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Producers eligible to vote in the election must produce soybeans, be a resident of the district and pay the soybean checkoff.
Make your Vote Count!

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The Nebraska Soybean Association is seeking applications for the 2011 Young Leader Program.
Application deadline is August 31, 2010.

10-Day Trade Mission to CHINA
The Nebraska Soybean Board developed this trip with the help of Peter Mishek to provide Nebraska soybean producers and Ag leaders a hands-on experience of the importance of the Chinese market.

New SoyWater Web Site
More effective crop irrigation management would ensure that irrigation water is scheduled and applied in a “when-needed, just-in-time fashion”.

One Vote
YOUR SOYBEAN CHECKOFF IS HERE.
Helping U.S. soybean farmers meet global demand through sustainable production.

Your soybean checkoff understands the important role sustainability plays on your farm. And the farmer-leaders who run your checkoff have made it a priority to demonstrate and improve the sustainability of U.S. soybean production. By analyzing data from the past 20 years and offering new tools for tracking data today, the checkoff continues to unearth existing strengths and future opportunities that can help every U.S. farmer stay sustainable — and, in turn, profitable.

“To feed a rapidly growing world population, we will have to increase food production in a way that uses less environmental resources and less land. The checkoff has been vital in making sure farmers are engaged and educated on these issues and that their voices are heard in the discussions.”

Sarah Stokes Alexander
Director of Sustainability and Leadership Programs, The Keystone Center

www.unitedsoybean.org

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On Lunz Lane: Your Soybean Crop – Check for Protein and Oil Content
The NSB and USB continue to invest research dollars to develop a soybean with higher protein and oil.

From the Association – Soybean Business and Giving to the Hungry
Farmers from Nebraska are giving the value of one acre of soybeans to the World Soy Foundation’s Acre Challenge.

2010 Soybean Management Field Days
Four field stops – August 10-13

Crossing the Mexican Border Together: Poultry & Egg Exports
As more trucks containing U.S. poultry and eggs cross the border, there are more indirect exports of soybeans.

Consumer Attitudes Toward Animal Agriculture
Consumers want a consistent supply of safe, nutritious and affordable food.

Nebraska Soybean Farmers Commit an Acre to Hungry Kids
Nebraska Soybean farmers have found a simple way to let their crop make a big difference in a child’s life.

Willow Holoubek to Serve as A-FAN Organizational Director
Willow’s wealth of experience is helping build economic opportunities in rural communities.

Working with States to Create a Better Environment for Animal Agriculture
State soybean boards and livestock coalitions participate in national meetings to help develop and share ideas that enhance animal agriculture within their states.

Its aphid season again. Are you ready?
Aphid resistant soybeans will be an excellent management tool to stabilize soybean yield.

Cover Photo: Feeding Time
Photo courtesy of the Nebraska Soybean Board

Improve Your Soybean Production Practices on Checkoff Web Site
– United Soybean Board
U.S. soybean farmers can now get the latest soybean production research information from top soybean agronomists and scientists on the United Soybean Board (USB) Web site at www.unitedsoybean.org. Presented through a partnership between the soybean checkoff and the Plant Management Network (PMN), a nonprofit online publisher of educational crop science information, the “Focus on Soybeans” webcasts provide U.S. soybean farmers and farm managers with the latest news in U.S. soybean production practices and soybean research updates.

“These webcasts provide a great resource for soybean farmers to help protect and manage their crops better,” says Rick Stern, USB Production program chair and a soybean farmer from Cream Ridge, N.J. “In addition to the webcasts, they have access to other important science-backed information. USB appreciates having the opportunity to leverage our partnerships with academia in supplying checkoff-funded research and information to soybean farmers.”

U.S. soybean farmers have free access to this valuable information through a link on the homepage of the soybean checkoff Web site, www.unitedsoybean.org at no cost for one month. New webcasts will be available the last Monday of each month.

“Personally, I like the ability you have to listen to these webcasts on your own time,” says Stern. “If you like something you hear, you can always come back and listen to them again.”

Stern says farmers usually learn about some advances in production research from seed companies, but often are not familiar with what is happening in the public research community. “This is a great way to inform soybean farmers about checkoff-funded research being done in the public sector,” he says.

USB is made up of 68 farmer-directors who oversee the investments of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. Checkoff funds are invested in the areas of animal utilization, human utilization, industrial utilization, industry relations, market access and supply. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soybean checkoff.
Another spring season has come and gone and in some areas it was more of a challenge to get the crops into the field than others. We drilled our first field of soybeans on April 21 with lots of cold days that followed. Now it is time to scout our fields and watch another crop develop so it can be harvested this fall. How many of us were thinking about the protein and oil content of our soybeans as we put the seed in the ground?

In March, I was part of a trade mission to China (see article, page 14) to promote Nebraska soybeans. We met with several of the major importers of soybeans. One concern that every company talked about was the protein and oil content of the United States soybeans. They explained that the soybeans that they have been importing from the United States have been decreasing in protein and oil. We know that climate plays a role and the Nebraska Soybean Board and the United Soybean Board continue to invest research dollars to develop a soybean with higher protein and oil. The United Soybean Board has been promoting that 35% protein and 19% oil should be the benchmarks that we strive for.

What I also remember about my experience was the Chinese concern for the United States crop. Every company wanted to know about our farms and what our planting intentions were. They have 1.3 billion people that are demanding more protein in their diets. The demand for soybean meal and soybean oil continues to grow. In 2009, China’s imports of soybeans accounted for 56% of the total exports from the United States and that number continues to increase. Since March, one of the companies that we visited, Cofco, has purchased corn from the United States. Several companies talked about the importing of DDG’s. China will continue to demand more agricultural products because their farmers cannot supply the increasing demand. As producers we need to be aware of the protein and oil content of our product and remember that we are supplying a global market.

We are paid on yield, but as producers we need to produce a product that the consumer (China) wants. So this fall when you harvest your soybeans, check for protein and oil and make that part of your decision when you are selecting varieties.

Lisa Lunz
If You Believe…

Belong

I belong to NSA because I have seen how government policy can affect agriculture. This can be positive but is often damaging to agricultural production. As the number of producers decline we all need to belong to organizations like NSA to speak as a united voice for agriculture. Being active is my way of helping to keep agriculture viable for future generations. That’s why I belong to the Nebraska Soybean Association.

– Kenneth Boswell, NSA District 7 Director, Shickley, NE

Soybean Business and Giving to the Hungry

– by Scott Richert, Gresham NE, NSA President

Greetings from Gresham,

Another challenging spring is behind us and as we move through summer we hope for a good harvest and fair prices. Here at your association we have been working on getting the biodiesel tax credit passed in Washington D.C. It has been passed twice now in the House. Hopefully the Senate will have it passed and we will get it conferenced and to the President’s desk for signing by the time you are reading this. Here in the state we are working on a task force on how to fund the water resource cash fund. This fund was supposed to receive the money from the water check off on corn and sorghum. It is to be used on projects to keep Nebraska in compliance with compacts and agreements dealing with water.

Moving forward there is something else I would like you to think about: When you open your refrigerator is there at least one gallon of milk there for your family? Not everyone is that fortunate. Many farmers from around Nebraska and the U.S. are giving the value of one acre of soybeans to the World Soy Foundation’s Acre Challenge (see article, page 19). Forty bushels of soybeans will make 18,000 rations of soy protein or nearly 2,500 gallons of soy milk. As president of NSA and an Acre Challenge Participant I believe our crop makes a real difference in the lives of children through the World Soy Foundation.

As you may already know the Saunders County Soybean growers have already started the efforts in Guatemala. Saunders county soybean farmers have helped purchase a soy processing machine that makes soymilk for foster children. By giving an acre worth of soybeans to this charitable organization you help put much needed soy protein in the mouths of hungry children. I have made a personal contribution to the Acre Challenge as well as challenged our NSA board of directors to do so as well. I challenge you as soybean farmers to consider giving an acre’s worth to the Acre challenge.

Giving is easy, log on to www.worldsoyfoundation.org and click on the Acre Challenge and select the Nebraska form. Join me and many other soybean producers from across the U.S. in helping to make a difference.

Have a safe and productive summer.
Nebraska Soybean Board Holds Election for Directors in Districts 2, 4 and 8

Election ballots for the Nebraska Soybean Board Districts 2, 4 and 8 will be mailed on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, to soybean producers in those districts. Producers eligible to vote in the election must produce soybeans, be a resident of the district and pay the soybean checkoff. Qualified producers who do not receive a ballot by July 19, 2010, can call the Nebraska Soybean Board office to request one at 800-852-2326. The producer must sign and print their name and county name on the ballot envelope to be valid. Ballots must be postmarked by July 30, 2010.

District 2 Candidates (Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Stanton, Thurston and Wayne Counties)

Wayne Heerman
Pilger, NE – Stanton, County
Wayne Heerman lives in Stanton County on the family farm. The farm has been in the family for over 100 years. He is the fourth generation. Wayne farms in Stanton and Cuming Counties; mostly corn, soybeans and some alfalfa and also has a cow/calf operation. He also custom farms; which he started when he first began farming for lack of farm ground at the time. Wayne also has a seed dealership which he has operated for many years, and in addition, he helps as a sales representative for a local implement company.

“I would like the opportunity to serve on the Soybean Board. I feel it is important to promote our agriculture products to the average consumer. There is so much inaccurate and negative information out there. We need to promote the truth and show the true image of the American farmer. If given the opportunity, I would use my time and the Soybean Board’s time wisely to promote the Nebraska soybean farmer. Thank you.” – Wayne Heerman

Lisa Lunz
Wakefield, NE – Dixon, County
Lisa and her husband, Jim, farm north of Wakefield. They raise corn and soybeans, have no-tilled for the past sixteen years and are 100% dryland. They have three children. Lisa was a member of LEAD XVII, and currently serving as secretary on the Wakefield School Board. She is involved with Salem Lutheran Church and serves on several committees. Lisa is a 4-H leader and also a member of the Nebraska Soybean Association, Nebraska Corn Growers, Wakefield Community Club and Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association.

“I have been involved with the Nebraska Soybean Board for the past nine years and continue to learn about the soybean industry. Currently, I am serving as Chairman of the Board. I believe that as a board we need to continue to invest our checkoff dollars in research, education and marketing. Dollars are invested every year in research projects that focus on the production and utilization of soybeans. The board also invests in educational programs such as Soybean Management Field Days. Agriculture continues to face challenges and we need to remember that as soybean producers our number one customer is the livestock industry. As a board we continue to support that industry with our domestic marketing projects. The export of soybeans continues to grow and China is our number one customer. Through our international projects we continue to promote Nebraska soybeans.” – Lisa Lunz

District 4 Candidates (Boone, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk and York Counties)

Eugene Goering
Platte Center – Platte County
Eugene has a multigenerational diversified family farm. Their main production is soybeans, seed corn, commercial corn, dairy, alfalfa and swine finishing. They also do custom seed corn planting, spraying and harvesting.

“I am interested in the soybean industry and want to see it promoted to grow the industry for all producers in this country. The Nebraska Soybean Board has an important function in this promotion and growth. I feel that I would contribute to this board.” – Eugene Goering

Greg Greving
Chapman, NE – Merrick County
Greg and his sons Jeremy and Shane farm in the Chapman and Central City area. They grow commercial corn, seed corn and soybeans. Their entire farm is irrigated by pivots and gravity. He started farming in 1972 with an FFA project on ground rented from his Dad, and started growing soybeans in 1978 to present. The soybeans and corn are in a 50/50 rotation.

“I am the current District Four Director and have been since 2001. I have seen what the soybean checkoff is doing overseas when in China in 2000 with the Nebraska Lead International Travel Study. At that time I wanted to be involved with the soybean checkoff. I have served 3 terms on the soybean checkoff board and am seeking to be elected to a fourth term. I have 9 years on the Board and have experience in the soybean checkoff. Your vote is appreciated.” – Greg Greving

Michael Thede
Palmer, NE – Merrick County
Mike has farmed around Palmer for 20 years with his wife Jean and their four children, Clairia, Anna, Christian and Joseph. They raise soybeans, corn, alfalfa, popcorn, and a few cattle. They farm with his parents and Mike is the 4th generation of his family to live on his farm. He has a passion for agriculture and enjoys the challenges and blessings that come with life on a 21st century farm.

“I would like to be on the Nebraska Soybean Board because I want to have a positive influence on the decision making process that determines where...
the checkoff dollars of the soybeans farmers of District 4 and of the State of
Nebraska are used. I think I could bring some new perspectives and hopefully
some new ideas to the Nebraska Soybean Board, and along with the good
group of directors on the board currently could do things that positively shape
agriculture. I feel agriculture has been under attack from so many different
directions and we each need to do our part to change that. The Nebraska
Soybean Board is where I would like to direct my efforts to make the
decisions that influence research, marketing, new uses, and public perception
of soybeans and agriculture in general.” – Mike Thede

District 8 Candidates (Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Box Butte, Brown,
Chase, Cherry, Cheyenne, Custer, Dawes, Dawson, Deuel, Dundy, Frontier,
Furnas, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Grant, Greeley, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock,
Hooker, Howard, Keith, Keya Paha, Kimball, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson,
Morrill, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sherman,
Sioux, Thomas, Valley and Wheeler Counties)

Britt Anderson
Gothenburg, NE – Custer County

Britt Anderson’s family farm involves his wife, oldest son and daughter. They have irrigated
and non-irrigated farm land and pasture land. A corn/soybean rotation is used on the irrigated
acres and a corn/wheat rotation is utilized on the non-irrigated acres. Their pasture land is
utilized by a cow/calf enterprise.

“The world is changing so fast that many people are unaware of where their
food comes from or how it is grown, so as production farmers we need to
speak out. I have served on my local farm cooperative board for several years
and am proud to be a Nebraska LEAD alumni. The promotion and research of
new products from soybeans is challenging but I feel many more different
uses for soybeans and soybean oil are yet to be discovered and I would like
to be involved with promoting those uses.” – Britt Anderson

Terry Beans
Lexington, NE – Dawson County

Terry raises irrigated corn, soybeans and alfalfa.

“To work with research for new uses and education about soybeans. To continue to sup-
port the use of soy biodiesel.”

– Terry Beans

Terry Horky
Sargent, NE – Custer County

Terry Horky describes his farming operation; he is the 4th generation to help on his father’s
farming operation. Terry along with his wife, Chandra, and 2 kids have a cow/calf operation.
Their farm raises corn, soybeans, and wheat. Most of the irrigated farm ground is ridge
tilled and the remainder is no till dry land. Their children enjoy being around and helping
out with the day to day farm activities.

“I am seeking to be on the Nebraska Soybean Board to help insure that check
off funds are being used wisely. I also want to help with educating the public
on agriculture. And I would also like to see how agriculture groups can work
together. I recently graduated from Nebraska LEAD Group XXVII. I learned a
lot from my LEAD experience, and would like to use what I learned and apply
it the Nebraska Soybean Board.” – Terry Horky

Blake Johnson
Holdrege, NE – Phelps County

Blake is involved in a family farming operation with his Dad and brother in Phelps County near
Holdrege where they grow 60% corn and 40% soybeans. They have converted their operation
from a conventional till gravity irrigated farm to a no-till pivot irrigated farm, and they are
progressive and innovative always trying new ideas to improve efficiency and profitability.

His wife Holly is an elementary teacher and they have three sons; Grady, Quinn, and Jett. Blake’s sons will be the sixth generation to be involved in
the family farm.

“I want to be involved in the future of the soybean industry, because soybeans
are a vital part of our no-till cropping rotation. I want to help create demand
to strengthen the soybean industry and help promote the future of biodiesel.
I would enthusiastically promote research to help increase soybean yields
and quality. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the soybean farmers
of District 8.” – Blake Johnson

The elected directors will serve a three-year term beginning October 1, 2010
and ending September 30, 2013.

NSB Directors are reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out Board
business.

The nine-member Nebraska Soybean Board collects and disburses the
Nebraska share of funds generated by the one half of one percent times the
net sales price per bushel of soybeans sold. Nebraska soybean checkoff funds
are invested in research, education, domestic and foreign markets, including
new uses for soybeans and soybean products.
2010 Soybean Management Field Days
Growing Nebraska's Future

* 4 Locations
* One Day Event
* 4-Field Stops

Aug. 10 - Phillips
Randy & Don McDonald Farm

Aug. 11 - Stella
Leon Eckhoff Farm

Aug. 12 - Decatur
Larry Mussack Farm

Aug. 13 - Near Mead
UNL Agricultural Research and Development Center

1-800-529-8030
http://ardc.unl.edu/soydays
1-800-852-BEAN

1-Hour Presentations Rotate From
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m (Register at 9 a.m.)

Nutrient Management Issues for Soybean Production
Richard Ferguson, UNL Soil Fertility Specialist
Charles Wortmann, UNL Extension Soils Specialist

Managing New and Emerging Diseases, Insects and Weed Problems
Mark Bernards, UNL Extension Weed Specialist
Loren Giesler, UNL Extension Pest Pathologist
Tom Hunt, UNL Extension Entomologist
Keith Jurv, UNL Extension Educator
Greg Kruger, UNL Extension Crop Production Specialist
Lowell Sandell, UNL Weed Science Extension Educator

Improving Harvest, Storage and Marketing Strategies
Steve Johnson, Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist,
Iowa State University Extension
Tim Lemmon, UNL Extension Educator

Managing a Soybean Crop for Optimal Light Capture and Seasonal Water Use
Paul Jasa, UNL Extension Engineer
Jim Specht, UNL Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Your diesel engine works hard. Return the favor with the fuel that works harder for your engine – soy biodiesel.

Improved fuel lubricity and an extended engine life don’t have to come at a cost to our air quality or our natural resources. Made from soybean oil, produced and refined right here in the United States, soy biodiesel delivers the year-round performance your engine deserves and the environmental benefits that we are all looking for.

Sustainable, renewable and brought to you with the help of soybean farmers and their checkoff. Soy Biodiesel – Fuel Made Better.
Thanks to NSB, U.S. poultry and eggs profit from greater market access, specifically to Mexico, the industry’s overall third largest market. In fact, U.S. poultry and egg exports to Mexico grew over 14% since 2007 and are valued at over $570 million in 2009, equivalent to nearly 3 million soybean bushels directly from Nebraska.

“With the current trade issues facing our industry in Russia and China”, says USAPEEC’s Vice President of Marketing Greg Tyler, “NSB’s support of the Mexico market plays an even greater role in building poultry exports.”

Since 2007, NSB has helped USAPEEC annually educate over 400 border officials from 10 main ports of entry on maintaining cold storage throughout the inspection process, and on poultry import and food safety regulations. Since both U.S. poultry and red meat imports are affected, USAPEEC has partnered with US Meat & Export Federation.

USAPEEC also receives support for the training from the Mexican Meat Council and COMECARNE, local poultry and meat processor organizations. The training program primarily targets SAT, the equivalent agency to the U.S.’s IRS, and the Mexican Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA/SENASICA). This year, USAPEEC decided to expand its target to transportation companies since they are key players in the distribution channels.

“Continuing the training program annually, like NSB has helped us do, is especially important because there is high turnover among border personnel, says USAPEEC’s Mexico Director Jose Luis Cruz. If we do not continuously provide the training then U.S. poultry and red meat imports are subject to unfair delays at the border which can cost U.S. companies thousands of dollars.”

As a result of these seminars, government officers, brokers, importers and exporters have reported substantial improvements in the time used for inspection. Inspectors have also reported better knowledge of all paperwork involved in the export-import process of U.S. poultry.

As more trucks containing U.S. poultry and eggs cross the Mexican border, there are more indirect exports of soybeans. Thanks for your support, NSB amigos!
Applications Being Sought for 2011 ASA/DuPont Young Leader Program

The Nebraska Soybean Association is seeking applications for the 2011 Young Leader Program sponsored by the American Soybean Association (ASA) and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. One Young Leader couple or individual will be selected from Nebraska to participate in the two part leadership training program.

“The Young Leader program provided us a great opportunity to network with other soybean leaders from across the U.S. as well as the opportunity to build upon our leadership skills for future roles both on and off the farm” said Matt and Susan Kathol of Hartington, 2010 Nebraska Young Leaders.

The 2011 class of Young Leaders will participate in a challenging and educational leadership experience December 5-8, 2010 at Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, Iowa and then complete training March 1-5, 2011 in Tampa, Florida in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic. Participants learn about their personal leadership style and how to achieve a greater level of success in their business or volunteer organizations.

Application forms for the 2011 Young Leader program are available to apply on-line at www.soygrowers.com/dyl or contact the Nebraska Soybean Association office at 402/441-3239 to obtain an application form. Soybean producers are encouraged to apply or encourage other producers to apply who would be an excellent candidate for the program. Information on guidelines to participate in the program are available on the web site link above or by calling the NSA office. Application deadline is August 31, 2010. One Young Leader couple or individual will be selected from each soybean producing state.

Applications Being Sought for 2011 ASA/DuPont Young Leader Program

“MacDon’s FlexDraper® is helping us recover at least $60,000 more in beans.”

GREG BIGHAM, Vergennes, IL – Owns a 45’ and two 40’ FD70 FlexDraper® Headers mounted on John Deere Combines

MacDon owners are talking... read and watch what they are saying. Visit Producers Corner and MacDon TV at macdon.com. (816) 891-7313

RED HOT SAVINGS NOW ON!
Research by the American Meat Institute shows the public has an average opinion of the meat industry, just below the middle of the scale. However, the meat industry’s score was higher than automotive, pharmaceutical, banking, and oil/natural gas industries.

The survey indicated nearly two-thirds of the respondents had not heard anything about the production of meat or poultry in the past three months. However, for those who reported hearing something about the industry, the coverage was mostly negative (77%) rather than positive (12%).

Similarly, Center for Food Integrity (CFI) research shows food animal well-being is not a primary issue for the majority of consumers. When media events such as hidden camera video investigations catch their attention, they realize farming has changed. While consumers generally still trust farmers, incidents like these undermine the credibility of today’s production systems and cause consumers to question if it is still what they would consider to be “farming.”

The opportunity exists for animal agriculture to educate the public. Despite the noise generated by those who are opposed to today’s production practices, a significant percentage of the population is willing to listen and learn. Farmers make the best spokespersons for agriculture as their emotional involvement in the profession resonates with consumers.

Three primary elements have been identified as key components in driving consumer trust. The first is influencing others which includes family and friends as well as credentialed individuals. The second is competence, defined as technical capacity or science. The third is confidence, which involves shared values and ethics.

CFI research shows that “confidence” is four to five times more important in driving consumer trust as the other factors. In other words, consumers don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.

As consumer values evolve, the animal agriculture industry also needs to evolve in order to maintain consumer trust. Communication with consumers is necessary to maintain a constructive and positive process. Progress must be consistent across the entire industry regardless of the size or style of production.

Consumers want a consistent supply of safe, nutritious and affordable food. Farmers share these values. The animal agriculture industry is highly-regarded in these areas but constant attention to consumer values and building consumer trust is necessary to ensure consumer demand remains robust.
For 90 years, the American Soybean Association has been your voice when policy decisions are being made that affect your profitability. And the job isn’t getting any easier.

Policy work takes constant involvement and vigilance. And the law says your soybean checkoff can’t do these things. Only ASA — a grassroots, member-driven organization — has been there for you since 1920. Standing up for soybean farmers. Standing up for you.

When you belong to ASA and your state soybean association, you know that grower-leaders — soybean farmers just like you — are watching your back on Capitol Hill and in your state capitol. Every day.

If you want a voice, make the choice to belong to ASA and your state soybean association.
In March, the Nebraska Soybean Board took a group to China on a 10-day mission trip lead by Peter Mishek and AGP’s regional agents. The trade team included Nebraska Soybean Board Directors Lisa Lunz and Duane Lee; Nebraska soybean producers Ken Boswell, Greg Janak, Dennis Fujan, and Robert Johnston; Farm Bureau representative, Larry Hudkins; UNL professor, Loren Giesler; Pioneer Supply Chain Coordinator, Jeff Horst; and the Assistant Director at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Ginger Langemeier. The focus of the trip was to orient Nebraska’s producers and Ag leaders on China’s soybean markets and how they affect Nebraska’s economy. The goals were to understand the Chinese economic conditions, the demand for soybeans and soy products in the agricultural subsector, and to get a three to five year outlook on domestic demand from potential customers. The trade mission started in the city of Guangzhou located in the Pearl River Delta, one of China’s leading commercial and manufacturing regions. The port of Guangzhou is one of three ports in China to exceed 10 million containers annually.
The port is expecting 11 million in 2010, making it one of the top ten container ports in the world. While in Guangzhou, the group met with Dongling Holding’s crushing company called Guangzhou Green Oil Industrial Company. The company currently operates two crushing plants with a daily capacity of 7,500 mt/day. The company also owns a refinery that processes 1,000 mt/day of soybean oil. Dongling Holding’s became the first private agriculture company in China to go public on the Hong Kong and Shanghai stock exchange.

Dongling took the group to meet their top customer, the New Hope Group. This company currently operates over 100 feed mills across China and neighboring countries with sales of 12 million tons per year. The Nebraska group met the plant’s management team and toured their feed mill and warehouses where they bag all of the feed. New Hope expects to grow at a faster rate than average due to their success at incorporating some of the 12,000 feed mills in China. China’s feed industry has reached 131 million tons and continues to grow at a rate of 6.2% annually. While visiting the New Hope Group, the Nebraska representatives were shown a presentation on the company and were able to give them a presentation on what Nebraska has to offer them.

The next stop on the trade mission was Shenzhen, a city of 14.5 million people. The trade team was able to visit the famous Gong Men Street and see some local markets for shopping. In the evening, they met with the President of Hualian Grains Company. The company is a large importer of feeds; soybeans, corn, and fishmeal. In 2009, the company produced 3,000 metric tons of fish. While in Shenzhen, the trade team also met the management of Huamei Oils. This company built a new plant in the port of Shantou in the eastern province. The new plant’s capacity is 2,000 metric tons per day, 100,000 mt of soybean storage, 15,000 mt of soybean meal storage, and 600 mt of soybean oil storage.

Day three started with an early flight to Shanghai; a city located between the edge of the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the Yangtze River. This location has given Shanghai a regional trade advantage because of the ease of access to...
The trade team met with Shanghai Liangyou Grain Company, the largest, city-owned soybean crusher in Shanghai. They have two crushing plants and import more than one million tons of soybeans annually. The Liangyou Grain Company took the group down by the river for a beautiful dinner as well as an evening tour of the city. The main topic of discussion with the company was the current crush margins for the company, as well as the different regions. They felt the current margins had been really good, but the long-term outlook was mixed.

The visit to Shanghai concluded with the Honor Gain Company taking the mission team on a tour of the harbor. Honor is one of the largest iron ore importers into China and recently focused attention on soybeans. In 2008, they were the largest importer of container soybeans; bringing in more than 350,000 metric tons. The Honor Grain Company visited with the group on their recent trip to Grays Harbor. They liked the potential of the facility and remain interested in the progress.

From Shanghai, the trade team flew to Beijing. The agenda in Beijing provided a day for the team to experience the history and culture of China. They spent a busy day of visiting the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Ming Tombs, and the Great Wall. “I was surprised how similar we are to China, as far as economy and people’s general wants and needs,” said Greg Janak. “China, being a communist country, was not what I expected. I thought we might see more military presence and the people being more restricted. As it turns out, I did not see any different social habits than we have here in our country,” explained Greg.

After a day of sightseeing, the trade team was hosted by COFCO, China’s largest domestic agricultural company with sales over 17 billion U.S. dollars. The hosts held a formal meeting with the Nebraska team and discussed the future of Chinese imports, Grays Harbor, and several other topics. During the discussion, the group was able to present what Nebraska has to offer them. They expect to be a major trading partner with Midwest farmers and AGP. This year they imported five million tons of soybeans and expect to increase to more than nine million tons in the next five years.

Following the meeting with COFCO, the trade team met with their rival China Tex.
Starting out as a textile company, China Tex has moved into buying and crushing soybeans. China Tex acquired seven oilseed processing enterprises and imported four million tons of soybeans last year. Their main agricultural business is importing soybeans for Chinese crushers, but they are quickly becoming their own largest customer.

The final meeting in Beijing was with DaChan Foods or Great Wall, a Taiwanese publicly traded company. The company is the largest feed manufacturer in Taiwan and currently own 15 feed mills in China with even more production than the Taiwan division. The China division believes they will continue to grow in feed and livestock products similar to those they produce in Taiwan. The company is keen to see supplies of soybean meal and DDGS imported, as well as soybeans.

The trade mission concluded with a meeting with Mark Petry, the U.S. Agricultural representative in Beijing. Mark provided information on the difficulties in China due to economic growth and political considerations. Chinese government, much like the U.S. government, tends to focus on

Continued on next page
INVESTING
CHECKOFF
DOLLARS

policy and not markets. Overall, Mark provided the group with good information on the challenges China has in the modernization of its food systems.

The mission trip was an effective way to educate Nebraska producers and Ag leaders on the importance of the Chinese market. The demand continues to grow as the urbanization of the country continues to increase. China’s population has shifted from 20% living in urban areas to more than 44%. With the urbanization of the country, incomes are rising and the younger generation is demanding a diet to fit their improved lifestyle. In addition to the urbanization, the growing demand for soybeans has stemmed from the production areas of China by their government’s domestic pricing policies to support the rural farm regions. The premium prices for domestic soybeans lead local crushers to enter the international market. Local crushers can buy a better soybean at competitive prices directly from the U.S.

When meeting with each company during the trade mission, the number one topic of discussion was the quality of U.S. soybeans. The buyers all expressed the need to improve the protein and oil content in the beans shipped from the PNW. “After visiting with every user that we met, we as a group came to the conclusion that our climate does affect the quality of our soybeans,” stated Greg Janak.

Another topic of discussion was supply and consistency. China was interested in the planting forecast for the U.S.; they want to be reassured that we can supply them with enough quality soybeans to meet their crushing capacity and needs. Relationship building was another important topic that the trade team discovered during their meetings. The Chinese importers and culture in general, value relationships greatly. Duane Lee stated, “I think the people of China like putting a face with their customers. I believe we have a good relationship with China now and we just need to continue to communicate with them about what we have to offer them.”

The Nebraska Soybean Board developed this trip with the help of Peter Mishek with a goal of providing Nebraska soybean producers and Ag leaders a hands-on experience of the importance of the Chinese market. “This opportunity has changed my global perception of their country and their influence. As I continue to work for the State of Nebraska, I will be able to use this first-hand knowledge when speaking to Nebraska producers on the importance of global trade, free-trade agreements and the opportunities that exist for the superior products that are produced in our State,” stated Ginger Langemeier. China will be a growth market for Nebraska soybeans as their economy and population continues to grow and influence demand for soybeans and soy products.

Jeff Horst stated, “This mission trip showed me how important China is to the future of Nebraska exports. If you look at their 1.3 billion people and meat consumption going up almost three-fold in 30 years, Nebraska soybean exports look very promising. We need to keep the relationship with China and Southeast Asia and continue to show value in Nebraska soybeans over what they can receive from the gulf and South America.”
Nebraska Soybean Farmers Commit an Acre to

Hungry Kids

World Soy Foundation Acre Challenge Makes it Easy to Donate

Nebraska Soybean farmers have found a simple way to let their crop make a big difference in a child’s life. They are giving the value of an acre of soybeans to the World Soy Foundations’ Acre Challenge.

“Through the World Soy Foundation, hungry children are getting soy protein that makes them feel like running, playing and learning,” says Belden soybean grower Jim Miller who has helped rally others to join him in donating. “Nebraska’s soybeans are improving the lives of malnourished children and adults in some of the poorest countries of the world. Nutrition for kids today means they can grow up to be productive adults.

“That’s why I hope you will join me in contributing to the World Soy Foundation’s Acre Challenge. It’s easy. Just go to www.worldsoyfoundation.org and make a difference in a child’s life.”

The cash equivalent of an acre of soybeans can do go a long way...

- One acre of soybeans, approximately 42 bushels, can be used to make over 2,500 gallons of soymilk or more than 40,000 eight ounce servings.
- One acre of soybeans provides approximately 18,000 rations of soy protein.

“Farmer support is vital to the World Soy Foundation’s work to nourish hungry people,” said Executive Director Nathan Ruby.

Guatemala, Afghanistan and Haiti are all examples of where the World Soy Foundation is using soy to make a big difference. In Guatemala, Nebraska soybean farmers have helped purchase a soy processing machine that makes soyfoods for foster children. Farmer support of the Acre Challenge can help make sure more Afghan refugee children can get nutritious soy. The World Soy Foundation is working to help establish a soy dairy training center in Haiti and other efforts to help Haiti become self sufficient.

Nebraska soybean growers and their peers across the nation were instrumental in creation of the World Soy Foundation, a 501c3 charitable organization headquartered at the American Soybean Association.

Farmer support of the World Soy Foundation will allow the Foundation to help even more children like these in Afghanistan. Photo credit: Nutrition and Education International.
Checkoff-Funded Drought Research Finds Traits to Perform in Wet or Dry Weather

Research funded by the United Soybean Board (USB) and soybean checkoff identified two drought-tolerant soybean traits that perform well in U.S. soybean lines under moderate drought and normal moisture conditions.

In previous research, lines that were drought-tolerant grew better than most soybean lines during drought conditions, but they grew poorly under optimal growing conditions, according to Larry Purcell, Ph.D., a professor and soybean researcher at the University of Arkansas.

“We have sidestepped this problem for the two traits with which we have worked,” says Purcell. “This is a significant project that has produced many important discoveries for selecting soybeans with agronomic advantages under moderate drought conditions.”

Purcell said one of the traits allows the soybean plant to continue to accumulate nitrogen during moderate drought conditions. The other allows the plant to conserve water before the onset of a drought, helping it to be slow to wilt when the weather turns dry. Packaging these two traits in the same variety could be one of the more significant advances in drought-tolerant soybean research.

Ken Bartlett, a USB farmer-leader from La Grange, N.C., who has experienced low yields due to drought conditions for the past three years, says these traits represent a hopeful development for soybean farmers in his region.

“We will benefit from this research every year, even in the presence of good rainfall, because the soil does not have good moisture holding capacity,” says Bartlett. “This research will bring huge benefits to southeastern soybean farmers.”

Interested candidates must be an actual producer of soybeans, either as a farm operator, owner or manager and be a current dues paying member of the Nebraska Soybean Association. A director must live or farm in the district he/she represents.

Directors must be willing to attend quarterly meetings, annual meeting and other legislative/promotional/educational soybean events as the need arises. Provide leadership at meetings & seminars, actively recruit members to join the soybean association, provide leadership in the direction of policy development, be willing to engage in state legislative communications with State Senators and be willing to respond to media requests and correspondence to effectively communicate the Associations message.

Interested individuals seeking to submit their name should contact the Nebraska Soybean Association at 402/441-3239. Elections will take place at the annual meeting on December 15th.

Watch for updates on line for the 2010 Nebraska Ag Classic Conference by visiting www.neagclassic.org or contact Conference Coordinator Ginger Jelinek at 402/450-5189.
Willow Holoubek to Serve as A-FAN Organizational Director

The Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (A-FAN) has named Willow Holoubek of David City as its Organizational Director, effective June 1. Holoubek will succeed Roger Berry who has served as A-FAN’s Field Director since 2006. Berry recently accepted a position as Vice President of Member Services for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation.

Holoubek joins A-FAN after working as a private consultant and project coordinator in the area of bioenergy development. Prior to her work in the bioenergy field, Holoubek served as the Executive Director of the Butler County Development Board from 2007 to 2009, where she worked to aid in the retention, expansion and development of new businesses in Butler County.

“Willow’s wealth of experience in helping build economic opportunities in rural communities and her passion for Nebraska Agriculture make her a perfect fit for the A-FAN organization,” A-FAN President Lori Luebbe said. “She clearly understands the importance of Nebraska Agriculture and she possesses a broad set of skills, which will aid A-FAN in its mission of promoting the importance of Nebraska agriculture and the role it plays in the economic well-being of our state.”

Holoubek has deep roots in agriculture, spending the last 20 plus years working with her husband Mark and four children on the family’s grain and livestock farm near David City where they raise purebred Angus cattle, corn, soybeans and dairy quality alfalfa. Willow is a past program technician for USDA’s Farm Service Agency, in addition to serving as a clerk in the Butler County Treasurer’s Office.

Holoubek has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Nebraska, majoring in Animal Science, and is a past graduate of the Nebraska Leadership Education/Action Development (LEAD) Program (Class XXVI).

As Organizational Director for A-FAN, Holoubek is responsible for administering the day-to-day management of the organization, in addition to working with A-FAN’s various Committees and Nebraska Agriculture Promotion and Education Projects. Holoubek will also serve as a resource for Nebraska farmers and ranchers looking to expand their livestock operations.

The Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska is a non-profit organization charged with developing educational opportunities and creating awareness about the importance of Nebraska Agriculture, in addition to helping Nebraska farmers and ranchers in the responsible development and expansion of Nebraska’s livestock farms. To learn more about AFAN visit www.a-fan.org

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For many years now, animal agriculture and its customers have been subject to increasing concern over environmental and animal welfare issues. The United Soybean Board (USB) saw these emerging concerns and began to coordinate with state soybean organizations in order to gather insight and come to consensus about ways to help maintain the viability of livestock and poultry production in the USA.

Extensive research indicated the extent to which an increasingly urbanized society mistakenly viewed animal agriculture as a problem and overlooked its critical contributions to our nation and the world. So USB began working as a facilitator to bring groups together to address these misperceptions. USB also began to fund projects that support the hard-working farmers and ranchers that provide Americans with their meat, milk and eggs.
In 2003, the United Soybean Board (USB) formally recognized the need for action and launched the Animal Agriculture Initiative aimed at stakeholder engagement across the food chain. That initiative expanded to livestock organizations representing pork, chickens, turkeys, laying hens, dairy cows and more. It also relies heavily upon state soybean boards’ participation.

**USB Works with States**

One of USB’s key initiatives is a state animal agriculture support program. This program encourages state soybean boards and state livestock coalitions to participate in national meetings that help them develop and share ideas to enhance animal agriculture within their states. Importantly, this program provides funding for state soybean boards and livestock coalitions to implement creative approaches for consumer outreach.

This program also includes funds to encourage meaningful dialog among all food chain participants, especially meat processors, restaurants and grocers. These meetings involve bringing together critical sectors of the food chain. Nebraska held its first of these meetings last year and has scheduled its second of these meetings for July 2010. For more information on this effort to build lines of communication and increase understanding between customers and suppliers in Nebraska, please contact Victor Bohuslavsky at the Nebraska Soybean Board, tel (402) 441-3240, victor@nebraskasoybeans.org.

**Training for Consumer and Opinion Leader Outreach**

A state level program USB supports that is designed to reach local opinion-leading audiences is Operation Hometown Outreach (OHO). The program trains livestock producers and farmers across the country to deliver positive presentations about contemporary animal agriculture to opinion-leading audiences in their local community or region. OHO was launched in 2008 and trained over 60 graduates in its first year. In 2009, 85 OHO-trained speakers addressed local community and civic organizations throughout six states in the Midwest. OHO presenters share positive information with community leaders about modern agriculture and the important role animal agriculture plays in rural communities. An interesting aspect of this program is that evaluations of the program come not from the farmers, but from the audiences, and they continue to show a positive response.

The OHO project used funding provided by USB to build its foundation and then recruited other organizations to support the effort by sending their members through training and to volunteer to address audiences in their hometowns. This structure allowed USB to serve as a catalyst to generate broad-based support for domestic livestock production and leveraged USB funds with support from other organizations.

SHARE training provides farmers and ranchers with the knowledge and tools to constructively engage with people who are unfamiliar and/or antagonistic to modern animal agriculture practices. The training enables participants to:

- Share core values
- Honestly discuss the issues and values
- Ascertain if there are shared values
- Respect and recognize differences
- Engage in a win/win dialogue

This training helps farmers connect with people based on common values they share. It allows the farmers to understand what issues are important to others and seek common ground that fosters respectful, open and ongoing communications.

A new program is called ENGAGE. It incorporates the best features of OHO and SHARE, plus it offers greater flexibility. One of the best features of Operation Hometown Outreach is its component that helps get farmers and ranchers involved. One of the best features of SHARE is its emphasis on shared values and concerns. ENGAGE incorporates both of these features and adds participants the flexibility to engage in activities with which they are most comfortable. For some people, that engagement with consumers may be online outreach, for others it may be organizing outreach at grocery store and others may prefer public speaking.

USB would like to facilitate at least eight outreach training sessions in 2010, training at least 80 farmers and ranchers. To learn more about how you, your company or organization can participate in outreach training in Nebraska, please contact Victor Bohuslavsky at the Nebraska Soybean Board, tel (402) 441-3240, victor@nebraskasoybeans.org.
Nebraska Soybean Producer Checkoff Funds at Work:

NEW SoyWater WEB SITE

by James E. Specht, UNL Soybean Agronomist

Nebraska’s irrigated soybean production has steadily increased to the extent that irrigated soybean acreage now accounts for about 45% of the State’s total soybean acreage. Greater producer adoption of more effective crop irrigation management would ensure that irrigation water is scheduled and applied in a “when-needed, just-in-time fashion.” Such irrigation scheduling would thus optimize the efficiency of on-farm water and energy use.

Unfortunately, Nebraska producer adoption of crop irrigation scheduling methods has been slow, mainly because of the large personal time commitment required to gather the data and do the computations needed to start and maintain a daily soil water balance sheet for each irrigated field. Keeping track of the dates and amounts of water “deposits” (rainfall and irrigation) and daily crop water “withdrawals” (evaporation and transpiration), and checking the “net” soil water balance is known as the “checkbook method” of irrigation scheduling, and it is typically too hard to do by hand!

When personal computers (PCs) arrived on the scene in the 1980s, many researchers and extension specialists believed that irrigation scheduling would be quickly adopted by producers. The problem, however, was not computation, but the need to get a daily crop ET estimate needed by the PC software. Not many producers could routinely acquire those daily ET values, and then sit down at a PC “each day” to input those ET estimates (for every field). Still too much work!

What was needed was a web site software program that the Nebraska producer could interact but need only minimum input requirements.

Unfortunately, until a few years ago, the internet access speed for most producers with rural addresses was by slow-speed modems that made web site viewing painfully slow. However, a few years ago, Dr. Jim Specht, a UNL Soybean Agronomist came across a USDA report that indicated that many crop producers were acquiring high speed internet access in their rural located homes for both email and web site visitation. Dr. Specht, and his UNL colleague Dr. Ken Cassman (also an agronomist), recognized that now might be an opportune time to create a web site that would make it very, very easy for soybean producers to use irrigation scheduling. The idea was that the
web site should do ALL of the work and simply provide the producer with a single table of informative facts on seasonal soybean water use that could be directly read on the computer screen, or simply printed out so that the producer could examine, over an early morning cup of coffee, what soybean fields needed to be irrigated today! The producer would, of course, have to input a few items into the web site program, namely, the location of the field the soil texture of that field (the web site offers help on), the planting or seedling emergence date, and the varietal maturity. Thereafter, the producer could simply log-in as needed to enter the dates and amounts of local rainfall and irrigation events. As irrigation season approached, the producer could then log in at any time to have the web site provide him with a projected estimation of the cumulative amounts of soil water the soybean crop had depleted every day prior to and after the log-in date.

Thus was born the idea of a web site irrigation scheduling tool! But, realization of that idea required funding, graciously provided by the Nebraska Soybean Board, coupled with the brainpower and dedication of two hard-working UNL post-doctoral research associates, Dr. Jessica Torrion and Dr. Tri Setiyono, who enabled this web site idea to be translated into reality. In addition, Dr. Suat Irmak, a UNL expert in crop ET, contributed some very critical ideas to us all that greatly helped in the web site development, in addition to Dr. Ken Hubbard (former director) and Dr. Martha Shulski (current director) of the High Plains Regional Climate Center and the HPRCC programmers Bill Sorensen and Jun Li.

The new web site is called SoyWater and it was officially released to Nebraska soybean producers in early May 2010. If you deal with irrigated soybeans, either as producer, crop consultant, or extension specialist, you are encouraged to give the SoyWater web site (soywater.unl.edu) a tryout on one or more of your soybean fields in 2010. Keep in mind that Nebraska’s rainfed soybean producers may also find SoyWater to be a useful tool, because it will project the calendar dates of key stages in your soybean crop’s vegetative (V) and reproductive (R) stages. So, if you have a herbicide, or a fungicide, that must be applied at a very specific V or R stage for maximum effectiveness, you can use SoyWater to find out days ahead of time what calendar date SoyWater is projecting for the occurrence of that V or R stage!

Dr. Specht thanks ALL of the Nebraska soybean producers for the check-off dollars that were used to develop the SoyWater web site.

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Soy 2020, an industry-wide effort to ensure continued competitiveness of U.S. soy in the global marketplace, has launched a newly redesigned, multimedia Web site at soy2020vision.com. This new Web site also provides an electronic learning tool crafted to inform U.S. soybean farmers and other stakeholders on the long-term approach Soy 2020 has created to determine what factors influence where the U.S. soybean industry may be headed. Soy 2020 predicts that by the year 2020, the world will experience tremendous changes. The world population will most likely exceed 8 billion people, with more than 93 percent of growth taking place in developing countries. Many other factors will influence the world we live in and could impact U.S. soybean production. The Soy 2020 Vision, developed through an industry-wide effort four years ago, states that the U.S. soybean industry will be the global marketplace leader. The Soy 2020 process has established strategies to optimize the U.S. soybean value chain regardless of what the future world unfolds.

The e-learning tool takes visitors through four different scenarios possible for U.S. soybean farmers and the U.S. soy industry based on the relative innovation advantages for soy versus other crops. According to the latest Soy 2020 indicator tracking, the U.S. soybean industry’s outlook remains in the “Shared Success” scenario for both the short- and long-term outlooks. This scenario assumes the U.S. soybean industry will make advancements in sustainable technology; however, so will the other major crops. In addition, benefits realized by the other crops could challenge soy’s competitiveness. Therefore, for the U.S. soybean value chain to maintain or improve profitability opportunities, it must continue seeking new ways to drive improvements and increase demand for U.S. soy.

The Soy 2020 leadership does more than just scenario planning. They also explore opportunities presented by having such a varied group of leaders in the U.S. soy value chain together. Currently, the group plans to look at the potential market impact on improving U.S. soybean protein and oil, with plans to initiate an industry-wide discussion about the economic impact of U.S. soy with better-quality protein and oil. U.S. farmers and others who are interested can look for further developments by visiting soy2020vision.com and signing up to receive e-mail updates.
It’s aphid season again. Are you ready? — David L. Wright, Ph D (Director of Research)

Farmers could be facing another year of heavy aphid populations. According to Tom Hunt, University of Nebraska entomologist, his Midwest colleagues logged record numbers of aphids headed to overwintering sites last fall. “The numbers of aphids found on buckthorn in some areas were so high that leaves were falling off the plant,” says Hunt. However, a follow-up visit to those same areas found very few eggs. “This is a bit of a mystery to us,” says Matt O’Neal, Iowa State University entomologist. He also admits they’ve seen this before and if history repeats itself, farmers will be spraying for aphids in late July or early August.

“One well-timed foliar application of an insecticide applied after the aphid population exceeds the economic threshold will protect yield and increase profits in most situations,” says Matt O’Neal, Iowa State University entomologist.

**Timing is very important, however.**

“Adding insecticide to an early-season glyphosate application as ‘insurance’ doesn’t make sense,” says David Ragsdale, University of Minnesota. Weeds need to be controlled early because they compete for water, nutrients and sunlight. However, aphid populations don’t reach the economic threshold until much later. Hunt recalls that aphid populations in 2009 didn’t reach threshold levels until late August and even early September in some areas of Nebraska.

The current recommendation for treating aphids is to apply an insecticide when the aphid population reaches 250 aphids per plant. However, Hunt and his colleagues wonder if this threshold remains valid when the aphid population builds late in the season as it did in 2009. Funded by the soybean checkoff, he launched a research effort this year to test his theory. Preliminary results may be available to farmers this fall.

According to Ragsdale, some marketing programs encourage the prophylactic use of insecticides mixed with fungicides as a tactic for managing soybeans. Although yield gains using this tactic have been recorded, results have been inconsistent and thus the benefit of this management tactic remains unclear.

Ragsdale doesn’t promote the idea of spraying without first knowing if there is a problem. “It’s not in the best interest of the farmer,” he states emphatically. He discovered that fungicide use can lead to a subsequent increase in aphid numbers because many fungicides are toxic to the naturally occurring fungi that attack aphids. He isn’t suggesting farmers not use a fungicide; in fact he encourages it if conditions warrant. He also recommends that farmers, who apply a fungicide to soybeans, either alone or in a tank mix, closely monitor those fields for growth in aphid numbers.

Although chemical control is an effective tool to manage aphids, Hunt is looking forward to the release of aphid resistant varieties in maturities suitable for Nebraska. He has evaluated several varieties in the last two years and is happy with what he’s seen. “The soybeans will not be aphid free but, they are very tolerant to aphid feeding while remaining yield competitive,” he concludes.

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Animal agriculture helps our community thrive. That’s why it’s important that we continue to give them our support. Because a safe and secure food supply and a safe and secure rural community both come from the same place – inside the barns and out in the fields of America’s farmers and producers.

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