Your story is our story. As an ASA member, you join tens of thousands of other soybean farmers to ensure someone is watching your back when policy and regulations are being debated and created in Washington, DC.

Representing your interests. Expanding your markets. Protecting your future. Defending your freedom to operate.

You grow soybeans. At ASA, our job is to make sure you can keep doing it competitively and profitably. That takes vigilance and diligence on the policy front. That’s what ASA does for you and all of America’s soybean farmers.

You know how policy can have a profound impact on your profitability. It is time to belong to ASA.
In This Issue

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Our soybeans are now being utilized in ways that we could have never imagined.

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It’s time for rural America to become relevant again.

The Nebraska Soybean Board Audited Annual Report 2011-2012
Success in today’s market takes more than just a good harvest; increasing demand for Nebraska’s soybeans is an essential part of making soybean production profitable.

Nebraska Soybean Farmers See for Themselves the Value of International Marketing
International Marketing Tours have included Mexico, Asia and many ports in the U.S. In 2013, a tour to the Port of New Orleans.

NSA Co-hosts Ribs and Bibs State Senators Reception
The dinner was to further educate the state senators on the importance of the pork industry being our number one customer.

2013 National Biodiesel Conference a Success
“You have the power to make us more energy secure, and still create enough food and fiber for the world. That’s an amazing opportunity worth fighting for,” Vilsack said.

Celebrate Soyfoods Month this April
Find ways to incorporate the health benefits of soy into your diet.

$5,000 DuPont Pioneer Grant goes to Nebraska Soybean Association Mentorship Program
NSA receives $5,000 DuPont Pioneer grant towards its corn and soybean collegiate mentorship program.

Free Web-based Soybean Irrigation Scheduling and Crop Stage Forecasting
It predicts the calendar dates of all key growth stages of your soybean crop in each field and keeps track of the daily water use by the crop.

Soybean Management Field Days On-Farm Research
Year two of replicated field research at SMFD sites.

Interested in Learning More About the Soybean Checkoff?

Come See for Yourself this year!

The Nebraska Soybean Board has kicked off another year of its “See for Yourself” program this last 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 States Soybean Export Council, United States Poultry and Egg Export Council, as well as many other important national meetings and activities. The international program is designed to show soybean farmers first-hand what the checkoff is doing to build global demand.

The Nebraska Soybean Board recently returned from its international tour to the Port of New Orleans. The Port of New Orleans is a vital shipping area for soybeans, with nearly 60% of all U.S. soybean exports traveling through the port. The Port of New Orleans tour gave Nebraska soybean farmers a better understanding of the logistical chain soybeans go through on their way to some of our international customers. For more information on the tour, please see the article on pages 14-15.

The Nebraska Soybean Board is committed to increasing the profitability of your soybeans and wants to give you the opportunity to gain a better understanding of checkoff activities. To get involved or learn more about the program, please contact the Nebraska Soybean Board office at 402-441-3240. Thank you for your support of the Nebraska Soybean Board and this exciting program, and we hope to see you at our next event!
Although this winter was not as mild as last year’s, it still has been relatively uneventful by Nebraska standards. And, with many areas still lacking moisture, there are plenty of farmers who would welcome more moisture of any kind.

With another planting season just around the corner, there is plenty of work to be done. Soon, tractors and planters will be seen across the countryside as we look to get another crop into the ground.

As a member of the Nebraska Soybean Board, my travels over the winter took me to various meetings and conferences where I saw the value of bio-based products firsthand. Whether it was at the National Biodiesel Board Conference in Las Vegas or the Home and Garden Show in Lincoln, the future for new uses for soy is definitely bright, and these bio-based industries are helping to reshape America.

These industries focus on harnessing the power of renewable energy and resources to create jobs and stimulate the economy.

This spring, I encourage you to think about using biodiesel. Soybean oil is the primary feedstock for biodiesel, meaning when you purchase your fuel, you can be working to put money back into your pocket.

Biodiesel also works to help lower the cost of soybean meal to livestock producers by creating demand for the soybean oil byproduct. By increasing the value of soybean oil, there is less pressure for the meal to carry the price of the bean, making soybean meal more affordable to end users.

While at the National Biodiesel Conference, one important observation that I took away was the level of enthusiasm biodiesel marketers have for the product. With the reinstatement of the tax credit and the strength of the Renewable Fuel Standard, biodiesel production is not only profitable, it is also an industry people want to get behind. These men and women feel good about going to work and creating clean, renewable energy from sources right here in America.

While at the Home and Garden Show in Lincoln, I was pleased to see the level of interest and enthusiasm consumers had for bio-products. Some folks were eager to learn more and surprised to see how versatile soybeans are in today’s world. This was my second year working the booth at the Home Show, and I think it is a great place to reach out to folks who don’t have a connection to agriculture. At these types of events, we are able to show the benefits of using soy in a venue where people are interested about making changes to their home.

As you sit in your tractors this spring, working hard to plant your crops, I encourage you to take some time to think about how far we’ve come. Our soybeans are now being utilized in ways that we could have never imagined. They are helping to create new jobs in renewable industries and doing their part to help feed a growing world population.

So, as you plant your crops this spring, remember how important your job truly is. Farmers across the nation are not only working hard to raise their crops and livestock, they are helping to grow America.
Political Relevance
– by Geoffrey T. Ruth, Rising City, NSA President

Where do we stand? How do we shape our message? What is the driving force behind our movement, and do we all too often fall on deaf ears? These are some of the questions circulating within agriculture these days. Even Secretary Vilsack is asking the question; in December of 2012 he made statements at the Farm Journal Forum that questioned the relevance of voters on agricultural policy issues and our ability to affect election outcomes.

The relevancy of rural America had never been more exposed than it was during the presidential election of 2012. As you already observed, we encountered a situation here in Nebraska that again questioned the political muscle of the agriculture industry. Governor Heineman proposed changing the tax structure in the state of Nebraska with a large shift of revenue moving to a sales tax on agricultural products and manufacturing inputs, rather than income tax. Upcoming water legislation will look to agriculture to solve the shortfall of recent years, as well as how do we finance water projects within the state. While we are greatly concerned about what these potential policy changes may do to agriculture and our “way of life,” the NSA and I see this as an opportunity to educate those who don’t understand what role agriculture plays in everyone’s “daily lives.”

Agriculture has been working diligently to try and form coalitions within the agriculture industry and branching out to other partners not so closely related to agriculture. The need for a clear and concise message forum has never been more necessary. A strong grassroots membership organization such as NSA has the ability to influence political movements but only if the membership becomes vocal. The NSA has worked diligently over the last few years to increase membership and to provide a voice for the Nebraska soybean farmer. We will continue to do so, but we need the help of every member and all agricultural producers. The only way to regain relevancy is to step forward and share our own personal stories on how proposed legislation and regulatory rulemaking affect us on a personal level. We must meet our elected officials in the halls of the legislature, over the phone, through email, and in the local coffee shops whenever the opportunities present themselves. The opportunities are endless and the need is now. We have a message unlike any other, and one that can resonate with the public. It’s time for rural America to become relevant again.

I Believe, I Belong...

In order to assure a prosperous future for agriculture, all farm groups are going to have to work together. By being a member of the Nebraska and American soybean associations, you have a voice representing you and your interests. They work for you when you can’t be there. Our voice needs to be heard on different policies that have been written that affect the future of agriculture and our ability to have the freedom to operate. That’s why I believe and belong.

– Shane Greving, 2013 Young Leader Chapman, NE
Warm weather resulted in a good attendance at the 25th Annual Governor’s Ag Conference, held Feb. 12-13 in Kearney. Representing the Nebraska Soybean Board at the conference were Greg Anderson, Newman Grove; Richard Bartek, Ithaca; Victor Bohuslavsky, Brainard; Greg Greving, Chapman; Norm Husa, Bameston; and Lisa Lunz, Wakefield. The two-day event highlighted new opportunities in the ever-growing and diverse ag industry.

Some of the topics discussed were: “Investing in Research to Secure the Future Success of Agriculture;” “What are the Prospects of Recovering from the Devastating Impacts of the 2012 Mega Drought?” and “Nebraska: Positioned to be the 2025 Global Epicenter of Food and Agriculture?” One of the highlights of this event was Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. participating in a dialogue with Governor Dave Heineman about the future of U.S. economic competitiveness, the role of foreign investment in generating opportunities for Nebraska, and the prospects for enhanced trade and investment with China, in particular. China is a major importer of U.S. soy. In the most recent marketing year alone, China imported 849 million bushels of U.S. soybeans.

“This industry continues to play an essential role in our state economy as agriculture is the largest industry in the state, and one in every three jobs can be tied to agriculture in Nebraska,” said Greg Greving, chairman for the Nebraska Soybean Board. “Nebraska’s soybean production continues to be a very important part of this role.”

“The conference gave the attendees an idea of the opportunities and possibilities to grow Nebraska economically,” said Victor Bohuslavsky, executive director, Nebraska Soybean Board.
In 2012, the nine members of the Nebraska Soybean Board facilitated checkoff funding in the investment areas of International Marketing, Research, Producer Education/Communication and Domestic Marketing. These investment areas help expand, develop, and increase markets for Nebraska soybeans and are an important part of every soybean farmer’s success.

Nebraska soybean farmers produced a total of 207,085,000 bushels of soybeans in 2012. Success in today’s market takes more than just a good harvest; increasing demand for Nebraska’s soybeans is an essential part of making soybean production profitable.

Audited Annual Report for 2011-2012

**FUNDING and EXPENDITURES**

**TOTAL FUNDING**
- Checkoff Assessments .................. $ 8,011,822
- Interest .................................. 20,200
- Miscellaneous ........................... 59,636

**Total Revenues ................................ $ 8,091,658**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**
- International Marketing ................ $ 929,228
- Research ................................. 1,415,074
- Producer Education/Communication 2,676,355
- Domestic Marketing ..................... 2,306,550
- Administrative .......................... 352,370

**Total Expenses .............................. $7,679,577**
Producer Education/Communications
– by Drew Guiney

A key area for the soybean checkoff is producer education and communications. This is a large project area that is home to projects that focus on reaching out to multiple audiences with a wide variety of messages. Some key projects in this area include supporting the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (A-FAN), our state livestock coalition; crop marketing and risk management workshops; producer and consumer outreach; the United States Farmers & Ranchers Alliance; CommonGround; soy education and the See for Yourself Program. The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) also works to leverage funds from the United Soybean Board to do outreach on topics like biodiesel marketing, and animal agriculture. Through various cost share and grant programs, the NSB is able to stretch farmer dollars and invest them in quality, local projects.

In recent years, our communications plan has changed to adapt to the shift in consumer opinion. With so many people growing up removed from agriculture, our board has put an emphasis on educating young people about the benefits of farming and ranching to the state of Nebraska and has worked to help dispel the misinformation surrounding production agriculture today. Lately, we have worked to support our freedom to operate by promoting the fact that Nebraska farmers and ranchers are safe, responsible stewards who genuinely care about the land and their animals.

Research
– by Drew Guiney

A vital part of the soybean checkoff has always been investing in research to help farmers increase yields and help manage risk. On October 1, 2011, soybean growers, through their soybean checkoff program, were investing nearly $63 million dollars in 744 research projects. In 2011-12, the Nebraska Soybean Board invested more than $1.4 million on research projects, or roughly 18 percent of its operating budget.

The soybean research program aims to provide a balance between projects that target increasing and protecting soybean yields; expanding soybean utilization; improving soybean composition; and providing support for research and educational programs. This balanced approach to soybean research projects should provide the best opportunity for soybean growers to expand programs that help achieve the checkoff program’s goals of improving soybean profitability.

A primary research project for the Nebraska Soybean Board is Soybean Management Field Days (SMFD), which locates four test plot locations on a rotating annual basis across the state. The four-day program aims to address issues from controlling weeds and pests to risk management. For more information on SMFD or to look at a schedule of upcoming events, please visit http://ardc.unl.edu/soydays.

The chart on the left is a general breakdown of soybean research funding for 2012-13.
Domestic Marketing
– by Andy Chvatal

I’m sure you’ve seen it time and time again in our magazine, but the biggest highlight when it comes to domestic marketing this last year was the adoption of a 2% bioheat mandate in New York City. A 2% mandate alone makes New York City one of the largest consumers of biodiesel in the nation, rivaling many other states that currently have mandates. If a 5% blend of bioheat were used in heating oil nationwide, we could see bioheat consuming nearly 7 billion gallons of biodiesel. Seven Billion. Our current RFS asks the biodiesel industry to consume just under 1.3 billion gallons. We can see where the potential lies for a drastic increase in biodiesel consumption.

Currently, soybean oil represents roughly 55% of the feedstock share for biodiesel. If bioheat mandates were to keep trending upwards, the demand for and consumption of soybean oil would track right with that upward trend. Also of note, when temperatures drop and on-the-road biodiesel consumption slows down, bioheat thrives. When winter rolls around, consumers depend on bioheat to keep them warm, which creates a seamless balance for biodiesel demand year round.

Domestic marketing is just another key link to the complete marketing chain that soybeans need to remain competitive. A lot of our programs and projects do a great job in promoting soybean consumption and usage, but bioheat is the trump card. This is as transparent as it comes to showing you how your checkoff dollars can make a large impact outside of the Midwest, yet still come back and directly affect your wallet and the enthusiasm that others have for the product that you grow. Domestic marketing used 30% of NSB’s funding in 2012. Other projects of note were joint ventures with the National Biodiesel Board and animal agriculture projects with the livestock commodity groups and AFAN.

International Marketing
– by Andy Chvatal

In 2012, international marketing accounted for roughly 12% of NSB funding. Of all the projects, our funding with the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) stood out the most. We just wrapped up a consumer activity “blitz” with USMEF in Japan. Targeting mothers in their 30s and 40s, the goal was to find grocery buyers and highlight the key attributes of U.S. meat – taste, quality and health benefits. Much like bioheat where it helps both parties, an increase in pork consumption in Japan adds a key protein source to their diet that they have been short on. Educating chefs, handing out samples and utilizing Japanese bloggers were all part of the coordination. NSB also got to send a trade delegation over to Japan to show them pictures of soybean and pork production in Nebraska, hand out samples at an LPGA event, and to help coordinate numerous other consumer activities.

The term that we like to marry with this type of marketing is called “value-added” marketing. We send a lot of soybeans and soybean meal overseas to south Asia, which is fairly straightforward and takes much less time. When value-added marketing takes effect - we sell our soybean meal locally, feed it to livestock locally, process our livestock locally and then ship our specific meat cuts to other countries. We need both types of marketing to make it a well-rounded approach, but when we can sell pork to Japan, then it adds jobs in Nebraska and creates a nice revenue stream.

Other international marketing projects of note in 2012 were our numerous aquaculture feeding trials and bringing foreign buyers to Nebraska during harvest on their annual sampling tour of the Midwest.
Seventeen people (producers and staff) from the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) had the opportunity to get a first hand look at biodiesel and petroleum production during a See for Yourself tour in January. The U.S. has a daily demand of 800 million gallons of product produced from crude production, consuming 25% of the world’s supply. The U.S. has an improved situation in regard to energy independence. In 2011, the U.S. only imported 45% of its crude or refined petroleum products consumed, down from the peak in 2005. As an extension of the Energy Independence & Security Act, this is one of the goals of RFS2.

The trip included tours of the AGP biodiesel plant in St. Joseph, MO, and Coffeyville Resources Refinery in Coffeyville, KS and on-board workshops conducted by Hoon Ge, Fuel Consultant with MEG Corp. Participants were given the background information about how biodiesel and diesel are made, their physical characteristics and how they can coexist. Biodiesel is a young industry with many benefits such as the aiding in energy independence, improving air quality and boosting local economies. The industry has seen growth in the last few years with over 1 billion gallons produced in 2012, and with the help of RFS2, will continue to increase production each year.

At AGP, the group was greeted by John Campbell, Senior VP of Renewable Fuels and Government Relations and Terry McClatchey, Marketing Manager. They explained the history and processes of the plant. Soybean processing has been AGP’s primary business since the company was formed in 1983. They began soybean oil refining in 1985 at the St. Joseph location and biodiesel production in 1996. AGP produces RBD (refined, bleached and deodorized) food quality salad oil from its crushing process. Half of this oil is used for human consumption, and the other half is used as a feedstock at the adjacent biodiesel plant. By using a highly refined feedstock, they produce a high quality biodiesel. This was the first time Terry Horky, NSB Director for District 8, had ever visited a biodiesel plant. He said, “I was impressed by how clean and clear the fuel was.” Most of the biodiesel is transported by rail, but there is also a loading rack for truck transports. AGP operates three plants in the region, Seargent Bluff, Iowa; Algona, Iowa; and St Joseph, MO for a total of 120 million gallons per year (MMGY) of biodiesel production capacity. The St. Joseph plant can produce a little over 30 MMGY and is running at maximum capacity.

AGP uses only soybean oil as a feedstock. In 2012, 4.7 billion pounds of soybean oil went into making biodiesel in the U.S., which accounted for 55% of biodiesel feedstock. AGP gets about 18% of its beans from Nebraska, and all the meal produced goes to feeding livestock. Greg Greving, NSB Chairman and Director for District 4 comments, “I really enjoys the enthusiasm AGP had for the soybean meal and biodiesel industries. They are a great company to be involved with.”

In an effort to give participants a look at the energy production industry, of which biodiesel has become part of, the group visited Coffeyville Resources Refinery in Coffeyville, KS. The group was welcomed by Plant Manager Mike Swanson. This facility refines 115,000 barrels of crude per day, or 4.8 million gallons into gasoline, diesel and propane. In seven months, this medium sized refinery produces more than the entire biodiesel industry produces in a year. Tour participants were driven through the complex facility of sophisticated processing units and miles of piping, where crude is refined and sent out via pipeline to Nebraska, Kansas and five other Midwest states. Greving says he’s “driven by the refinery many times but never understood the logistics.” Horky added that “it was amazing and interesting to see how complex it is.” This refinery is also home to the only nitrogen fertilizer plant in North America that uses a petroleum coke gasification process, which makes 116,800 tons of ammonia and 714,100 tons of urea ammonium nitrate (UAN) fertilizers annually.

Even though some tour participants feel comfortable discussing biodiesel, they came away with an even better understanding after seeing both facilities. The formal presentation and informal discussion on the bus was valuable. Greg commented, “I always like listening to Hoon Ge. His knowledge about petroleum and biodiesel is well versed.”
For the second straight year the many benefits of using bioproducts to build, clean and decorate your home were on display at the 2013 Home Builders Association of Lincoln’s Home & Garden Show. The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) showcased the many benefits of bio products in their booth at the four-day event at the Lancaster Event Center.

The NSB booth was designed to mimic a home living space, with features on products used in the home, outdoors and in the garage or workplace. The in-home section, which was designed to imitate a family’s living room, was packed from the ground up with numerous bioproducts that drew consumer attention. The carpet, which was installed in partnership with Carpets Direct, featured a soy-based backing. The walls and wooden shelving were finished with soy-based paint and varnish by Christo Design Build. The in-home section also displayed several bio-based cleaning products that feature non-toxic formulas, including several samples given away by The Clean Environment Company in Omaha. Without a doubt, the highlight of the booth was the Broyhill couch that featured soy-based foam cushioning, which was given away at the conclusion of the show. Over 200 people registered to win the couch over the four days and each registration required a survey to be conducted on bioproduct awareness and usage.

The outdoor section demonstrated how bioproducts can be used outside the home. This section featured products ranging from soy-based grill cleaner to the same soy backed synthetic turf that Kansas State University recently used to resurface its entire playing field.

The garage section highlighted products utilized on the road or in the workspace. This area featured products such as soy lube, soy grease and biodiesel, America’s first advanced biofuel. The garage section was highlighted by a unique split-sample car seat, which illustrated how Ford Motor Company is utilizing soy foam cushioning in the seats of their new vehicles.

The four-day event saw some 17,000 attendees, many of whom left with an increased knowledge and appreciation for the role bioproducts can play in their everyday lives. Nebraska Soybean Board Chairman Greg Greving thought the Home Show was a great success. “I was happy to see such a good turnout and to see so many people stopping at our booth. This was my second year helping work the event and I was pleased to see how interested people were in finding ways to incorporate greener, sustainable products into their homes.”

For more information on bioproducts and how they can help make your house a better home, please click on the “Bioproducts” tab on our website: http://www.nebraskasoybeans.org.
In December 2012, New York City launched its mandate for traditional home heating oil to be blended with 2 percent biodiesel, also known as Bioheat Fuel. Already the nation’s largest municipal user of biodiesel, NYC takes the lead in sustainable heating, reducing the city’s carbon footprint and replacing up to 20 million gallons of petroleum annually. The Bioheat bill advances one of the major goals of the city’s sustainability agenda, PlaNYC, committed to having the best air quality of any major city in the nation by the year 2030.

As a thank you to the city, Bioheat recently launched their NYC Proud 2B2 Renewable Warmup campaign. This campaign will award three out of eight nominated charities a grant in the amounts of $15,000, $10,000 or $5,000. Between January 28th and February 17th, 2013, NYC residents are asked to go to BioheatOnline.com to vote for the charity they feel best helps “warm” NYC.

“Our objective with the NYC Bioheat Proud 2B2 Renewable Warmup campaign is twofold. We wanted to give back to the NYC community in more need than ever after the impact of Hurricane Sandy. We also wanted to do it in a way that would increase the awareness of Bioheat Fuel’s benefits and the impact it can have on the environment to other regions,” said Paul Nazzaro, President of Advanced Fuel Solutions and advocate for the National Biodiesel Board’s Bioheat education program.

New York City’s mandate replaces 20 million gallons of petroleum annually with a local, renewable resource that’s also cleaner burning. It’s the carbon equivalent of taking 30,000 cars off the road in New York City. According to a National Biodiesel Board study, it has the economic impact of creating 780+ biodiesel production jobs in the region and $42 million in household income.

Nazzaro adds, “It is important that the progress continues. Eighty percent of oil heat households in the United States are located in the Northeast region and purchase about 5.1 billion gallons of heating oil in a year. If the entire Northeast region switched to Bioheat Fuel, we would replace 100+ million gallons of oil with a local, greener resource each year.”

Bioheat® Fuel is made from a combination of biodiesel and oil heat. Made from renewable resources, it burns cleaner without the need to change oil equipment. For more information visit BioheatOnline.com. Bioheat Online is a resource for consumers and oil heat dealers brought to you by the National Biodiesel Board and Advanced Fuel Solutions (AFS), a leading additive supplier and market consultant in the fuel industry for 13+ years.
Come to our House and Snoop Around.

Make sure to stop by and browse around our interactive house on nebraskasoybeans.org to see what you can find.

You’re sure to see a lot of products we all use every day around the house to polish, clean, paint, decorate and much more.

Here you’ll learn that these products can be made from soybeans grown right here in Nebraska, and they’re tough enough to get the job done.

**FUN FACT:** In 1995, Yellowstone National Park made the switch from petroleum-based to bio-based cleaners, virtually eliminating toxins and harsh chemical residues from traditional products—significant because the park disinfects its public facilities up to four times a day.

So make sure to stop by and visit our interactive house under the Bioproducts lab at nebraskasoybeans.org and learn how you can be a part of the earth-friendly solution.

(Our address is nebraskasoybeans.org)
International marketing plays an important role in the lifecycle of Nebraska soybeans. Due to their favorable geographical position, Nebraska soybean farmers export roughly half of their production to customers in Mexico or Asia and the Pacific Rim.

Such strong export numbers spurred the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) to create a program from which farmers could learn more about their checkoff firsthand by attending meetings, conferences or marketing tours. The program, dubbed See for Yourself (SFY), was modeled after a similar program designed by the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council. The SFY program kicked off in Nebraska in 2011. The NSB led their first International Marketing Tour to Guadalajara, Mexico, to see how projects with organizations such as the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) and the United States Export Council (USSEC) were working to help Nebraska soybean farmers build demand for their products.

The tour was a resounding success and the NSB decided to expand the program within the U.S. to allow farmers to attend meetings on the local, national and international level.

Since then, the NSB has been on two more international marketing tours. Last year, the NSB took seventeen farmers up to the state of Washington to the Ports of Tacoma and Grays Harbor to see how their beans are being exported through the Pacific Northwest to Asia and the Pacific Rim. And, most recently, the SFM International Marketing Tour went down to the Port of New Orleans to see firsthand how soy and value-added meat products are being sent to foreign markets.

The Nebraska Soybean Board took fifteen farmers on this year’s See for Yourself International Marketing Tour to New Orleans. The four-day tour, from January 27-30, was designed to give Nebraska soybean farmers the opportunity to learn and ask questions about what happens to their soybeans once they leave the elevator.

The first day of the tour included a stop at the brand new New Orleans Cold Storage (NOCS) Company’s cold storage meat facility located at Henry Clay Wharf along the Mississippi River. This state-of-the-art facility was built in 2012 and is home to 127,000 square feet of refrigeration space capable of storing 38 million pounds of product. The New Orleans Cold Storage Company was founded in 1886.
and is the oldest cold storage company in the United States.

Following the tour of the cold storage facility was a guided boat tour of the Port of New Orleans, which was capped off by cruising past a container ship being loaded with soybean meal. Lori Soileau, commercial manager for the Port of New Orleans, and Janine Moreau Mansour, commercial manager for the port, were the guides of the tour.

During the tour, participants learned that the Port of New Orleans is the only port to be serviced by all six major railheads and generates $40 million in revenue each year. They also informed participants that New Orleans is an air draft port, meaning that they must ensure ships can pass safely under an overhead bridge instead of worrying about them striking the bottom of the river. Containerized shipments have become a priority for the Port of New Orleans. Between 2010 and 2011, containerized shipments grew 30 percent. At roughly 37 days, the transit time from the Port of New Orleans to Asia is much longer than ports located in the Pacific Northwest (PNW), meaning they are at a competitive disadvantage. Staff estimated that they lose roughly 500 containers each month to the PNW. The day was capped off by a nature and wildlife tour of one of the nation’s largest preserved wetlands.

The second day featured a tour of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) Growmark facility in Ama, LA. The Growmark facility is one of four ADM locations along a 30-mile stretch of the Mississippi River. At the Growmark facility, 90 percent of the grain comes in by barge and 10 percent comes by rail. The facility has the capacity to unload 60-70 barges per day and has a storage capacity of 5 million bushels. The Growmark location is one of the highest volume facilities, moving 330-400 million bushels each year. In all, over 1 billion bushels move throughout their Gulf locations. When asked by a participant about the extent of the damage done by Hurricane Katrina, staff said that their biggest challenge was not the after effects of the storm; rather it was getting labor and power to operate the facility.

The second day was capped off by a tour of the Cedar Grove Sugarcane Plantation. The plantation farms roughly 8,500-9,000 acres, with 1/3 of the acres being taken out of cane production each year. Sugarcane farming in the area is unique because farmers generally have only a seven week window to plant roughly 2,300 acres.

The Cedar Grove Plantation has also been innovative in their practices by rotating nearly 1,000 acres of soybeans in behind their sugarcane crops each year. They have also seen the residual benefit of their Roundup Ready soybeans helping to combat their grass weed problems after the beans have been harvested.

The farmers described planting sugarcane as a painstaking, labor intensive process. Farmers plant one row at a time and generally get through only 80 acres per day. One unique aspect about sugarcane production is the ability to harvest up to three times from one planting season. See for Yourself participant Eric Pospisil, from Malmo, said he amazed at the challenges they faced. “The most interesting thing to me is how farming is the lifeblood for both of us, and it was neat to hear them talk about the challenges they face in such a different environment.”

“Overall, I really enjoyed the trip,” said Pospisil. “It was a great opportunity to see what the checkoff does and to see the challenges farmers face in another part of the country.”

For more information about the See for Yourself program, or to find out how you can get involved, contact the Nebraska Soybean Board office at 402-441-3240.
ORLANDO - The biodiesel industry is celebrating the news that General Motors has launched its new 2014 Chevrolet Cruze light-duty diesel passenger car approved for use with 20 percent biodiesel blends (B20).

“We applaud General Motors for its foresight in approving the new diesel Chevy Cruze for use with B20 biodiesel blends,” said Steve Howell, Technical Director for the National Biodiesel Board. “Many people do not realize that today’s new technology diesel engines powered by ultra-low sulfur biodiesel blends provide tailpipe emissions as clean or cleaner than natural gas or gasoline, while providing superior fuel economy, horsepower, and durability. In addition, when you combine the increased efficiency diesel engines with the low carbon nature of an Advanced Biofuel like biodiesel, new technology diesel engines are positioned to become the clean-and green-technology of the future, and we’re proud to see GM leading the way with its support for B20.”

The all-new 2014 Chevrolet Cruze Clean Turbo Diesel features an advanced 2.0L clean diesel engine that will offer an estimated 42 mpg highway with an automatic transmission and expected best-in-segment range based on GM testing. Clean diesels using modern diesel exhaust technology and ultra low sulfur fuel are over 90 percent cleaner than older models. The Chevy Cruze is the cleanest diesel passenger car model ever produced by General Motors, and with approval for use with clean, renewable B20 biodiesel blends, it’s also now the greenest.

The Cruze’s 2.0L turbo-diesel is based on proven architecture already used in European models, where approximately 40 percent of all Cruze models sold feature a diesel engine. Collaborating with German and Italian engineering groups, GM’s diesel experts in the United States adapted the engine to accommodate more stringent diesel emission standards and a wider range of driving conditions – including colder climates and higher altitudes – for the United States and Canada.

“This Cruze Clean Turbo Diesel represents a new era in diesel performance for American cars,” said Jens Wartha, GM chief engineer. “We’ve adapted a proven engine from Europe, the world’s passenger diesel capital, and married it with the emissions-reducing technology that was perfected in the United States. It’s a great example of how Chevrolet’s global resources work harmoniously to produce the right product at the right time and for the right market.”

Starting MSRP for the diesel Chevy Cruze is reported to be $25,695, and GM plans to sell them in markets where its B20-approved Chevrolet Silverado diesel models have done well, including the West Coast, the Baltimore area, D.C., and the East Coast. The 2014 Cruze is expected to move into production later this summer.

Meanwhile, a bumper crop of new 2013 clean diesel vehicles are beginning to arrive in dealership showrooms nationwide, including more new B20-approved vehicles from domestic automakers Ford and Chrysler. In addition to its best-selling Ford F-Series Super Duty trucks, Ford is introducing a new diesel model in its Ford Transit full size van which will also be approved for use with B20 biodiesel like its SuperDuty brethren. Additionally, Chrysler’s new 2013 Ram Heavy Duty pickup features more horsepower and improved fuel economy with its 6.7-liter Cummins High-Output Turbo Diesel powertrain. The 2013 Ram Heavy Duty diesel pickups are approved for general use with B20 by all customers beginning in January 2013.

More than 33 light- and medium-duty diesel passenger cars and trucks, as well as heavy-duty diesel models from nearly 20 different brands, will be available in the market this year. U.S. consumers now have more options than ever before in their quest to drive cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles capable of running on biodiesel - America’s Advanced Biofuel. Nearly 80 percent of manufacturers selling diesel vehicles and equipment in the U.S. now warrant them for use with high-quality B20 biodiesel blends. The remainder, primarily the European light-duty diesel brands, are certified for use with 5 percent biodiesel blends (B5), and the National Biodiesel Board is working cooperatively with those manufacturers to encourage and enable their support for B20 in all vehicles sold in the USA.

The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) educated dealers about biodiesel use in the vehicles they sell during two workshop sessions entitled “Biodiesel: America’s Advanced Biofuel, Here and Now” as part of the 2013 American Truck Dealers (ATD) convention curriculum in Orlando.

Biodiesel is an advanced biofuel made from sustainable resources such as soybean oil, recycled cooking oil and other fats and oils. It is the first and only EPA-designated Advanced Biofuel being produced on a commercial scale across the country. For more information on clean, domestically produced biodiesel and its benefits, please visit http://www.biodiesel.org
On January 22nd the Nebraska Soybean Association along with the Nebraska Pork Producers hosted Nebraska State Senators and industry leaders to mouth watering pork ribs during a dinner held in Lincoln.

The purpose of the dinner was to further educate the state senators on the importance of the pork industry as it relates to them being our number one customer. Animal agriculture is the number one domestic use of soybean meal. Several NSA directors attended the event and had an opportunity to visit with their state senators on several ag issues currently being debated in the Legislature. Some of the key Legislative bills of interest this session that NSA will continue to monitor include the Governor’s tax proposals, water policy issues and livestock development incentives.
Pork Industry Day
– by Teri Koch

The 2013 Nebraska Pork Industry Day was held in West Point, NE at the Nielsen Community Center. The event kicked off on Monday, February 25 with Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) and Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) certifications for producers. Following the certification sessions was a “walkabout” reception for participants to eat and mingle with vendors as they talked about the past, present, and future of the swine industry. Attendees from the Nebraska Soybean Board included directors, Lisa Lunz and Ed Lammers, and staff, Teri Koch.

The program continued on Tuesday, February 26 with 30 minute mini-sessions for producers and participants to attend and learn more about the swine industry with topics including genetics, farrowing, and marketing. The lunch program had guest speaker, Chris Novak, CEO of National Pork Board, and the announcement of the 2012 Industry Awards. To wrap up the day, a final session titled “Just Ask” was held in order to exchange information, ideas, and considerations.

However, Pork Industry Day is not only for producers. This event also gave Nebraska’s youth an opportunity for personal and professional development. More than 80 students from Northeast Community College, Scribner-Snyder FFA, and York FFA attended the event with hopes to learn more about career choices, leadership, and networking. Brent Green of Leadership Equip led the morning session explaining how personality and interests can connect with careers. The day concluded with an energetic session from Stacey Agnew and Sarah Jensen of the Nebraska FFA Foundation and Shane Meyer of Plymouth Ag Group about finding a job and getting hired.

The Nebraska Soybean Board sponsored a portion of this event to support the animal agriculture industry in Nebraska.

2013 National Biodiesel Conference a Success
– by Andy Chvatal

The Nebraska Soybean Board took part in this year’s National Biodiesel Conference in Las Vegas, NV on February 4-7. This past year has been another successful one for the industry — they met the EPA’s biodiesel blending requirement set forth through the RFS2 and also got the biodiesel tax credit passed until the end of 2013. Not only will the tax credit help the industry meet EPA’s requirements for a second year, but it will also help make biodiesel more readily available to consumers in Nebraska.

Nebraska’s delegation was made up of a combination of 15 soybean producers, fuel distributors and farm machinery salesmen. On Wednesday afternoon, the group toured the newer Biodiesel of Las Vegas plant, which currently has a production capacity of 4 million gallons and will soon add another 15 million to that capacity.

The group also got to tour SYNLawn, one of the largest manufacturers of synthetic turf in the United States. The company’s synthetic turf incorporates backings and coatings that are manufactured largely from soybean oil instead of petroleum oil. One might remember that this was the turf that Kansas State University installed on their football field last year.

The conference wrapped up on Thursday with a presentation from Ag Secretary Vilsack. Among his many quotes to the conference attendees, one really hit home for all of the soybean producers in the audience — “You have the power to make us more energy secure, and still create enough food and fiber for the world. That’s an amazing opportunity worth fighting for,” Vilsack said.
It’s time to celebrate! April is soyfoods month and there are more opportunities than ever for you to find ways to incorporate the health benefits of soy into your diet. Soyfoods have many nutritional benefits that can contribute to a heart healthy diet. Soyfoods are low in saturated fat and cholesterol-free.

Despite popular belief, it’s quite easy to add soyfoods into your diet by adding them to dishes you already enjoy. For example, here is a great tasting recipe for a spinach and artichoke dip that uses tofu instead of more cheese. Incorporating tofu in dishes is great because it packs a nutritional punch and takes on the flavor of whatever you’re mixing it with.

There are many resources available to learn more about the benefits of soyfoods and the many ways you can incorporate them into your diet. For more information on soyfoods, please visit:

• The Soyfoods Association of North America (www.soyfoods.org)
• The Nebraska Soybean Board (www.nebraskasonybeans.org/soyfoods)

For great soyfoods recipes, make sure to also check out our YouTube channel, which features soyfoods cooking videos and our daily recipe section in the Lincoln Journal Star during the month of April.

• www.youtube.com/NESoybeanBoard

The Nebraska Soybean Board encourages you to celebrate Soyfoods Month this April and to eat well, eat soy.

Soy Spinach & Artichoke Dip
Servings: 12

Ingredients:
• 1 pound tofu
• 1 pound Neufchatel cheese
• 1 cup light mayonnaise
• 1 teaspoon red chili flakes
• 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
• 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground pepper
• 1 pound marinated artichoke hearts
• 1/2 cup green onion, sliced 1/8" thick
• 1 pound frozen spinach, thawed and drained
• 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese

Directions:
In the food processor with steel blade blend tofu, Neufchatel cheese, mayonnaise, red chili flakes, sea salt and Ground pepper until smooth. Add artichokes, green onion, and spinach and pulse until mixed in. Place in a large baking dish or individual dishes, sprinkle with parmesan cheese and bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes. Serve with crackers.
$5,000 DuPont Pioneer Grant goes to Nebraska Soybean Association Mentorship Program

The Nebraska Soybean Association is pleased to announce they are the recipients of a $5,000 DuPont Pioneer grant towards its corn and soybean collegiate mentorship program.

“The future of agriculture is dependent upon leaders in this industry who have the resources, information and confidence that is crucial to work together to find solutions to feed, fuel and provide the fiber needed for a rapidly growing global populations,” said Steve Reno – DuPont Pioneer Western business unit director.

“We are extremely proud to support this mentorship program that will give agricultural leaders the training and networking opportunities needed to build a safer and healthier world.”

“The DuPont Pioneer Giving Program will assist our organization in carrying out a collegiate mentoring program in conjunction with the Nebraska Corn Growers that is designed to develop future leaders for our industry. Our intent is to further educate young leaders on how they can be involved at the local and state levels. These individuals will be future leaders for the ag industry,” said Lori Luebbe – Executive Director, Nebraska Soybean Association.

Pioneer makes contributions to community-based organizations on behalf of the business and employees. Consideration for community outreach grants are given to communities where Pioneer representatives, employees and customers live and work and that support quality-of-life initiatives to create an improved, sustainable lifestyle for people worldwide.

DuPont Pioneer is the world’s leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics, providing high-quality seeds to farmers in more than 90 countries.

It took years to make it a farm...It takes one call to keep it safe!

Call 8-1-1 anywhere in the nation to reach your local one call center to have them send utility representatives out to mark their utilities.

Examples of when to call 8-1-1 include drain tile projects, deep chiseling, building waterways, installing irrigation and water wells, building terraces or holding ponds and any excavation project.

Salute to our Corporate Relations Partners

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

2012-2013 partners include:
Ag Processing Inc; Farm Credit Services of America; Monsanto; Novozymes; Pioneer and Syngenta.

Northern Natural Gas

www.northernnaturalgas.com,
click on safety

Call 911 and 1-888-367-6671
To Report Natural Gas Emergencies
The yield response of soybeans to early May, mid-May, late May, and mid-June planting dates was examined a few years ago in Nebraska, using funding provided by the Nebraska Soybean Board. The replicated research data showed that for each day that soybean planting was delayed after May 1 each year, seed yield fell by as much as $5/8$ of a bu/ac per day in a “good” year and still by as much as $1/4$ of a bu/ac per day in a “bad” year. Multiply those numbers by the number of days of delayed planting and then by the current price of soybeans, and you will see that a significant number of dollars are “flying” out of your billfold when you delay soybean planting for reasons other than soil or weather-related conditions. Producers grow crops to harvest the free solar energy and convert it into chemical energy of seeds (i.e., carbohydrate, protein, lipids). Strive to ensure that your crop collects sunlight that would go wasted in late plantings (see below picture), and let it use early season rainfall for some of its water needs. A new node is formed every 3.7 days (~two per week), so delaying planting reduces the number of plant nodes. For more details (and caveats) about the rewards of early soybean planting, go to: http://cropwatch.unl.edu/web/cropwatch/archive?articleID=4083577. The yield rewards of earlier planting do come with some risk – the primary one being a wet and cold soil after planting, so you will want to insure against germination loss by using fungicide-treated seed.

This website was created at the University of Nebraska using funding provided by the Nebraska Soybean Board. It predicts the calendar dates of all key growth stages of your soybean crop in each field and keeps track of the daily water use by the crop. It will tell you when to schedule irrigation events in a just-in-time-&-just-the-correct amount manner, so that yield is optimized with just the minimum needed irrigations. Rainfed producers can use the predicted dates of key crop stages for more precisely timed fungicide and pesticide applications. To use the website, you first register. Click on the Soy Irrigation Tool button and then on the first sentence of the new page, click on the blue here button, and supply the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Necessary Information</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Notes and Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name:</td>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>SoyWater will remember you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Name:</td>
<td>Doe</td>
<td>Use a valid email address. A 4-digit activation code will be sent to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jdoe@example.com">jdoe@example.com</a></td>
<td>This is asked to make sure there are no typos in the above entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm Email address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jdoe@example.com">jdoe@example.com</a></td>
<td>First, middle, last name initials + three numbers (remember these!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Login Name:</td>
<td>jdoe123</td>
<td>Your home phone number is a good password for easy remembrance,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password:</td>
<td>4721181</td>
<td>but do not use dashes or spaces in your password.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm Password:</td>
<td>4721181</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have successfully registered, check your email inbox (check also your Spam folder if you have one) for the emailed SoyWater activation code (write it down). Follow the instructions in the SoyWater email on how to activate your account. Once activated, the first page you will see is a Google map. Follow the instruction in that page on how to locate your first soybean field and then to create a crop water use table for that field. (repeat for more fields as you wish!)

Plant Your Soybeans in Early May or Late April. Why? – It Pays!

– by James E. Specht, UNL Professor of Agronomy & Horticulture

The yield response of soybeans to early May, mid-May, late May, and mid-June planting dates was examined a few years ago in Nebraska, using funding provided by the Nebraska Soybean Board. The replicated research data showed that for each day that soybean planting was delayed after May 1 each year, seed yield fell by as much as $5/8$ of a bu/ac per day in a “good” year and still by as much as $1/4$ of a bu/ac per day in a “bad” year. Multiply those numbers by the number of days of delayed planting and then by the current price of soybeans, and you will see that a significant number of dollars are “flying” out of your billfold when you delay soybean planting for reasons other than soil or weather-related conditions. Producers grow crops to harvest the free solar energy and convert it into chemical energy of seeds (i.e., carbohydrate, protein, lipids). Strive to ensure that your crop collects sunlight that would go wasted in late plantings (see below picture), and let it use early season rainfall for some of its water needs. A new node is formed every 3.7 days (~two per week), so delaying planting reduces the number of plant nodes. For more details (and caveats) about the rewards of early soybean planting, go to: http://cropwatch.unl.edu/web/cropwatch/archive?articleID=4083577. The yield rewards of earlier planting do come with some risk – the primary one being a wet and cold soil after planting, so you will want to insure against germination loss by using fungicide-treated seed.

**Picture Date: 6/26/2003**

- 02-May
- 17-May
- 20-May
- 16-Jun

**Picture Date: 6/24/2004**

- 28-Apr
- 16-May
- 02-Jun
- 17-Jun

Spring 2013
Preemergence herbicides help maintain full yield potential and aid in resistance management.

– by Lowell Sandell and Greg Kruger

Best Management Practices

With the increasing frequency of herbicide-resistant weeds in U.S. commodity crop production, the topic has garnered significant attention in farm related media publications in the last few years. Herbicide resistance has been a topic of concern for weed scientists for many years, but in too many cases, it takes the evolution of a problematic herbicide-resistant weed population on a growers land to drive home the seriousness and difficulty of maintaining high yields and profitability when a resistant weed population is present. This problem is particularly magnified if a grower loses the effectiveness of glyphosate for post-emergence weed control in soybeans. A recently published paper in a special edition of the journal Weed Science outlines a number of best management practices growers can use to prevent or slow the spread of herbicide-resistant weed species. They are as follows:

- Understand the biology of weed species present in your field(s).
- Use a diverse weed management program to reduce the soil weed seed bank.
- Plant into weed free fields and keep fields as weed free as possible.
- Scout fields routinely.
- Use multiple herbicide modes of action (MoA) that are effective against the most troublesome weeds or those most prone to evolve herbicide resistance.
- Apply the labeled rate for the soil type or at the appropriate plant size.
- Use cultural cropping practices, such as crop rotation and adjust row spacing that suppress weeds.
- Use mechanical and biological practices where appropriate.
- Prevent field-to-field movement of weed seed.
- Manage field borders to prevent influxes of problematic weed species.

From this list, one of the primary tools growers are likely to implement is the use of preemergence herbicides to increase the number of effective modes of action for controlling problematic weed species. University of Nebraska weed scientists have confirmed populations of glyphosate-resistant marestail, kochia and giant ragweed scattered throughout Nebraska. Growers are also finding waterhemp and common lambsquarters difficult to manage. In order to prevent the further evolution or invasion of glyphosate-resistant weeds, diversifying the modes of action in your herbicide program is essential. The easiest way to diversity modes of action in your soybean weed control program is through the use of preemergence herbicides. Growers should read labels carefully and refer to UNL Extension’s The Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska (EC130) to select the appropriate rate based on the soil type and organic matter in a given field.

Another significant benefit of using preemergence herbicides is that they help maintain the full yield potential of a soybean crop. Maintaining a weed-free start to a soybean crop through the early vegetative stages eliminates resource
competition with weeds, allows the soybean crop to canopy earlier to help suppress late season weed germination and provides greater flexibility in the timing of postemergence herbicide applications.

A Sustainable Approach to Delaying or Preventing Herbicide Resistant Weeds

The evolution of glyphosate-resistant weed populations should cause all Nebraska soybean producers to figuratively “hit the refresh button” when considering their soybean weed control choices. Glyphosate-resistant weeds have not impacted Nebraska to the same extent as other areas of the Midwest and Southern regions, but our fortune regarding resistant weeds seems to be changing rapidly. The way to combat resistant weed evolution is an integrated weed management approach. Implementing multiple tactics that include PRE herbicides, POST tank mixtures of glyphosate with other effective herbicides, timeliness of applications, tillage if appropriate and crop rotation all reduce the chance of glyphosate-resistant weed evolution. If you don’t currently have resistant weeds, these steps will help keep the problem at bay. If glyphosate-resistant weeds have already developed on your farm, a diversified approach is absolutely necessary to achieve adequate weed control and keep your yields high.

Proper resistance management is a proactive approach to managing weeds. In fields with marestail, kochia, giant ragweed, Palmer amaranth or waterhemp, managing to prevent herbicide resistance development is a desirable goal. This can be achieved by using at least one PRE herbicide that is effective on all the weeds present in the field, followed by a postemergence application, if warranted, of a second herbicide that is effective on the same weeds. It is important to remember that herbicide resistance management principles apply to all cropping systems, including Roundup Ready, Liberty Link, conventional crops, and each of the herbicide-resistant technologies that will be commercialized in the future. Using multiple herbicide resistance traits in your crop rotation to “change-up” your herbicide program will result in delayed evolution of herbicide-resistant weed population and greater value and longevity of the weed control tools currently available to producers.

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Because the movement of glyphosate-resistant traits (via pollen or seed movement) in weed populations cares nothing about property ownership, fence lines, or man-made boundaries, resistance management should be considered the responsibility of the entire agricultural community. This underscores the necessity of knowing the weeds present in your fields and then implementing weed management programs that are economically effective, but also reduce the potential for glyphosate resistance development.

2012 photo of a glyphosate-resistant marestail field.
The 2012 growing season represented the second year replicated field research was conducted at the Soybean Management Field Day sites.

Why the need for conducting research at these sites?

Many practical questions regarding soybean production and natural resource sustainability are not being answered by current federally and industry funded crop research programs. In addition, the diversity of soybean growing environments in Nebraska, changes in climate and advancements in production technologies are causing growers to question many long-held assumptions associated with soybean production. Add to this, today’s consumer is asking questions about how and where their food comes from, the increasing world demand for soybeans, and the importance natural resources such as soil and water have on meeting the demand. Subsequently, growers are increasingly challenged to grow soybeans more responsibly.

All of those representing the University of Nebraska – Lincoln greatly appreciate the financial investment you the soybean growers of Nebraska have made through your Checkoff contribution in supporting the research undertaken in this project. We would also like to thank the Nebraska Soybean Board for their part in support and management of this effort. Their input into the selection of research topics and in some cases treatments, was extremely valuable.

For a full report of the research results, email Keith Glewen at kglewen1@unl.edu, or Andy Chvatal at andy@nebraskasoybeans.org.

Quick Fact:
Across the four locations, soybean yields were approximately 10 bushels/acre higher in 15 inch rows than in 30 inch rows. Also, altering seeding rates from 100,000 to 150,000 to 200,000 did not have an effect on yields.

Topics Covered:
- Quest for the Holy Grail of Soybean Production: 100 Bushel Soybeans
- Effect of Foliar Fungicides and Insecticides on Soybean Disease Severity and Yield in Nebraska
- Effect of Fungicide and Insecticide Seed Treatments on Soybean Stand and Yield in Nebraska
- Biostimulant Seed Treatment and Foliar Product Effects on Soybean Yield and Seed Quality
- Impact of Carrier Rate on Herbicide Performance

INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS

Soybean Management Field Days
On-Farm Research

by Keith Glewen, UNL Extension Educator

Back in August, researchers talk to producers about applications made to the soybeans at SMFD.

In late January, researchers relay the yield and economic results to producers from all of the different soybean trials that they ran this past August.
Soybean Association Elects 2013 Officers and Recognizes Award Recipient

The Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) elected its 2013 officers & directors during their annual meeting held in Grand Island in December.

Geoff Ruth of Rising City, NE was re-elected as NSA President for his second term. Ruth begins his 2nd term as President and oversees the functions of the state organization. He says, “One of my goals is to continue to increase membership by communicating the value of belonging to the Nebraska Soybean Association and the importance of membership as it relates to policy work.”

Ken Boswell of Shickley, NE was re-elected to a second term as vice-president. Boswell serves as the District 7 director for NSA. Robert Johnston was elected to serve as Treasurer and he currently serves as the District 2 director. Serving another term as Secretary was Diane Becker of Madison, NE who represents an At-Large district.

Elected to a first term for the District 6 director position was Nathan Dorn of Hickman. Dorn was the 2012 NSA Young Leader recipient. Others re-elected to serve on the state board of directors were Jason Lavene of Bertrand, representing District 3; Dennis Fujan of Prague, representing District 5; Ken Boswell of Shickley, representing District 7; and Beau Bearnes serving an At Large position.

This year’s recipient of the Nebraska Soybean Association Promoter Award was awarded to past American Soybean Association President, Steve Wellman of Syracuse.

In 2006, Steve was elected to serve as a director on the American Soybean Association. Since then he has held leadership positions and was elected President of ASA in 2012. He has served in leadership roles at ASA as Chair of the Strategic Planning committee, Treasurer, Chairman of the Public Affairs committee and has served on the Membership, Finance, Audit and Investment committees. He most recently serves on the 2012 ASA Farm Bill Policy Task Force.

Resolutions were discussed and adopted during the annual meeting. Highlights included opposing mandatory requirement of labeling of any food or beverages sold as to whether they were produced from animal or plants that were grown with traits that were genetically modified, supporting existing permitting requirements and exemption for agricultural electrical equipment and supporting the Northeast Home Heating oil legislation to further the biodiesel industry.

Several of the state resolutions were forwarded for discussion during the American Soybean Association’s annual meeting which was held in early March in Kissimmee, FL during the Commodity Classic Convention.

Steve Wellman talks about some of the top priorities of the American Soybean Association with Farm Broadcaster Susan Littlefield of KZ100 radio.

Steve Wellman was presented the 2012 Soybean Promoter award given by the Nebraska Soybean Association directors during the Soybean Expo held in Wahoo. L to R: NSA directors Scott Richert, Dennis Fujan, Geoff Ruth, Steve Wellman, Doug Bartek and Ken Boswell.
Resistant-varieties best way to manage frogeye leaf spot, charcoal rot in the long-term  

by Carrie Laughlin, Communications Specialist, Iowa Soybean Association

An eight-state initiative, developed by the North Central Soybean Research Project (NCSRP) and funded by the soybean checkoff, is helping farmers better manage frogeye leaf spot (FLS) and charcoal rot. These soybean diseases are expanding across the North Central region and reducing yields. Frogeye leaf spot is becoming more common in Nebraska, especially the state’s southeast corner. Charcoal rot, also known as dry-weather wilt, is most prevalent in southern states but can develop anywhere hot, dry conditions exist.

NCSRP’s work includes identifying genetic resistance to these diseases, developing techniques for assaying resistance and characterizing pathotypes of these pathogens and updating technical information on the incidence, severity and management. Host resistance was the focus to deliver long-term management options for producers.

Jason Bond, associate professor of plant, soil and agriculture systems at Southern Illinois University and project leader, says researchers screened more than 700 commercial cultivars during the multi-year study. Thirty percent were found resistant to FLS but were not always labeled as having such resistance.

“Some information is available, but it’s not labeled very well by the companies,” Bond says. “If you have fields with a history of FLS, it’s important to look at seed variety brochures carefully. The majority of the resistant varieties identified would perform very well in a FLS epidemic; however, this is a diverse pathogen with multiple races.”

Bond says one older cultivar, Davis, has a known resistance gene that provides resistance to all races of the FLS pathogen. However, this type of resistance is present in
INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS in RESEARCH to IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY

NCSRP’s work includes identifying genetic resistance to these diseases, developing techniques for resistance, characterizing pathotypes and updating information to help productivity.

less than 5 percent of all FLS-resistant varieties.

“The first step in managing FLS is to select a resistant variety if possible. However, farmers still have to watch their fields. If they have one of more aggressive races, they may still see symptoms on the resistant varieties, and in those cases, fungicide would be applied.”

Currently, FLS isn’t at the top of the list for soybean breeders. Until there is more emphasis on the disease, farmers will have to worry about it.

“It’s all about being competitive – a soybean variety can’t have resistance to all diseases,” Bond says. “When you consider FLS can be managed with fungicides, it probably reduces the desire for plant breeders to invest resources to address this pathogen. There are isolates of the FLS pathogen that are less sensitive to fungicides, which makes the disease more difficult to manage.”

Charcoal rot, like many fungal diseases, attacks soybean seedlings in cool, wet conditions soon after planting time. Later when plants suffer mild to severe drought stress, it’s the presence of the pathogen and the damage it causes to the vascular tissues that exacerbates the effects of the dry weather.

“It’s difficult to pinpoint how much of the damage is due to dry weather and how much is due to the disease,” Bond says. “The fungus that causes this disease is in most fields in the Midwest and South; the weather is the factor that determines if you will see the problem.”

Partially-resistant varieties have not been available for rot until a few years ago. Funding by NCSRP helped researchers identify varieties with some resistance. These varieties then enabled researchers to develop greenhouse and field screening protocols.

“The industry is getting close to being able to help farmers mitigate soybean yield losses to charcoal rot with resistant varieties,” Bond says.

NCSRP is a farmer-led organization that invests soybean checkoff funds in research programs to better understand and manage plant stressors that reduce soybean yield and profitability. Its mission is to maximize producer returns by coordinating research and assuring regional research projects are targeted at problems of the North Central soybean producer.

Charcoal rot, like many fungal diseases, attacks soybean seedlings in cool, wet conditions soon after planting time.
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. It works hard to improve the environment, help out farmers and create new jobs right here in America, all while lowering our dependence on foreign oil.

Biodiesel
Fuel made better.

Made in the U.S.A.