SOYWATER
A web-based irrigation tool for Nebraska soybean producers... PAGE 12
TagTeam® uses the buddy system for better soybean crop yields and excellent inoculant value.

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

On Lunz Lane: We, as producers, need to do our part to produce the highest quality soybeans. Mother nature plays a large role in determining the final yield, but we also need to be aware of diseases and insects that we have in our fields and make decisions to minimize those threats.

From the Association: One year down – so how did we do? At the state level, I think some good things happened. At the national level, we had positive conversations with the Nebraska delegation on several issues of interest.

Nebraska’s AG-ceptional Women’s Conference. Everywhere from the barn to the board room, women in agriculture are making a difference.

Soy & Heart Health. Heart disease is a big deal in America.

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension Research. From disease and pest control and breeding projects to marketing strategies, workshops and field days.

2011 Nebraska Soybean Association 3-year Membership Seed Bonus Promotion. Join NSA as a new or renewing 3-year member and receive 6 FREE bags of soybean seed when you purchase 12 bags.

Renewable Fuels Standard Opens New Biodiesel Opportunity. RFS2 specifically provides for a renewable component, defined as Biomass-based Diesel, which will create a significant domestic demand for U.S. biodiesel.

Nebraska Soybean Association Selects 2011 ASA/DuPont Young Leaders. Joel and Kristi Lipp of Laurel, NE have been selected as the Nebraska Soybean Association’s (NSA) 2011 Young Leaders.

Tips for successful no-till soybean production. Plant early • Choose soybean varieties wisely • Use a fungicide seed treatment • Consider strip tilling soybeans in heavy residue situations.

The Nebraska Soybean Board will continue the “See for Yourself” program in 2010-2011. This program is designed to help soybean farmers in Nebraska take part in the various opportunities to learn and get firsthand experience in how their checkoff dollars are being spent.

Farmers selected for the program will attend checkoff sponsored activities in an attempt to better understand how the checkoff is building demand for soybeans to increase profitability. The primary goal of the program is to get more soybean farmers involved in leadership roles within the soybean industry.

The program is designed to incorporate in-state, national and international activities. The in-state program will enable farmers to attend functions in Nebraska that are vital to the continued success of the soybean industry. The national program will allow farmers to attend national 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 provide soybean farmers first-hand experience in checkoff efforts overseas, like aquaculture, which is building demand for Nebraska soybeans on a global scale.

The Nebraska Soybean Board is committed to increasing the profitability of your soybeans and wants to provide you with personal experiences to better understand checkoff activities. To get involved in or learn more about this program, please contact the Nebraska Soybean Boards office at 402-441-3240. The Board looks forward to the value you can bring to soybean production as well as Nebraska agriculture.
What a difference a year makes. That seemed to be the theme this fall as we were combining and hauling grain. I found myself actually hoping for a rainy day to catch up on “other things” outside of the combine and that did not happen until harvest was almost over. After combining, we have been busy repairing waterways, cleaning up machinery and making decisions for the 2011 crop year. All we hear about is the increasing demand for soybeans worldwide. China, the leading buyer of U.S. soybeans, continues to purchase more soybeans. So, we need to continue to produce more soybeans to meet the global demand.

The Nebraska Soybean Board funds research projects every year to benefit Nebraska soybean producers. We support research that will increase the average yield and increase the overall value of soybeans. We also fund research that helps with the utilization of soybeans for animals and aquaculture, and research for the industrial use of soybeans. In this magazine, some of the research projects that we have been funding will be highlighted.

The soybean cyst nematode (SCN) remains the most destructive pathogen of soybeans. We need to be diligent in our soil sampling and management for SCN. As a dry land producer, mother nature plays a large role in determining the final yield, but we also need to be aware of the other diseases and insects that we have in our fields and try to make management decisions to minimize those threats.

We also need to continue to support our number one customer, the animal agriculture business. As soybean producers, the livestock industry is our largest customer. The United Soybean Board has calculated that beef cattle consume 130 million bushels, dairy consume 90 million bushels, pigs consume 433 million bushels and poultry consume 500 million bushels annually. As we make our decisions for 2011, we as producers need to do our part in producing the highest quality soybeans for our domestic and international customers.

“We, as producers, need to do our part to produce the highest quality soybeans.”

The Nebraska Soybean Board is a private, non-profit checkoff board that is responsible for the research and promotion of soybeans in an effort to increase the profitability of the state’s 22,000 soybean producers.

Nebraska Soybean Board Directors
District 1
Ed Lammers, Hartington

District 2
Lisa Lunz (Chairman), Wakefield

District 3
Richard Bartek, Ithaca

District 4
Greg Greving (Vice Chairman), Chapman

District 5
Mark Caspers, Auburn

District 6
Greg Peters (Treasurer), DeWitt

District 7
Bill Miller (Secretary), Upland

District 8
Terry Horky, Sargent

At-Large
Duane Lee, Albion

United Soybean Board Directors
Mark Caspers, Auburn
Mike Korth, Randolph
Chuck Myers, Lyons
Mike Thede, Palmer

Nebraska Soybean Board Staff
Victor Bohuslavsky
Andy Chvatal
Drew Guiney
Teri Koch
Diane Muehlhausen
Lois Ronhovde
One year down – so how did we do?

– by Scott Richert, Gresham NE, NSA President

Greetings from Gresham,

Year one in my two-year term as president of your Association is now complete; so how did we do?

At the state level, I think some good things have happened. In the Nebraska 2010 Legislature we were able to help move the Livestock Care bill through. We were also able to help our friends in corn, wheat, sorghum and dry beans keep their checkoff money from being used by the state to help balance the budget. We also helped stop our ethanol checkoff from being changed into a water checkoff. Another matter of interest this year had us testifying on a beginning farmer bill trying to help young people get a start in staying on the farm. We are also continuing our efforts by working with the other Ag groups in supporting the largest users of our soybeans—the animal sector. The 2011 Nebraska legislative session begins on January 5th and we look forward to representing you on many issues that will be presented.

At the national level, we have had positive conversations with the Nebraska delegation on several issues of interest. They understand, and for the most part agree, with our positions on the bio-diesel tax extension, the estate tax fix, the IRS and the new 1099 rule and trying to reign in what EPA has been trying to do to agriculture. Unfortunately we have not had any finalization on any of these issues so far. It is both ASA’s and NSA’s top priorities to continue to push forward on these issues with both the old and new Congress. Your membership is what helps support our efforts.

The challenges are the same as many face. Membership is stagnant: out of the 20,000 soybean growers in the state we have less than 1% who are members of their association. The budget: the cost of doing business continues to rise for us also, your support helps. If you are a member “thank you.” If not, please consider joining the Nebraska and American Soybean Association and help us help you in your farming operation. Join at www.soygrowers.com. It’s tough to do all this alone, but as one strong voice we can accomplish a lot. Have a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

– by Scott Richert, Gresham, NE, NSA President

I Believe, I Belong...

I believe there has never been a greater time for farmers’ voices to be heard. Belonging to the Nebraska Soybean Association is like multiplying our voice by 20,000. Nearly every day, it seems, some Government agency is trying to make more rules and farmers need their side of the story told. That’s part of what the Nebraska Soybean Association and the American Soybean Association is doing for us everyday in Washington DC. I feel confident my soybean interests are being represented.

That’s why I believe my dues are worth the investment, and belong.

– Debbie Borg (Allen, Nebraska), District 1 Director
INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS

Represent Nebraska in 2012
United Soybean Board Director Position

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) is seeking candidates to fill a United Soybean Board (USB) Director position. If you are an interested soybean farmer please contact the NSB office.

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.

USB Directors receive no compensation but are reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out Board business. USB Directors serve three-year terms.

This position is open to all soybean farmers in Nebraska. NSB will nominate two candidates and the final selection will be made by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture. The USDA has a policy that membership on USDA boards and committees are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

Anyone interested in applying needs to meet the following criteria:
1. Be involved in a farming operation that raises soybeans.
2. Be a resident of Nebraska.
3. Be at least 21 years of age.

For more information please contact Victor Bohuslavsky at 402-432-5720 or emailing victor@nebraskasoybeans.org, before the March 1, 2011 deadline.

Seeking Candidates for Nebraska Soybean Board

There are two director seats on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) eligible for election this year. Soybean producers in Districts 5 and 7 are invited to run for election to the Nebraska Soybean Board by filing a candidacy petition by the May 13, 2011 deadline. The election of directors will be conducted via direct-mail ballots and candidate information will be provided to all producers residing within the district in which an election is to be held.

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

NSB Directors and the At-Large Position receive no salary but are reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out Board business. (Three-year terms for these seats begin October 1, 2011 and end September 30, 2013)

Director seats open are:
- District 5: Counties of Cass, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee and Richardson
- District 7: Counties of Adams, Buffalo, Clay, Franklin, Hall, Kearney, Nuckolls and Webster

Candidates for the NSB seats and the At-Large position must be:
- A Resident of Nebraska
- 21 years of age or older
- Soybean producer in Nebraska for at least 5 previous years

Prospective candidates must collect the signatures of fifty soybean producers in their district using an official Nebraska Soybean Board Candidacy Petition and return such petition to the Nebraska Soybean Board office on or before May 13, 2011, to be eligible for placement on the ballot. To obtain a candidacy petition, contact Victor Bohuslavsky at the Nebraska Soybean Board by calling 402-432-5720 or emailing victor@nebraskasoybeans.org.

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

Two Nebraska Soybean Farmers Appointed to United Soybean Board

Two Nebraska soybean farmers will be representing Nebraska on the United Soybean Board (USB). Appointed to the board and returning to fulfill an additional three-year term is USB Director Mike Thede, of Palmer, Nebraska. The newest USB Director appointment is Gregg Fujan, of Weston, Nebraska. Both Farm-Leaders will benefit the USB with their wealth of experience and perspective about the soybean industry.

“There are certainly benefits to being on the board,” says Mike Thede, “USB directors give their time, energy and effort to work on behalf of their fellow soybean farmers to invest checkoff dollars in their best interests.”

Gregg Fujan recently served as the Chairman of the Nebraska Soybean Board and as the NSB District Three Director for nine years, he looks forward to taking that leadership to the national board.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the appointment of 34 farmer-leaders to the USB and soybean checkoff. All appointees will serve three-year terms beginning immediately and represent the interests of all U.S. soybean farmers.

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.
Everywhere from the barn to the board room, women in agriculture are making a difference. As leaders, producers, and partners, women in Agriculture influence, make decisions and promote the well-being of agriculture world-wide. These women rise to meet the challenges of their operations everyday in an AG-ceptional way.

A conference set in Norfolk, Nebraska acknowledges the importance of women in agriculture and has become an annual tradition at Northeast Community College. The 2nd Annual AG-ceptional Women’s Conference was held on November 19, 2010. Over 300 women gathered in the Lifelong Learning Center to share an incredible experience as they listened, learned, and laughed about agriculture and life.

The initial idea for the conference grew out of a conversation between Bonnie Schultz, Agriculture Technology instructor and Corinne Morris, Associate Dean of Agriculture at the College. Thinking of farm wives and other women in agriculture, Morris suggested that the Ag department develop a new initiative. Bonnie’s eyes lit up with enthusiasm: “We should host our own women in Ag conference!” She shared how the Women in Agriculture conference she attended years before in Kearney had changed her life. “Before that, I didn’t know there was such a support system – I needed that. I needed a place to network – I kept thinking of friends who needed it as well. I haven’t missed one since.” Schulz’s vision and leadership as director for the first conference of its kind in northeast Nebraska laid a strong foundation in 2009. Morris took her turn in 2010 directing the second annual conference.

The conference mission is to “empower women to meet the challenges of a diverse industry.” Women obtain information on management skills, confidence in decision making, and are motivated to achieve an overall sense of well being thus enabling them to reach their goals. The generous support of 78 sponsors from the agricultural industry helped to keep the conference affordable. The 2010 conference featured two keynote speakers and twenty-seven workshops. Nebraska Soybean Board sponsored keynote speaker Pat McGill, who encouraged participants to live life on purpose, stating that the differences between us are gifts to our family, our farms and our communities. Workshops in four breakout sessions focused on topics in production, marketing, communication, health, and advocacy. Monsanto/Gothenburg Water Utilization Learning Center sponsored closing keynote speaker. Julie Burney emphasized the importance of a sense of humor and reminded women that those who laugh – last!

**AG-ceptional Women’s Conference**

**Keynote speaker**

Pat McGill

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**AG-ceptional Women**

by Corinne Morris

A story to tell, a lesson to learn. AG-ceptional women are taking their turn. The seeds they plant grow tall and strong. They’ve been ignored for far too long. Let’s give credit where credit is due. AG-ceptional women are making it through.

They make it through good times, they make it through tough. They make sure there’s more than enough. They work, they give, they laugh, they love. They stand tall when push comes to shove. Let’s give credit where credit is due, AG-ceptional women are tried and true.

The barn, the field, and tractor too. Office, industry, business or school. The garden, garage, yard, or home. Where ever they are, let it be known. The difference they make is felt, it’s real. We cannot act like it’s no big deal.

They make it through good times, they make it through tough. They make sure there’s more than enough. They work, they give, they laugh, they love. They stand tall when push comes to shove. Let’s give credit where credit is due, AG-ceptional women are tried and true.
Heart disease is a big deal in America

by the United Soybean Board

The most recent data (2006) shows that an estimated 16.8 million Americans were affected by coronary heart disease (CHD). It is also estimated that nearly 800,000 Americans suffered a new coronary attack; 500,000 had a recurrent attack; and an additional 200,000 had a silent first heart attack. Did this get your attention? It should. Most likely you know someone who has suffered from coronary heart disease. This is a disease split evenly between men and women. The average age at which a first heart attack occurs is 64.5 for men and 70.3 for women. In 2006, 20% of all the deaths in America were attributed to CHD.

FDA-Approved Health Claim for Soy:

25 grams of soy protein per day, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease.

Wait… is there something we can do to prevent CHD?

The FDA approved the health claim that 25 grams of soy protein per day, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease. Soyfoods have been recognized by nutritionists for decades as rich sources for high-quality protein. This is really nothing new. Asian countries, where soyfoods are a staple in the diet, have experienced the benefits of soy protein for years. The protein directly lowers blood cholesterol levels.

In 1995, this data became more widely acceptable. In that year, clinical data which included 38 different comparisons, found that soy protein reduced low-density-lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol by approximately 12 percent. These results prompted further investigation into the cholesterol-lowering effects of soy protein. In 1999, the U.S. Food Drug Administration (FDA) approved the earlier mentioned, health claim for soy protein and CHD based on its cholesterol-lowering effects. In total, more than 100 clinical trials have been completed, all measuring these effects. Although trials have had varying results, in the end, they all confirm that soy protein can have a lowering effect on LDL. The degree in which it lowers the LDL is what has confused the public. Depending on the soyfoods used in the study, and the health factors of the people used in each study, the results have averaged lower than the previously reported 12 percent. However, it is important to note that a two to five percent reduction in LDL is quite meaningful. Over time, each one percent decrease in LDL reduces CHD risk and or mortality by as much as two to five percent. Therefore, the three percent reduction in LDL is still good and over time each one percent could lower the risk for heart disease by as much as 10 percent.

So, adding soy protein to a diet that’s low in saturated fat can reduce your risk of heart disease. The FDA has adopted the figure of twenty-five grams per day as its recommendation. Most of the trials done to test this used 25 grams; however, there is evidence to suggest that lower amounts are still helpful in reducing LDL.
Even if you don’t get to 25 grams of soy protein a day, you are still able to benefit from the cholesterol lowering properties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soyfood</th>
<th>Serving size</th>
<th>Grams of soy protein</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fortified soymilk</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy cereal</td>
<td>1 ¼ cup</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy yogurt, vanilla</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy breakfast patty</td>
<td>2 patties</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy bar</td>
<td>1 bar</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy chips</td>
<td>1 bag</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy nut butter</td>
<td>2 Tbsp</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy nuts, roasted, unsalted</td>
<td>¼ cup</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofu</td>
<td>½ cup</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edamame</td>
<td>½ cup</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy burger</td>
<td>1 patty</td>
<td>13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy pasta</td>
<td>½ cup (cooked)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy pudding</td>
<td>½ cup</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even if you don’t get to 25 grams of soy protein a day, you are still able to benefit from the cholesterol lowering properties.

The predominate fatty acid in soybeans is the essential omega-6 fatty acid, which has been proven to reduce blood cholesterol levels. Recently, the American Heart Association rejected some concerns about the pro-inflammatory properties of omega-6 fats and concluded that these fatty acids play a critical role in heart-healthy diets. In addition to providing omega-6 fats, soybeans provide alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), an essential omega-3 fatty acid. This is the same fatty acid found in cold-water fish; evidence suggests that ALA also has direct coronary benefits.

In summary, soyfoods may make important contributions to heart healthy diets by

- Providing high-quality protein, but minimal amounts of saturated fat
- Directly lowering blood cholesterol levels
- Modestly elevating HDL and decreasing triglyceride levels
- Providing omega-6 and omega-3 essential fatty acids
- Favorably affecting CHD risk factors

For more information about how to add soyfoods to your diet, watch for a series of “Cooking with Soy” videos on Soy TV within the nebraskasoybeans.org site.

Recent research indicates that soy protein lowers LDL cholesterol by 3 to 5 percent. On a population level, each 1 percent decrease in LDL reduces CHD risk and/or mortality by 2 to 5 percent. Therefore, even a 3 percent reduction in LDL could lower risk for heart disease by as much as 15 percent.
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.**
Thank you for this great opportunity to be part of the winter issue of SOYBEANEBRASKA. In the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we appreciate the opportunity to update you on the work your check-off dollars help support.

Soybean farmers’ check-off funds help support important work in soybean breeding, disease resistance, altering protein and oil content, and water use efficiency. Your check-off funds also help provide you unbiased, research-based information that can make a difference in your operations.

In IANR we talk about being at work for Nebraska, which means we are at work with Nebraska, too. Land-grant universities, to fulfill our responsibilities as the people’s universities, understand we cannot do the work Nebraskans want and need without your input and support.

Through commodity board funding, IANR is able to connect to and address the research and educational needs of farmers, as defined by farmers. That is tremendously important to us.

During fiscal year 2010 the Nebraska Soybean Board provided $1,115,141 in support of IANR’s land-grant university missions of research, teaching and extension. Funding you provided the North Central Soybean Research Program returned as $92,500 in funding for work occurring in IANR, as did $524,457 from the United Soybean Board. That’s a total of $1,732,098 in support of research, teaching and extension education that supports the soybean industry in Nebraska. Your check-off dollars are vital to the work we do.

As I’ve traveled Nebraska since becoming IANR vice chancellor last July, people often ask me about the new global Water for Food Institute at the university, begun with a wonderful $50 million gift from the Robert B. Daugherty Charitable Foundation. It will focus on water for agriculture. Funding provided by Nebraska and national commodity boards each year also is a wonderful gift, the equivalent of an $80 million endowment.

In my travels Nebraskans also tell me of the importance they place on preparing students for the future, on seeking solutions to the state’s concerns, on helping sustain and grow Nebraska’s economy and quality of life. They speak of the need for rural revitalization and ag literacy, of state budget concerns, and what that means for IANR as an economic engine for Nebraska.

Your support is critical in helping us define and address these issues. Together we are not only IANR at work for Nebraska, we are Nebraskans at work for Nebraska. That makes a tremendous team, one it is a very real privilege to be part of it. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Ronnie D. Green, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR
A new University of Nebraska-Lincoln website is helping Nebraska soybean farmers optimize irrigation efficiency and energy.

SoyWater, at soywater.unl.edu, offers soybean growers an easy-to-use tool to get real-time estimates of crop water use. It calculates daily crop water use and soil water balance so soybean growers don’t have to hand-calculate this information. SoyWater also helps producers make better irrigation scheduling decisions and minimize the amount of irrigation water needed for optimal crop production. That in turn will reduce seasonal water withdrawals from the Ogallala Aquifer and lessen energy costs for pumping.

While SoyWater is not an absolute indicator of when to irrigate, it is a decision-aid tool that producers can use along with their skills and expertise to decide when to irrigate and how much to apply.

“Nebraska soybean producers using SoyWater will be able to know beforehand the seasonal date when each vegetative and reproductive stage is expected to occur, and during the season, how much soil water the crop has extracted on each day,” said James Specht, UNL soybean geneticist. “With that knowledge, producers can apply irrigation and other management practices with a precise stage-specific timing that will deliver a maximum yield return bang for the buck spent, thus optimizing soybean producer profitability.”

SoyWater asks a few, simple questions specific to the field and then provides daily estimates of crop water use and soil water status.

Users log on and after just a few mouse clicks, SoyWater provides a table of real-time, actual daily weather data for computing daily crop water use from planting (or emergence) to the day before producer log-in. It then uses historical weather data to compute daily crop water use from the day of log-in to the day of expected crop maturity. The daily weather data is from a weather station of the Automated Weather Data Network maintained by the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Based on this information, SoyWater will highlight the projected date when the first, or next, irrigation should be scheduled and projects the dates of specific soybean vegetative and reproductive growth stages.

SoyWater can be useful to both rainfed and irrigated soybean growers interested in predicting the date of a vegetative or reproductive growth stage. This information also helps producers make other crop management decisions for a particular soybean field, such as when the effectiveness of a herbicide or fungicide depends on application at a specific growth stage.

Minimal input is required. Needed information includes the Global Positioning Satellite coordinates for the field, soybean planting or emergence date, maturity group of the soybean variety and soil texture of the field.

SoyWater generates a table of data, including crop water use, daily soil water status, crop growth stage and suggested irrigation dates from this data.

Other irrigation-related applications also are available on the SoyWater website.

The website was designed by a UNL group of post-doctoral research associates, faculty and staff.

The Nebraska Soybean Board helps fund this project.
UNL Entomologists Developing IPM Program for Stink Bug in Nebraska Soybeans

by Sandi Alswager Karstens

Stink bugs decrease soybean quality and yields. As they continue to be more common in Nebraska, UNL entomologists are developing a Nebraska-specific integrated pest management program for the problem.

The pest is fairly new and little Nebraska-specific information exists. Most stink bug research is done in the South and on the East Coast, where the environment is significantly different than Nebraska’s, and where the bugs also are a pest of cotton and other crops, said Bob Wright, UNL entomologist.

Since there is lack of data on stink bugs and their management in the North Central U.S., Wright and Tom Hunt, UNL entomologist, are working on a project that assesses the risk for stink bug damage to Nebraska soybeans and have begun to develop an integrated pest management program for stink bugs in Nebraska.

"Effective management of stink bugs will protect soybean yield and quality, resulting in a high quality product that Nebraska soybean farmers can offer to a wide variety of customers," said Hunt. Several studies were conducted in 2010 at Concord, Mead and Clay Center to document the seasonal occurrence of stink bug species in soybeans in Nebraska and assess the relative risk of stink bug damage to soybean.

They also will develop a stink bug monitoring system that helps farmers/consultants determine when to scout, initiate Nebraska-specific research on the effects of stink bugs on soybean and determine the efficacy of established and new insecticides on stink bugs.

Past records indicate the major stink bug species found in Nebraska soybean fields are the green stink bug and the brown stink bug. Adult green stink bugs are bright green and adult brown stink bugs are brown with yellow or light green underside. Green stink bug nymphs change color and pattern as they grow.

Studies in 2010 documented three other plant feeding stink bug species, as well as a predatory stink bug, the spined soldier bug.

Nymph and adult stink bugs injure soybeans by puncturing various plant parts and extracting plant fluids. The bugs prefer young, tender growth and developing seeds. As they feed, they inject digestive enzymes, which cause deformation and loss of seeds and pods. They also open up the feeding site to various pathogens.

Stink bugs can cause delayed maturity and deformed leaf growth. Yield and quality losses depend on when the bugs injure soybean and can be severe.

Entomologists have determined that the relationships between soybean and other pests, such as bean leaf beetle and soybean aphids in Nebraska, vary significantly from those in other soybean production regions, even in nearby states, such as Iowa, and is believed to be the case with stink bugs.

Data from 2010 indicated that a greater diversity of plant feeding stink bugs occurred at the two eastern locations compared with Clay Center.

Wright said their plan to manage stink bugs will be a comprehensive plan that addresses all major insects in an integrated fashion.

The Nebraska Soybean Board helps fund this project.

UNL Entomologists Developing IPM Program for Stink Bug in Nebraska Soybeans

Brown stink bug

Green stink bug
Soybean Breeding

– by Cheryl Alberts

Nebraska’s 22,000 soybean growers experience a wide variety of growing conditions. It’s what you would expect from more than 5 million Nebraska acres planted to the increasingly popular legume.

Investments made by the Nebraska Soybean Board for Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources research into those growing conditions helps ensure Nebraska varieties will be adapted to the varied production environments found in Nebraska, says George Graef, an IANR soybean breeder at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

IANR research plots on multiple sites in actual producer fields, under actual field conditions show how well varieties hold up under varying soil type, soil fertility, irrigation, rainfall, high pH, mineral deficiencies and climate.

"We learn about the major challenges within the producer environment and the varieties that respond to those challenges," Graef said.

Work in Graef’s laboratory complements Nebraska field research. "The lab is an additional tool that helps us identify specific genes or genomic regions that we want to manipulate in our breeding program," he said.

Graef is working with two soybean lines in which the germplasm showed a reduced rate of the naturally occurring P34 – one of the major proteins that can cause an allergic reaction to soybeans in some people and animals. That’s important because soybean’s many food uses range from infant formula to swine rations.

"It won’t be allergen-free, but the P34 allergen will be significantly reduced," Graef said, adding, "We are making good progress on all our soybean research objectives."

Besides research to increase soybean yields adapted for Nebraska conditions, the objectives include germplasm and cultivars developed for specialty and food-grade markets and for quality traits such as oil and protein for biofuels or neutraceuticals; and disease and insect resistance.

Graef is studying two soybean lines to balance protein and oil. Soybeans bred for high protein often can have less oil; beans bred for more oil often have less protein. "When you change one thing, it affects other things," he explained.

Other lab work involves developing genetic material resistant to aphids and soybean mosaic virus, and with low phytic acid in soybean seeds.

Low phytic acid, together with increased protein content, should improve feeding efficiency and nutritional value of soybean meal and reduce excess phosphorous in livestock manure.

"The DNA information from the lab helps us to be more efficient in our field evaluation program, because we can identify early in the process those genotypes from a cross that have the specific genes for a trait that we want," Graef said.

Then, he said, resources for the field plots throughout the state can be more focused on identifying lines with the best yield and important agronomic traits to go together with those oil and meal quality traits, and disease resistant traits selected from lab results.

Much of Nebraska’s harvested soybeans go by rail to the Pacific Northwest, where they are destined for overseas markets. About 60 percent of the world’s soybean exports go to China.

During a trade mission to China early in 2010, Nebraska soybean producers learned Chinese buyers want soybeans with high protein and oil content. U.S. beans are lower in those traits than those produced in Brazil and Argentina because of differences in climate. However, Chinese processors prefer the color of North American beans.

The soybean board is one of the best supporters of land-grant university research in the region, Graef added. "Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and all states with significant soybean programs have support; the Nebraska Soybean Board’s commitment to research is one of the best."
Increasing Protein and Oil Content in Nebraska Soybeans

– by Teshome H. Regassa

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is partnering with the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) on two fronts to increase the protein and oil content of Nebraska grown soybean crops. The variety testing program of the university extension, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, evaluates available commercial hybrids for yield, protein, oil, and other agronomic performances. Information generated allows producers to identify the best commercial hybrids available to grow in Nebraska. The program, in collaboration with the NSB and FFA, runs protein and oil analysis on hybrids currently grown by participating producers. This allows the producers to compare their hybrids to commercially available hybrids.

“Protein and oil are the main reason someone buys the soybean crop our producers grow,” said Teshome Regassa, UNL crop variety extension educator. “So the goal is to make sure that Nebraska producers have the best information they can have to grow the best quality soybeans and have the best competitive power at market place by meeting customers’ demands for a soybean high in oil and protein content.”

Regassa conducts variety tests for UNL and indicated that yield, protein, and oil test results form hybrids tested in Nebraska appear in a national database, known as the Soybean Quality Toolbox developed in cooperation with the United Soybean Board.

UNL recently began adding its testing information to this database, “and we are excited to see our producers and clientele use it to access local and

Continued on next page
regional information on soybeans,” Regassa said.

“The Soybean Quality Toolbox is very useful to producers, crop consultants and the seed industry in identifying commercially available hybrids with good protein and oil levels,” he said. “Protein and oil content are found to be affected by variety (genetics) and local conditions which includes crop management.”

The Toolbox is an asset to identify the hybrid best suited to a specific location. Information on soybean variety testing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln can be found at cropwatch.unl.edu/web/varietytest/soybeans. One can access the soybean tool kit on the same page following the link under the menu on the right Soybean Quality Toolbox. Regassa said UNL Extension is planning to include topics on how to use the tool kit in one of the upcoming crop diagnostic clinics.

Thanks to Nebraska Soybean Board funding, UNL also conducts testing of farmer-submitted soybean samples for protein and oil content. This program, now in its fifth year, allows farmers to send in a half pound of samples, which then are analyzed at UNL, and provides farmers with an individual analysis of the protein and oil content of their crop. The NSB works with Nebraska 4-H and FFA chapters to help collect and submit samples. In 2009, Regassa said the average protein percentage from the 286 samples tested was 33.8, with a range of 29.4 to 37.8 percent. That average is down slightly from the 35 percent goal. The average oil content of the 2009 crops was 18.7 percent, with a range of 16.7 to 20.5 percent. That figure, too, is slightly less than the 19 percent goal.

Regassa noted that farmers cannot control some factors that affect oil and protein content, such as weather and other environmental conditions. But they can control which hybrid to grow, the rotation to use, fertilizer management and other factors.

Regassa said knowing the achievable protein percentage may help in planning to produce for the high protein market creating a niche market outlet for such soybeans.

Soybean farmers are encouraged to access the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Variety Testing webpage to select the best performing hybrids. More information is also available at the local UNL Extension offices or the Nebraska Soybean Board (800-852-2326) . We are here to serve you. Call the variety testing program or your county extension office for questions.
WINNING THE GAME
Pre- and Post-Harvest Marketing Workshops

– by Cheryl Alberts

Corn and soybean producers need every edge they can get when it comes to pre- and post-harvest marketing decisions.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension’s “Winning the Game” workshops helps them design a marketing plan that seeks increased grain prices and decreased production and marketing risks, said Doug Jose, extension farm management specialist.

“Winning the Game helps farmers navigate the many challenges of the market and make good, sound decisions,” Jose said.

Each winter extension holds workshops in communities across the eastern two-thirds of Nebraska. The workshops, which are organized by community sponsors, address either pre-harvest or post-harvest marketing, Jose said. About 375 people participated in 18 workshops in 2010.

The sponsors of the workshops include insurance agencies, bankers, machinery dealers and cooperatives, Jose said. The sponsors provide the venue, market the workshops and sometimes provide refreshments or a meal.

It is up to the sponsors to decide whether to host the pre- or post-harvest workshop or both. The sponsor also determines whether to charge to participate for the three-hour workshop, but usually it is offered at no cost, he said.

Farmers taking the workshops have positive things to say about it, Jose said. The primary topics have been grain prices, seasonal trends and crop insurance. It also touches on the complicated futures market.

The program includes a marketing simulation exercise that demonstrates potential income increase of about 15 cents per bushel for corn and 25 cents per bushel for soybeans. Eighty-five percent of 2010 participants said they would forward-price more grain as a result, increasing forward contracting from 40 percent to 58 percent of total production.

No specific dates for 2011's sessions had been scheduled at press time, but they will be held in January, February and March.

Winning the Game is supported by the Nebraska Soybean Board.

“Winning the Game helps farmers navigate the many challenges of the market and make good, sound decisions”

– Doug Jose
Every August, University of Nebraska-Lincoln extension personnel take their soybean expertise to the farmers who need it and profit from it. Soybean Management Field Days, sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board, is held in four venues across the state. The 2010 field days were held August 10-13 near Phillips, Stella, Tekamah and Mead.

“Soybean Management Field Days is an excellent example of what extension does best,” said Keith Glewen, the UNL Extension educator who coordinates the event. “We take unbiased, research-based knowledge and provide it to the producers who need it.”

“It’s also a great partnership with the Nebraska Soybean Board,” Glewen added.

The 2010 field days, the 12th annual event, addressed the topics of: marketing, policy and risk management; nutrient management; managing disease, insect and weed problems; and row spacing, plant population, planting date and water management.

The topics presented each year are taught by UNL faculty and a few industry representatives, Glewen said. The 342 people attending represented 315,519 acres and reported the knowledge gained would result in an anticipated savings of $9.26 per acre.

Field day participants have reported they have saved money by planting less seed, using more water-efficient practices, improving their marketing decisions and implementing better insect control methods.

Greg Peters, a member of the Nebraska Soybean Board and frequent Soybean Management Field Days participant, said the program is very helpful to producers.

“It lets producers know what research projects the board is funding. It shows producers in the field what practical items we’re researching,” he said.

The program is rotated to different sites from year to year so producers don’t have to travel too far, he noted.

Peters encouraged producers with ideas for future Soybean Management Field Days to contact Glewen. “We’re always looking for suggestions and comments,” he said.

A sampling of the participant comments on the training include:

• Very relevant to producer’s concerns.
• I liked the way the subjects were presented to small groups.
• A great program. Well worth my time. Learned things that will improve my bottom line.
• The best field day I’ve ever attended!
• As a financial officer, I feel this class has helped me to relate and develop better relationships with my customers through knowledge.
• Good job to all presenters. Appreciate unbiased opinions.
• Great information that I plan on applying to my practices.
• I came twice. Well worth it! If I can incorporate what I learned and it all worked, weather cooperating, up to $50 per acre knowledge gained is not at all impossible
• This was a very worthwhile training for me to attend. Harvest loss segment and glyphosate resistance and marketing segments were very valuable to me.
• Great speakers. A good learning experience.
• Well planned. Excellent presentation of up-to-date information. Thank you!

In 12 years of Soybean Management Field Days, more than 5,400 people have participated. The average value of programs since 1999 is $4.2 million, with the total average value of knowledge gained estimated at $8.89 per acre.
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Join as a new or renewing 3-year member for $250 and when you purchase 12 bags of soybean seed, you will receive 6 bags free! Offer good till December 31, 2011

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To check on the status of your membership or for more details on the seed bonus promtion contact the NSA office at 402/441-3239 or email: association@nebraskasoybeans.org

Recruit your neighbor to join!

If You Believe…Belong
Research tells us food product recalls and undercover video investigations prompt consumers to question the safety of their food. With this in mind, the theme of this year’s Center for Food Integrity (CFI) Food System Summit was “Can We Trust Our Food?”

“There is a growing disconnect between consumers and today’s food,” said Terry Fleck, executive director at CFI. “We wanted to create conversation within the food system about why our food can be trusted and how to more clearly communicate that message to consumers.”

The more than 130 people in attendance in Chicago represented the entire food system, according to Fleck.

“The diversity of the audience this year was as good as we’ve ever had,” he said. “Whether they came from academia, or food production, or retailing, or foodservice – they were all there.”

Summit attendees took in presentations from celebrity chef Charlie Trotter, Deputy USDA Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, Mary Lou Quinlan of the market research firm Just Ask a Woman and a host of other experts addressing the issues of Food Safety, Nutrition and Health, Food Animal Well-Being, and Technology and Innovation.

“We wanted our featured speakers to really speak to the consumer side of the issues,” said Fleck. “What makes the Summit unique, I think, is the perspectives that are presented are not the typical ones everyone is accustomed to hearing.”

The diverse opinions shared at the event might even cause what Fleck calls “healthy tension.”

“If someone came to the Summit with a more radical perspective, maybe they mellowed somewhat. If someone came in dead set in favor of maintaining the status quo, they may have felt a little uncomfortable with some of the information shared. I think that is really what draws people to this event.”

Some of the data from CFI’s 4th annual Consumer Trust Research raised eyebrows, Fleck said.

“The Humane Society of the United States is seen as the most credible voice when it comes to the humane treatment of animals,” said Fleck. “It’s something the food animal side of the industry may not want to hear but it is something that needs to be understood.”

The survey also showed clear gender differences on food system issues.

“Women are much more sensitive to issues within the food system than men,” Fleck said. “Women are going to be on the leading edge of societal change. We need to be providing them a deeper level of information than, perhaps, a male audience.”

The research also shows that all population segments are looking more and more to the internet for information on food system issues.

“They are going to the internet first and primarily using search engines to find what they’re looking for,” Fleck said. “They’re looking less at local television, cable and newspapers.”

In the over scheme of things, Fleck said the trend toward consumers going to the internet for information is positive for the food system.

“It doesn’t take millions of dollars to have an impact. If we have informative, web-based platforms and we can get them well positioned with search engines then we create the opportunity to ensure we have a mature, balanced voice out there to address consumer concerns.”
The Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS2) was enacted as part of the 2007 Energy Bill. RFS2 for the first time specifically provides for a renewable component, defined as Biomass-based Diesel, in U.S. diesel fuel. This represents a significant structural improvement over the previous version of the program that will create a significant domestic demand for U.S. biodiesel.

As the process to implement RFS2 commenced, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initially issued a proposed rule that was largely unworkable. Among other things, the lifecycle analysis in the proposed rule would have disqualified virtually all vegetable oils – including soybean oil – from the Biomass-based Diesel program and would have imposed unrealistic compliance burdens on both farmers and biodiesel producers. The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) deployed a host of technical, lobbying, legal, grassroots and communications assets during the rulemaking process, and the final rule issued at the beginning of the year largely remedied the issues raised by our industry. This success would not have been possible without the support of the Nebraska Soybean Board.

This year served as a transition to RFS2, with the rule implementing the program taking effect on July 1, 2010. As 2011 approaches, the RFS2 program will move beyond the transition stage and provide more stability in the marketplace, and both biodiesel stakeholders and obligated parties will have a clear understanding of the fuel volumes that must be used in the marketplace.

Specifically, in 2011, the law requires the domestic use of 800 million gallons of Biomass-based Diesel. For some perspective, this minimum volume requirement exceeds the roughly 700 million gallons of biodiesel produced domestically in 2008, the top year for U.S. biodiesel production. The requirement increases to 1 billion gallons in 2012. From 2013 through 2022, the requirement is 1 billion gallons, and the Administrator of the EPA has the authority to increase the volumes. A NBB task force appointed by Chairman Ed Hegland is already working to analyze and formulate the industry’s position on Biomass-based Diesel volumes for 2013 and beyond.

Biodiesel is the only commercial scale, domestically produced fuel that qualifies as Biomass-based Diesel, and the U.S. biodiesel industry is well positioned to provide the fuel necessary to meet the volume requirements provided for under the RFS2 program. NBB’s membership has both the registered production capacity and available feedstock to meet and exceed the RFS2 Biomass-based Diesel volume requirements. As with this year, NBB will continue working to help the industry navigate the RFS2 program; interact with the EPA to improve the form and function of the program; and serve as forceful industry advocates against ongoing and future legal, regulatory and legislative efforts to undo or diminish the common sense goals of the RFS2 Biomass-based Diesel program. The Nebraska Soybean Board’s support of these efforts is sincerely appreciated, and is certain to yield tangible benefits for the U.S. biodiesel industry in the very near future.
Nebraska Soybean Association Selects 2011 ASA/DuPont Young Leaders

Cedar County soybean producers Joel and Kristi Lipp of Laurel, NE have been selected as the Nebraska Soybean Association’s (NSA) 2011 Young Leader. The Lipp’s were chosen from a group of applicants by the NSA Young Leader committee.

The Young Leader Program is sponsored by the American Soybean Association and Pioneer Hi-Bred a DuPont business. It is designed to recognize and strengthen leadership in the agricultural community as well as cultivate producer leaders who are shaping the U.S. soybean industry.

The Lipp’s are involved with the family corn and soybean row crop operation in Cedar county where they also have a cow/calf and cattle operation. In addition to farming the couple is involved with their local church, 4-H and school. The Lipp’s have 5 children that enjoy being raised on the family farm.

Joel earned a degree in Business Administration and Finance as well as a degree is Livestock Management. Kristi holds a degree in Psychology. Joel says, “the top issues facing our industry today are the promotion and use of renewable fuels, promoting food safety, as well as the need to access free trade and world markets.”

The Lipp’s will join the 2011 class of Young Leaders, which is made up of selected leaders from each soybean producing state, to participate in a challenging and educational leadership experience December 5-8, 2010 at Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, IA. They will complete the second part of training March 1-5, 2011 in Tampa, FL in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic.

Young Leader committee chairman, Jason Lavene of Bertrand says, “this program has been instrumental in helping to identify and develop some of the top soybean industry leaders in the state. Several past winners have gone on to serve in leadership positions with our state and national organizations.”
Tips for successful no-till soybean production  – David L. Wright, Ph D (Director of Research)

No-till farming is a growing practice in many areas of the United States. An estimated 50 percent of the acres planted to soybeans in 2009 were done so without tillage according to a recent USDA Economic Research Service report. Farmers are adapting no-till soybean production at a faster rate than they are for corn, cotton and rice.

There are many motives for adapting no-till. Some see it as a “greener” way to produce a global food supply while conserving soil and water resources so generations to come will be able to enjoy the benefits we do. Others see it as building resiliency into a production system faced with challenges of floods, drought, diseases and pests influenced in part by changes in climate. No matter what the reason, no-till practitioners are emphatic in their belief that it contributes to the sustainability of soybean production.

Long time practitioners of no-till admit there is no one way of doing it. Soils respond differently to no-till, so no single piece of equipment or common practice guarantees success. Successful no-tillers admit, however, they’ve learned from their mistakes and from listening to others.

Jim Specht, University of Nebraska, professor of agronomy offers these words of advice for getting the most out of no-till soybean production systems.

Plant early – In Nebraska, the yield penalty for delayed planting is between 0.25 and 0.625 bushels per acre per day of planting delay after May 1.

Choose soybean varieties wisely – Variety selection for field-specific problems such as diseases and SCN is important for success in no-till. Loren Giesler, University of Nebraska Extension plant pathologist agrees and says, “Farmers who know they have SCN can gain, on average, five to six bushels per acre simply by planting a SCN-resistant soybean variety, according to yield trials.”

Use a fungicide seed treatment – There is no doubt that seed-applied fungicides improve stand establishment in cool soils common in no-till fields. This is especially important to farmers who are planting fewer seeds per acre to reduce input costs without sacrificing yield. To them, every plant counts. To others, it’s insurance. University studies show that soybeans are very resilient and will compensate for a few missing plants.

The benefit of using an insecticide seed treatment is unclear. Some university research shows that an insecticide seed treatment alone doesn’t always improve yield. The research also shows yield increases are inconsistent when an insecticide/fungicide seed treatment is used. Although the industry doesn’t have a complete understanding of how to use this technology, the observed benefits can’t be ignored.

Consider strip tilling soybeans in heavy residue situations – For those soybean producers whose prior crop corn yields were high, there will be a lot of corn residue left behind. Specht says, “For every pound of grain removed there is a pound of residue left behind so, a 250 bushel per acre corn crop leaves behind 14,336 pounds of residue per acre.” He suggests producers will get better planter soil closure over the soybean seed if a strip of corn residue has been cleared. The soil in that strip also warms up faster, which benefits early planted soybeans.

Every year more farmers are seeing the wisdom and rewards – both economic and personal – in no-till soybean production systems. Because each farm is different, there’s no single formula for sustainable success in no-till, but these principles are a good place to begin.
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