An Af-Fair to Remember

The NSB and NPPA's 12-foot pig was a main attraction at the 2012 Nebraska State Fair. Read more on page 8.
Along Greg’s Gravel Road: “It’s been a tough growing season”
Harvest will be starting shortly and with it comes a time to think about our end customers, both here and abroad.

From the Association: What happens when it doesn’t rain?
The drought of 2012 has done more than just plague the crops that we raise. It has put a severe strangle hold on the Mississippi River system.

Districts 3 and 6 Directors Elected to the Nebraska Soybean Board
Richard Bartek - District 3 and Greg Peters - District 6 elected. Ed Lammers ran unopposed, remains District 1 Director.

Aquaculture: Stakeholders Meeting/Soybean-based Feed
Forecast for aquaculture in targeted international markets. A feed formulation has been designed that incorporates up to 40% protein and 50% lipid with soybean-based oil and protein.

2013 College Scholarship Opportunity
Scholarship to go to a high school senior who intends to pursue agriculture as a degree area of study.

Ups and Downs: Markets, Yields, and Temperatures
What normally fills the grain cart from 10 acres, might not fill the grain cart with 80 acres this year.

Nebraska Soybean Supporting U.S. Pork in Japan
The relationship between the Nebraska soybean farmers and American pork exports was on full display in Japan.

The Truth About Biodiesel: Benefits for Both Farmers AND Ranchers
There are still many misconceptions surrounding biodiesel production, and these factors can inhibit the growth of the industry.

ASA Membership Matters: State and National Benefits
Important policy work at the state and national level is paid for by your voluntary membership dues.

NCSRP board visits Nebraska; learns about SoyWater
NCSRP is a partnership of 12 soybean checkoff organizations, including Nebraska, that work to improve soybean performance through research and education.
Interested in Learning More About the Soybean Checkoff?

Come See for Yourself this year!

The Nebraska Soybean Board is set to kick off another year of its “See for Yourself” program this fall. The See for Yourself program is designed to give Nebraska soybean farmers the opportunity to learn more about their checkoff. Farmers selected to take part in the program will attend checkoff-sponsored activities in an attempt to gain a better understanding of how their checkoff dollars are being invested to build demand and increase profitability.

See for Yourself is designed to include the opportunity to attend state, national and international activities. The in-state program gives farmers the chance to attend functions in Nebraska that are vital to the continued success of the soybean industry. The national program includes attending meetings sponsored by the United Soybean Board, United States Meat Export Federation, National Biodiesel Board, United 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 currently in its planning stage for the 2012-13 program. This past year of the See for Yourself program was capped off by the international marketing trip to Grays Harbor in the Pacific Northwest. Grays Harbor is a vital shipping area for Nebraska soybeans, connecting our farmers with international buyers in Asia and the Black Sea region. The tour was designed to give Nebraska soybean farmers a better understanding of the logistical chain soybeans go through on their way to some of our international customers.

To get involved or learn more about the program, please contact the Nebraska Soybean Board office at 402-441-3240.

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. Thank you for your support of the Nebraska Soybean Board and this exciting program. We hope to see you at our next event!

Any other brand of soybeans could be holding you back.

Old technology can be a real drag on yields. But growers who plant NK® brand soybeans with the Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® trait don’t have to worry about that. High-yielding genetics, drawn from the deepest germplasm pool in the industry, plus built-in insect and disease protection, help deliver consistent top-end yields in all kinds of growing conditions.

So talk to your NK seed supplier this fall. And get ready to watch your soybean yields cut loose.
As we all know, it was a tough growing season this year. The value of water was clearly visible, with drought conditions affecting farmers in every part of the state. Harvest will be starting shortly, much earlier for most of us, and with it comes a time to think about our end customers, both here and abroad.

With every other row of Nebraska soybeans going to export, the Nebraska Soybean Board makes it a priority to help build and maintain international markets. Nebraska partners with many other states in the region to find ways to make U.S. soybeans more competitive in the global marketplace.

The Nebraska Soybean Board’s participation in trade missions and reverse trade missions has played a key role in helping to increase demand for U.S. soybeans and soybean meal. These trips provide excellent opportunities to meet with customers and explain the many benefits of U.S. soybeans. They also allow us to answer any questions they may have regarding production or transportation. These trade missions are a great way to build relationships with international customers who value a contact more than they value a contract.

Nebraska producers enjoy a key advantage when it comes to international marketing. The westernmost soybean processing plant in the U.S. is located in Hastings, giving Nebraska farmers a distinct advantage when shipping their beans to the Pacific Northwest. Ports in the Pacific Northwest, such as AGP’s Port of Grays Harbor, also have a competitive advantage over many other major ports, such as the Port of New Orleans, because they can ship products to international markets in Asia faster.

Domestic consumption also plays an important role in international marketing. We can use our soybean meal to feed poultry and livestock in the state and then export the finished products internationally. These value-added products help create jobs and economic development right here in Nebraska.

Although it has been a tough growing season, it is important to remember that Nebraska farmers play a key role in providing agricultural products to customers across the globe. We need to continue to make meeting our customers’ needs a top priority.

Building and sustaining relationships with our customers will continue to be a top priority, both at home and abroad. Nebraska farmers have an advantage when transporting our ag products overseas. Our access to ports in the Pacific Northwest put us in a great position to export our grain, placing Nebraska in the center of everywhere.

Wishing you all a safe and abundant harvest,

Greg
What happens when it doesn’t rain?

- by Geoffrey T. Ruth, Rising City, NSA President

What happens when it doesn’t rain? We all know the obvious answer to that question, even my three year old daughter could tell you; nothing grows. And for many producers we are experiencing this reality as we begin taking to the fields. While a short grain supply will cause issues with many channels within the demand sector, there is still one issue that is relevant no matter how large or small the demand.

Infrastructure. The drought of 2012 has done more than just plague the crops that we raise. It has put a severe strangle hold on the Mississippi River system. We have been hearing of problems on the Mississippi River that the height of the river is causing barges to run aground, loads lightened to pass through shallow areas, and increased river congestion as barges try and squeeze through a narrower river system. These increased times from loading facility to the ports has substantially increased the cost of our soybean product to our importing customers. These hiccups in the infrastructure system lead to delays, unhappiness, and potentially cancelled grain shipments.

It is a top priority of the American Soybean Association to see that Congress continues to fund the dredging projects currently taking place on the Mississippi River as well as increased funding for improving the Locks and Dams network on all river systems across the U.S. Now being from Nebraska you may wonder why the river system is so important to NSA. Without navigable rivers to transport beans and other export commodities, our already deteriorating and significantly underfunded interstate and highway systems would see increased traffic. This only brings more congestion and deterioration. We would also see a large shift to rail, which continues to run on track that was laid in 1800’s.

The infrastructure system that we have in the U.S. is what makes us competitive on a global scale. However, without proper management and an investment of our tax dollars we will continue to see our competitive advantage dwindle. In a study funded by your checkoff, it states; “Investment in transportation infrastructure could save U.S. soybean and grain industries approximately $145.9 million annually.” These cost savings to industry and farmers will make us more competitive around the world and thus allow us to supply our buyers with quality Soybean products grown by you.

If you would like more information please contact myself or the Nebraska Soybean Office or go to www.nebraskasoybeans.org/ne-nsa.

I Believe, I Belong...

I belong to the Nebraska Soybean Association because I can’t always be there. Speaking about the issues and learning about the issues takes a lot of time. We spend time in our tractors doing work on our farms, the Soybean Association works on our behalf. Policy work is done in Lincoln and DC, and they move forward whether I am there to give my input or not. The Soybean Association can be there, and is there speaking for me as a member. They speak for all of us. They represent all of us as producers, uniting us and giving power to our voice. We can’t always be there, but the Nebraska Soybean Association can.

– Nathan Dorn, 2012 Nebraska Young Leader

Hickman, NE
Thank You for Voting
Districts 3 and 6 Directors Elected to the Nebraska Soybean Board

The Nebraska Soybean Board held elections in July for Director Seats in District 3 and 6. Nebraska soybean farmers in those districts voted with the following results:

**District 3 – Counties consisting of Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington**
- Richard Bartek (Ithaca, NE – Saunders County) 422 – Elected
- Jeff Shaner (Fort Calhoun, NE – Washington County) 144

**District 6 – Counties consisting of Fillmore, Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Seward and Thayer**
- Greg Peters (DeWitt, NE – Gage County) 385 – Elected
- Marc Hroch (Wymore, NE – Gage County) 191

The re-elected directors will serve a three-year term. Richard Bartek, a soybean farmer from Ithaca, will begin his second term; and Greg Peters, a soybean farmer from DeWitt, will begin his fourth term.

Ed Lammers, a soybean farmer from Hartington, ran unopposed; therefore, he retains his seat as the District 1 director and will begin his second term.

“We have a good direction and a great team of directors that bring a wealth of experience to make things happen in the future of soybeans,” said Victor Bohuslavsky, Nebraska Soybean Board, executive director. “We’re excited to help direct action that will increase soy’s value for all Nebraska soybean farmers.”

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE VALUE</th>
<th>PRIMARY TARGET AREAS (STRATEGIES)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The Board, with honesty and integrity, collectively and individually, is committed to working within the letter and spirit of applicable law and regulation to achieve maximum value for each Nebraska soybean producer’s checkoff dollar. | **Domestic Marketing**  
- Maintain a viable animal agriculture industry in Nebraska.  
- Support the utilization of biodiesel.  
- Promote the health benefits of soy. |
| **PURPOSE** | **International Marketing**  
- Promote Nebraska soybean utilization in international markets.  
- Increase meal consumption in international aquaculture.  
- Promote Nebraska meats consumption.  
- Support improved soybean transportation options.  
- Promote customer acceptance of all soy technologies. |
| Invest checkoff funds to benefit Nebraska soybean producers. | **Research**  
- Support research to increase utilization of soy by the animal agriculture and aquaculture industries.  
- Support compositional research to increase the overall value of Nebraska soybeans.  
- Support research for the industrial use of soybeans.  
- Support research to increase the average yield of Nebraska soybeans. |
| **MISSION** | **Communications/Producer Education**  
- Educate producers and the public about the importance of animal agriculture to soybean profitability.  
- Inform producers about research to increase their profitability.  
- Support soy education in grade schools.  
- Increase utilization and availability of biodiesel.  
- Increase producer interest in serving in leadership roles. |
| Effectively invest and leverage soybean checkoff resources to maximize profit opportunities for Nebraska soybean farmers. | **STRATEGY**  
- Engage industry on behalf of Nebraska soybean producers to maximize utilization of Nebraska soybeans in the global marketplace. |
| **OBJECTIVES** | **SUMMARY** |
| 1. Promote the success of the Nebraska soybean industry through responsible stewardship while acknowledging global market needs.  
2. Maximize production and utilization of Nebraska soybeans annually.  
3. Invest in the development and acceptance of soy technologies. | **Soybeans**  
Nebraska Soybean Board
With nearly 337,000 in attendance, the 2012 Nebraska State Fair was the place to be with so many things to see. From a 12-foot pig to serving over 2,000 complimentary meals, the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) helped this year’s fair go down as a success in the history books.

A 9,276-can pig structure sure caught everyone’s attention as they passed through the exhibition building at the Nebraska State Fair. The “Soy Can Weeeeee” project, sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board and the Nebraska Pork Producers Association (NPPA), brought awareness to the public about the needs of thousands of food insecure individuals within our state. With 20% of children in all 93 counties being food insecure, the project was dedicated to help end food insecurity in Nebraska.

In this joint venture, NSB and NPPA were able to construct the 12-foot pig display and donate over 3,800 pounds of food to the Food Bank for the Heartland and the Lincoln Food Bank, which serve all 93 counties in Nebraska. Our efforts were also appreciated and acknowledged by some of our state’s leaders. Joined by NPPA President, Shane Meyer, and NSB Chairman, Greg Greving, Governor Dave Heineman made a stop at the display on Monday, August 27, to complete the pig by putting the last three cans in place.

The construction of the pig drew many questions from visitors. Some questions included: Are the cans empty? Did you glue them together? If I take out one can, will it all fall?

The structure took two, 8-hour days to complete with an average of five constructors. It was comprised of various types of canned food including Bush’s® Baked Beans, Le Sueur® Very Young Small Early Peas, Hunt’s® tomato sauce, and assorted Del Monte® vegetables. The actual construction was astounding. Between each layer of cans was a thin piece of wood, and a few poles were inserted vertically to help support the height. At its completion, the display was the tallest Pig Can-structure ever built.

Beside the “Soy Can Weeeeee” exhibit, the NSB booth showcased a variety of soy bioproducts. Consumers were able to see many household products made with soy including a chair built with soy foam cushions, walls painted with soy-based paint, and carpet featuring soy-based backing. This display educated about the benefits of bioproducts being a better choice for our environment, economy, and health.

To conclude state fair activities, NSB also supported 4-H and FFA exhibitors. Along with the Nebraska Corn Board and NPPA, NSB sponsored a complimentary BBQ lunch for 4-H and FFA exhibitors and their families. The luncheon was held on Sunday, September 2, as a small token of appreciation for the exhibitors’ hard work with their livestock and poultry projects. NSB also sponsored a portion of the show T-shirts for the Nebraska Elite Showmanship Contest held Saturday, September 1 at the 2012 Nebraska State Fair.
This year, the Saunders County Fair was one of 13 fairs nationwide that was accepted into the United Soybean Board’s “Green Ribbon Fair Reimbursement Program.” The purpose of this promotion was to help spread the positive facts about bio-based products (many of which are made from soy). Fairs could select from a laundry list of items to use during their week-long event. Items could include biodiesel, paints, stains, carpet, cleaners, hand sanitizers, and anything with soy-based foam. It also left the selection process open-ended, so if a specific organization wanted to browse around for other soy-based products that fit a specific need, then it was welcome to submit that item to the United Soybean Board to make sure it would fall within the guidelines.

Many may not know, but Saunders County is the largest producing soybean county in the state of Nebraska. In 2010, its farmers in produced a whopping 8.3 million bushels. Last year the county produced just over 8 million bushels of soybeans, which figures to be roughly 3% of the soybean production for the state. The second highest producing county during these last two years, Gage County, produced roughly 6.9 million bushels of soybeans.

Bio-based products have numerous benefits. Many of these products are better for the environment and our economy. In the products listed above, soybean oil is a substitute for regular petroleum oil. When it comes to biodiesel, simply using a 2% blend will increase lubricity in an engine nearly 65%. Biodiesel also has a large positive energy balance, 5.5 to 1. So for every one unit of energy it takes to produce biodiesel (including the complete life-cycle of a soybean), it returns 5.5 units back into the air when it is used. Compare that to regular #2 diesel, which has a NEGATIVE energy balance, 0.88 to 1.

Besides the normal “soy donuts” on Friday and Saturday morning, you may have noticed a sign hanging on the fair office window (right). Extension educators and Saunders County Ag Society members decided to use a chunk of the grant to give the office a fresh new look. The fair office is one of the most visible and most used rooms on the entire fairgrounds, so it seemed fitting to show off the soy-based paint to exhibitors, parents, volunteers and spectators. Biodiesel signs were also scattered outside and inside of the Gayle Hatton Pavilion. The Bobcat was burning B5 during the entirety of the week. This was important because it was nearly always running and moving things where people were present. Which brings us back to an important fact — biodiesel helps cut greenhouse gases by 60 to 80%.

Besides biodiesel and soy-based paint, the fair board plans on replacing the old, worn-out chairs in the office with newer high-quality — chairs that happen to be made of soy-based foam.
The 2012 USSEC Aquaculture Stakeholders Meeting was convened in Kauai, Hawaii, in mid-August with the objective of briefing stakeholders on the status and forecast for aquaculture in targeted international markets and recent New Uses research developments. The end objective of the meeting was to identify and obtain stakeholder consensus on the priority countries and strategic approach for international marketing activities in aquaculture for FY14.

**Priority Countries/Regions**
Target markets for aquaculture for FY14 were divided into priority markets. First priority markets were identified as China, Southeast Asia (SEA) and the Americas. Six target countries were included in SEA: Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar. In the Americas, targeted countries and sub-regions include Mexico, Central America, the Andean region and the Caribbean.

**Global Strategic Approach**
The strategic approaches identified for each target country and sub-region were similarly consolidated into a global strategic approach. This global approach will focus marketing efforts in the following four strategic areas, but with projects, activities and tactics designed to meet the specific conditions within each target country or sub-region:

1. **Soy Feeds** – development & demonstration of soy-optimized feeds for all key fed aquaculture species – freshwater and saltwater

2. **Best Aquaculture Practices** – development and demonstration of best aquaculture practices focused on sustainability, environmental protection, and food safety

3. **Industry Training** – farmer, feed mill and other industry and consumer training to increase knowledge of soy use in aquaculture, modern fish farming, feed manufacturing and post harvest technologies, and consumer knowledge of soy advantages

4. **Investment Promotion** – promote investment in aquaculture sector infrastructure as a means to expand the industry and grow demand for U.S. soy products

**Funding Priorities**
All FY14 aquaculture projects will be focused in the above four strategic topics, but with market specific activities and tactics. The Nebraska Soybean Board has invested the past six years in research and production practices using soybean meal producing SOY-FED FISH. This is a new opportunity for U.S. soybean meal. Nebraskans attending the meeting were Greg Peters of DeWitt, Mark Caspers of Auburn, Mike Korth of Randolph, Norm Husa of Barneston, Stan Hueske of DeWitt, Steve Weier of UNL, and Victor Bohuslavsky NSB Staff.
Reliance on wild caught fish harvests to meet the future demand for both food and feed applications has put an increasing strain on the over harvested capture fisheries around the world. Fish farming provides an avenue to offset the strain imposed on the wild fish populations. However, current feeds utilized in the aquaculture industry depend primarily upon fishmeal and fish oil to ensure productivity and nutritional quality of the harvested product. Hence, if aquaculture is to ease the pressure imposed on the capture fisheries to meet the ever increasing demand for fish products, then alternative, land-based ingredients will be required to displace the current fish-based components in aquaculture feeds. To this end, with support from the soybean industry, we have been evaluating feed formulations to displace fishmeal and fish oil with soybean-based oil and protein in the diet for Seriola rivoliana (Kona Kampachi™), a high value fin fish native to Hawaii. A feed formulation has been designed that has incorporated up to 40% of the protein and 50% of the lipid with soybean-based oil and protein. This in turn has significantly reduced the dependence of fish-based product in the feed, without compromising feed conversion, growth rates or nutritional quality of the harvest. A key factor that led this achievement was the development of a soybean that produces a novel omega-3 fatty acid, stearidonic acid. Blending of this high omega-3 fatty acid soybean oil with fish oil in feed led to accumulation of more total omega-3 fatty acids in the Kona Kampachi™ flesh, than fish fed feed coated with 100% fish oil. Importantly the soybean-based formulated feed did not compromise the levels of the very-long chain omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA in the harvested product, and no significant discernible differences were observed in datasets collected from controlled sensory tests with sashimi filet plate presentations obtained from Kona Kampachi™ fed soybean-based compared to fish-based feed.

Figure 1: Soybean-based feedstock for aquaculture. Left – Conventional soybean seed. Right – Soybean accumulating high value carotenoid, astaxanthin, along with nutritional long-chain omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA in seed oil.

This program is currently building off of the findings with these feeding trials with high omega-3 fatty acid soybean oil to further refine a soybean as a land-based feedstock for the aquaculture industry. Towards this goal we have successfully developed a soybean that simultaneously accumulates the very-long omega-3 fatty acids, EPA and DHA along with the a carotenoid, astaxanthin, in the seed (Fig 1), which the latter is used extensively in feed formulations for both the salmon and shrimp farming industries. These advancements are laying the foundation that will ultimately lead to the development of formulations with a total displacement of fish-based ingredients in aquaculture feed.

The above is a “Grow-out Pond” for seriola rivoliana (Kona Kampachi™), a high value fin fish native to Hawaii.
Three staff members from the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) joined staffs from other states on an international marketing tour to Central America in mid-June. The four-day tour, which was organized by the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC), centered on giving state soybean organizations the opportunity to learn more about what USSEC is doing to promote U.S. soy abroad.

USSEC was created in 2005 by the United Soybean Board (USB) and the American Soybean Association (ASA) as a way to jointly implement U.S. soybean export activities abroad. The organization regularly conducts market development activities in over 80 countries under the brand name “ASA-IM”, and state soybean staffs were given the opportunity to see how the USSEC staff was implementing promotional projects firsthand.

The tour kicked off at the Granja ACI aquaculture farm in Costa Rica. There, state staffs saw a fully integrated tilapia farming operation that utilized soybean meal. The tour included stops at the feeding ponds for the fish at various stages of growth as well as the processing plant. There staff learned that it takes roughly 11 months to feed out the black and silver tilapia on the farm, where 95 percent of the fish that are harvested will be shipped to the United States. The entire operation was extremely efficient, with fresh fish arriving in the U.S. less than 24 hours after being harvested.

The next day, we traveled to the Inolasa soybean crushing plant, where they crush 250,000 metric tons of U.S. soybeans in a year. After crushing, Inolasa markets the meal and oil portions of the bean. The meal is sold under the Soyamax brand and the oil is sold under the Capullo and Doral brands.
The soybean meal is sold at 48 percent protein and 94 percent of the oil sales go to Wal-Mart. Inolasa also focused heavily on sustainability. They are able to produce their own energy to power the facility by burning palm hulls from their 25,000 hectares of palm. The ash from this process is then used as fertilizer on those acres.

The tour continued at Dos Pinos, the largest dairy cooperative in Central America. The co-op provides feed for its members, which comes from the Inolasa plant we had visited the day before. Soybean meal makes up 15 percent of the ration for the dairy cattle. Here we learned that ASA-IM has been providing technical assistance to the co-op since 1980, such as training co-op technicians, risk management and technical assistance directly to the member farms. The tour ended with some fresh, delicious Dos Pinos brand ice cream.

The next day, the group started by visiting the Cargill meat processing plant. Here the group listened to a presentation on the importance of ASA-IM technical training to help local farmers better understand the importance of animal husbandry. Over the last 25 years, ASA-IM has provided technical training for 150 Cargill employees. They also touched on the importance of reducing stress when processing the meat to ensure the highest quality products.

Next the group traveled to Panama for their last two visits, the Panama Canal and Grupo Melo, an integrated poultry operation. The final day started with a tour of the Miraflores Locks section of the Panama Canal. The Miraflores Locks, the first set of locks on the Pacific side, make up one of three sections of the Panama Canal. Locomotives guide ships through the locks prior to being raised or lowered in the chambers. Ships passing through will be raised or lowered 27 feet per chamber, displacing 26 million gallons in only seven minutes, done completely by gravity. Construction is also underway to widen the locks at a nearby location.

The final stop on the tour was at Grupo Melo, one of the largest companies in Panama, employing more than 4,600 people. Grupo Melo has been doing business in Panama and Central America for 64 years. The company has different business interests including a commercial and food sector, which includes a feed plant, production farms and hatchery, and two separate processing plants. The feed plant’s 2011 production capacity was more than 148,000 metric tons. In 2011, Melo also imported more than 174,000 metric tons of soybean meal, with more than 54 percent of that coming from the United States. Grupo Melo also sells a wide variety of finished poultry products, which we were lucky enough to sample at the end of the tour.

Overall, the international marketing tour was a great experience. It was very enlightening to see all the technical assistance that USSEC and ASA-IM have provided and continue to provide to Central America. It was clearly evident that the places we visited had a great deal of respect and admiration for the USSEC staff, and they truly valued the support they get on a regular basis.
This year marked the 14th go-around for Soybean Management Field Days (SMFDs) in Nebraska. Dating back to 1999, SMFDs has given unbiased research and analysis, while providing pertinent facts and timely information. There are nine Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) directors, who govern eight soybean districts (one at-large director for the state). With four locations every year, SMFDs attempts to get to each district every other year. This year happened to include field days in districts one, four and eight at the following farms (see map above):

- August 14th – Tim Rowe Farm, Lexington (District 8)
- August 15th – Kracl Partnership Farm, O’Neill (District 1)
- August 16th – Keith Pillen Farm, Platte Center (District 4)
- August 17th – Nick, Ron and Kevin Hotovy Farm, David City (District 3)

At the end of each field day, we pass out an evaluation form that recaps the day and ask for any comments about the program they just attended. Evaluations aren’t for junk mail, rather we compile the results and comments and shape next year’s field days with the growers’ suggestions and concerns. There were four topics scattered throughout the plot areas this year: Quest for the Holy Grail in Soybean Production, Soybean Seed Treatments and Foliar Fungicides, Herbicides – Carrier Rate Study, and Managing Land Leases and Soybean Marketing. Throughout the day, growers were also encouraged to sign-up for SoyWater, a free tool developed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and funded by the soybean checkoff. SoyWater not only helps plan irrigations, but it also indicates growth stages of the plants to help coordinate other field work, such as spraying on foliar fungicide in a timely manner.

For the first time, the Nebraska Soybean Board and United Soybean Board awarded two – 300 gallon biodiesel winners at each of the four locations. When a farmer signed in at the beginning of the program, he automatically became registered for the drawings. Two drawings
Field Days – by Andy Chvatal

were made, one for repeat SMFDs attendees and a second drawing for first-time attendees. Biodiesel winners at each of the locations were as follows:

August 14th – Keith Carlson - Gothenburg
  Dustin Lofquist - Smithfield
August 15th – Galen Bergh - Plainview
  Tim Knuth - Brunswick
August 16th – Wayne Loseke - Columbus
  Don Gasper - Lindsay
August 17th – Ryan Svoboda - David City
  Bryon Chvatal - Prague

As part of a broader program this year, all of the soybean test plots were duplicated. These duplicated plots will be taken to harvest and documented in detail. Rather than just posting results on the Cropwatch website (cropwatch.unl.edu), UNL Extension and NSB directors will be holding winter meetings at each of the four field day locations. These meetings will have published results as handouts for the growers and will provide a question and answer session to evaluate what worked well in the specific plots. Also, educators will be reaching out to the farmers for feedback to see what worked well in their own operations this growing season. Collectively – NSB directors, UNL Extension Educators and the respective farmers should also be able to help generate numerous ideas for next year’s SMFDs.

According to UNL Extension Educator and SMFD Coordinator, Keith Glewen, the field days continue to provide valuable information for local producers. “Soybean growers continue to respond favorably to the fact we are conducting on-farm replicated research on important production topics across the soybean growing regions of Nebraska. The information generated from this research has value to soybean growers in providing answers to important soybean production questions,” Glewen stated.

NSB directors welcome your thoughts and opinions. If you have questions or comments about research and results, please contact your district director. Each district’s director can be found on our website – nebraskasoybeans.org or by calling the Nebraska Soybean Board at 402-441-3240.
Many agri-business owners have deferred their estate and business succession planning because of the uncertainty with federal taxes. While planning is more difficult in times of uncertainty, business owners must keep in mind that such planning will always be necessary, even if estate (and income) taxes are ever repealed. What is more important than taxes is without a current estate and succession plan, your wishes concerning how the farming business will pass to your family will be jeopardized, and more wealth will be lost to expenses, litigation and family disharmony. Planning for your non-tax goals should not be held ransom by the current tax laws.

We believe the current estate tax situation provides urgency to plan now. The $5,120,000 estate and gift tax exemption will likely decrease, and the 35% tax rates will likely increase, in future years. In fact, both are set to expire at year-end with a $1,000,000 exemption and up to a 55% tax rate to replace them if no Congressional action is taken this year. Here are a few planning suggestions:

• **Gifting.** Consider making gifts of cash, investments or other property to utilize your available $5,120,000 estate and gift tax credit. Additional flexibility may be gained by making gifts to an irrevocable trust. Gift the right property and don’t retain too many strings.

• **Sale to an Intentionally Defective Grantor Trust (IDGT).** With this technique you sell property to the IDGT for an installment note. The sale does not trigger capital gain taxes, it provides the grantor (the creator of the trust) cash flow, and the appreciation of the property grows estate tax free. Valuation discounts on the property sold increases its effectiveness. The grantor will pay the taxes on the income of the assets, amounting to gift tax free additions to the trust. [Recent congressional proposals would abolish this technique. Acting this year may preserve this planning opportunity.]

• **LLC’s.** Use a limited liability company to run the family business or to pool family assets. Gifts of membership interests are easy to accomplish and may qualify for valuation discounts. The patriarch, as manager, may retain limited control and income.

• **Flexibility.** Draft for flexibility to changing circumstances and tax laws as best possible. People frequently die out of birth order, get divorced or leave the business. Consider “disclaimers” and powers of appointment to preserve flexibility in the plan.

• **Act Soon.** Lawyers and appraisers are already busy with year-end planning. If you wait, your time may run out.
2013 College Scholarship Opportunity

The American Soybean Association (ASA) has partnered with BASF Corporation to once again offer a $5,000 one time Secure Optimal Yield scholarship to a high school senior who intends to pursue agriculture as a degree area of study, at any accredited college or university, for the 2012-2013 school year.

In order to apply for the scholarship, applicants must be the son, daughter or grandchild of a current NE Soybean Association /American Soybean Association member. They also must meet high school GPA, standardized test and leadership activities requirements. In addition to these requirements, applicants must write an essay about why they should be chosen and maintain a college-level GPA requirement in order to receive the full scholarship award. Applications are being accepted now through November 15, 2012. To apply on-line or download an application, go to www.soygrowers.com and look under Award Program.

Final selection will be made the first week of December. The student will be notified prior to an official announcement made in March 2013, during Commodity Classic in Kissimmee, FL. BASF sponsors the winner and one parent to attend Commodity Classic for two days to participate and receive special recognition at the ASA Awards banquet.

For details contact ASA Corporate Development Manager Michelle Siegel at 1-800-688-7692 ext. 1328, or msiegel@soy.org. To join as a member or to check on the status of your membership, contact the Nebraska Soybean Association at 402-441-3239 or association@nebraskasoybeans.org

Application deadline is November 15, 2012.

What’s Animal Ag Worth to Us?

CHECKOFF STUDY SHOWS IMPACT OF ANIMAL AG ON FOOD BILLS, EXPORTS, ECONOMY

If more regulations lead to higher input costs for U.S. poultry and livestock farmers, who would notice? Farmers? Consumers? People who work in the animal ag sector?

A recent soy-checkoff-funded study shows everyone would.

That study evaluated the impact increased pressures on animal ag could have on the retail price of meat, milk and eggs. It shows that if regulations cause animal-ag input costs to rise by 25 percent, the effects would include:

- AN INCREASE IN CONSUMER FOOD BILLS OF UP TO $16.8 BILLION ANNUALLY.
- A $1.1 BILLION DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF U.S. EXPORTS.
- A LOSS OF NEARLY 9,000 AMERICAN JOBS.

IMPACT REACHES BEYOND RURAL AMERICA

The most recent statistics compiled by the soy checkoff show the U.S. poultry and livestock sectors support 1.8 million jobs and generate more than $289 billion for the U.S. economy annually.

“This could have a big impact on everyone – it’s not just the dozen eggs you and I buy at the grocery store,” says United Soybean Board (USB) Chair Vanessa Kummer, a soybean farmer from Colfax, N.D. “The poultry and livestock sectors not only support the U.S. export market, but also make our economy stronger here at home by creating jobs and tax revenue.”

YOUR BIGGEST SOY CUSTOMER BEYOND THE ELEVATOR

Animal agriculture continues to be the biggest user of U.S. soy. Poultry, livestock and fish consume 98 percent of the meal from your soybeans.

“We have to be sensitive to the issues that poultry and livestock farmers face and try to ensure they can stay in business,” says Lewis Bainbridge, a soybean and cattle farmer from Ethan, S.D., who chairs USB’s Domestic Marketing program. “It’s much easier and more profitable for us to feed our soybeans to animals here in the United States and export the chicken, pork and beef than it is to load our soybeans onto a ship.”

To learn more about why soybean farmers should support their biggest customers beyond the elevator, visit www.BeyondTheElevator.com.

ANIMAL AG USES 98 PERCENT OF U.S. SOYMEN

SUPPORTS 1.8 MILLION AMERICAN JOBS

GENERATES $289 BILLION FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY

©2012 United Soybean Board [44277-JA-4/12]
Building a successful landlord-tenant relationship is beneficial to both parties and can lead to a fruitful long-term lease arrangement.

The first conversation that should occur prior to entering a lease arrangement is to talk about the long term goals for the asset. What changes can or should be made to the land to improve profitability? What needs to be done to protect the asset from erosion and other value detractions? Negotiating these items before entering the lease makes a huge difference in beginning a positive business arrangement.

Clear communication is the key to keeping a landlord/tenant relationship strong and asset rents at a fair level. To do this:

Tell the truth: A tenant telling the landlord the yield for the field or whole farm average, then telling the coffee shop the largest number observed on the yield monitor can lead to misunderstanding. One’s credibility may be questioned.

Tenants should communicate operating expenses: In many cases, landlords are former farmers. Depending on how tuned in they are to current production costs, they may or may not know how much current expenses have risen.

Landlords should communicate expectations: Tenants cannot possibly know how the landlord wants the land to be managed if those expectations are not communicated. Expectations for fertility management, tillage, mowing ditches, and weed control are examples of information that should be shared.

Much of the turmoil associated with lease negotiation stems from information picked up by the landlord or tenant during ‘coffee shop’ conversations. While socialization is a very positive part of living in our community, the reliability of ‘coffee shop’ information should always be questioned. Based on observation over the years, there are three things to consider with the ‘coffee shop’ information that may become part of lease negotiations.

1) Be careful of the ‘fish’ stories. In some coffee shops, the ‘topper’ has to have the biggest fish caught and the same catch becomes bigger when topping his friend’s story. The same might be true when telling stories of cash rental rates.

2) Even when the coffee shop lease price and other stated information is correct, it likely represents the perfect piece of ground, in the perfect location, desired by two or more deep pocketed bidders. This may or may not be representative of the piece of ground you own.

3) When did we ever get the crazy idea we should use information discovered at the ‘coffee shop’ to make decisions on assets worth hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars? Business or industry leaders don’t use this type of information to make decisions and we should not either.

Historically, Nebraskans have had handshake, or verbal leases, for farmland. Recently, there seems to be more written leases in place, which is very good news. All leases should be written.
"Optimizing Opportunity"
Set for December 12, 2012

The eighth annual Nebraska Ag Classic will be held at the Holiday Inn Midtown in Grand Island, NE on Wednesday, December 12. Educational and entertaining speakers fill the program which concludes the one day event with a banquet on Wednesday evening. Association annual meetings will start the morning of December 12. The LEAD Alumni banquet will be held on the evening of December 11.

Following the annual meetings the afternoon program will include Greg Hollingsead a Protective Security Advisor, Nebraska District US Department of Homeland Security as well as breakout sessions with Brad Lubben, UNL Farm Policy specialist highlighting the Farm Bill and Crop Insurance questions. Industry representatives with Monsanto will present information on Drought Tolerant Corn. The closing dinner will feature entertainment from motivational speaker and former Husker Football great, Aaron Davis.

Visit www.neagclassic.org for the complete conference schedule or to register on line.

Announcing the 2013 Nebraska Soybean Association 3-Year Membership Seed Bonus Promotion

Take advantage of the 2013 Membership seed bonus promotion today! Join as a new or renewing 3-year member for $250 and when you purchase 12 bags of soybean seed, you will receive 6 bags free! Offer good until December 31, 2013.

We proudly recognize our Sponsoring Companies: AgVenture, Asgrow, Channel, Fontanelle Hybrids, Hoegemeyer Hybrids, LG Seeds, Mycogen, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Producers Hybrids, Renze Hybrids, Stine Seed Co., Syngenta NK Soybeans (NK, Golden Harvest, Garst)

3-year members also Earn 100 Units of Optimize Seed Treatment. To check on the status of your membership or for more details contact the NSA office at 402/441-3239 or email: association@nebraskasoybeans.org

Recruit your neighbor to join!

If You Believe…Belong

AGP’s Export Terminal
Port of Grays Harbor
Aberdeen, WA

Linking Nebraska soybean producers to global markets

AGP A Cooperative
In early September, four representatives from the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) attended the Grand Opening of the new Ag Processing Inc. (AGP) grain storage facility in Aberdeen, Washington.

AGP, which has had a presence at the port since 2003, saw the multimillion dollar expansion project as an investment that would allow them to expand markets and services for all AGP members. Spurred by increased exports to the Pacific Rim, the new 3 million bushel port terminal will provide a more permanent infrastructure, allowing them to better meet the increased demand for products like soybeans and DDGs originating from the Midwest.

AGP CEO, Marty Reagan said the company saw the investment as an opportunity to expand markets and better serve members. “This investment will allow AGP to market grain, feed ingredients, and oilseeds along with our current range of processed products, to our customers in Pacific Rim countries. The growth of this facility allows us to expand markets and services for all AGP members, and gives them another choice to market grain through a cooperative they own. It will also provide our customers with a secure supply of grain and oilseeds directly from AGP’s farm-to-port cooperative supply chain that they value.”

The elevator structure consists of eight 350,000-bushel storage tanks and four 80,000-bushel shipping bins. The larger tanks stand at 132 feet tall and spread 70 feet in diameter. The larger tanks are equipped with augers that enable them to handle various types of ag products such as soybean meal and DDGs. The smaller shipping bins, which are not equipped with augers, stand at 126 feet tall and spread 39 feet in diameter.

While AGP was handling the construction of the elevator, the Port of Grays Harbor hired a contractor to build a second loop of railroad track for the port, with five tracks on the loop and 37,000 linear feet of track, along with a multitrack railyard siding specifically for AGP. This new rail infrastructure will enable the AGP terminal to handle up to 400 to 600 covered hopper cars a week, says Michael Cenci, AGP facility manager.

Victor Bohuslavsky, executive director for the Nebraska Soybean Board, said the expansion project was very impressive to witness firsthand. “The folks at AGP have put a lot of money and effort into making this a world-class facility. It is extremely impressive to see all the vision and planning that went into making this project a reality. It is exciting to see the opening of this new facility knowing it will provide access for Nebraska soybeans to overseas markets.”
One of the neat things about our job is that we get to travel quite a bit. Since we are governed by farmer-directors, we are constantly on the move. Our busy time for travel is when our directors aren’t busy, and our less-busy times are when our directors are busy. Things slow down a little during planting and harvest, because our directors are heavily occupied with their own operations. But one of the neat things about our staff is that half of us are also involved in farming, so when the office gets locked, we head home to put on our farmer hats. I mentioned that things slow down “a little” during planting and harvest, but this year might be an exception.

In a normal year, the state fair comes and goes and Husker Harvest Days slowly winds down. This is not one of those years. It always seems that Husker Harvest Days draws a large crowd, and then that large crowd heads home to start combining beans the following week, but this year will be quite different. The majority of Nebraska’s dryland corn crop may be harvested by the end of the show, September 13th. Soybean harvest will be under way, with farmers reading yield monitors with glazed-covered eyes.

Within the last month, we’ve gotten to see a good chunk of the state and assess its potential. Observations yielded these results – knowing that what normally fills the grain cart from 10 acres, might not fill the grain cart with 80 acres this year. Soybeans are a little different in that an August rain will still help them fill their pods, so we’ve been fielding lots of questions within the past few weeks. What used to be “when should I plan my last irrigation?” has quickly turned to “what is the threshold that helps me decide whether to bale my soybeans or let them go to harvest?” An August 17th Market Journal episode featuring Bruce Anderson, UNL Extension Forage Specialist, discussed in detail where that economic threshold lies, along with other drought-related issues. According to Anderson, that magic yield number lies at roughly 10 bushels per acre. If less, consider using the crop as a forage, but make sure to look at label restrictions before baling or grazing. That episode can be found at marketjournal.unl.edu.

We can only hope that 2013 brings us back to a state of normality. Having a few 80 degree days in February and planting sweet corn on St. Patrick’s Day might be kind of “neat” one year, but here’s to hoping the farmer in northeast Nebraska doesn’t have to send each of his 24 pivots around another 24 times next growing season.

For more information on this year’s drought and helpful suggestions for the post-harvest period, visit droughtresources.unl.edu.
The relationship between the Nebraska soybean farmers and American pork exports was on full display last month in Japan as the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) conducted several events in Tokyo that gave a visiting Nebraska team an in-person view of U.S. pork marketing activities there.

Understanding where their food comes from is important for Japanese consumers who value face-to-face contacts with their suppliers. The visiting team of two Nebraska Soybean Board members (Ed Lammers of Hartington, and Ron Pavelka of Glenvil) and three Nebraska soybean farmers (Steve Heine of Fordyce, Mark McHargue of Central City and Russ Verig of Howells) filled the bill perfectly, playing a key role in two pork marketing programs during the week of Aug. 7-13 that were sponsored by Nebraska Soybean Board with support from the USDA Market Access Program (MAP).

A group of 20 Japanese bloggers who each operate popular cooking blogs met with the Nebraska visitors on Aug. 9, eagerly peppering...
Popular author and cooking instructor Yukiko Hirano introduced her own original American pork recipes at the session before the Nebraska team took center stage to answer questions from the audience and talk about their experiences in America.

“The visit by the Nebraska Soybean team helped us accomplish two important objectives,” said Takemichi Yamashoji, senior marketing director for USMEF-Japan. “First, it helped put a friendly and knowledgeable face on the American pork industry. Second, the visit by the team from Nebraska was a good attraction for the bloggers and consumers to come together and sample U.S. pork. Particularly with the bloggers, their positive comments will reach thousands of readers who trust their opinions.”

Following are links to several blogger articles already posted:

http://blog.shokureco.co.jp/article/285652195.html
http://ameblo.jp/makitchen/entry-11324563477.html
http://ameblo.jp/radio-reporter/entry-11333855850.html

Japan is the highest value export market for U.S. pork. Through the first six months of 2012, Japan has purchased 231,984 metric tons (511.4 million pounds) of American pork valued at just over $1 billion, accounting for 32 percent of all U.S. pork exports when measured by value and 20.5 percent of the volume.
The Truth About Biodiesel:
Benefits for both Farmers AND Ranchers

by Drew Guiney

There has been a debate over the years about the positive and negative impacts of creating and using alternative fuels in the United States. And, although the success of alternative fuels have been proven in places like Brazil and the United States, there still seem to be lingering doubts as to their efficacy.

One of America’s greatest success stories in terms of biofuels comes from biodiesel, a renewable fuel made from diverse feedstocks such as animal fats or soybean oil. Over the years, biodiesel has been able to prove itself to be a great source of renewable energy. At 5.5:1, biodiesel has the highest positive energy balance of any fuel on the market and was named America’s first advanced biofuel by the EPA.

However, there are still many misconceptions surrounding biodiesel production, and these factors can inhibit the growth of the industry.

One of the arguments used most often by the opponents of biodiesel surrounding the farm sector is that the production of biodiesel is not good for animal agriculture producers. They site that since the price of soybean oil is trading at its energy value, production of biodiesel is driving the cost of soybeans higher and placing a squeeze on livestock producers who are looking to buy meal.

However, quite the opposite is true. Livestock producers are the beneficiaries of at least three significant benefits for every gallon of biodiesel produced:

- Lower relative meal prices
- Higher values per head due to increased animal fat prices
- Access to crude glycerin as an energy source for feed rations

Biodiesel production has contributed to the lowering of meal prices for livestock producers by creating a market for the oil portion of the bean. This increase in demand for soybean oil helps reduce the pressure on meal to carry soybean prices, which directly benefits livestock producers.

Biodiesel’s feedstock diversity also creates benefits for livestock producers. Multiple fats and oils are used to produce biodiesel; ranging from soybean oil to yellow grease to distillers corn oil to animal fats. Animal fats and tallow have increasingly been used as a feedstock for biodiesel since 2007.

Crude glycerin, a byproduct of biodiesel production can also be used as an energy source in feed rations. In 2011, biodiesel production generated 749 to 802 million pounds of crude glycerin, and a 2010 National Biodiesel Board (NBB) survey reported that 33 percent of members sold their glycerin to be used for livestock feed.

Biodiesel is America’s first advanced biofuel and its many benefits are seen every day across the country. It’s helping create new jobs and benefits farmers and ranchers every day. It fuels trucks on the road and is helping cities lower their emission profiles. Biodiesel is available here and now and is going the extra mile to help fuel America.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Value per cwt</th>
<th>Value per head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edible Tallow</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>$21.75</td>
<td>$45.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inedible Tallow</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>$20.75</td>
<td>$43.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1.19</td>
<td>$2.51</td>
<td>$15.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Source: USDA AMS NW_L5441 Report, 05.01.12
2 Source: USDA AMS NW_L5441 Report, 01.02.07
3 Source: USDA AMS NW_L5441 Report, 03.29.12
4 Source: USDA AMS NW_L5441 Report, 01.02.07
5 For typical slaughter beef animal weighing 1,275 lbs
This Little Piggy eats soy

So do chickens, cows and fish. In fact, animal ag is your number one customer — eating 98 percent of your soybean meal. That’s bringing home the bacon.

Learn more at www.BEYONDtheELEVATOR.com

Soybeans
Nebraska Soybean Board
402-441-3240
www.nebraskasoybeans.org

Source: USB Market View Database
©2012 United Soybean Board
There seems to be some confusion in the country side the difference between paying the checkoff and joining the soybean association. Because the way the federal soybean checkoff is written, there are restrictions against lobbying efforts on behalf of all soybean producers. One may ask, “well then who handles the lobbying efforts?” The Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) and the American Soybean Association (ASA) are your advocates in Lincoln and Washington D.C. If we are not there then who else would represent the interests of soybean producers?

This important policy work at the state and national level is paid for by your voluntary membership dues. We constantly work to protect the policies we have in place that are working and push forward with legislation that will increase producer profitability.

Issues like the 2012 Farm Bill, biodiesel legislation, transportation infrastructure and international trade agreements all have a direct impact on your bottom line.

If you believe, then belong.

When you join NSA you automatically become a member of ASA.

State and National Membership Benefits

Ford Partner Recognition Vehicle Plan

Through ASA’s membership with the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), all ASA members may take advantage of the Ford Partner Recognition X-Plan Pricing program, made possible through a partnership between NBB and Ford. The X-Plan Partner Recognition program offers members exclusive savings on eligible Ford and Lincoln vehicles.

Contact the American Soybean Association for the Ford Partner Recognition X-Plan Partner Code. 1-800-688-7692. www.soygrowers.com

Discounted Cabela’s Gift Cards

Cabela’s Save 10% when you buy a card – and redeem it at full value!

From work clothing to ATV gear to tool boxes, you can find it all at Cabela’s. And thanks to your ASA membership, you can get it all for 10 percent off!

With your ASA membership, you can purchase Cabela’s Gift Cards through the ASA Web site at www.soygrowers.com. You can purchase cards in amounts from $5 to thousands of dollars – all at a 10 percent discount. And when you use your gift card to buy merchandise, you can redeem it at FULL VALUE!

Save Cash on Your Next Vehicle Purchase

Chrysler Affiliate Reward Program

When you belong to ASA and your state soybean association, you qualify for deep discounts up to two times in a calendar year when you purchase or lease a select new Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicle.

You can receive the Preferred Price (1% below factory invoice plus a $75 administrative fee) – plus virtually any consumer incentives that are generally available.

Contact the American Soybean Association for the Chrysler Vehicle Program Code.

As a Member of ASA and the NEBRASKA SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION, you also receive these benefits:

- Be heard with policy representation and advocacy in Washington, DC and at the NE state capitol
- Save cash through free or discounted registration to educational workshops and seminars
- Attend Commodity Classic for less, discounted registration to the premier trade show and conference for the soybean industry
- Stay informed with 10 issues of the ASA Today newsletter
- Keep current with the ASA Weekly Leader Letter, a weekly newsletter delivered via e-mail
- Gain inside information with access to the members-only section on the ASA Web site (soygrowers.com)
- Know who’s who with a complimentary Congressional Directory (while supplies last)
- Apply for a college scholarship for your children or grandchildren who qualify for the annual Secure Optimal Yield (SOY) Scholarship. The ASA SOY Scholarship is made possible by an educational grant from BASF Corporation.

Nebraska State Membership Benefits

- Seed Bonus Offer on new & renewing 3 year memberships ($250 dues)
  Seed bonus offer earns you 6 free bags of seed when you purchase 12 for joining or renewing for 3 years. Select from 14 participating seed companies. (over $300 value) See seed form for details.

- Also, 3 year new and renew members earn 100 Units of soybean seed treatment from Optimize (over $200 value)

State Legislative Accomplishments

Key bills in 2012 legislative session that NSA directors presented testimony on were LB 884 Create the Ag Literacy Task Force, LB 905 and LB 1057 Support the Wheat and Corn Resources Act, LB 986 Sales and Use tax on repair parts LB 1061 Ag land valuations, and LB 732 Eminent Domain. Water issues, taxation, environmental regulations and livestock importance remain a focus for NSA in the state and national policy arenas.

Visit us at www.nebraskasoybeans.org/ne-nsa or association@nebraskasoybeans.org 402-441-3239

If You Believe, Belong
SoyWater is not only helpful in knowing when to water, but when it isn’t necessary, too. "If you monitor and get the water on just in time when needed, it can boost yields," Specht says. "It could also save you water by keeping track of withdrawals by the crop and deposits of rain and irrigation water in the soil."

More than 700 soybean growers currently use SoyWater. Jay Hanson, a grower from Mead, uses the program. He gave the directors a tour of his farm during the board meeting. "We are getting our highest yields on the fields that use the program," Hanson says. "We monitor one field using the program and then apply the same techniques suggested to our other fields. This year, it’s been harder because it’s been so dry, and we’re running behind on recommendations, but our soybeans so far look good.”

Scott Houck, NCSRP board member from Strang, Neb., says one of the best things about NCSRP is the opportunity to work with other states on bigger projects that are complimentary. "We are really proud of the SoyWater program, especially with it being so dry this year. We were excited to show it to the other board members while they were in Omaha. A lot of the other directors don’t use irrigation, so we got to show them how it works and answer their questions.”

To learn more about SoyWater, visit www.hprcc3.unl.edu/soywater. To learn more about NCSRP and its research projects, visit ncsr.com.
What are you waiting for?

Biodiesel is America’s Advanced Biofuel. Soy biodiesel is a clean burning fuel that extends engine life and can be used in most diesel engines. From planting, to harvest, to hauling your grain, soy biodiesel works hard to get the job done and lowers our dependence on foreign oil. Ask your fuel supplier about biodiesel today.