“If somebody asked me about grain monitoring systems I’d tell them about BinManager. For raising beans I actually can rehydrate the crop if it gets too dry and in beans that’s important. Some years we harvest dry beans and it’s nice to know that we can get them back to weight before we haul them in.”

-Randy Schmidt, Wisconsin

Calculating based on $15/bu of soybean and 1 CFM/bu Energy not calculated
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Interested in Learning More about Nebraska’s International Markets?

Come See for Yourself!

It’s no secret that our international customers play a big role in determining the price of our soybeans. In fact, studies suggest that one out of every four rows of soybeans in Nebraska will be shipped to China or the Pacific Rim. Have you ever wondered how they get there?

Come See for Yourself!
The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB), as a part of its See for Yourself program, invites you to apply for this year’s See for Yourself International Marketing Tour. This year, the NSB will take a group of Nebraska soybean farmers to the Pacific Northwest to visit the Port of Grays Harbor and the Port of Tacoma to see how soybeans are processed, loaded and shipped to their customers overseas.

The See for Yourself program is designed to also include opportunities to attend state, national and international activities. The in-state program gives farmers the chance to attend functions in Nebraska that are vital to the continued success of the soybean industry. 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!

Cover Photo:
Mid-season soybeans
Photo by the Nebraska Soybean Board
It’s hard to believe, but my time as a board member is coming to a close.

In my twelve years on the Nebraska Soybean Board, I have had the privilege of seeing and experiencing first-hand the many ways the soybean checkoff is working on behalf of soybean farmers. Whether it was working with the university on research projects or working to build demand for soybean meal and oil both at home and abroad, there was always something exciting going on in the soybean industry.

One of the things that I have enjoyed the most has been the opportunity to meet other farmer leaders involved in the soybean industry. Whether it was other board members here in Nebraska or leaders from across the country, the folks behind the soybean checkoff program are passionate about what they do, and their passion shines through in their work. Their dedication and energy are second to none and they have been a great group to be a part of and work with.

Most farmers don’t get the opportunity to have an active role in their soybean checkoff. However, I can honestly say that after serving on the board for the past 12 years, your staff and farmer leaders work hard to invest your dollars wisely in the areas of Domestic Marketing, International Marketing, Producer Education/Communications and Research.

When looking back on my time serving on the board, I am proud of many things that we accomplished. But, if I had to pick one area that has really paid off for farmers, I would say that it would be the growth of the biodiesel industry.

Although there have been hiccups along the way and plenty of political and technical issues still needing work, the biodiesel industry has grown exponentially. And, leaders from the national and state soybean checkoff programs have been instrumental to continuing that growth. To put it in perspective, in 2003, 20 million gallons of biodiesel were produced in the U.S. In 2013, we are on pace to produce 1.3 billion gallons. And with the price of soybean oil tracking its energy value, biodiesel has become one of the drivers of the price of soybeans.

I have also had the privilege of going on foreign trade missions to Southeast Asia with AGP. For nearly the past 10 years, farmers from the Midwest have been traveling to visit soybean buyers and encouraging them to purchase U.S. soy. These visits, along with their reciprocal visits to our farms, go a long way in building solid relationships with buyers who value a contact more than a contract.

I encourage all of you to find ways to get involved in leadership roles within the ag industry. There is more to see and learn than just what we experience on our farms or in our little circles. By being involved, you are able to experience nearly everything that goes on in the industry.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent you as a board member and also as chairman for the past two years. This has been an once-in-a-lifetime experience, and having the opportunity to make a difference in such strong industry with such a bright future is something I will always cherish.

Wishing you all safe and profitable production in the years to come,

Greg Greving
2013 Legislative Session
— by Geoffrey T. Ruth, Rising City, NSA President

Now that the 2013 crop is in the ground (hopefully), and Mother Nature has appeared to straighten herself out, I thought it might be a good idea to review what all took place in the 2013 Legislative Session. While the Unicameral introduced 655 bills and 214 of those becoming law in 2013, I would like to hit on a couple that the Nebraska Soybean Association became involved in during the 90 day session.

The 2013 Legislative Session was rather unlike the planting season of 2013. Unlike the slow start to the planting season, the legislative season began with a bang. We initiated the year with Governor Heinemann’s new tax policy plan that would have been catastrophic for the agriculture and industrial sectors of our state’s economy. Thanks to the NSA, many other great farm organizations, and you we were able to have great conversations with the governor and state senators on why these proposed tax policies were a bad idea for our state, and ultimately had the corresponding bills withdrawn. These debates on tax policy however, did lead to LR 155 which over the interim will create a committee that will study Nebraska’s entire tax system and will create recommendations on ways to modernize Nebraska’s tax system. NSA, along with other farm organizations, will be watching very closely to see how these recommendations will affect Nebraska’s number one industry.

Also this session the Governor signed LB 517, a bill that will create the Water Funding Task Force. This will be a committee of individuals from NRD’s, the MUD, as well as Governor Appointees, all of which have the task of prioritizing water projects, accurately forecasting the costs to complete these projects and come back after the interim with a dollar figure that the state needs in order to complete these projects.

While the 2013 Legislative Session kept us busy, I would be remiss if I didn’t speak of what is now become the long overdue 2013 Farm Bill. Congress seems to be gaining traction and momentum in trying to pass a Farm Bill. We have seen many reports that lead us to believe that a Farm Bill may be Conferenced, Passed, and Signed by the President sometime by the August recess (I’ll believe it when I see it). This does lead us to hope that by the end of the year a Farm Bill will be done. There is still work to do however. The American Soybean Association is working very hard to get a bill that will decouple payments from current year planting, as we feel that this will lead to people farming solely for the government payment and not on current market signals. This issue, along with crop insurance support levels, will keep ASA and NSA busy over the summer as we make a push to see that a Farm Bill gets done.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer.

I Believe, I Belong...

U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing both prosperous and very volatile times. As a Nebraska soybean producer I feel it is important to be consistently informed and involved with the issues and policy that influence and affect my Agriculture interests and businesses. By being a member of the Nebraska Soybean Association and the American Soybean Association I can provide value to both the associations and to my farm. As a member, I can actively participate in being part of the voice that is needed to be heard and engaged with Ag policy at the local and state levels, and also nationally in Washington D.C..... that’s why I belong.

— Jason Lavene, NSA District Director
Bertrand, NE
Ed Lammers, Hartington – District 1

We started planting corn this year on April 27th and got snow storms shortly thereafter in late April and early May. The snow probably set us back 7 to 10 days, but nearly all of our corn was planted between May 10th and 16th. That was nearly a whole month behind where we were at last year. We finished up with beans on May 28th, and again that was nearly 3 to 4 weeks behind last year’s crop. Things look pretty good right now. We’ve had a few rain spells, but nothing close to what Iowa and Illinois have been getting. Sub-moisture is really good and I’d say as of today, there are probably 10% of the beans in our area yet to be planted. Lots of alfalfa is getting put in, as I’m sure lots of guys are pretty nervous for another hay shortage.

Lisa Lunz, Wakefield – District 2

I’m sure what happened on our farm was like many other farmers in Nebraska this spring. We started really dry and then got going with corn on April 27th then got a snow storm to put us back. That set us back a few days and then more moisture put us back again until May 14th. Corn planting was finished on May 24th and beans were done on June 2nd. As of June 6th, there were probably 10-20% of the beans still unplanted, but this has been a good week for planting so everyone should be close to finishing. All of the beans were put into moist ground, some of it even a little too wet. But there wasn’t any crusting or replanting, thus far, in our fields. A few heavy rains in mid-May did a little bit of damage in some neighbors’ fields. Everything is in the ground and has moisture so far, now just so that moisture keeps on coming our way this summer.

Richard Bartek, Ithaca – District 3

Just another year, but this one has definitely shifted us back a few days. Started planting on May 1st and finished June 3rd. The cool May and early June nights have been a bit frustrating, as our stands aren’t growing as quick as we’d like. We’ve also seen some chemical damage in some fields as well. We put a lot of beans in on the first weekend of June and now we’re just trying to catch up on all of our spraying. On Thursday, May 30th, we got 3.5 inches of rain on fields by Swedeburg and that caused some water to run over terraces. We’ve had to replant a few beans and corn due to washouts and puddling water. My brother, Tim, even had to spend a day using the grapple forks to grab logs way out in the field where we had the creek overflow. We’re a seed dealer as well, so I’ve been sending away a decent amount of bags of beans to some farmers so far in early June for replanting purposes. A real nice spurt of warm weather would really help our stands and put some growth in the plants.

Mark Caspers, Auburn – District 5

I’m sure you’re seeing much of the same from the other directors across the state. I wasn’t able to get into the field until May 13th, but had a week of real good weather and was able to finish everything on May 19th. None of my ground butts up to the Missouri River, but we’ve had nearly 9 inches since I finished. Some of that rain came pretty hard and there was some runoff as well. I’ll have to replant in a few spots because of that. I’d say there were still 15% of the beans left in my area to start this week, but there have been a bunch put in and everyone should wrap up here soon. The crops that are up look fair. Nothing to brag about, but they’re not terrible looking either. We need this cool weather to snap already and get our soils warmed up for everything to grow.
**Greg Peters, DeWitt – District 6**

Corn planting for us was right on schedule. We started April 20th, got a few showers and then we got 10 dry days in a row to help get almost all of it planted. We got some beans in early as well and nearly everyone in my area was done with beans by Memorial Day. Quite a different story after Memorial Day. We got anywhere from 6 to 9 inches of rain that following week and it hailed on that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Hail did affect the corn some, but had little damage on the beans because they were just starting to emerge. I also had flood water standing on about 60 acres. We’ve seen some crusting and dampening off after the hailstorm. The soybeans that were put in good residue are looking good, but again we’re starting to see some crusting in the beans without the residue.

**Ron Pavelka, Glenvil – District 7**

We started planting corn on April 25th and were 2/3 done before the hail, snow and rain hit us. Didn’t get near as much snow as the majority of the state did, though. We started on beans that first week in May and were done planting on May 10th. We weren’t getting the big rains early like others did, so it made for fairly quick planting this year. We still had fair moisture to plant into, but the subsoil moisture was still very poor. Memorial day was tough on us this year, as that weekend spawned a whole bunch of winds and even tornadoes, flipping upwards of 300 pivots. We had over 2.5 inches of rain that was much needed, but also had two pivots get overturned. We were very glad to see the rain, just not the wind that accompanied it. Pivot repair crews have done a real good job so far of getting everyone new pivots and getting the old ones torn out. This week we’ve been tearing out pivot pads and will be pouring new pads as well.

**Terry Horky, Sargent – District 8**

We started planting on May 6th this year and were done on May 25th. Cold temperatures and soil temps kept us out of the field until then. We had a few damp days those first couple weeks in May that kept us out of the field as well. We really seemed to miss out on the rains early and were pretty dry until the Wednesday after Memorial Day. There was a good line of hail closer to Sargent that forced some to replant, but most were still able to replant by June 1st. We got two inches of rain over those two days and that was much needed for the crops and the pasture. With my wife and father, we have 400 head of cows and the pastures are starting to show a bit of color now. But, we’re seeing lots of weeds coming up in the dry spots where the drought killed the grass last year. Time will tell, but we’re fairly happy with the how good calving season went for us.

**Scott Houck, Strang – At Large**

It’s just been a crazy spring. I mean, nearly complete opposite of what we were going through last year at this time. We finished up our corn on May 14th and finished with the beans on May 23rd. On Memorial Day, we got a 5 inch rain in only 1 hour. We still have two roads closed by our house, one from a bridge washing out and the other one with corn stalks still covering the road from the water running. I had to replant a quarter of beans just south of Ohiowa on June 5th, and I think we just had so many get cut off from the winds that came through. We lost 5 pivots from the storm and hopefully can get a few of those replaced real soon. I’d say there may have been 200 down in the area. Once again, it’s just been a crazy year. I haven’t seen water stand like this in probably 20 years. From May 24th to June 5th, we received 7 inches of rain, and like I said, 5 of that came in one hour on Memorial Day.
Join us at the
2013 Nebraska State Fair
August 23 - September 2

“Where does your food come from?
We “CAN” show you!”

Visit us in the Ag Display area
(east end) of the Exhibition Building.
Applications Sought for 2014 ASA/DuPont Young Leader Program

The American Soybean Association (ASA), Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) and DuPont Pioneer are seeking applicants for the 2014 Young Leader Program. Now in its historic 30th year, the DuPont Young Leader program is recognized throughout agriculture for its tradition of identifying and cultivating farmer leaders who are shaping not only the U.S. soybean industry but all of agriculture.

“The Young Leader Program has had a significant impact on the soybean industry,” said ASA President Danny Murphy, a soybean farmer from Canton, Miss. “For three decades, ASA/DuPont Young Leaders have participated in training and developed peer networks that have enabled them to better serve and represent their national, state and local agricultural industry organizations. Additionally, the training has a ‘real-world’ factor, providing a significant impact on their business as well.”

A challenging and educational two-part training program, the 2014 class of ASA/DuPont Young Leaders will meet for the first time at Pioneer’s headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, Nov. 19-22, 2013. The program will continue Feb. 25-March 1, 2014 in San Antonio, with training held in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show.

The ASA/DuPont Young Leader program offers the opportunity for participants to strengthen and build upon their natural leadership skills, meet and learn from other young leaders from around the country and expand their agricultural knowledge.

“The Young Leader program provided us a great opportunity to network with other soybean producers as well as enhancing our leadership skills for future leadership roles both on and off the farm. We also made numerous friendships with other couples from around the U.S. that we have a lot in common with” says Shane and Nicole Greving of Chapman, NE, 2013 Nebraska Young Leaders.

Applications will be accepted through September 15, 2013. Interested applicants should apply online at www.soygrowers.com/dyl or contact the Nebraska Soybean Association at 402-441-3239 or association@nebraskasoybeans.org.

ASA, its 26 state affiliates, including the Grain Farmers of Ontario, and DuPont Pioneer will work together to identify the top producers to represent their state as part of this program. One couple or individual per state will be chosen to participate.

Ready to Protect Your Bottom Line?

Utilize Pest Patrol to help defend your crop’s yield.

Call 1-877-285-8525 or visit syngentapestpatrol.com.
2013 Soybean Management Field Days
1-800-529-8030 or 1-800-852-BEAN
Growing Nebraska’s Future
http://ardc.unl.edu/soydays
4 Locations • One Day Event • 4-Field Stops

Featuring integrated studies that combine several potential yield enhancing practices in pest management and agronomy.

Aug. 13 Minden
David & Jake Olsen
Olsen Cattle Co. Farm
West of Minden 5 mi. on Hwy. 634 to 27th Rd.
Go 1/4 mi. north. Field site is just north of M Rd.
and 27th Rd. intersection on west side.

Aug. 14 York
Jerry Stahr Farm
North of York, go east where E. 25th St. meets
Delaware Ave. Field site is just east of the railroad
tracks on south side.

Aug. 15 Pierce
Mike Krueger Farm
Southeast of Pierce. Just east of intersection of
Hwy. 13 and 192nd Rd. on south side.

Aug. 16 Waterloo
Bud Walvoord Farm
From West Center Rd. and 240th St. 1/2 mile east
on West Center. Then take right on Wright St.
Field is directly south of Wright St.

Adjuvants and Water Quality
Lowell Sandell, UNL Weed Science Extension Educator
Cody Creecy, UNL Graduate Student
Bill Bagley, Manager of Application Technology,
Willour-Ellis Company

Fungicide and Insecticide Inputs –
Yield Effects and Risks
Loren Giesler, UNL Extension Plant Pathologist
Thomas Hunt, UNL Extension Entomologist
Ron Seymour, UNL Extension Educator – Entomologist
Wayne Ohnesorg, UNL Extension Educator – Entomologist
Robert Wright, UNL Extension Entomologist

Soybean Nutrients-
High Nitrogen Study - Micronutrients
Charles Shapiro, UNL Soil Scientist - Crop Nutrition

Row Spacing
Greg Kruger, UNL Extension Cropping System Specialist

Irrigation Management
Chuck Burr, UNL Extension Educator
Jim Specht, UNL Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture
Gary Zoubek, UNL Extension Educator

The Golden Triangle
Nebraska’s Livestock Production
Past - Present - Future
Bruce Johnson, UNL Professor of Agricultural Economics

Your Nebraska Soybean Checkoff Investment
Nebraska Soybean Board Director

Biodiesel Giveaway – see details at
ardc.unl.edu/soydays
Bring this registration with you

Name: ______________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________________
Phone: _______________________________ e-mail: _______________________________
Soybean aphid tolerant soybean plants aren’t immune to aphids, but they can take more injury without as much yield loss. We have seen yield losses of only 13 percent on ‘tolerant’ soybeans when we would have expected about 30 percent yield loss. We are looking at the mechanism and genes involved and evaluating crosses from these base genetics to develop more robust soybean plants that have resistance to aphids and also suffer less injury.”

To help manage soybean aphids, NCSPR has recently published and began distributing Soybean Aphid Field Guide to all states in the North Central region. This pocket guide contains several years of checkoff-funded research to help producers make the best decisions for their fields. To receive a hard copy, contact Nebraska Soybean Board at (402) 441-3240. An electronic version of the guide will also be available on the NCSRP website, www.planthealth.info.

A new field guide aims to help soybean farmers fight an old pest: aphids.

Aphids are a common and often difficult soybean pest to manage across the North Central region. A multi-state, Checkoff-funded research project by the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) is in the midst of a three-year project on aphid management and research. Studies are looking at aphid-resistant cultivars, efficacy of seed treatments, biological control using parasitoid species and aphid populations capable of overcoming resistant varieties.

Though last year’s drought and high temperatures reduced aphid populations throughout most of the North Central region, which limited the study’s first year results, a key finding looking at the efficacy of insecticidal seed treatments for aphid management showed no yield boost from the seed treatments in the absence of aphid pressure — an important baseline for determining the performance and cost-effectiveness of aphid-resistant products.

Dr. Tom Hunt, research entomologist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, says insecticides will typically only protect yield and not increase it.

“With no aphids or very low populations, yields will be the same as if seed treatment wasn’t used,” Hunt says. “That will be a cost you won’t get paid back. Also, aphids often arrive later in the season when seed treatments can be much less effective. The next step is to determine if aphid seed treatments are active long enough. Most studies have examined economic injury levels for soybeans up to stage R5, but aphid populations can sometimes develop later, so we are also examining aphid injury during the R6 stage.”

Whether aphids develop early or later in the season, soybeans will need to be protected from them. Hunt says they are looking at the tolerance of soybean aphid injury.
On the phone with Dr. Jim Specht

Thanks for joining me on the phone today, Jim. We’ve been fielding some questions from producers this spring that I’ll ask in a bit, but first, we have some questions about SoyWater.

Is SoyWater capable of helping any irrigator across the entire state?

Yes, as long as it is used on soybeans. Google maps helps provide images of soil maps and soil types, which as we know can differ quite quickly across Nebraska. As long as you can enter a maturity group and planting or emergence date, you should be good to go no matter where you’re farming.

What about a dry land farmer, can they still benefit from SoyWater?

Absolutely. This is one of the nice things about SoyWater. Once again, as long as you get your maturity group and a few other details typed in, then it will help you with many things besides just scheduling watering. The program will help determine the stages of growth for working with your beans. Lots of guys apply herbicides at V6 and fungicides at R3. SoyWater will tell you when those dates are, so it will be easier to plan those applications and you can be the first of your neighbors to schedule an applicator this summer.

Going from historically dry in 2012, to a cool and wet spring this year, what is the easiest way to figure out where a field’s water table stands on percentage of depletion?

We nearly always assume that spring rains fill our moisture profile back up. Even coming off a dry year, with the rains most of the state has received over the past month, everyone should be close to full profile. There may be some dryer gaps and spots on the map, but at research plots in Lincoln, we are nearly full moisture down to a four-foot depth.

Managing your water profile in SoyWater is very similar to managing a checkbook. As long as you balance and enter your rain amounts, it’ll let you know how much money, or water in this case, you have left to use.

Who do farmers reach out to about getting soil moisture sensors, ET gauges and other items needed to successfully incorporate SoyWater?

There is something called the Agricultural Water Network. Just type it into Google and it’ll be the first item that pops up. Here you can reach out to Gary Zoubek or Suat Irmak and they will help get you all set up. Otherwise, contact your local NRD and they will probably be able to offer assistance and possibly even discounts on the materials.

How simple is it to register for SoyWater?

It’s very simple. Type SoyWater into your Google search engine and then click soy irrigation tool. Once you get there, just register as a new user and then SoyWater will email you a confirmation to finish registering.

What are your thoughts on the effect of the delayed planting because of the early and mid-May rains?

Over many years in the north central region, research has shown that we lose a 1/4 to 5/8 of a bushel potential per day after May 1st. We’re just not able to bring back all the radiation and rainfall that many may have missed out on.

I’m guessing this will be a great year for research in your plots?

A few producers I talked to got beans in back in late April. Once again, research has shown that the optimal date to get started because of the potential for sunlight and node production. Sunlight stays the same no matter what the weather does. Spring equinox is always on March 20th and the longest day of the year, the Summer solstice, is always on June 21st. I’ve published a few articles on putting beans into cold ground, and those can be read on our cropwatch.unl.edu website. No matter if we have a cold and wet early growing season, the length of days stays the same each year.

Thanks, Jim. Will you be available to speak to producers at Soybean Management Field Days again this year?

Absolutely. Bring any questions that you might have and we can discuss your fields and your individual program.
INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS

WEEDS

– by Andy Chvatal

Question & Answer with Lowell Sandell

You’ve said before that the best weed management practice is to start with a clean field, would you say that is still a very sound strategy?

Correct. From a pure yield standpoint, you always maintain your highest yield potential by starting with a clean slate. And, starting the field off with residual herbicides means that you are also doing a good job with an integrated herbicide approach. This limits competition early on for moisture between the beans and weeds.

What if rain or even snow, prevented farmers from being able to do that this spring?

It was a monstrous challenge this spring for probably just about everyone. Late planting for the most part meant late herbicide applications and burn down. If you have glyphosate resistant weeds, then a post emergence and residual product is needed to get a hand on control before those weeds get too big to manage. Something such as Dual or Warrant would have worked good post emergent to the crops but pre-emergent to the weeds.

Planting is behind us, but does row spacing have an effect on weed suppression?

We do know that row spacing studies have made it fairly obvious that narrow rows provide higher yields. The faster canopy with narrow rows means quicker suppression of weeds and it makes the crop much more competitive from the get-go. It also does a better job of weed germination suppression later on in the year.

Nearly everyone has seen them by now, but how much of a problem are glyphosate resistant weeds becoming?

Marestail is still number one. We’ve seen giant ragweed resistant populations in pockets and also water hemp as well. A lack of a sound strategy and weed management plan will only aid in the spread and resistance of these weeds and those resistance traits can and will spread very quickly.

Tell us a little more about the field days on August 6th and 7th.

The backdrop in David City will be a glyphosate resistant giant ragweed population. We’ve had the field day there for a few years now and it has been very well attended. The crux of what we’ll be doing is demonstrating numerous herbicide management strategies to better fit your weed management plan and control those resistant populations of other species as well. The other site is near Fremont, but it’s been tough skating there with such a wet field and planting difficulties, so we’ll just have to see what we’ll do when the time gets closer to that event. But that backdrop will be a glyphosate resistant water hemp population and looking at a viable weed management program to control these both pre and post.

Field days run from 9am to Noon with lunch and a speaker to follow. The lunch speaker this year will be Aaron Hager from the University of Illinois. He’ll be giving us a more in depth look at the difficulties of these resistant populations in his area. He’s dealt with resistant water hemp for a number of years now, not just with glyphosate, but with ALS, PPO and triazine products.

We’ve gotten away from corn knives and cultivators, but until we can better manage a resistant weed population, what’s the game-plan on slowing them down?

Identifying the problem is number one. You have got to realize that if it’s your neighbor’s problem right now, then it’s your problem as well. Secondly, develop a strategy for how we plan to control them before, during and after the growing season. Tillage has fallen out of favor because of water conservation practices and hills in eastern Nebraska, but you still have to manage your herbicide tools and rotations in a sustainable fashion to keep everything effective. That doesn’t mean applying an extra application of glyphosate when you see the weeds, because that will only aid in the resistance.

What topics will you be covering at Soybean Management Field Days in August?

My group will be covering a handful of topics, but we’ll be spending much more of our time this year out in the plots. We have many trials going on: Roundup Ready trials, Liberty Link trials, tillage vs. burn down and many dosage response studies as well. Like I stated earlier, we’ll show how increasing the glyphosate rate isn’t a sound strategy.

Thanks for your time, Lowell.

Be sure to contact the Nebraska Soybean Board at 402-441-3240 for more information about the Soybean Management Field Days on August 13-16 across the state.

Lowell Sandell
Weed Science Extension Educator,
University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Summer 2013

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Election ballots for the Nebraska Soybean Board Districts 4 and 8 will be mailed on Friday, July 12, 2013, 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, 2013, can call 402-466-1969 to request a ballot. The voting producer must sign and print their full name and home town on the return ballot envelope for their vote to be valid. Ballots must be postmarked by July 31, 2013.

The elected directors will serve a three-year term beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2016.

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.
Meet the Candidates:

**Daren Englund**
Holdrege, NE  
Phelps County

Daren lives north of Holdrege, NE on the family farm where they raise irrigated soybeans, corn, and recently added a small cow herd. His wife works at the local hospital and both their children are in elementary school in Holdrege. He began helping on the farm when he was old enough to start carrying irrigation siphon tubes. Daren’s father is still farming with him, but luckily they no longer carry tubes to irrigate. His grandfather also farmed north of Holdrege and, at 89 years old, he is amazed to come out and ride in the tractors that drive themselves. They practice mostly no-till farming under pivots and on their non-irrigated acres. They also have some acres of gravity irrigation where they ridge till. For irrigation, they are fortunate to have both surface water from the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and plentiful ground water to pump.

**Comments by Daren:**
I am running for the Nebraska Soybean Board in District 8. In 2012, Nebraska farmers produced over 207 million bushels of soybeans. This makes it easy to see how important they are to our state. So we must continue to work on finding new markets, advancing technology, and promoting our product. While I was in the Nebraska LEAD program I had a chance to meet and interact with members of the checkoff boards and realized how important they are. Agriculture is currently going through a price, production, and technological explosion partially because of the work of the checkoff boards. The Nebraska Soybean Board has done a great job in the past of promoting our product and I would like a chance to help with the process going forward.

**Terry Horky**
Sargent, NE  
Custer County

Terry farms with his wife, Chandra, while raising their children, Tera and TJ, on the family farm northwest of Sargent. They no till as much as they can and also have irrigated and non-irrigated cropland raising corn, soybeans, wheat and forage. The Horkys also have a cow calf operation. They both feel that the farm is a great place to raise their children. “It is where I grew up. We hope that when they are older, the kids could return to the family farm if they would like,” says Terry.

**Comments by Terry:**
I have had the privilege of serving District 8 the last three years. I have learned a lot about the many ways the soybean checkoff has helped the soybean industry. I am a Nebraska LEAD XXVIII alum. I would like to continue serving my fellow farmers of my district. I feel it is important to give back time to our communities and state, and this is one way I can give back.

**Eugene Goering**
Platte Center, NE  
Platte County

Eugene has a diversified family farm with his two sons. They raise soybeans, seed corn, and commercial corn. They also provide services to a seed corn production company. His older son is married and he and his wife recently had a son this spring. Eugene’s younger son is finishing college studying agriculture.

**Comments by Eugene:**
I am seeking to be on the Nebraska Soybean Board to serve soybean producers in Nebraska. Efficient leadership for the investment of the checkoff funds will help Nebraska producers remain competitive in the world soybean industry. With my sons joining the farm operation, I have an opportunity to serve on this board. The Nebraska LEAD program helped me develop an interest in serving on this board and refined the skills to serve effectively. I feel I have the experience, skills, and interests to be a good director.
The Ag Sack Lunch Program – Another Year of Success

For the third consecutive year, Nebraska fourth-graders received an extra lesson on agriculture during their trip to visit the State Capitol Building.

The Ag Sack Lunch program, which is co-sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB), the Nebraska Pork Producers Association (NPPA), and the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) as a part of their education outreach efforts, is designed to reach fourth-grade students and their families in an attempt to help them better understand where their food comes from.

Victor Bohuslavsky, executive director of NSB, said “We provide this Ag Sack Lunch Program to fourth graders when they come to visit the State Capitol. It’s a unique setting for them to learn about the history of the state as well as its #1 industry – agriculture. This program is a good way of getting them to understand that their food comes from farmers.”

The lunchtime program included a sack lunch, which is donated by the NSB, NPPA and NCB, a 20-minute presentation by “Ag Ambassadors” on the vital role agriculture plays in the state’s economy, and a fact-filled card game designed for students to take home and share the ag-centered message with their families. Ag Ambassadors are University of Nebraska-Lincoln students trained to make these presentations.

Nearly 5,000 free lunches were served to visiting fourth-graders from 86 different schools during the 2012-2013 school year. The sack lunch included nutritious Nebraska-produced items to help students make the connection that Nebraska farms really do help feed the world.
Eats the meal from 212,000 bushels of Nebraska soybeans

In fact, nearly 98 percent of U.S. soy meal goes to feed poultry and livestock. That’s why animal ag is your number one customer. It’s true, chicks dig soy.

Learn more at www.BEYONDtheELEVATOR.com
Connecting the Dots in the Golden Triangle

by Bruce Johnson, Eric Thompson, and Anil Giri

Just a generation or two ago, a successful Nebraska farm was typically a diverse crop and livestock farm. The various enterprises worked together in a relatively complementary system. Labor and management tended to be balanced across the crop and livestock activities as were key homegrown inputs like livestock feed and organic-based fertilizer. Crop and livestock diversity on the farm provided both economic efficiency and resiliency.

Fast forward to today and we see the continuing transformation of production units into large, specialized operations—either as cash-grain crop farms or concentrated livestock units. While there is no question we have benefited from economies of size and specialization at the farm level, we have also lost some economic efficiencies and resiliency associated with the previous diversity. Even at the state level we see some red flags—over the past decade, crop producers have experienced phenomenal returns while the state’s livestock producers have had some rocky economic times. Moreover, we have aspects of our livestock industry that are lagging behind the livestock industry growth occurring elsewhere, including that occurring in several of our neighboring states. This is particularly true for our hog, dairy, and poultry industries, even though the state appears to have the resources for robust expansion. The question arises: “are we capitalizing on the full potential of Nebraska’s agricultural production complex that includes both crops and livestock?” Given the fact that the Nebraska’s agricultural production complex is the economic engine of the state’s non-metropolitan economy, this is a very key issue behind future economic development.

Enter the “Golden Triangle” concept, which some of our state leaders have coined to describe the state’s impressive grain, oilseed and biofuels sectors and our equally important livestock sector (Figure 1). Nebraska is a major player in corn, soybeans, and biofuels production. And our livestock industry is centered within those components, providing the key linkages and major added output. In short, it is the same notion of the diversified crop and livestock farm of a past era, but now scaled up to sub-state levels and even the state level to provide economic gains. The point: Nebraska’s crop sector needs the state’s livestock sector and vice versa. The health of one is dependent on the health of the other.

With the financial support from the Nebraska Soybean Board and the Nebraska Corn Board, we have launched a University of Nebraska study of the economic impacts of various livestock expansion scenarios across the state, tracing both direct and indirect effects on local economies down to county and multi-county levels. Between now and the end of 2013, we will be quantifying the potential impacts to local and regional economies and tax base from a number of specific livestock development possibilities, including the tracing of flows of feed-grain and soybean meal usage resulting from that expansion. With this more accurate and detailed assessment of economic effects, citizens and their public officials can make better decisions about their community’s economic future.

Of course, other aspects besides economics enter into the public decision process regarding livestock expansion, including important environmental and societal issues to consider. To be sure, there must be due diligence to these matters as well. But, the economic implications are still foundational.

In the 2011 UNL Nebraska Rural Poll, which gathered responses from nearly 2,400 representative households in non-metro Nebraska, 97 percent agreed to the statement that livestock production is important to their area economy. Just how important economically and in what dimensions are the questions we are addressing—“connecting the dots”, so to speak in Nebraska’s Golden Triangle.
It’s no secret that the disconnect between people and their food is growing. In fact, recent studies suggest that the average consumer is three to five generations removed from the farm. This gap in knowledge about how their food is being grown and raised, coupled with the constant media attention surrounding today’s food system, presents a unique challenge to farmers and ranchers looking to maintain their freedom to operate – How do we educate and engage the consumers who are either generally uninterested or take today’s food system for granted?

The Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (A-FAN) recently teamed up with the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) to do just that. Their summer bus tour series, which is sponsored by the NSB and hosted by A-FAN, focuses on giving consumers the opportunity to see and hear first-hand what goes on on today’s farms and ranches. The participants also gain a better understanding about the strong role agriculture plays in Nebraska’s economy.

The first tour, which hosted curriculum specialists on May 14, traveled to three farms in eastern Nebraska on the “Connecting Classrooms to Their Source of Food, Fiber and Fuel” farm tour. The tour, sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board, was hosted by the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (A-FAN), Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom, and Nebraska Farm Bureau’s Foundation for Agriculture. Farm tour stops included Pillen Family Farms, a pork operation near Brainard; Grass Valley Farms, a feedlot by David City; and Tuls Dairy in Surprise. At each location, participants learned about modern farming practices used to provide safe, abundant, nutritious food for consumers.

Tour participants said they gained useful knowledge about the agricultural industry. Carol Rinenberg, career education specialist and state director of HOSA Future Health Professionals, said the tour leaders “were outstanding hosts and impressive ambassadors for Nebraska agriculture. Their sharing of resources, knowledge of each site, and their answering a wide scope of questions demonstrated the tremendous knowledge base this team has at the tip of their fingers. They articulated well not only of agriculture as a business, but the importance of agriculture to our state’s economic vitality.”

The second tour, which took place on May 23 and featured the same stops, was focused on giving members of Nebraska’s media a similar chance to learn about modern farming and ranching. The tour featured the same three stops as the educational farm tour and included time at each location for interviews.

A-FAN and NSB will host another bus tour in July that features CommonGround Nebraska volunteers to answer questions from consumers and the media.

“These bus tours play an important role in our education and outreach efforts,” said NSB Executive Director Victor Bohuslavsky. “They provide us with a great way to showcase the practicality of modern, Nebraska agriculture.”

For more information about these tours, please visit http://www.BecomeAFan.org or http://www.NebraskaSoybeans.org.
Animal Agriculture: Bringing Home the Bacon – by Drew Guiney

The recent rise in grain prices have left some livestock and poultry producers feeling stressed. And, although corn and soybean farmers traditionally focus on improving their yields, it’s important for them to remember their number one customer – animal agriculture.

Animal agriculture encompasses mainly cattle, hogs, broilers, turkeys, eggs, sheep, dairy and aquaculture. Future soybean demand is tightly linked to the health of these industries. Modern domestic animal agriculture faces battles over consumer demand, input costs, regulations and production practices. These issues threaten to keep production costs high or drive them higher.

In a recent study released by the United Soybean Board (USB), 10 years’ worth of data was collected to analyze the economic impact of animal agriculture in the United States. This study highlights the economic importance of animal agriculture on both the state and national level.

According to the study, in 2011, the animal agriculture industry had the following positive effects on the national economy:

• Job impact throughout the economy – 1,692,000
• Impact on total output – in the economy - $333 billion
• Impact on household incomes – $58 billion
• Impact on income taxes paid – $12 billion
• Impact on property taxes paid – $6 billion

Although these numbers are very strong and indicative of the health of the industry, significant changes could occur over the next few years that would be detrimental to the successes we’ve built over the past decade. Consequently, actions to maintain and expand animal agriculture operations in the United States – by supporting its long-term competitiveness – are of critical importance to the soybean sector.

In order to take effective action at the state and local level, the USB compiled this data at the state and national levels. This study provides the most recent data on livestock, poultry and aquaculture output, their soybean meal usage and the benefits animal agriculture brings to the state and national economy. The goal of this study is to help folks better understand the importance of animal agriculture to our economy.

Nebraska

Nebraska ranks 15th in soybean meal usage, with animal agriculture in the state consuming 704,000 short tons of meal. In 2011, Nebraska ranked fourth in the nation in cash receipts from livestock sales. Nebraska ranked second in cattle in cash receipts, with 11% of the national production, and seventh in hog production.

The economic impact of the animal agriculture industry to the state of Nebraska is also quite significant. In 2011, it had the following positive national economic impacts:

• Economic output – $15,626,271,000
• Earnings – $2,485,433,000
• Property taxes – $675,292,000
• Income taxes – $675,292,000
• Jobs – 59,365

Over the past decade, expansion of the animal agriculture sector has led to an increase of $638 million in economic output, $100 million in household wages, 2,400 jobs and $27 million in income tax revenue for the state. Every million dollars of livestock product output in Nebraska results in $1.9-$2.6 million in total economic output in the state, generates $300,000-$410,000 in family income and is responsible for 7-10 additional jobs.

The animal agriculture industry is vital to the economic success of our state, which is why it is important for soybean farmers to support their number one customer.

For more information on this study please visit http://www.animalag.org/economics.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that 110 million gallons of biodiesel were produced in April – putting the biodiesel industry once again on track to meet or exceed the federal volume requirement this year under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The 110 million gallons of biodiesel production was roughly the same as in March, with year-to-date biodiesel production through the end of April at almost 369 million gallons.

Biodiesel, an EPA-designated Advanced Biofuel that has exceeded targets under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for two consecutive years, is reported under the Biomass-based Diesel category under the RFS. Made from an increasingly diverse mix of resources such as recycled cooking oil, soybean oil and animal fats, biodiesel is the first and only EPA-designated Advanced Biofuel that’s produced on a commercial scale across the U.S. It is produced in nearly every state in the country and is used in existing diesel engines without modification. In 2012, the biodiesel industry produced more than 1 billion gallons, supporting some 50,000 jobs across the country.

The RFS is a federal program that requires transportation fuel sold in the U.S. to contain a minimum volume of renewable fuels. The RFS originated with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and was expanded and extended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). This year’s volume requirement for Biomass-based Diesel under the RFS is 1.28 billion gallons.

Another sign that the future looks bright for biodiesel is the increase in registrations for clean diesel cars in the U.S., which are up more than 24 percent from 2010 through 2012. This increase outpaced total car registrations during that same period which increased by just 2.7 percent.

“This new data of total national vehicle registrations coincides with what we’ve been seeing in the monthly auto sales - clean diesel and hybrid cars are showing consistent and impressive growth patterns in the U.S.,” said Allen Schaeffer, the executive director of the Diesel Technology Forum.

“This consistent growth in clean diesel registrations in the last three years is particularly noteworthy since it has occurred during an economic recession, the availability of an extremely large number of fuel efficient vehicles, which was topped off by some of the highest diesel fuel prices in U.S. history. Even in the face of these significant challenges, diesel buyers are seeing the big picture and long-term value by investing in record numbers of clean diesel cars and SUVs."

At the end of 2012, diesel car and SUV registrations reached nearly 800,000. When all passenger vehicles are included – cars, SUVs, pickup trucks and vans – registrations reached 6.65 million. There are 27 diesel models available to consumers in the U.S. market. Texas, California and Florida lead the country with the most diesel vehicles on the road.
The biodiesel industry is booming and currently there are no signs of it slowing down. Through efforts put forward by the National Biodiesel Board and biodiesel producers, the U.S. is on tap to produce the largest volume of biodiesel gallons in 2013 than any other year. Last year the renewable fuel standard (RFS2) mandate called for 1 billion gallons to be blended, which was a 20 percent increase over the prior year. EMTS data reported 1.143 billion gallons were actually blended, which is 14.3 percent more than RFS2 called for. This year the current RFS2 mandate sits at 1.28 billion gallons, a 28 percent increase over last year’s mandate and a 10.7 percent increase over last year’s blended gallons. Nonetheless, all signs point to 2013 being the largest production year in biodiesel that we have ever seen. So what does this mean for feedstock prices?

The commodity complex has become much more volatile in the past 10 years than ever before. Keep in mind this is the timeframe in which the biodiesel industry was “born and raised.” We have observed a paradigm shift in pricing for not only the exchange-traded commodities, but also in the non-exchange-traded commodities, which include the majority of biodiesel feedstocks. These price swings have become significant and added complexity to the profitability/sustainability of many biodiesel plants. What does this exactly mean, and how can one manage the price swings?

Let’s begin with the largest feedstock consumed by the biodiesel industry, which happens to be exchange-traded as well: soybean oil. With very few exceptions, soybean oil had traded in a 20-cent range between 1975 through 2006 (15 to 35 cents/lb). In 2007, soybean oil rallied 20 cents and closed just below the 50-cent mark. It then rallied yet another 20 cents in just the first three months of 2008. Many traders were asking themselves just how much higher this market could go; but then the second half of 2008 rolled around. Soybean oil gave up over 35 cents/lb in just the latter half of 2008. Within the next two years (2009-2010), soybean oil had regained 30 cents/lb of these losses. Why the extreme shift in volatility?

Many tie the growth in Asia, specifically China, increased speculation in futures and options trading on commodities, and the increased production of biofuels to the recent rise in volatility. Let’s concentrate on the rise in biofuels, and more specifically diesel, over the past eight years. Since 2005, we have increased biomass-based diesel production by more than 18-fold in the U.S.
We now have plants online that could singlehandedly match 2005’s total annual production of 60 million gallons in less than six months. Another way to look at it is that we have added 8.5 billion pounds of demand to the vegetable oil, fats and grease markets in the U.S. This represents more than 29 percent of the total U.S. production of soybean oil, fats and greases today.

Prior to the inception of biodiesel, fats and greases were viewed as more of a byproduct than anything, and more often than not were a cost center to companies that produced these products. It was not that long ago when restaurants actually paid to have their used cooking oil (UCO) picked up and “disposed” of. Now these restaurants have competition from aggregators to not only collect their UCO, but also to get paid for the collection. The same thing is happening in the fats market.

One of the clients I trade with recalls when he purchased 100 trucks of poultry fat for 4 cents/lb back in 2004. This is equivalent to, if not less than, the cost it would have taken to produce/render this fat. Those days are over now, and these products have been labeled “liquid gold” by many in the industry. With the inception of biodiesel, these products are now substitutes for vegetable oils in the production of biodiesel. In the early days of biodiesel, the technology for the most part only allowed for vegetable oils to be processed into biodiesel. Now second-generation technologies allow for plants to have the capability to produce 100 percent of their volume out of fats and greases. That said, fats and grease prices have begun to narrow the discount they trade to soybean oil and it becomes a game of efficiencies.

If this same plant assumes an efficiency of 8.1 lbs/gallon for UCO, then they could back into what they could pay on an equivalent for soybean oil by taking $3.675/8.1 = 45 cents/lb. That said, some plants also have to take into account other efficiencies such as reduced run rates, discounts on the finished feedstock and additional catalyst needed to react the material. Once a plant can understand what these other efficiencies are on a per-gallon basis, it can simply subtract this number from the 45 cents/lb. This then lets a plant know what a better buy is.

Let’s assume a plant calculated its other costs of efficiencies at 3 cents/lb when running UCO as compared to soybean oil. This would tell the plant anytime they can buy UCO at 42 cents/lb or better that running UCO is more profitable than running 50 cent/lb soybean oil.

As mentioned above, fats and greases have begun to follow the price fluctuation of the soybean oil market closer than ever before. So where are prices going? This question highly revolves around the production of the soybean crop, and further, how many soybeans will be crushed for the production of soybean meal and soybean oil. Prices in the coming year will be highly dependent on the current growing season. We are coming off a very tight supply-and-demand table for soybeans and are projected to plant one of the largest crops to help replenish stocks. With a normal growing season we could see soybeans and soybean product prices fall considerably, which leads fats and greases. If the weather does not cooperate and production of soybeans comes in below current expectations, we could see prices hold, if not rise.

The demand for soybean oil also plays an important role in the prices for biodiesel feedstock. Soybean oil going into biodiesel now makes up just shy of 25 percent of the total soybean oil demand. It is interesting to note that the RFS2 calls for a 28 percent increase in biomass-based biodiesel while the USDA is only calling for less than a 1 percent increase in biodiesel demand for soybean oil between the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 crop years (soybean oil crop year runs from October to September of the following year). It is much more complicated to produce more fats and greases, therefore the increased demand for biodiesel feedstocks in the coming years will most likely have to be met with vegetable oils.
Nebraska’s beef producers are enjoying the benefits of a slightly more open door policy by the Japanese government regarding beef imported from the United States.

In 2003, Japan, along with other nations, instituted a ban on importing U.S. beef in 2003, after one case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was discovered in Washington state involving a Canadian-born cow. In October of 2006, the Japanese relaxed the ban, allowing beef imported from the U.S. for animals aged 20 months and under.

According to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska exported $167.9 million worth of beef to Japan in 2003. In 2007, the first full year of the 20 month and under restrictions, the U.S. exported $31 million worth of beef products to Japan. In 2011, that number was back up to $133.3 million.

Exports to Japan have risen steadily under the 20 month and under restrictions, and Nebraska ranchers are hopeful that the new 30 month and under guidelines will mean big business for Nebraskans. This change will allow for nearly 90% of available U.S. supply of beef to qualify for Japan’s new standards.

In an effort to foster good relationships, the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) and the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) are partnering on a trade mission traveling to Japan in July. The NSB and NCB will be working with staff from the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) to leverage contacts and relationships built on USMEF’s current marketing efforts in Japan.

The focus for this mission is to provide an opportunity for U.S. beef, corn and soy producers to assist in U.S. beef promotions and trade activities in the one of the busiest meat purchasing seasons. Participants will have meetings with the U.S. Embassy, retail and importer discussions, interaction with over 500 meat buyers at a meat symposium and a U.S. beef activity in the Sendai region of Japan. Main talking points for the trade mission will include the continued safety of U.S. beef that is less than 30 months and promotion of the quality of U.S. grain fed beef.

To put the value of this change into perspective, in March of 2013, Japan was the leading U.S. beef importer at 18,565 metric tons valued at more than $114 million. Exports to Japan are up 74.9% from the same time last year. This change is clearly good for Nebraska beef producers, who will be able to supply Japanese customers with the quality, value-added beef they want.

“This program is a great opportunity for us to show our support for our Japanese customers,” said NSB Executive Director Victor Bohuslavsky. “Trade missions like this allow us to build relationships with Japanese consumers who have the opportunity to get more exposure to the quality and safety of the U.S. meat products. We feel that once they try these products and meet farmers and ranchers producing them, they will become loyal customers of U.S. meat in the future.”
Making Agriculture an Attractive Place for Rail Investment

— by Mike Steenhoek, Soy Transportation Coalition

U.S. freight railroads are essential to the viability and profitability of the U.S. soybean industry. Most of the leading soybean producing states—even those with river access—significantly depend on the rail industry to satisfy customer demands. As more soybean production occurs in western states and as export terminals at Pacific Northwest ports increasingly position themselves to address growing demand from Asia, the dependence on rail will likely become more pronounced. Each year, over 900 million bushels (27.5 million tons) of U.S. soybeans are transported by rail. By the year 2020/2021, the volume moved by rail is estimated to increase to 1.4 billion bushels (42 million tons).

Rail is among the most capital intensive industries in the overall economy. It contrasts with other modes of transportation in the fact that it is privately financed and maintained. Billions of dollars are spent every year by freight railroads to augment and maintain their networks. However, despite this sizable investment, a recent study funded by the soybean checkoff estimates that a funding shortfall will likely occur between this planned investment and the future needs of the U.S. economy and the soybean industry. The study further highlights approaches that could be most effective in addressing this shortfall.

“One of the reasons an investment tax credit for rail infrastructure is so attractive, is that the credit could be designed to benefit soybean and grain shippers—not only the rail companies,” says Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the STC. “Given how constructing a single upgraded rail facility capable of loading large unit trains of soybeans and grain can cost a processor or cooperative $20 million, we gravitate toward those proposals like the tax credit that will result in making agriculture an attractive place for rail investment.”

Richard Bartek, a member of the Nebraska soybean Board from Ithaca, and a board member of the STC says a healthy rail network is vital to soybean farmers’ profitability in the long-term. “In order for Nebraska soybean farmers to be profitable, we need to ensure we have adequate rail service to connect our state with our domestic and overseas markets,” explains Bartek. “This means reliance on our freight rail network is expected to increase. Between 2010 and 2020, we predict a 36 percent growth in the volume of Nebraska soybeans transported by rail. As a result, the STC is working to promote efforts to increase the amount of rail investment in our state and across rural America.”

“During this time of economic scarcity, our country is trying to determine the most cost effective way of enhancing the capacity of our transportation infrastructure,” Steenhoek explains. “We naturally want the biggest bang for our buck. Our report suggests that approaches exist that will result in a favorable cost/benefit analysis and will practice better stewardship of limited resources. Instituting a rail investment tax credit will result in an improved infrastructure for agriculture and the overall economy in a manner that acknowledges our nation’s limited resources.”

The study further examined various financial investment incentives that could help address this funding shortfall including: 1) The Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program; 2) An investment tax credit of 25 percent; 3) Accelerated depreciation and “bonus” depreciation of 50 percent; and 4) General business tax rate reduction of corporate taxes from 35 percent to 25 percent. That analysis concluded that the investment tax credit of 25 percent with accelerated depreciation produced the most incentive for rail investment.

The analysis documents that while the federal government would annually incur $981 million in lost tax revenues by instituting an investment tax credit with accelerated depreciation, the total economic benefit to the U.S. economy would be $2.3 billion per year, including $98 million of benefits to the soybean industry alone in the form of lower rail rates and higher speed handling.
Make it a Priority to Tell Your Conservation Story

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

You could join soybean farmers like Gail Fuller of Emporia, Kansas; Jeremy Jack of Belzoni, Mississippi; and Roger Wenning of Greensburg, Indiana; who all won 2013 Conservation Legacy Awards.

Just tell the story of conservation practices on your farm and you could be one of the next regional Conservation Legacy winners.

Entries will be judged in five areas: soil management, water management, input management, farmstead protection, and conservation and environmental management. All U.S. soybean farmers are eligible to enter.

Winners from three regions (Midwest, Northeast and South) receive an expense-paid trip for two to the next Commodity Classic, February 27 - March 1, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Regional winners will be featured in video stories and a special insert in Corn & Soybean Digest. A National Conservation Legacy Award winner will be chosen from the regional winners.

Submissions are due by August 5, 2013, but don’t wait. Make it a priority to tell your conservation story now. All applications must be submitted online. See the brochure and online application are at: www.soygrowers.com/clap.

The 13th annual Conservation Legacy Awards program is sponsored by ASA, BASF, Monsanto, the United Soybean Board/soybean checkoff and Corn & Soybean Digest.
Featured Soyfoods Recipe:  
Mexican Lasagna with Tofutti Sour Cream

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

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

**NUTRITION FACTS:**
Yield: 6 servings
1 piece equals 293 calories, 11 g fat (6 g saturated fat), 25 mg cholesterol, 779 mg sodium,
6 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 15 g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 2 starch, 1 lean meat, 1 vegetable, 1 fat.

Make sure to check out the video of this recipe being made on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/NESoybeanBoard

Soybeans
Nebraska Soybean Board
Eat Well. Eat Soy.
Maybe it’s time to switch to soybean seed that doesn’t hold you back.

Farmers who plant NK® brand soybeans with the Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® trait don’t have to worry about limiting yield with older trait technology. In fact, when combined with the elite genetics you’ll find in today’s NK soybean seed, you’re likely to leave some old favorites in the dust. So talk to your NK retailer or Syngenta seed advisor today and start strong next season with NK soybean varieties tailored to the acres you farm.