ASGROW® PRODUCTS IN NEBRASKA TARGET WHITE MOLD, PHYTOPHTHORA DISEASE

Ten Asgrow® Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™ Products Expected to Be Available in 2016 for Nebraska Farmers

This season, Nebraska farmers will have the opportunity to purchase Asgrow® Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans™. Built on Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® technology, farmers can count on the same exceptional yield performance with this new technology.

The Asgrow brand is expected to offer the largest selection of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean products for planting in 2016, with 25 products spanning all eight maturity groups. Included would be 10 products for farmers in Nebraska. In addition, the new products will provide resistance packages against nematodes and Phytophthora root rot.

Despite challenging growing conditions in parts of Nebraska last year, Asgrow soybean products demonstrated strong performance.

For 2016, the Asgrow lineup features the latest genetics that combine high yield potential with defensive traits to help Nebraska farmers continue to maximize performance.

Steve Johnsen, Asgrow DEKALB® technical agronomist in eastern Nebraska, cited leading Asgrow products designed to stand up well to disease pressure:

- AG4034 Brand for protection against Phytophthora disease
- AG2836 and AG3936 Brands for protection against sudden death syndrome
- AG2535 Brand for protection against white mold and Phytophthora disease

Johnsen said the benefits of the brand’s strong defense packages were demonstrated last year in eastern Nebraska when higher-than-usual moisture from April through mid-season contributed to early-season plant diseases. “Asgrow defensive traits have been greatly ramped up in recent years and offer strong resistance to these key soybean diseases,” he said. “Despite challenging growing conditions in 2015, our product lineup performed extremely well.”

He added that Asgrow genetics are selected to also provide strong standability. Many Nebraska farmers plant Asgrow with Acceleron®, Seed Treatment Products, which help promote strong standability by offering effective fungicide protection against early-season seedling diseases associated with cool, wet weather.

The 2015 growing season was generally favorable in the western part of the state where Asgrow DEKALB technical agronomist Randy Lloyd noted that iron deficiency chlorosis can be an issue. Several Asgrow products address this issue, such as AG2733 Brand which has exhibited good tolerance to high pH soils with yield potential to overcome initial chlorosis.

Johnsen and Lloyd said other standout Asgrow products being planted in 2016 in Nebraska that combine strong agronomics and high yield potential include AG3034 Brand on irrigated and dryland acres and AG3432 Brand, primarily on dryland.

*As of January 11, 2016 no dicamba herbicide product has been approved for commercial in-crop use with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans. DO NOT APPLY DICAMBA HERBICIDE IN-CROP TO Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans IN 2016 unless you use a dicamba herbicide product that is specifically labeled for that use in the location where you intend to make the application. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAW TO MAKE AN IN-CROP APPLICATION OF ANY DICAMBA HERBICIDE PRODUCT ON Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans UNLESS THE PRODUCT LABELING SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZES THAT USE. Contact the U.S. EPA and your state pesticide regulatory agency with any questions about the approval status of dicamba herbicide products for in-crop use with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans.

Monsanto Company is a member of Excellence Through Stewardship® (ETS) Monsanto products are commercialized in accordance with ETS Product Launch Stewardship Guidance, and in compliance with Monsanto’s Policy for Commercialization of Biotechnology-Derived Plant Products in Commodity Crops. This product has been approved for cultivation in the U.S. and Canada, and for import in Australia/New Zealand, Colombia, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and Vietnam. The single events in this product have been approved for import in the EU. As of February 2, 2016, E.U. stack approval is in the final stage of approval and is expected but not guaranteed to be received in the near future. Any crop or material produced from this product can only be exported to, or used, processed or sold in countries where all necessary regulatory approvals have been granted. It is a violation of national and international law to move material containing biotech traits across boundaries into nations where import is not permitted. Growers should talk to their grain handler or product purchaser to confirm their buying position for this product. Growers should refer to http://www.biotradestatus.com/ for any updated information on import country approvals.

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS: Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans contains genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate and dicamba. Glyphosate herbicides will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate. Dicamba will kill crops that are not tolerant to dicamba. Contact your Monsanto dealer or refer to Monsanto’s Technology Use Guide for recommended Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System weed control programs. Acceleron®, Asgrow®, DEKALB®, Genuity®, Roundup Ready®, Roundup Ready 2 Yield® and Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™ are registered trademark of Monsanto Technology LLC. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2016 Monsanto Company
Have you ever wanted to see how your checkoff dollars are invested to increase global demand for soybeans?

If so, come See for Yourself this year.

The time to register for the Nebraska Soybean Board’s two See for Yourself programs have come and gone, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t more to see. Opportunities still exist for farmers and agribusiness professionals to attend local, in-state, national and international meetings.

Local

If you are interested in joining the board in attending meetings with:

- National Biodiesel Board
- United States Meat Export Federation
- United States Soybean Export Council
- United States of America Poultry and Egg Export Council
- Soy Transportation Coalition
- North Central Soybean Research Program
or other affiliates, contact the Nebraska Soybean office.

International

There are also two upcoming opportunities:

**Latin America** – Travel to Latin America with representatives from AGP and the United States Meat Export Federation to talk with buyers and see promotions aimed at building demand for U.S. soy and meat products.

**Japan** – Nebraska Soybean Checkoff funded a U.S. pork promotion in Japan again this year. That trade mission normally takes place in the late summer or early fall.

Applications for these opportunities are ongoing. If you’re interested in applying, or finding more information, please visit our website at [www.nebraskasoybeans.org](http://www.nebraskasoybeans.org) or contact the office at (402) 441-3240.

All flight, hotel, bus and group meal costs will be paid for by checkoff dollars through the Nebraska Soybean Board. Participants are only responsible for their own travel to and from Omaha’s Eppley Airport.
Farming is an inherently risky business. As you prepare for another growing season, you will undoubtedly face a number of challenges and opportunities that will have an impact on your operations. These challenges and opportunities will force you to make tough decisions that will ultimately affect your bottom line.

Although there is no way to completely eliminate risk, your soybean checkoff works hard to help you stay profitable. Whether trying to tackle production issues through research or technology transfer, working to expand markets at home and abroad, or working to protect your freedom to operate, your soybean checkoff dollars are invested to tackle projects we likely couldn’t fund individually.

This past year, my fellow board members and I put together a new strategic plan that we will use to guide checkoff investments for the next three years. Please take a look at our annual report in this issue of the magazine to see where your checkoff dollars were invested in 2015.

I’d also like to take the opportunity to highlight the arrival of high oleic soybeans in Nebraska. Over the past several years, the United Soybean Board, in conjunction with Pioneer and Monsanto, has invested a lot of time and money to develop a new soybean variety aimed at recapturing market share lost by trans fats issues. This new variety, coined “high oleic,” eliminates the need for partial hydrogenation, the process that adds trans fats to commodity soybean oil. High oleic soy has been offered in other parts of the country for the last few years, and many farmers report noticing no yield drag.

Pioneer has partnered with AGP in Hastings to start accepting high oleic soybeans. Farmers across the state will have the opportunity to grow these new varieties and have them processed at the AGP-Hastings plant for a premium. I encourage you all to talk to your local Pioneer dealer about growing high oleic soy in 2016. He or she will likely have more information about their desired draw area and what premium they will offer growers.

While you will undoubtedly face obstacles this growing season, know your checkoff will be working hard on your behalf. Armed with a new strategic plan, my fellow board members and I will work hard to maximize your investments and take advantage of opportunities to move the industry forward.

Have a safe and successful spring,
Ron Pavelka
I would like to introduce myself, although many of you may already know me, I am Dennis Fujan from Prague. I am pleased to be serving you as President of the Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA). Prior to moving up as President, I served as Vice President of NSA for two years and have served on the board of directors since 2009. Following high school I enlisted in the US Navy and served in Viet Nam, worked at Valmont Mfg. after discharge, and started farming full time in 1982. I raise soybeans and corn near Prague in Saunders County, and try to be as active as possible in a number of farm organizations, as well as my church and with my family. I’ve been married to my wife Pat for 43 years and we have two married daughters and four grandchildren who are doing their best to keep me focused on youth and their energy. I have a nephew Brent who has started farming with me to help me transition to retirement, whatever that is!

Speaking of focus, as you know the focus of the Nebraska Soybean Association is policy. We work on state policy issues and also policy issues in Washington DC with the American Soybean Association representatives. The Nebraska Legislature started a 60-day session Jan. 8th and will meet until Apr 20. This year there are a number of bills that have an impact on agriculture. LB 176 is the packer ownership bill which has passed and was signed by the Governor. We agree this bill will give producers a better opportunity for livestock expansion in the state which is good for soybean producers...a place to go with all our soybean meal.

Back to focus...our main legislative focus this year is property tax relief. A number of bills have been introduced this year dealing with property tax relief which is a priority for the Governor. We will be monitoring the bills to see what will be best for agriculture land owners. The high property tax issues didn’t happen overnight and it won’t get solved right away. There are several proposals that will lay the groundwork for a solution this year, however, all of Nebraska’s property owners are seeking relief from the disproportionate burden of property taxes. The Legislature has a lot of proposals before them and finding the balance with property tax relief and school funding will be a huge task. We need your help. Contact your State Senator and let them know how you’ve been impacted, let your city friends know as well, keep cool heads, but explain the inequality. You can find your Senators contact information online at nebraskalegislature.gov.

If you don’t belong to NSA, please join and ask your neighbors and friends, together we are stronger than alone. We have many issues ahead of us that will need our input and your support will help our efforts. Contact the NSA office at 402-441-3239 to join.
Every fall in Nebraska, we see fields and fields of soybeans, ready to be harvested. In 2015, there were 305,660,000 million bushels of soybeans grown, ranking Nebraska fifth in soybean production in the United States. Nebraska checkoff dollars go to work at the state level—supporting marketing, communication and research programs, the other half goes toward improving profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. The volunteer farmers-leaders of the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) work to ensure that your checkoff investments will grow demand for Nebraska soybean farmers.

The Funding and Expenditure Report below shows how checkoff dollars are invested in the four projects areas: International Marketing, Research, Producer Education/Communications and Domestic Marketing. These areas helped to expand, develop and increase markets for Nebraska soybeans. Whether it’s a state project or a national initiative, rest assured that our soybean checkoff’s number one priority is the continued investment in programs that grow demand benefitting each and every U.S. soybean farmer.

### TOTAL FUNDING

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### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

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<td>Net Assets, End of Year</td>
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Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) members spent time this past year developing a new strategic plan that they will use to help drive funding decisions over the next three years.

As farmers, you constantly face a number of dynamic challenges. Whether you’re dealing with uncertainties in markets, economic or political changes, or Mother Nature, each decision you make has an impact on your operation. The same is true for your soybean checkoff.

Our strategic plan aims to help you remain profitable and continue providing high-quality soybeans in a sustainable manner in order to meet the demands of a growing world population. As stewards of your checkoff, it is our goal to help you solve and manage production issues, to increase demand by working to develop new markets for aquaculture and supporting the livestock and biodiesel industries, and to ensure a good working relationships with foreign buyers.

The soybean industry continues to change and increase in complexity. By sticking to the fundamentals of good governance, frugal checkoff investments, and keeping with the plan, your soybean checkoff is ready to capitalize on future opportunities that increase profitability for soybean farmers.

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**Mission Statement:**
Effectively invest and leverage soybean checkoff resources to maximize profit opportunities for Nebraska soybean farmers.

- Promote the success of the Nebraska soybean industry through responsible stewardship while acknowledging global market needs.
- Maximize production and utilization of Nebraska soybeans annually.
- Invest in the development and acceptance of soy technologies.

**VISION STATEMENT:**
Aggressively focus on existing markets and develop new markets for ALL soy products.

**CORE VALUE:**
The Board is committed to achieving maximum value for each Nebraska soybean farmer’s checkoff dollar.

**PURPOSE:**
Invest checkoff funds to benefit Nebraska soybean farmers.

**STRATEGY:**
Engage industry on behalf of Nebraska soybean farmers to maximize utilization of Nebraska soybeans in the global market.

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**Research**
- Support production research projects
- Support yield loss prevention research projects
- Support research projects that aim to find new uses/markets for soy
- Support water research projects

**Producer Education/Communication**
- Work to build support and knowledge of soy-based products (or those that consume soy) to the public
- Enhance programs that inform producers about technology transfer and increase profitability potential
- Continue to grow and support soy education for K-8 grades in Nebraska
- Continue to build and support soy education for 9-12 grades in Nebraska

**Domestic Marketing**
- Promote projects and programs that help utilize excess soybean oil
- Support utilization of pork in Nebraska
- Support the poultry industry, the largest user of soy meal in the U.S.
- Provide links on our website to distributors of innovative soy products

**International Marketing**
- Work together to promote the sale and consumption of U.S. meat and value added products
- Work to grow aquaculture and livestock use of soy
- Build international marketing through trade team promotions
- Work together to build and promote value added U.S. poultry and egg products

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By Victor Bohuslavsky
Nebraska Soybean Board

Seeks Leaders to Represent Nebraska Soybean Farmers

— by Diane Muehlhausen

This year, the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) will be seeking three soybean farmers to serve on the Board of Directors and to represent their fellow soybean farmers and the industry.

How does the Election Work?
The election is conducted by mail-in ballot in July. Soybean farmers who reside in counties that are up for election in 2016 will receive ballots and candidate information regarding NSB’s election process via direct mail.

What are the 2016 Election Districts and Counties?
District 2: Counties of Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Stanton, Thurston and Wayne.
District 4: Counties of Boone, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk and York.

Who Can Be a Candidate for the NSB seat on the Board?
• Be a resident of Nebraska
• Be a resident of the district in which the election is being held
• Be a soybean farmer in Nebraska for at least the previous 5 years
• Be 21 years of age or older
• Have submitted a NSB candidacy petition

Candidacy Must:
• Obtain a NSB Candidacy Petition by contacting NSB’s Executive Director, Victor Bohuslavsky, at 402-432-5720.
• Complete the petition and collect the signatures of 50 soybean farmers in their district.
• Return such petition to the NSB office on or before April 15, 2016.

Roles and Responsibilities of Soybean Board Member Representative:
• Attend every NSB meeting – 8 day fiscal year commitment.
• Attend/participate in other educational events sponsored by the Nebraska soybean checkoff.
• Receive no salary but are reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out board business.
• Serve a three-year term that would begin October 1, 2016.

Areas of Focus for the Soybean Industry:
As an elected representative to NSB, you will help guide the Nebraska soybean industry in the areas of research, education, domestic and foreign markets, including new uses for soybeans and soybean products.

If you have questions regarding the election process, please contact NSB’s Executive Director, Victor Bohuslavsky, at 402-432-5720. For more information about the Nebraska Soybean Checkoff, visit www.nebraskasoybeans.org
The implementation of technology has been proven to revolutionize industries. For example, in the course of 25 years (1945-1970), American aviation went from the propeller engine to successfully landing a man on the moon. While this may seem like an extreme example, think about how much technology has revolutionized food production over a 25-year period.

Advancements such as biotechnology, autosteer GPS systems and irrigation management tools have allowed farmers to produce more food using fewer resources, than ever before. However, these advancements haven’t come without questions and concerns from the general public, and for good reason.

Today, the average American is three generations removed from the farm. While many people can still trace their farm roots back to a family member or friend, the gap between farmer and consumer is continually widening. So, how can farmers help consumers better understand modern food production? It can be as simple as starting a conversation.

Since the program began in five states in 2010, CommonGround has been focused on one thing — starting conversations between the people who grow food and the people who buy it. CommonGround is a network of volunteer farm women from across the country who look for ways to engage consumers in a dialogue about their food and where it comes from. Nebraska was one of the five initial states involved in the program in 2010, and since, an additional 12 states have joined the movement.

In 2015, CommonGround Nebraska’s 22 volunteers participated in 30 events around the state, conducted 62 media interviews, and had conversations with more than 3,500 people. By focusing on food-related events, CommonGround is able to reach its target audience with a key message — don’t fear your food.

CommonGround advocates for consumer choice in the food system, highlighting that there is no silver bullet in terms of food production. The group simply informs consumers about the differences and similarities among food production methods and answers any questions they may have.

Diane Karr, a CommonGround volunteer who farms with her husband near Blue Hill, says CommonGround wants to be a resource for people. “Today, consumers face more choices than ever regarding the food they feed their families. Our goal is to simply help make that process less stressful,” Karr said. “We are directly involved in food production every day. We have the benefit of seeing and doing things most folks don’t. We want to start open conversations in order to help consumers better understand what that process looks like. Despite the bad rap farmers sometimes get, we don’t have anything to hide. We feed the same food to our families.”

In an effort to facilitate and extend these conversations, CommonGround Nebraska recently redesigned its website — www.CommonGroundNebraska.com. Here people can find photos, recipes, and blogs from volunteers on a variety of topics. Consumers can even ask food-related questions and have them answered by a volunteer. Make sure to check it out.

Despite major advancements in technology with many more to come, farmers are quickly learning that people have a growing interest in their food. The women of CommonGround are working to help bridge that gap through an honest, open dialogue in the hopes of finding just that — a little common ground.
NSA Officer Elections, Soybean Promoter Award Presented

The Nebraska Soybean Association elected its 2016 officers and directors during their annual meeting held in Grand Island in early December. Dennis Fujan (Prague, NE) was elected to a first term as NSA President.

Other officers elected were Robert Johnston (Clearwater) serving as Vice-President, Shane Greving (Chapman) serving as Treasurer and Nathan Dorn (Adams) serving as Secretary. Geoff Ruth (Rising City) will serve as the Chairman. Brent Svoboda (Pender) was elected to serve as District 1 director and Dennis Fujan (Prague) and Nathan Dorn (Adams) were both re-elected to serve another term as district directors.

This year’s recipient of the Nebraska Soybean Association Soybean Promoter Award was awarded to Scott Houck (Strang, NE). This award is presented annually to recognize an individual who has shown outstanding leadership and support to the betterment of the soybean industry in Nebraska.

Scott began his soybean service upon his election to the Nebraska Soybean Association board of directors in 1995. He served from 1995-2004 as a district director representing soybean producers in the south central district. Scott served first as Treasurer, then Vice President and in 1999 as the President of NSA. During his term with the Soybean Association he was involved with the yield contest, membership, legislative and nominations committees. He attended several American Soybean Association board meetings in Washington DC to lobby on issues important to the soybean industry and participated in national leadership development seminars at ASA.

In 2011 Scott was elected to serve on the Nebraska Soybean Checkoff Board. He served on the state board from 2011-2014. During this time he was chairman of the Research Committee and also served as the Nebraska representative on the North Central Soybean Research Program board.
Getting ahead of disease

— by Allie Arp, NCSRP communications liaison, Iowa Soybean Association research communication specialist

Before plants even emerge from the ground, some Nebraska farmers’ soybeans may already be at a disadvantage. If weather continues the cool wet trend of the last few years, soybean seedling diseases could remain an issue.

“Every year the main seedling diseases are Pythium, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia and Fusarium,” said Loren Geisler, Ph.D., plant pathology professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “Cool, wet conditions favor Pythium, which we’ve seen a lot of the last few years. In sandy soils we’ll see more Rhizoctonia.”

Symptoms to look for:

- **Pythium** seedling blight symptoms include mushy or rotten seedlings and poorly developed roots. As Geisler said, the likelihood of Pythium occurring is increased when soils are cool and saturated.

- **Phytophthora** root rot causes brown stem lesions and wilted and stunted plants. Unlike Pythium, Phytophthora prefers warm saturated soils. It is unique because symptoms of the disease can show up later in the season, rather than right around emergence.

- **Rhizoctonia** seedling blight causes reddish-brown lesions on the seedling’s lower stem at the soil level. Like Pythium, Rhizoctonia also prefers cool and wet soils.

- **Fusarium** root rot causes plants to be stunted or spindly with brown or black discoloration on the roots. It is more likely to appear in warm and wet soils.

These problems are especially troublesome for farmers who have a history of disease issues, stand count problems, or those looking to plant early.

“I’d recommend a seed treatment fungicide to protect the investment of the seed when they put it in the ground,” Geisler said. “After emergence there’s really nothing farmers can do when it comes to seedling disease. It’s more of a planning and history problem.”

To get ahead and stay ahead throughout the growing season, farmers should analyze their disease history and take the proper steps before planting to ensure their soybeans have a chance to grow. These steps should encompass a number of management decisions, including, but not limited to seed treatments and planting dates.

The North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) has currently funded research projects focused on seedling diseases. Recently, they were part of a project that allowed Nebraska researchers to collaborate with others to identify the seedling disease pathogens present in each state. NCSRP works to address soybean production, profitability and environmental sustainability for growers across the North Central Region.
Jeremy Leech has experience with herbicide-resistant weeds, and he’s not happy about it.

“I spent $80 an acre trying to control giant ragweed, and it still didn’t work,” he says. “The herbicides would burn the leaves to where I thought the ragweed was going to die, but the ragweed kept coming back with a vengeance.”

The Humboldt farmer says that spraying did not control all of the weeds last year, and his yields were more than cut in half from his farm’s norm.

With low commodity prices and a tough ag economy, farmers might balk at the up-front cost of a weed-management plan, but University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professor Stevan Knezevic says not controlling them could cost even more.

“Some farmers are paying over $100 per acre and not getting complete control,” he says.

The costs of reactive management – managing weeds after they’ve developed resistance to herbicides – are often higher than the cost of pro-actively reducing the risk of resistance in the first place.

Diversity important to managing herbicide resistance
Knezevic says it helps to have a diverse weed-management approach that not only takes into account the type of herbicide resistance but also the weed’s biology. Paying attention to both of these factors is essential to maximizing yields.

Planting might be top of mind now, but it’s important to control weeds present in soybean fields year-round, including before planting, at planting, after emergence and after harvest. Once seed is in the ground and plants start emerging, scouting early and often after applying post-emergence herbicides will reveal whether any resistant weeds survived. If you spot resistant weeds, pull them from the field. Allowing troublesome weeds to survive accelerates the growth of herbicide resistance.

Weed-management factors to keep in mind
Consider the following practices to give crops the competitive advantage against weeds:

- **Planting date** – Crop planting date can affect the severity of a weed infestation. Rapid and consistent emergence of the crop is critical to its success and competitive advantage over associated weeds.

- **Pre- and post-emergence applications** – Use pre-emergence herbicides in corn and soybeans, and then use post-emergence herbicides with different modes of action from your pre-emergence selections.

- **Row widths** – Narrow row widths can accelerate canopy development, which slows annual weed emergence and diminishes their ability to compete with crops. Over time, this results in fewer weed seeds in fields.

- **Seeding rates** – Like row widths, increased seeding rates can increase crop competitiveness and accelerate canopy development.

- **Seed selection** – Choosing the right seed can help suppress weeds. Your soybean plants’ growth rate, height, leaf angle and canopy formation all affect weed growth, so choosing varieties that will optimize those factors will be helpful.
Nebraska’s 3 Worst Weeds

Experts say that knowing the weeds is the first step of defense. In Nebraska, the biggest three weed threats are kochia, Palmer amaranth and common waterhemp, and each weed has its own strengths and weaknesses.

**Kochia**

**Growth:** Shallow germination; early-season and extended germination

**Strengths**
- Major seed producer; tumbleweed seed dispersal
- Drought-tolerant, salt-tolerant
- Populations exist with resistance to: atrazine, 2, 4-D, dicamba, glyphosate and ALS herbicides

**Weaknesses**
- Poor competitor in wet, humid environments
- Short seed life

**Palmer Amaranth or Palmer Pigweed**

**Growth:** Up to 2.5 inches per day

**Strengths**
- Extremely competitive
- High reproductive capacity; up to 1,000,000 seeds per plant
- Herbicide-resistance traits can transfer by pollen
- Extended germination period
- Populations exist with resistance to atrazine, glyphosate, ALS herbicides and HPPD herbicides

**Weaknesses**
- Does not emerge from low soil depths
- Relatively short-lived in the soil seed bank (4-5 years)

**Common Waterhemp**

**Growth:** 1 to 1.25 inches per day

**Strengths**
- Emerges throughout growing season
- Can escape many pre-emergence herbicides and post-emergence applications without residuals
- Herbicide-resistance traits can transfer by pollen very quickly
- Major ability to infest fields; up to 1,000,000 seeds per plant; seeds remain viable in soil for up to five years
- Populations exist with resistance to atrazine, 2, 4-D, glyphosate, ALS herbicides and HPPD herbicides

**Weaknesses**
- Does not emerge from low soil depths
- Relatively short-lived in the soil seed bank (4-5 years)

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**Crop rotation** – How does crop rotation make a difference? Rotating different crops allows for different herbicides, different planting dates and different production practices. These are all differences that add up. Crop rotation optimizes crop competitiveness at the expense of weed growth and reproduction, which can delay the evolution of herbicide-resistant weeds.

**Equipment Cleaning** – Equipment can transport weed seeds between fields. To prevent weeds from spreading, clean any equipment used in contaminated fields before using it in other fields.

When waging the war against weeds, extra help from easy-to-use tools can make a big difference. Head to www.TakeActionOnWeeds.com for access to free materials, and be ready with a plan for herbicide-resistant weeds.
Nebraska Soybean Farmers Learn Firsthand about U.S. Exports to Mexico

NSB’s See for Yourself 2016

by Drew Guiney

Currently, U.S. farmers rely heavily on exports to earn a living. In 2014, roughly 45 percent of the country’s largest soybean crop on record – 3.97 billion bushels – was shipped to foreign end users. In fact, farmers have become increasingly reliant on exports over the years. Since 1986, the percentage of the U.S. soybean crop going to export has increased by 15 percent. While there are many factors that have led to this growth, including a growing global middle class and a higher demand for meat protein, sustaining and expanding markets for U.S. soy will continue to be a crucial issue for the industry.

Due to its geographic proximity, demand for U.S. ag products and favorable trade agreements, Mexico remains a crucial customer for U.S. grain and meat products. In an effort to highlight the soybean checkoff’s role in strengthening the bond between Mexican end users and U.S. soybean farmers, the Nebraska Soybean Board recently took a group of 12 farmers to Mexico as a part of its See for Yourself program. The See for Yourself program is designed to give farmers a firsthand look at how their checkoff dollars are being invested to increase their bottom line.

This year’s trade mission lasted four days, with two and a half days in Merida, in the state of Yucatan, and one and a half days in Mexico City. While in Merida, the group traveled with representatives from the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC). While in Mexico City, the group traveled with representatives from the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF).

Merida

Day One: Multisur, Crio Poultry and Proteinol

On the first day, the group traveled to the Port of Progreso. The port is unique because it was built 5 miles from land due to shallow water restrictions. Due to its favorable location on the Yucatan Peninsula, the port is a center for fishing, container shipments, and recently cruise ships. During our visit, the group met with representatives from Multisur, a logistics company that handles grain shipments from the U.S. to local companies. Multisur is a full-service importer that accepts 100 percent of the risk until it delivers the shipment to its customers. Over the course of a year, the company will import more than 81 million bushels of grain, most of which comes from the United States. While at the port, the group saw a vessel full of corn, soybeans and DDGs from the U.S. being unloaded.
industries. While on the tour, the purchasing manager explained to the group that he prefers to buy U.S. soy due to its quality and reliability of supply.

**Day Two: USSEC Presentation and Cultural Excursion**

On the second day in Merida, USSEC gave a presentation on the importance of the Americas region. USSEC works hard to promote U.S. soy in a variety of ways in the Mexican market. USSEC does everything from holding technical workshops with end users to help educate them on the benefits of U.S. soy to promoting U.S. soybean oil for frying. Mexico is the largest importer of U.S. soybean oil by a large margin.

The group also met with Dr. Carlos Ramayo, the president of the Yucatan Swine Producers’ Association who mentioned the 183 farms on the peninsula producing 1.6 million hogs per year. Roughly 80 percent of the producers’ costs come from feed. They utilize 5.5 million tons of feed, of which 2.2 million tons come from soy.

To wrap up the day, the group did a cultural immersion by learning about the ancient Mayan culture and visiting Chichen Itza.

**Day Three: BUBUL-HA Shrimp and Tilapia Farm**

On their final day in Merida, the group visited the BUBUL-HA shrimp and tilapia farm. The farm has been in production for three years and features 90 tanks for shrimp and tilapia that are used year-round. The operation features intensive aquaculture systems that pump air and nutrients into the water to promote growth.

The company utilizes 46 tanks for shrimp, with each tank containing 140,000 shrimp per tank. The company sells the shrimp at 12-14 milligrams, which normally takes 130 days of growth. Feed is roughly 50 percent of the cost of production for shrimp. BUBUL-HA produces 330 tons of shrimp per year.

The remainder of the tanks are used for tilapia, which they normally feed for 18 weeks or until they reach 550 grams. Feed is roughly 40 percent of the cost of production for tilapia, and the company also produces roughly 330 tons of tilapia per year.

**Day Four: Mexico City and USMEF**

On day four of the tour, the group met with representatives from USMEF and USDA Foreign Ag Service to talk about U.S. exports of beef and pork into Mexico. The group learned that most Nebraska ag exports enter the country near Laredo, Texas and are sent to central Mexico. According to the USDA, in 2015, Mexico imported $2.1 billion worth of U.S. soy, which accounts for roughly 10 percent of all U.S. ag exports. Over the past few years, per capita consumption of pork and poultry have been on the rise, while consumption of beef has been steadily declining. However, significant education and marketing opportunities exist in Mexico because roughly 46 percent of the population is under the age of 25.

Aaron Maas, a farmer from Bancroft, attended the See for Yourself tour and said it was an eye-opening experience. “I thought the trip was a great opportunity to find out how the soybean checkoff dollars are utilized,” Maas said. “We met with some good people who live and work in the region, and their goal is to keep people and companies educated to keep soy products flowing. They also work to find new ways to utilize soy. This efforts help create demand for our soybeans, which is good for us as producers. I would recommend that other farmers go on experiences such as this one. I feel it is important to get out and be exposed to different parts of the world, especially when it is a place of such significance to the U.S. as Mexico. The information that was offered on this trip was invaluable.”
American Soybean Association partners with the Monarch Collaborative to roll out education tools for Farmers

The Monarch Collaborative
Identifying and implementing solutions on agricultural and ranching lands to achieve a sustainable monarch butterfly population

Monarch populations have declined over the past two decades. Because they face serious challenges today, a diverse and dedicated group of organizations spanning the research community, agricultural production, conservation causes, public agencies, and others are working to identify solutions to promote conservation and recovery of monarch butterflies and their migratory phenomenon.

The Monarch Collaborative is working to identify how partnerships in the farming and ranching community can support and enhance habitat for a sustainable monarch population.

Who We Are
The Monarch Collaborative consists of national organizations representing farmers, ranchers, and land owners; businesses working along the agricultural supply chain; researchers and academic institutions; federal and state entities; and conservation organizations.

Because farmers and ranchers are stewards of the land across much of monarch habitat, they are in a unique position to support sustainable monarch populations.

Farmers, ranchers, and landowners already are engaged in conservation initiatives focused on water quality, erosion control, wildlife, and pollinator habitat. These efforts demonstrate that continuing innovation in agricultural practices can reduce environmental impacts, increase crop productivity, and be compatible with monarch conservation efforts.

Our Approach
We support productive agriculture and livestock operations in concert with monarch conservation. An increase in milkweed and nectar plants appropriately placed in rural areas can benefit monarchs without inhibiting production.

We are committed to make progress through voluntary efforts to restore, enhance, and protect monarch habitat while maintaining producers’ flexibility in their operations.

The Collaborative is utilizing the expertise and experience of its members to:

- Identify agricultural and conservation practices to support healthy monarch populations.
- Increase awareness of those strategies with the agricultural community and other interested parties.
- Promote the implementation of practices that will support monarch butterfly populations in agricultural landscapes.

Why Our Work Matters
Reversing this trend will require coordinated, collaborative efforts. Engaging in voluntary habitat conservation can be a win-win for all involved, and help ensure productive lands and resilient monarch populations for future generations.
It’s that time of year again—time for Nebraska livestock and poultry associations to celebrate a year’s success and plan for a year of promise. With the ups and downs of prices and marketing instabilities, there is no doubt that there are many things to discuss. As our state’s ag leaders convene, there are many hot topics to come about the speaker podium. Although each association has their own challenges, they are all fighting for the same cause in the grand scheme of things; feeding the world. This agricultural commonality justifies the same respect for current struggles and concerns all at the same time.

Regardless of the crop or animal species, it is every farmer’s responsibility to be a good steward of the land. Taking care of our available resources has and always will be a top area of focus. Especially as we continually push the envelope to do more with less, it is vital to inspect all of the possible areas we could be affecting. However, natural resources are not the only thing uniting agricultural concerns. There are several other issues that found time on the annual meetings’ schedules. Have you ever heard of the VFD regulation that is quickly approaching farmers of all livestock species? Don’t worry, it is new to many, but it’s definitely noteworthy for your nightly web surfing. The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is a new guideline to help ensure safe food and sustainable use of antibiotics for humans and animals. Hitting the mills shortly, it is important that farmers work with their VFD certified veterinarians in advance to get their rations prepared. Procrastination will not be a viable option with the new medication monitoring, and as most busy farmers know, January 1st, 2017 will be here before we know it.

Discussing the VFD provided a nice segue into international trade regulations and expectations at the Nebraska Pork Producers Association annual meeting on February 17th. John Hinners with the U.S. Meat Export Federation, delivered a congratulatory message to pork producers. With near record volumes of U.S. pork exported in 2015, he also challenged farmers to exceed this in 2016. Another challenge for Nebraska pork producers, as well as farmers of other species, has been transparency of production to the public. Ansley Mick, executive director of We Support Ag, shared her support on this issue and how to properly handle instances with today’s drones, media misconstrues, and animal activist groups.

The Nebraska poultry farmers certainly took no time off from battling for a positive image for their industry either. To prove their dedication to preserving our natural resources, Dave Dingman discussed the “Potential Poultry Power” at the Nebraska Poultry and Egg Industry Convention on February 17 and 18. As he explained, if Nebraska was able to recover 100 percent of the methane from poultry waste, you could power a 95 megawatt power plant. Kenneth Young added to this message, applauding producers for providing a safe, reliable, and affordable product.

The Nebraska State Dairy Association (NSDA) took no backseat this year dedicating to growth and development. In fact, NSDA started their meeting by discussing how to “Grow Nebraska Dairy.” Another highlight from their annual meeting resulted from Peter Erickson’s session on proper and updated approaches to “Feeding the Pre-weaned Calf.”

With another year in the books and meetings on record, our state’s agriculture organizations show promise and optimism to a great 2016. The Nebraska Soybean Board recognizes and continues to support the hard work of farmers across the state; the people putting food on our tables.
Since it was founded in 2006, the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN) has aimed to positively promote farming and ranching in the state. In that time, it has provided consumers with tools to learn more about where their food comes from and has helped producers grow agriculture in Nebraska. Last year was no exception. In 2015, significant efforts were made in expanding Nebraska’s dairy, pork, beef and poultry sectors.

**DAIRY** • The Grow Nebraska Dairy team was busy in 2015. AFAN co-hosted the Grow Nebraska Dairy Summit in May with the Nebraska State Dairy Association. The event was well attended and featured great conversations for attendees. AFAN also attended the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI, in the fall. The team attended the World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA, in February, where they extended the push for expanding Nebraska’s current dairy processing. AFAN’s efforts, along with those of several stakeholders, are an extension of the overall goal to create the I-80 corridor for new processing.

**PORK** • The pork industry has been positively impacted through a continued effort to expand finishing barns to feed a greater percentage of pigs farrowed in Nebraska, as well as a larger percentage of the national inventory. Nebraska is home to three major pork processors, all of which are wanting to procure more pigs, which makes this a critical time for Nebraska’s pork industry. Invitations for open houses to share success stories are around the corner. We hope to increase the awareness of the importance of the pork industry on the state’s economy.

**BEEF** • The beef industry is in the process of rebuilding its herd and looking for new innovations to increase efficiencies. Several open houses were held during 2015. A tour of beef barns, including a bed-pack finishing, slat finishing, and cow/calf structure is also being planned for March 22 and 23. This tour will also feature an educational seminar for producers.

**POULTRY** • There has been quite a bit of excitement in the poultry industry about Hendrix-ISA hatchery choosing to locate in the Grand Island area. Hendricks will have 11 total houses consisting of eight breeder houses and three grower/pullet houses. Like most modern poultry facilities, these houses will have a strong focus on biosecurity. Farmers with breeder houses will have a 7-year contract with a very positive investment return, while pullet houses will have a slightly larger return on investment. Currently, there are still openings to be a part of this opportunity. If you would like to learn more about how this opportunity can fit into your operation, please contact our office at 402-421-4416.

In January, Willow Holoubek attended the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta, GA, to gain more knowledge of the poultry industry and continue to promote the industry in Nebraska. With our sustainable irrigated soybean and corn feedstuffs, along with isolation, Nebraska will continue to experience opportunities to expand the poultry industry.

Finally, our goal of expanding livestock numbers and increasing species diversity in the state creates a need for information. AFAN attends many public hearings for new facilities and expansion, and many times, our representatives hear misinformation about the livestock industry spread to community leaders. With this in mind, we are introducing a campaign that was created in Indiana by the Indiana Soybean Alliance. We were able to leverage their investments and resources and tailor this campaign to be Nebraska specific that we believe will have a positive impact on the state.

The kickoff of the “Farmers and Ranchers Deliver” campaign was held on March 2, 2016 at the Governors Ag Conference in Kearney. This campaign focused on how farmers and ranchers do what’s right for their families, communities and animals. It covered information such as the economics of how livestock contribute to and grow our rural communities, sustainability, and a frequently asked questions piece that addresses concerns we most often hear at public hearings.

As you can see, AFAN has been working hard on behalf of farmers and ranchers to support and grow Nebraska agriculture. These efforts yielded positive results in 2015, which we hope to build on in the months and years to come. To learn more about AFAN, go to our website at: [www.becomeafan.org](http://www.becomeafan.org). AFAN is funded in part by Nebraska soybean checkoff dollars.
All across America, everyone from fleets and motorists to companies and municipalities counts on biodiesel to power their vehicles and heat their buildings. Its demand now exceeds 1 billion gallons a year, fueling 60,000 U.S. jobs and adding 74 cents per bushel to the value of soybeans. Biodiesel works... for America and America’s soybean farmers. Thanks to farmer support and the soy checkoff, its success continues to grow.

www.UnitedSoybean.org
As an active farmer with a crop and livestock farm in central Missouri, I am always interested in how a growing biodiesel industry is viewed by neighbors. The elevator line at harvest usually provides a snapshot of top of mind questions revolving around how much biodiesel is made from soybean oil and what does biodiesel return per bushel. Both of these questions are important and demonstrate how biodiesel brings value to farmers, but I have to confess I view the benefits of biodiesel differently. I tend to ask myself, “Where would we be without biodiesel?” With crude oil prices sliding below $30 a barrel again as I draft this article, it is easy to forget where prices have been the past five years and what the price of fertilizer and diesel have represented on the expense side of farm ledgers. I attended a workshop put on by Farm Credit Services a few years ago where the speaker highlighted that 70 to 75 percent of farm inputs are tied to the price of energy (i.e., crude oil). Whether we are talking about fertilizer, chemicals or diesel fuel, crude oil impacts profitability. Looking historically, there have been several times commodity prices have sunk while energy prices skyrocketed, squeezing margins along the way. Through production and use of biodiesel, soybean oil can trade at its energy value and soybean prices and energy prices are now essentially linked. Biodiesel effectively is a hedge against energy inflation. I believe this is one of the most important benefits
biodiesel has brought to producers, protection against rising energy costs. Interestingly enough, the recent slide in energy prices has also demonstrated a floor in soybean prices based upon other factors beyond energy markets. Informa Economics has estimated that biodiesel has added 63 cents per bushel from increased demand. However, from my perspective, the bottom line is that biodiesel protected our margins when energy costs rose.

The second impact important to me is that biodiesel is a benefit to not only soybean farmers, but also to animal agriculture. The connection between soybean oil and biodiesel is well known. U.S. biodiesel producers used 5.5 billion pounds of soybean oil in 2013 and close to 5 billion pounds in 2014 and 2015. But what surprises many people is the connection between the livestock industry and biodiesel producers. Feedstock diversity continues to be a key strength of the U.S. biodiesel industry that allows both biodiesel producers and the fats and oils market flexibility. According to The Jacobsen Report, 28 percent of the animal fats produced in the U.S. now go into biodiesel. And some individual segments see even higher use with approximately 45 percent of choice white grease going into biodiesel. So, not only are animal fats important to the biodiesel industry, but the biodiesel industry is also increasingly important to livestock producers.

Given the rhetoric surrounding biofuels, it is not uncommon for me to be asked whether or not the growing biodiesel market has been positive for livestock producers such as Nebraska’s beef and pork industries. The unequivocal answer is “yes.” And here is how.

More Biodiesel, More Meal

Diesel users consumed almost two billion gallons of cleaner-burning biodiesel last year. Soybean oil remains a leading feedstock in the United States for biodiesel production. Oilseed meal, such as soybean meal, is used in livestock and poultry rations as a protein source. Soybean oil and meal are co-products from oilseed crushing produced in fixed proportion to one another. Additional demand for one co-product (e.g., biodiesel) will simultaneously result in a greater supply of the other co-product (e.g., meal); leading to downward pressure on price. Informa Economics has estimated livestock producers paid $21 per ton less for soybean meal due to increased biodiesel production and use. For Nebraska livestock producers, the annual feed bill for the state last year was $12.8 million less due to biodiesel production.

More Biodiesel, Increased Carcass Values

More demand of animal fats for biodiesel has led to increased value of those fats. While the price of animal fats are not primary drivers in determining the prices paid for fed cattle, market hogs, or poultry, they do affect the profit margins in these industries by increasing what is referred to as the by-product “drop value.” Regression analysis conducted by Centrec Consulting Group in September 2014 concluded biodiesel demand increased inedible tallow prices by 10.6¢ per pound. Statewide, beef and pork production in Nebraska saw an additional $44 million of revenue injected into the value chain due to the use of animal fats for biodiesel production.

Don’t let your vision be obscured and make sure you are seeing the forest through the trees. The benefit of biodiesel is not just about adding dollars per bushel, but about protecting production margins and helping to keep all elements of Nebraska agriculture, including your largest customer for soybean meal, financially healthy.

Alan Weber is a Partner with M4 Consulting, a firm that helps commercialize new, innovative industrial products from renewable agricultural materials. He also farms with his family in central Missouri on a diversified crop & livestock farm.
The public transportation industry is doing its part to help the environment. Every year, 37 million metric tons of carbon emissions and 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline are saved due to use of public transportation in the U.S.

Biodiesel offers fleet operators a safer, cleaner alternative to petroleum diesel. Biodiesel is made from renewable feedstocks, such as vegetable oils and animal fats, through a simple refining process. One of the main commodity sources for biodiesel is soybeans, a major crop produced by almost 400,000 farmers in 29 states. In Nebraska, five million acres of soybeans were harvested in 2015 adding back approximately $35,000 dollars in value to a 1000-acre farm.

Since January 1994, two Lincoln StarTran buses have been powered by biodiesel fuel 80 percent/20 percent biodiesel-B20). Since 2008, the entire remaining fleet has been powered by biodiesel (95 percent diesel/5 percent biodiesel-B5). Utilization of biodiesel significantly reduces the exhaust particulates emitted and lowers the utilization of diesel fuel.

The Nebraska Soybean Board recently sat down with Glenn Knust, maintenance superintendent for Lincoln’s StarTran/Public Works & Utilities to collect his thoughts on using soy biodiesel in the city’s fleet.

Q: What were some of the considerations and factors that lead to Lincoln StarTran using biodiesel?
A: The need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, to improve our emissions and to promote the use of local resources.

Q: How has biodiesel played key roles in helping the city of Lincoln and its citizens?
A: Improving air quality, reducing maintenance costs through added lubrication to engines, and using soybeans produced by Nebraska farmers.

Q: As the Maintenance Superintendent what noticeable improvements are you seeing by using biodiesel?
A: Since the lubricating properties are much better using biodiesel we have seen longer engine life due to less internal wear, a 10 percent improvement over petroleum diesel. We have reduced our tailpipe smoke and emissions and the engines run quieter with less oil consumption.

Q: What blend and at what time do you use biodiesel through-out the year?
A: We are using B20 from April to September.

Q: How many gallons of biodiesel and does Lincoln StarTran utilize in a year?
A: 160,000 gallons of biodiesel
The 2016 National Biodiesel Conference & Expo came to a close in January, sending home more than 1,000 biodiesel industry leaders and supporters. Hosted by the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), an organization funded in part with national soybean checkoff dollars and industry membership dues, the conference drew in attendees from coast to coast. Here are some of the best moments and biggest announcements to come out of the largest biodiesel event of the year.

2015 Biodiesel Fuel Volumes Announced

As the biodiesel conference began, the EPA released the numbers showing that US consumers used a record of nearly 2.1 billion gallons of biodiesel in 2015. The industry marked several major accomplishments in 2015 including the renewal and extension of the tax credit and the RFS increasing biodiesel volumes. NBB CEO Joe Jobe, citing the major accomplishments of 2015 including the renewal and extension of the tax credit and the RFS increasing biodiesel volumes, said, “We just came through a two and a half year period of very difficult struggle because of the EPA’s delay in issuing the rule-making on the Renewable Fuel Standard. We’re now positioned to break a record again in 2016.”

“The biodiesel industry is full of inspiring, innovative, pioneers,” said Greg Anderson, Nebraska Soybean Board director and treasurer serving on the National Biodiesel Board. “Whether you are improving air quality one vehicle at a time with biofuel, or reducing millions of tons of carbon through state policy efforts, it takes tremendous dedication and leadership to move America’s Advanced Biofuel forward.”

100,000 Trucks Join the Biodiesel Ranks with PACCAR Announcement

The Vehicle Showcase brought a welcome announcement that Peterbilt and Kenworth manufacturer, PACCAR Inc, now approves of B20 biodiesel in one hundred percent of its vehicles, old and new. This announcement means that more than 100,000 new trucks are joining the biodiesel ranks, traveling over twelve billion miles year round. Although vehicle manufacturers don’t warranty fuel, rather just their own parts and workmanship, from coast to coast nearly all now formally support B20 (20 percent biodiesel). More than 78 percent of the diesel vehicles coming off production lines today are approved for use with B20. Notably all of Detroit’s Big Three Automakers — Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler — have supported high biodiesel blends for nearly a decade. Among U.S. heavy-duty truck segments, which account for more than 87 percent of actual diesel fuel usage, every major engine manufacturer supports B20 in their new engines except for Daimler’s Detroit Diesel, which remains at B5.

Why Does Biodiesel Matter to Soybean Farmers?

Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning, renewable diesel fuel replacement made from an increasingly diverse mix of resources such as recycled cooking oil, soybean oil and animal fats. Last year’s biodiesel use in the U.S. cut carbon by some 18 million metric tons or the annual greenhouse gas emissions of 3.8 million cars. Last year the biodiesel industry utilized 25 percent of the oil from our domestic soybean crush, supporting that vital portion of the farmer’s value chain.
Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) Directors Eugene Goering, Tony Johanson, Daryl Obermeyer, Executive Director, Victor Bohuslavsky and Field Services Manager, R.J. Campbell together with about 50 grower leaders from other state soybean boards and United Soybean Export Council (USSEC) staff traveled to Villahermosa, Mexico to learn about existing opportunities and the future expansion of the aquaculture industry. The 2016 U.S. Soy QSSB Aquaculture Educational Opportunity was hosted by USSEC from January 12-14. The mission was sponsored by the Nebraska soybean checkoff.

The first day was dedicated to learning about current aquaculture constraints, opportunities and general happenings in key regions and countries around the world, including the U.S. participants heard an overview of the global aquaculture industry and discussed trends and opportunities, particularly examining Southeast Asia, Latin America, India, Egypt and Turkey, with a summary of the aquaculture feed sector and public relations and certifications.

Attendees commented that hearing about 10 percent increases each year in some of the aquaculture-producing countries demonstrated an excellent potential for U.S. Soy. NSB Director Eugene Goering of Columbus, NE said, “With the increased demand for healthful seafood in our diet, soy-fed farmed fish represent a way that the land can sustain the sea. The current demand for fish and seafood consumption has reached the level where the world’s oceans can supply only 50 percent of the global need. Seafood consumption seems likely to continue to grow, since seafood is a popular protein and an integral part of many global cuisines.”

The second day featured a full-day site visit to Regal Springs’ tilapia hatchery, cages and processing plant. Regal Springs Tilapia specializes in 100 percent lake-grown fish with farms in southern Mexico, Honduras, Nebraska Grower Leaders Attend 2016 U.S. Soy QSSB Aquaculture Educational Opportunity in Mexico

by Jen Del Carmen, Communications Consultant, USSEC and RJ Campbell
Brazil and Indonesia. The fish are raised in deep-water lakes in large floating nets that take advantage of water currents to maintain fresh water and give the fish a more natural habitat. The company currently produces 30,000 metric tons (MT) of tilapia with a growth goal of 70,000 MT between two lake reservoirs in the state of Chiapas, Mexico.

“We’re here to help show the soybean farmers in the U.S. where their checkoff dollars are being invested, how they are being invested and ultimately where much of their soybean meal ends up,” Colby Sutter, USSEC Marketing Director Aquaculture – Customer Focus, said. “It’s crucial to be able to see first-hand how relationships have been forged in international marketing programs where ultimately we are creating a preference and demand for U.S. Soy.”

At the Regal Springs site, 450 MT of fish are produced weekly with another 150 MT at the second Chiapas location for a total of 600 MT per week for the company’s two locations in Mexico.

Fish are kept at low stress for as long as possible during harvest and transferred by truck to the processing plant, which helps to maintain freshness.

According to Geraldo Martinez, production manager for Regal Springs Tilapia, the company will produce 30,000 MT of fish out of two lakes in Mexico per year. That equates to 30 million fish weighing about one kilogram each. The secret ingredient to the success of Regal Springs’ business is the soybean meal used in the formulated diets of the fish.

“For one kilo of fish we will need 1.95 kilos of feed,” Martinez said. “So if you are talking 30,000 MT of fish, you will need just short of 60,000 tons of feed in a year.”

Martinez said that about 25 to 30 percent of the feed ration was made using soy meal. He cites free trade agreements with the U.S. as an incentive in buying soy grown and crushed in the United States.

The company exports 75 percent of their fish to customers outside of Mexico. Of that, 95 percent of the fish are exported to the U.S. and the other five percent go to European markets. Costco is one of the major retailers in the U.S. that sells the tilapia.

On the third day of the mission, attendees heard about current and potential research studies as they pertain to U.S. Soy in aquaculture from several renowned aquaculture researchers. Additionally, strategy for U.S. Soy in global aquaculture over the next four years was discussed. Sustainability is seen as one of the U.S. soy industry’s greatest competitive advantage in aquaculture.

“This is an exciting time in aquaculture. The industry has an achievable goal to sustainably increase the amount of soy utilization in fish feeds and also increase awareness and production of domestic aquaculture,” said Tony Johanson, NSB director from Oakland, NE.

Grower leaders who participated in USSEC’s aquaculture educational marketing mission witnessed first-hand the direct link between the growing global market for fish and its need for soybean meal-based feed.

NSB Director Daryl Obermeyer from Brownville, NE concluded by saying, “Soy-fed farmed fish make it possible for us to incorporate more seafood into our diets and enjoy the numerous nutrient benefits—including Omega-3s. Soy-based feeds are rich in protein and nutrients, including Omega-3 fatty acids to help grow healthy fish. U.S. soybeans in aquaculture feed also can replace up to half the wild-caught fishmeal/fish oil, and unlike wild resources, soy feed can be scaled up to meet growing needs.”

USSEC is a trusted ally, working with QSSBs as their global marketing arm to enhance market access for state produced soy and soy products. USSEC is the state’s gateway to the international marketplace, providing timely and relevant information through USSEC’s proprietary network in 70 countries.
Nebraska consumers have more options than ever when it comes to using alternative fuels. Many petroleum retailers now make biodiesel available at your local filling station. If you have a diesel vehicle and a public pump nearby, using biodiesel is a breeze. There are just a few things you should know first. Biodiesel blends of 20 percent and below will work in any diesel engine without the need for modifications. These blends will operate in diesel engines just like petroleum diesel. If the blend has been properly treated, it will work year round, even in cold climates. B20 also provides similar horsepower, torque, and miles per gallon as diesel.

NOTE: These companies have submitted information regarding their fueling sites to the National Biodiesel Board. Failure to find a fueling site in your area does not necessarily mean biodiesel is not available in your area. We recommend that you contact these companies for additional information including pricing and availability.

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<td>All Points Cooperative</td>
<td>2700 Plum Creek Parkway, Lexington, NE 68850</td>
<td>308-324-8003</td>
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<td>All Points Cooperative</td>
<td>605 Main Street, Sumner, NE 68878</td>
<td>308-752-2845</td>
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<td>Jerry’s Service</td>
<td>505 N Cedar Avenue, Hartington, NE 68739</td>
<td>402-254-6546</td>
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<td>Loves Travel Store</td>
<td>1539 Madison Ave, Aurora, NE 68818</td>
<td>(402) 694-2802</td>
<td>B6-B20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maverick Truck Stop and Cafe</td>
<td>North Hwy 11 &amp; 91 PO, Box 337, Burwell, NE 68823</td>
<td>308-346-4050</td>
<td>B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osmond Farm Supply &amp; Mini-Mart</td>
<td>102 South State St POB 480, Osmond, NE 68765</td>
<td>402-748-3633</td>
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<td>Sapp Bros Inc</td>
<td>6001 Cornhusker Hwy, Lincoln, NE 68507</td>
<td>402-466-5522</td>
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<td>402-895-2121</td>
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<td>Sapp Bros. Inc. West Point</td>
<td>660 S Main St, West Point, NE 68788</td>
<td>402-372-5485</td>
<td>B5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapp Brothers-Fremont</td>
<td>4260 N Broad, Fremont, NE 68025</td>
<td>402-721-7620</td>
<td>B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop and Go</td>
<td>605 N Robinson Avenue, Hartington, NE 68739</td>
<td>402-254-3249</td>
<td>B5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuhr’s Quick Stop</td>
<td>212 West Main St, Petersburg, NE 68652</td>
<td>402-386-5311</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Farmers Co-op</td>
<td>1504 Platte Ave, York, NE 68467</td>
<td>402-362-1510</td>
<td>B20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FEATURED SOYFOODS RECIPE:

FRUIT PARFAIT WITH SOY CREAM

Spring into a healthier you with this delicious soy recipe.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 blueberry Soy Joy bar
- ½ cup blueberries
- ½ cup strawberries
- 6 oz. firm Silken Tofu
- 2 tablespoons vanilla soy milk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:
1. Using a food processor, grind up Soy Joy bar into crumbles and set aside.
2. To prepare the cream, combine tofu, soy milk, sugar and vanilla into a food processor and blend until smooth.
3. Add fruit and top with Soy Joy crumbles.

NUTRITION FACTS:
Makes 4 servings
Per Serving (excluding unknown items):
- Calories: 56; Calories from fat: 12; Total fat: 1.2g; Sodium: 18mg; Potassium: 128mg; Total Carbohydrates: 8.3g; Fiber:.8g; Sugars: 6.4g; Protein: 3.3

Find this and more great recipes on our Vimeo channel:
www.vimeo.com/soyrecipes
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