTS:
Makes 4 servings
Per Serving (excluding unknown items):
- Calories 110, Fat 3.5g (Saturated Fat .5g); Cholesterol 0mg;
- Sodium 330mg; Total Carbohydrate 12g (Sugars 3g); Protein 9g

Find this and more great recipes on our Vimeo channel:
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