As of this printing no dicamba herbicide product has been approved for commercial in-crop use with soybeans with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® technology. DO NOT APPLY DICAMBA HERBICIDE IN-CROP TO SOYBEANS WITH ROUNDUP READY 2 XTEND TECHNOLOGY unless you use a dicamba herbicide product that is specifically labeled for that use in the location where you intend to make the application. While no in-crop use of dicamba is currently approved, some dicamba products may be labeled for use just prior to planting a crop and subject to minimum preplant back restrictions. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAW TO MAKE AN IN-CROP APPLICATION OF ANY DICAMBA HERBICIDE PRODUCT ON SOYBEANS WITH ROUNDUP READY 2 XTEND TECHNOLOGY, OR ANY OTHER PESTICIDE APPLICATION, UNLESS THE PRODUCT LABEL SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZES THE 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 soybeans with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend technology and follow all pesticide product labeling.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Soybeans with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend technology contain 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.

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Tony’s Take on Soybean's Future: Facing the Challenges

While faced with these challenges, it never ceases to amaze me how Nebraska soybean producers are able to raise another record crop.

What’s Ahead for Agriculture

We look forward to working with President-Elect Trump who mentioned that he would ensure farmers are at the table when important decisions are made affecting agriculture.

Newly Elected Nebraska Soybean Board Officers and Committee Member Appointments

These officers and committee members will be working hard on behalf of Nebraska’s soybean farmers.

Regional benchmarking project looking to close the yield gap

The large ‘yield gap’ between average farm yield and the very high yield obtained by some producers needs to be explored and better understood.

Nebraska Soybean & Corn Pocket Field Guide

Dr. Specht believes that this new Nebraska-specific pocket guide will be the “best” one published to date.

Nebraska Meets Large Shrimp Producers in Ecuador to Boost U.S. Soybean Demand

In 2016, Ecuador was the fourth largest importer of U.S. soybean meal in the world.

Leaning forward, looking back

25 years of checkoff investments reap rewards for Nebraska farmers.

New Uses for Soy Means New Economic Opportunities for Farmers

Soy checkoff commits to expanding industrial uses for soy.

USAPEEC Celebrates 11 Years of Partnership with Nebraska Soybean Board

The U.S. poultry and egg industry is the largest user of U.S. soybeans and corn, accounting for 55 percent of all the soybean meal produced in the United States.

Interested in Learning More About the Soybean Checkoff? Come See for Yourself this year!

— by Drew Guiney

It’s no secret that our international customers play a big role in determining the price of our soybeans. In fact, studies suggest that one out of every four rows of soybeans in Nebraska will be shipped to China or the Pacific Rim. With record production numbers, international marketing now plays a bigger role than ever in helping find a home for the U.S. soybean crop. But have you ever wondered how they get there or why many foreign buyers prefer U.S. soy?

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) recently funded the 12th year of its “See for Yourself” program. See for Yourself 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 opportunities include attending 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.

This year, producers will have an opportunity to travel to the Pacific Northwest in early March to learn more about NSB’s international marketing efforts and the global supply chain. Applications are now open for this year’s learning experience.

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!
As we sit back and reflect upon the past year, the 2016 growing season presented most Nebraska soybean producers with a variety of challenges. Yet, while faced with these challenges, it never ceases to amaze me how Nebraska soybean producers were able to raise another record crop. With these large yields that were pulled from our fields, take time to remember what worked as you spend the winter building your 2017 production plan. I have always stressed to my fellow producers the importance of making the investment in soil sampling on your farms. If we know the fertility or pH issues that are out of balance, now is the time to fix them and give the 2017 soybean crop the proper foundation to succeed.

One of the projects that the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) continues to support is soybean cyst nematode (SCN) testing done by the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL). These soil test packets are available at any Extension office and the tests are free of charge to Nebraska soybean producers. SCN continues to be a major yield-robbing pest in Nebraska soils, and if you know they are present in your fields, this can help in selecting the proper soybean varieties to maximize your yield potential.

Another way that the board is investing soybean checkoff dollars is through international marketing projects in aquaculture through the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC). Aquaculture may not seem like a big deal to Nebraskans, as we aren’t in close proximity to any oceans or major lakes, but major efforts are in place to take the fish feed ingredients from a 20-50 percent soybean meal ration. Dr. Thomas Clemente at UNL has made significant progress in creating fish feed formulations that can remove the fish meal components in aqua feeds and replace them with soybean meal. The aquaculture industry is one of the fastest growing markets as the need for protein increases. If we can figure out a soy-based ration and get it commercialized, demand for high-quality U.S. soy will increase. If anyone is interested in seeing these efforts first hand, I encourage you to apply for our “See for Yourself” opportunities by contacting the NSB office or going to nebraskasoybeans.org.

In closing, this time of year we give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. I would like to thank each and every one of the Nebraska soybean producers who go out each and every day to produce some of the highest quality soybeans in the industry. Your dedication to soybean production has opened up new domestic and international markets by providing a quality, sustainable product that helps feed the world. I would also like to thank Ron Pavelka for his exceptional leadership as Chairman of NSB over the last two years. As the newly-elected chairman for 2017, I am going to strive to do my best to help maximize your investment in the soybean checkoff.

Happy holidays and together, let’s make 2017 another record soybean crop in Nebraska.

Sincerely,
Tony Johanson
Chairman, Nebraska Soybean Board
from the Association

What's Ahead for Agriculture
— by Dennis Fujan, Prague, NSA President

It's fair to say the month of November kept everyone in suspense - in suspense wondering when harvest would finally wrap up, what the yields would be and the big one, who would be the next President.

Looking ahead into 2017, agriculture and the Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) have a lot on the horizon.

We will see 17 new state senators joining the Nebraska Legislature in January. Several committees will see new chairmen elected which includes the Chairman of the Agriculture committee. At the federal level, General Bacon will be a new face in the House of Representatives for the 2nd District. With 17 new State Senators, a new Congressman, new President and Administration, we have a lot of work to do to build relationships and communicate our issues to this newly elected group.

We look forward to working with President-Elect Trump who mentioned that he would ensure farmers are at the table when important decisions are made affecting agriculture. We are encouraged by the appointment of the American Soybean Association (ASA) President, Steve Wellman of Syracuse, as well as several agriculture leaders to the Trump Agriculture Advisory Council with strong ties to our issues. These leaders will work hard representing the ASA and make sure the issues are understood by the Administration.

Preparations are underway at the ASA on our positions for the 2018 Farm Bill. While the current Farm Bill does not expire until the end of 2018 crop year, Congress is expected to begin hearings on the Farm Bill next spring with a chance that the Agriculture Committees might pass a new Farm Bill in 2017. The ASA has done a lot of work this past month surveying our members on what is working and what is not and will begin formulating our ideas in 2017. The amount of funding available in the budget to write a new bill will likely be greater in 2017 than in 2018. All this means is that the ASA and soybean farmers must be ready to make the decisions on the Farm Bill in 2017.

I encourage you to be involved in the issues of the coming year. Reach out to your state senator and introduce yourself. They are there to serve you and you can be a resource for them when issues arise. Both the NSA and ASA are supported by their members and will continue to work on your behalf. We thank those that are members and if you are not a member, I invite you to join. You can contact our state office at 402-441-3239 for membership information.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas season and a prosperous New Year in 2017.

What's Ahead for Agriculture

I Believe, I Belong...

I am a member of the Nebraska Soybean association because I value the work the association does to advocate for issues important to soybean farmers in Lincoln and Washington D.C. As a farmer I benefit from and see the progress we can make by banding together and having our united voices heard as soybean farmers. If we don't step up ourselves as farmers no one else will do it for us. I want to keep Nebraska soybean farmers operating free from government overreach and be able to find additional markets for our soybeans. That's why I belong to the Nebraska and American Soybean Association.

— Wade Walters, Shickley District 7 NE Soybean Association Director
Ed Lammers, a soybean farmer from Cedar County, was recently appointed to serve as one of four Nebraska directors on the United Soybean Board (USB). Lammers was nominated by the Nebraska Soybean Board member as confirmed by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in September. This will be his first term representing Nebraska on the USB.

While serving on the Nebraska Soybean Board for two terms, Lammers was actively involved in research and international marketing. He served as vice chairman for three years and represented the board on the United States Meat Export Federation and attended many functions to help promote the use of biodiesel and Bioheat. Lammers’ experience and decision making will be a valuable asset on the USB Board.
BECOME the VOICE for Your District

Become the VOICE for your district as a director on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB). The 2017 Board election will be held for directors in Districts 5 and 7. Soybean farmers residing in one of these districts are eligible to run. The At-Large position is also open to all soybean farmers in Nebraska, and elected during the July NSB meeting.

This is an opportunity to get involved and become a part of the decision making process of how Nebraska soybean checkoff dollars are invested.

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

If you are interested and would like more information about the Nebraska Soybean Board election, call 402-432-5720.
The soy checkoff is looking for farmers from diverse backgrounds to get involved in the United Soybean Board or Nebraska Soybean Board. There are a variety of opportunities to serve, and your talent and input can make a difference.

Help to lead the U.S. soybean industry into the future. Contact the Nebraska Soybean Board at www.NebraskaSoybeans.org and get involved today, or visit www.UnitedSoybean.org/Getinvolved.
Average soybean yield in the NC-USA region is around 45 bushels/acre, yet some producers can consistently attain soybean yields near or greater than 80 bushels/acre. This large ‘yield gap’ between average farm yield and the very high yield obtained by some producers needs to be explored and better understood. Understanding the causes of the yield gap and how to close it to improve farm profitability is the focus of a study co-led by Patricio Grassini (University of Nebraska's cropping system specialist) and Shawn Conley (University of Wisconsin's soybean and wheat extension specialist) and funded by the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP). The project also received extra support from the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) and the WI Soybean Marketing Board.

The most common approach to identify yield-limiting factors in producer fields involves conducting on-farm trials, in which researchers selectively apply different input levels or management practices in small experimental plots. For this study, Grassini and Conley followed a novel approach: instead of running on-farm trials, these two researchers aim to identify the causes of the yield gap by collecting and analyzing producer self-reported yield and management data.

“We believe that when such producer reports are available for thousands of fields over many years it is possible to discern the yield impact of individual factors and their relative importance in the context of commercial-scale fields, in contrast to small experimental plots and within the range of cost-effective management practices that are actually being used by producers,” said Grassini.

The ultimate goal of the study is to narrow the yield gap to help farmers improve their overall profitability. “You first want to know what farmers are doing and then try to benchmark their yields and practices against what they should be doing to achieve top yields in a given state,” said Conley. “There are no silver bullets to boost yields. Key factors limiting producer yields may vary from region to region. That is why the analysis of yield gaps need to be contextualized for a given weather-soil environment”.

In the first year of the three-year study, data was collected from a total of 3,568 fields planted with soybean in 2014 and 2015, covering 311,300 acres across 10 states in the North-Central Region. In addition to Grassini and Conley, the project includes collaborators in 8 other states: Iowa (Daren Mueller & Mark Licht), North Dakota (Hans Kandel), Ohio (Laura Lindsey), Michigan (Michael Staton), Indiana (Shaun Casteel), Kansas (Ignacio Ciampitti), Illinois (Emerson Nafziger), and Minnesota (Seth Naeve). The 10 states account for 70 percent of U.S. domestic soybean production and 25 percent of soybean production globally.

While results are still being analyzed at the time of publication, a few trends had emerged:

- Narrow row spacing (less than 22 inches) is prevalent across the Midwest, except for NE
- Most farmers are using seeding rates between 140,000 and 180,000
- Very few farmers use a starter fertilizer
- Most farmers are using a seed treatment
- Very few farmers know if soybean cyst nematode is present in their fields

“Using the information from this project, a farmer can identify different ways to increase net profit,” Grassini said. “One way is by increasing yields while using the same amount of inputs. Another way is by using less inputs and achieving the same yield. A third scenario is doing both, increasing yields and lowering inputs.”

Differences between current and optimal planting dates and seeding rates help illustrate the aforementioned points. Research has shown there is a yield penalty for each day soybeans are planted after May 1; however, more than two-thirds of farmers across the North Central region are planting soybeans in the third and fourth week of May and early June. With regard to plant density, farmers are using seeding rates well above the recommended rate. In Nebraska there isn’t much of a yield difference above 120,000 seeds per acre, yet the average seeding rate is around 160,000 seeds per acre.

“Planting date and seeding rate are examples of management factors that can be fine-tuned by producers to increase their net profit by increasing yield without extra inputs or by maintaining current yield using less inputs,” Grassini said. “This study will help to identify those key management factors in each state and across the North Central that can be used by individual producers to increase soybean yield on their farms, and do that with an input-use efficiency that will improve their bottom-line net profit.”

A full report summarizing the producer data collected during the first year of the project is available by contacting Patricio Grassini, email: pgrassini2@unl.edu.

This article is brought to you by the NCSRP. For more information visit www.ncsrp.com
Tough Weeds

by Rodrigo Werle
UNL Cropping Systems Specialist

With the introduction of glyphosate-resistant soybeans and corn in 1996 and 1997, respectively, weed management became a simple task, mainly because glyphosate was a very effective non-selective herbicide tool that could be sprayed multiple times in the season. Due to the over-reliance on glyphosate within and across growing seasons, weeds have evolved resistance to this herbicide and management has become very challenging, particularly in soybeans, where POST-emergence herbicide options are limited (Figure 1).

According to UNL Weed Science, there are 6 confirmed species that have evolved resistance to glyphosate in Nebraska: marestail (horseweed), common waterhemp, palmer amaranth, kochia, giant ragweed, and common ragweed. Moreover, some of these species have also evolved resistance to additional sites of action, such as the photosystem II inhibitors (common waterhemp, palmer amaranth, and kochia), ALS inhibitors (common waterhemp, palmer amaranth, kochia, and marestail), HPPD inhibitors (common waterhemp and palmer amaranth), and growth regulators (common waterhemp and kochia) which makes weed control, particularly POST-emergence, even more difficult.

In a survey conducted with more than 250 growers and agronomists during the 2016 Soybean Management Field Days across four locations in Nebraska, 94% of participants reported the presence of glyphosate-resistant weeds in their operations. Common waterhemp (69%) and marestail (69%) appeared as the most common glyphosate-resistant species followed by palmer amaranth (21%), giant ragweed (7%) and kochia (7%). Moreover, 70% of participants reported to have two or more glyphosate-resistant species present in their operations, with marestail and waterhemp or palmer amaranth as the common answer. Marestail emerges primarily in the fall whereas common waterhemp and palmer...
amaranth have an extended emergence period that goes from May through August. Therefore, management of marestail, common waterhemp and palmer amaranth should be planned separately.

Because most marestail seedlings emerge in the fall, growers are advised to scout and treat their fields after crop harvest. Yet, according to our survey, only 27% of participants that reported glyphosate-resistant marestail in their operations apply herbicides in the fall. For marestail control in the fall, herbicides such as 2,4-D and/or dicamba plus a PPO inhibitor based product such as Sharpen or Valor are recommended. Management of marestail in the spring can be challenging, particularly if weather conditions are not favorable for herbicide uptake. After marestail plants bolt, herbicide efficacy is significantly reduced (Figure 2). Fields should be marestail-free at crop planting, particularly in soybeans, because in season POST-emergence options are not effective.

Because of the extended emergence window of common waterhemp and palmer amaranth, herbicides with soil residual activity should be considered. A herbicide program that consists of a burndown along with soil residual should be used at planting. Fields should be constantly scouted and when small weeds (four inches or smaller) are detected, growers are encouraged to spray their POST-emergence program along with a soil residual product such as Anthem, Dual II Magnum, Outlook, Prefix, Warrant, or Zidua (see herbicide label for crop stage restrictions). The POST-emergence options include PPO herbicides such as Cadet, Cobra, Flexstar, or Resource, and ALS inhibitors such as Classic, FirstRate, or Pursuit (which will not be effective if weeds are already resistant to ALS inhibitors). Liberty is also an effective herbicide option to control pigweed when Liberty Link soybeans are planted. Application when weeds are small and good spray coverage become essential when using the aforementioned herbicides. If growers wait too long to spray their POST-emergence program, weeds will get too big and herbicides will not be effective (Figure 3). Therefore, for waterhemp and palmer amaranth, overlapping soil residual herbicides throughout the growing season and spraying POST-emergence herbicides when weeds are small is the recommended strategy for successful control.

New technologies will soon be available for soybean growers (Xtend, Enlist, Balance GT, and Bolt soybeans). When asked about the impact of these new technologies on weed resistance, 40% of survey participants believe resistance will increase, 23% not change, and 37% decrease. Even though more than 60% believe herbicide resistance will either increase or not change in Nebraska, 91% are likely to adopt at least one of these technologies. Weed resistance to synthetic auxins (dicamba and 2,4-D), HPPD inhibitors, and ALS inhibitors are already confirmed in Nebraska. Moreover, the synthetic auxins and HPPD inhibitors are key components of weed management programs in corn. Therefore, growers should see these upcoming technologies as additional tools for their weed management programs and not as silver bullets. In order to keep these tough weeds under control, growers need to diversify their cropping systems, herbicide tolerance traits, and herbicide programs, use multiple effective herbicide sites of action at each application including products with soil residual activity, spray when weeds are small, and consider alternative strategies such as narrow row spacing for soybeans and cover crops.

For additional information on herbicide options see the Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska (EC130) and always check the herbicide label before application. The key for successful management of tough weeds is to “Start Clean and Stay Clean” and also adopt a “Zero Tolerance” program, where weeds should not be allowed to produce seeds and recharge the soil seedbank.
The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) is announcing in this SoybeaNebraska issue that a Nebraska-specific soybean and corn pocket field guide (3x6 inch) will be published in early 2017. This project, funded by the United Soybean Board, NSB, and the Nebraska Corn Board, and was directed by lead authors Dr. Jim Specht and Dr. Tom Hoegemeyer of UNL, and involved many UNL contributing/reviewing co-authors.

Dr. Specht, who has served as a technical advisor for the NSB for the past 40 years, noted that this project began in mid-July of this year and a final draft of the document was forwarded to the publisher in mid-November. This new guide was modeled after the prior 1997 soybean (only) pocket guide, but was expanded to include corn when the Corn Board joined in the funding of the project and Dr. Hoegemeyer was asked by Dr. Specht to join the project to help with the corn portion of the pocket guide.

Dr. Specht noted that the Purdue pocket guide has been popular among producers in the eastern North Central USA. However, a different pocket guide was needed for the western North Central USA, where rainfall is not as abundant as it is back east, relative to Nebraska dryland cropping systems. Moreover, about half or more of the soybean and corn acreage in Nebraska is irrigated and a pocket guide must therefore include information to help producers efficiently use irrigation to supplement insufficient rainfall.

The new Nebraska pocket guide includes many photos on most pages to help readers understand how to stage vegetative and reproductive development, to help them diagnose an observed soil/crop nutrient deficiency, to identify a weed observed in the field, to evaluate a crop herbicide injury symptom and the cause, and to identify an insect, or crop symptoms arising from a pest (i.e., nematode, virus, bacteria, or fungus). In addition, the guide has many tables and charts that provide up-to-date agronomic research information that will help Nebraska producers to select the best practice management decisions that best fit their yield goals.

Dr. Specht believes that this new Nebraska-specific pocket guide will be the “best” one published to date. Jim and Tom are proud to have directed the creation of this guide for our Nebraska soybean and corn producers! Watch for more information on the Nebraska Soybean & Corn Field Guide as it becomes available!
Cover crop biomass production in soybean-corn rotations in Nebraska

– by Katja Koehler-Cole, Roger Elmore, Humberto Blanco, Charles Francis, Derek Heeren, Charles Shapiro, Tim Shaver, Matt Stockton

Cover crops have many reported benefits, but research-based information on growing cover crops in Nebraska is lacking. A team of researchers at UNL received a grant from the Nebraska Soybean Board and the Nebraska Corn Board to study the feasibility of winter cover cropping in no-till soybean-corn rotations in Nebraska. To reduce wind erosion and nitrate leaching, cover crops must produce at least 1,000 pounds per acre of biomass, and to increase soil organic matter or provide weed control, much more biomass is required. Our research team wanted to find out how productive cover crops can be in our state, how they affect main crop yields, and whether they reduce soil water, increase soil organic matter, improve soil structure and reduce nitrate losses.

This study is carried out at four research stations across the state: Haskell Agriculture Laboratory (HAL), Concord, NE; Agriculture Research and Development Center (ARDC), near Mead, NE; South Central Agricultural Laboratory (SCAL), Clay Center, NE; and West Central Research and Extension Center (WCREC), North Platte, NE. The eastern sites are rainfed and the others are irrigated. Cereal rye, forage radish, a legume mix (hairy vetch and Austrian winter pea), a four-species mix (rye, radish, vetch and pea), and a seven-species mix (rye, radish, vetch, pea, collards, oats and red clover) are planted as cover crops either early, by broadcasting into standing corn in September, or late, by drilling after corn harvest. Cover crops are samples for biomass between mid-April to early May, then terminated with glyphosate and soybeans are planted two weeks later.

Results from the first two years show that rye cover crops were productive at all locations, except the westernmost site near North Platte. Legumes produced very little and radish winterkilled, thus, most biomass in the four-species and seven-species mix was also rye. Early-planted rye had about two to four times as much biomass as late-planted rye at most locations (between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds per acre in 2015 and between 2,500 and 4,700 pounds per acre in 2016). Soybean yields were four bushels per acre lower after early-planted rye in 2015 at HAL, but no differences were found at the other locations, however, data from 2016 is not analyzed yet.

Cereal rye is a promising cover crop for soybean growers wishing to reduce wind erosion and nitrate leaching, as it reached the necessary biomass threshold for those purposes in both years. Whether rye biomass will be sufficient to improve other soil properties will be determined after this project ends in two years.
Nebraska Meets Large Shrimp Producers in Ecuador to Boost U.S. Soybean Demand

– by Dena Henzel/Project Manager, USSEC and R.J. Campbell/Field Manager, Nebraska Soybean Board

U.S. farmer-leaders recently joined the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC) aquaculture staff on an educational tour in Ecuador. The tour was designed to give attendees a first-hand look at the Ecuadorian aquaculture industry, particularly the shrimp industry, in order to better understand the importance of this market for U.S. soy meal. This trip took the team through much of the shrimp aquaculture production chain, including hatcheries, grow-out ponds, processing operations and feed mills. Attendees also got the chance to take part in the annual AquaExpo, which brings the commercial industry together for discussions and a trade show.

The Ecuador shrimp industry started in the late 1970s and has excelled, due in part to the geography where the El Niño and La Niña weather currents collide for high water quality and optimal climate. In 2016, Ecuador was the fourth-largest importer of U.S. soybean meal in the world, importing 517,000 metric tons (MT) of U.S. soybean meal equaling approximately $250 million. 2017 projections show that U.S. soybean meal exports may be up as much as 25 percent, on pace to set a record. The market for Ecuador is expected to continue its rapid expansion, as the country’s middle class continues to grow and the projected $140 million market for soybean oil for food and industrial applications takes shape.

Each of the aquaculture sites visited were unique and had a story to share. Nebraska Soybean Board Chairman and farmer, Tony Johanson, said, “The exposure to the Ecuador shrimp and tilapia sectors on this trip made me realize the large role that U.S. soy meal and oil has in the international aquaculture industry.” With every site visit in Ecuador, the resounding message of preference for U.S. soy meal over the competition was clear. U.S. soybeans are the ideal protein source for aquaculture feeds; and U.S. soy meal products provide the highest-quality protein nutrition while meeting sustainable production demands.

Soy meal inclusion rates in the common shrimp diet are now as high as 50 percent, with potential to grow due to unsustainable fish meal feed production caused by overfishing across the world. As shrimp, tilapia and other fish production rises in Ecuador, the country will need higher amounts of quality feed ingredients. Numerous feeding studies around the world have compared soybean meal from other major soybean producing countries with U.S. soybean meal. Results are consistently the same–U.S. soy protein is in perfect harmony with the animal’s nutritional requirements. Simply put, animals perform better when their feed rations contain U.S. soybean meal compared to soybean meal from other major soybean producing countries.

The availability of a high-quality, renewable protein product like soybean meal is critical to the future of the global aquaculture industry. Soybean production has increased more than tenfold in the last four decades, and will sustain this growth in the coming years. America’s soybean farmers can take pride in knowing they are a source of healthy, efficient, renewable and affordable protein that nourishes families around the world.
U.S. soybeans provide a nutritious, safe and plentiful supply of protein for aquaculture feed. Soybeans can help global aquaculture scale up to meet increasing demand for healthful seafood, without depleting limited sources of wild-caught fishmeal and fish oil used in aquaculture feed.

HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS FOR FISH

- Protein-rich soybean meal meets the nutritional needs of most farmed fish species.
- Soybean meal can easily replace up to 100% of the fishmeal and fish oil in feed for herbivorous fish.
- For carnivorous fish, soybean meal can replace fishmeal and fish oil for most of the fish grow-out cycle, reserving this limited resource for feeding just before harvesting to increase healthy Omega-3 content.
- New strains of soybeans are being developed to even better meet the nutritional needs of different fish species.

SAFE FOR FISH AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

- Soybean meal in aquaculture feeds have been formulated and extensively tested for no adverse effects on the fish.
- In some field trials, fish actually have better growth rates and better results on soy-based feeds than on traditional fishmeal-based feeds.
- Soy in aquaculture feeds is proven to be easily digested by fish and does not cause excessive waste.

SAFE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Since the beginning of cultivation agriculture, farmers have selected plants based on genes and yields. Modern biotechnology simply allows scientists to:

- Make genetic modifications faster and more precisely than with conventional breeding
- Select and insert specific genes into plants with known beneficial traits, such as better protection against specific insects and diseases, better drought tolerance, and higher protein levels

Herbicide-tolerant soybeans allow farmers to almost completely eliminate plowing on their fields, which results in:

- Better soil health
- Better soil conservation
- Improved water retention
- Decreased soil erosion
- Decreased herbicide runoff
- Global reduction of carbon dioxide
- Increase in amount of carbon held in the soil due to a reduction in plowing

The U.S. Soybean Sustainability Assurance Protocol certifies that the U.S. soy crop is produced under a system of sustainability that includes everything from water conservation to energy use.

Biotech crops are the most tested in history, and have been repeatedly studied and declared safe by expert panels the world over.

STUDIES SHOW THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES AGRICULTURE'S IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY BY DECREASING GLOBAL PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS BY MILLIONS OF POUNDS EACH YEAR.

Biotech crops have been declared safe from experts across the globe, including:

- Institute of Food Technology
- National Academy of Sciences
- National Institutes of Health
- UK’s House of Lords
- United Nations/World Health Organization
- American Medical Association
- American Dietetic Association
- European Commission’s Joint Research Centre
- National Research Council
FEATURED ASGROW® PRODUCTS FOR 2017

NEBRASKA

• AG24X7 BRAND
• AG2733 BRAND
• AG28X7 BRAND
• AG31X6 BRAND
• AG3432 BRAND
• AG34X7 BRAND
• AG36X6 BRAND
• AG3832 BRAND
• AG39X7 BRAND

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Leaning forward, looking back — by United Soybean Board

25 years of checkoff investments reap rewards for Nebraska farmers

Twenty-five years and four presidents ago, American farms looked a little different than today. Farmers didn’t consult nearly as many screens or sift through the same amount of data to make their decisions. They couldn’t pull up the markets on their phones or identify a weed with an app. Just as the industry has evolved, soybean farmers have continued to stay on the cutting edge of research, marketing and education through their checkoff.

For 25 years, Nebraska soybean farmers have worked alongside the national soy checkoff, bringing profit opportunities back to their fellow soybean farmers. Focusing on the needs of end users as well as continuous improvement, allows the checkoff to continue building soybean markets for the future.

The checkoff has evolved with the changing agricultural landscape, positioning the U.S. soy industry competitively for the future. The work started on the national scale in the early 1990s continues today:

Leading the way with biodiesel
Early in the checkoff’s history, U.S. soybean farmers laid the groundwork for a new, reliable, sustainable fuel: biodiesel. Farmer-leaders directed checkoff funds to demonstrate biodiesel’s performance in engines and through a lifecycle analysis proved its longevity in the renewable fuel market. The Nebraska Soybean Board continues to look for diversification in the biodiesel market by investing in Bioheat, a promising use of biodiesel in the heating oil market in the Northeast. By helping to increase demand for biodiesel, the checkoff is helping to secure future profitability for U.S. soybean farmers.

Investing in export markets
The ability to export surplus soybeans is an important factor to the price of U.S. soybeans. The soy checkoff helps foster relationships with buyers of U.S. soy throughout the world, helping to market U.S. soy’s advantages over other markets. One promising market is the soy-fed aquaculture market. The United Soybean Board invested in aquaculture feeding trials to demonstrate soy’s effectiveness in fish feed to support markets that are growing in Asia. The Nebraska Soybean Board invests in international markets and helps get the word out on the checkoff’s work overseas through a See For Yourself program to help farmers learn how the soy checkoff is used to develop and grow markets for U.S. soybeans.

Winning back food demand with high oleic
Soy checkoff research and partnerships with seed companies and processors helped accelerate the commercial availability of high oleic soybeans. The premium soybeans offer food customers a high-performance oil option that doesn’t require extra processing. In 2016, Nebraska farmers harvested high oleic soybeans for the first time on the western most acres in the high oleic program. In total, U.S. farmers planted about 450,000 acres of high oleic soybeans in 2016, and the checkoff’s goal is 1 million planted acres in 2017.

Looking forward
“From the time that I started on the board until today, I’ve watched the checkoff do a lot of things right,” says Chuck Myers of Lyons, Nebraska, who served as chair of USB in 2009. “But there’s still a long way to go.”

“I’m confident that the checkoff will continue to work alongside our fellow farmers to increase profitability with its focus on getting value from the quality of protein and oil, not just the quantity,” Myers says.
There's no limit to the impact women have fulfilling any and all roles in modern agriculture. With nearly one-million female farmers in the United States alone, their perseverance, hard work and dedication should not go unnoticed. The Ag-ceptional Women’s Conference is designed to do just that; to educate, celebrate and motivate women to continue to broaden their role in agriculture. On November 18th, more than 400 women attended the 8th annual conference held at the Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Kim Bremmer, a nationally recognized motivational speaker focused on telling what she calls “the real story of agriculture,” was one of the keynote speakers at the conference. Her presentation titled, “Celebrating Women in Agriculture,” motivated women to share their story and speak up for agriculture. She also noted that farmers represent only one percent of the population, so it’s imperative to connect with the public and not be afraid to answer the ‘hard questions’ concerning topics such as GMOs and antibiotics.

Nebraska natives are no exception to impactful female roles in the agriculture sector. At this year’s conference, Anne Meis, was announced as the 2016 Ag-ceptional Woman of the Year. Anne is a proud parent, farm wife, 4-H leader, educator, district director on the Nebraska Soybean Board, and so much more. On her farm near Elgin, she proves day-in and day-out the impact motivated by ag women can make in our industry.

The conference also touched on several issues facing agriculture today. As many know, GMOs commonly make their way into many consumer dinner conversations. The conference took advantage of their time to shed light onto a higher depth of detail of how GMOs are made, what products on the market are GMOs, and how to talk about this with consumers. Many attendees also found benefit in the breakout session regarding those difficult, yet vital conversations about transferring the family farm. The learning continued its domino effect in the Tax Update session; where the women leaders were brought up to speed on Nebraska credits and tax law changes that occurred in 2016. This was merely a condensed list of the visionary sessions offered at the conference.

Following the conference, Meis explained what the event means to her. “The messages from this conference really puts value to every member of the family and the contribution they make, whether it be for running for parts, bookwork, or operating the combine. Families are brought together on the farm, all working together toward a common goal.”
Options for Our Customers

— by By Rob Robinson — CEO, Rob-See-Co

1. How has the seed industry and services evolved for growers over the last 5-10 years.
   a. There have been tremendous advancements in technology, breeding and mechanization all focused on increasing, or protecting yields and efficiency. These innovations have also resulted in increased complexity.
   b. We have seen more seed bulk systems and seed tenders to aid in labor saving seed handling at the farm level.
   c. More downstream treating to improve efficiency and provide for the multitude of new treatments and biologicals. This has become a new source of revenue for local seed dealers.
   d. We see continued advancements in new seed treatments especially for the control of SCN & SDS.
   e. Seed financing options have gained popularity offering growers more opportunities to manage cash flow.

2. What are we seeking as changes in the next 5-10 years as this industry evolves?
   a. More accurate local seed treatment equipment to aid in the application of the myriad of new seed treatments on the horizon.
   b. Even more accurate varietal response and placement information to aid in site specific farming.
   c. Introduction of several new and game changing soybean herbicide resistance platforms. This will add complexity not only for the grower but for Ag Retail. We see growers in the next few years making their soybean seed decisions based on herbicide choices rather than genetic or brand preference. Not all Ag Retail will be able (or choose to) offer different herbicide options. To add to the complexity will be the different rules for buffer zones.

3. What are the priority items a producer should take into account in planning and making seed decisions for 2017 (and beyond).
   a. Seed companies are gaining more knowledge of varietal performance than ever before. Growers depend on their seed representative’s product knowledge rather than just yield trials when determining the best product for their specific field conditions and farming practices.
   b. Growers will continue to look for solutions to control glyphosate resistant weeds.
   c. Given the current low commodity price environment, growers will look for ways to trim their input costs. Determining which areas to trim costs without sacrificing yield or efficiency will vary by grower.
   d. Considerations for using seed treatments to control SCN & SDS, or the timing usage of a fungicide can be a good investment.

4. What makes Rob-See-Co unique, what should producers know about Rob-See-Co, where it comes from and where its future lies for growers and the industry.
   a. We noticed there was a void, especially in the Western Corn belt, for a true, independent regional seed company whose focus is specifically on the customer. This void was created partly by the mergers and consolidations that have taken place over the past 10 years. Growers were looking for choices and for people who they could trust in helping them make the best seed choice for their farm. Rob-See-Co is NOT a production company but focuses our time and resources to build strong, meaningful relationships with their customers.
   b. Rob-See-Co is built around our three pillars: Technology, Relationships and Simplicity.

   • Technology - Providing growers the best trait platform in the Agrisure traits and selecting germplasm for the central and western corn belt.
   • Relationships – Currently we have 44 Direct Sales Reps covering all or part of 10 states with over 220 local Business Associates. Our people have a wealth of experience and were specifically chosen to be a part of Rob-See-Co.
   • Simplicity - The seed industry is complicated. Rob-See-Co concentrates on those areas where we can simplify processes and transactions to make the buying experience enjoyable. For example, the industry has a history of high retail pricing and high discounting. We do not have zone pricing and price our products competitively, without having a multitude of programs a customer has to jump through.
   • We have three, local production companies who deliver and warehouse seed for us that provide our customers a great, no hassle experience.

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Today, You Face New Challenges Growing Soybeans...

We’re giving customers options that address those challenges.

At Rob-See-Co, we’re working directly with leading trait and genetic providers to bring you an exciting line-up of soybean solutions tailored to match your specific farming practices. We offer new, regionally-focused varieties, including the LibertyLink® system, to tackle weed control challenges head on.

If you’re ready for a new kind of seed buying experience, let’s talk.

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Soy checkoff commits to expanding industrial uses for soy

New Uses for Soy Means New Economic Opportunities for Farmers — by United Soybean Board

Truck grease. Tires. Foam seats.

This might seem like a list of things you find at a car dealership, but there’s more to it than that. These items also share a key component: soy.

Often referred to as the miracle crop, the soybean provides a sustainable source of protein and oil worldwide. Found in adhesives, coatings and printing inks, lubricants, plastics and specialty products, soybeans help make products more renewable and environmentally friendly while maintaining, and sometimes exceeding, performance.

The soy checkoff continues to support innovative research that leads to the development and commercialization of sustainable products that contain soy. This increases and diversifies demand for U.S. soy, ultimately bringing profit opportunities back to U.S. soybean farmers.

Finding new markets increases demand

In the 1980s, the printing industry wanted to look for a replacement for petroleum-based ink.

Soy-based ink fit the bill and even enhanced the color in newspapers, while lowering printing costs. Thanks in part to efforts by the American Soybean Association, soybean oil became the printing standard for newspapers and industry.

Soon after, researchers discovered the same benefits that made soy ink more environmentally friendly and cost effective also worked in other products. This set off a chain of new ideas by researchers in a variety of industries.

It also launched the checkoff’s commitment to support the discovery of new uses for soy which has helped increase industrial demand from 14 million bushels of U.S. soybeans in 2003 to more than 111 million bushels a decade later.

“You never know where the next great market for soybean derivatives will come from,” says Gregg Fujan, soybean checkoff farmer-leader from Nebraska.

The checkoff has helped bring hundreds of soy-based products to the market, including formaldehyde-free adhesives used in wood paneling, coatings with low volatile organic compounds and biodiesel.

Discovering these new uses for soy has increased demand by almost 700 percent in a decade and the numbers keep growing each year.

“At a time when soybean prices are low, it’s more important than ever to increase demand for soy,” says Fujan. “Part of that is finding new ways to use it.”

For more information visit: http://nebraskasoybeans.org/topics/bioproducts/
In the
‘Evolution of Oilheat,’ Another Milestone

by Paul Nazzaro, President, Nazzaro Group, LLC

NORTH ANDOVER, MA— After New York City Council’s landmark vote to incrementally increase biodiesel use in heating oil from the current standard of two percent up to 20 percent by 2034, I couldn’t help but reflect upon Bioheat® fuel’s extraordinary emergence as a mainstream home heating product over its relatively short lifespan.

Some twenty years ago, before Bioheat was being delivered to basement oil tanks all across the Northeast, it was little more than a rough concept being developed in my own basement—where, out of my home office, I promoted the use of B20 for transit use, while designing educational programs for the petroleum industry on behalf of the National Biodiesel Board (NBB).

If biodiesel is a good diesel fuel blend stock, I thought, why can’t it be equally beneficial in oilheat? I invited Steve Howell, NBB technical director at the time, and Michael Ferrante, president of the Massachusetts Oilheat Council, to join me at my home to examine the question more thoroughly. Not only did we find that biodiesel was indeed a viable option for the oilheat industry; but we also concluded that it was likely the only option the industry had in order to remain viable.

The turn of the century found the oilheat industry facing rapid market contraction due to the influx of natural gas, which wasted no time in positioning itself as a cheaper, cleaner, and more efficient alternative to oilheat. Natural gas’s surge in popularity, in combination with several international and regional supply chain disruptions, decimated the petroleum industry’s home heating oil market share by a staggering 60 percent, from 10 billion gallons to four billion gallons, between 1984 and 2014.

The fledgling U.S. biodiesel industry, meanwhile, was very much trending the other way. In 1999, less than a decade after the University of Missouri and the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council funded a study to demonstrate the use of soy-based mono-alkyl esters as a diesel fuel replacement, President Clinton signed legislation calling for the expanded use of bio-based fuels such as biodiesel, and the U.S. biodiesel industry responded with 500,000 gallons of production. The following year, biodiesel became the only alternative fuel to successfully complete the EPA’s Tier I and Tier II Health Effects Testing under the Clean Air Act. The stage was set for biodiesel to become a major player on the U.S. energy landscape—and, as it would turn out, a critical lifeline for the oilheat industry.

In 2008, through a tremendous amount of entrepreneurial innovation, risk and collaboration between partners from diverse sectors who recognized the need for a renewable, clean-burning alternative to traditional heating oil, Bioheat became an ASTM-approved heating oil, providing the industry with the highly marketable product that it so desperately needed.

And market the product we have. This past year alone, our strategic investment in TV, radio, digital and grassroots marketing yielded 110 million impressions overall—a 205-percent increase from 2015—thanks in large part to the enthusiastic and generous support of the Nebraska Soybean Board, United Soybean Board, United States Department of Agriculture, South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and state heating oil associations.

With continued consumer marketing, terminal outreach, fuel dealer education and support from forward-thinking legislators such as those on the New York City Council, which voted 47-3 in support of increasing the city’s biodiesel mandate, demand for Bioheat has the potential to grow to upwards of one billion gallons annually within the next decade. This would represent a major boom not only to the oilheat industry, but also to the biodiesel industry as well—from soybean farmers to the roughly 200 domestic biodiesel producers in existence today.

In a recent study conducted by Informa Economics, biodiesel was shown to add up to 63 cents per acre, which can significantly impact profitability. In Nebraska alone, biodiesel accounted for an additional $36.54 per acre, which resulted in an increase of more than $192 million in additional revenue statewide in 2015.

As always, we’ll have our fair share of obstacles to overcome before we get to where we’re ultimately going. But as we press forward towards the next milestone, let’s not lose sight of the road behind us, and of just how far we’ve come.

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Worldwide meat and poultry consumption is expected to grow 24 percent over the next decade, with developing countries representing more than 80 percent of that growth. What do those numbers mean for soybean producers in Nebraska and across the United States? Simple — the export of U.S. pork and beef will continue to play a major role in producers’ bottom lines, as increased demand for meat in foreign countries leads to increased production by the U.S. livestock industry.

And, of course, more livestock production means greater demand for feed, including soybean meal.

Because of this, the U.S. soybean industry’s success is tied to animal agriculture, Philip Lobo, feed utilization director for the United Soybean Board (USB), said during the recent U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) Strategic Planning Conference in Carlsbad, California.

While updating members of the USMEF Feedgrain and Oilseed Caucus, Lobo pointed to a soybean checkoff-funded study that predicted the growth of meat and poultry use across the globe. He explained that soybean use by the U.S. feed industry was 33.3 million tons this past year — a new record. Pork production represented 9.3 million tons.

As for the value of pork and beef exports, 40.1 million tons of soybean meal, made from 1.6 billion bushels of U.S. soybeans, were exported as meat and poultry between 2005 and 2015 — representing $13.8 billion to the U.S. soybean industry. In particular, pork exports were worth $5.5 billion.

According to future projections from the study, 58.1 million tons of soybean meal will be fed to animals that will be exported as meat and poultry during the next 12 years. This will be worth $18.9 billion to the U.S. soybean industry.

“Soybean meal has recently accounted for a much larger share of the value of the soybean,” Lobo told the Feedgrain and Oilseed Caucus.

Even with the success, there is still work to be done. Maintaining pork and beef exports in current markets — and working to expand emerging markets — is a team effort by USMEF’s nine sectors, which work together to create and build demand for U.S. red meat. USB, along with state soybean boards such as the Nebraska Soybean Board, have a history of funding USMEF projects and programs in large volume markets and those with free trade agreements like Mexico and Japan and South Korea.

While growth has been consistent in those markets, Lobo said a recent study forecasts that Mexico remains a top priority, Lobo said, and the need to maintain Japan as top tier market is vital.

Overall, the U.S. soybean industry’s goals are clear: “To benefit animal ag by delivering a better product, helping animal ag get more value from our current product and help make animal ag more profitable,” said Lobo.

Gochipo Poster — USMEF’s efforts to promote U.S. red meat is often customized for the specific market. The Gochipo campaign in Japan, for example, features a friendly U.S. pork mascot that is very popular with Japanese consumers.
USAPEEC Celebrates 11 Years of Partnership with Nebraska Soybean Board
– by Jennifer Geck Ott – USAPEEC Director

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) is celebrating 11 years of partnership with the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), a nonprofit trade association dedicated to increasing exports of U.S. chicken, turkey, duck, table eggs and processed egg products to markets around the world.

NSB joined USAPEEC in 2005 and has contributed to successful international marketing programs in Mexico, Egypt, Southeast Asia, and other markets. The relationship has proven to be mutually beneficial, as increased exports of U.S. poultry and eggs means greater demand for U.S. soybean meal and corn.

The U.S. poultry and egg industry is the largest user of U.S. soybeans and corn, accounting for 55 percent of all the soybean meal produced in the United States and 13 percent of U.S. corn. Exports continue to be a vital source of the growth in the poultry and egg industry’s usage of soybeans and corn.


“NSB has witnessed and played a role in the tremendous export gains over the last 11 years,” said Jennifer Geck Ott, USAPEEC director of allied industry relations.

Dr. Renan Zhuang, USAPEEC director of economic analysis, projects that by 2020, soybean volume for U.S. poultry and egg exports will total 175 million bushel-equivalents. Corn volume for U.S. poultry and egg exports is projected to reach 360 million bushel-equivalents.

One example of the partnership’s success, Ott said, is how NSB has worked jointly with USAPEEC on a broad spectrum of trade issues at the Mexican border. NSB’s support has helped keep the Mexican market open to U.S. poultry and egg exports, which is equivalent to about 34 million bushels of soybeans.

Several other commodity boards also have reached or exceeded the 10-year milestone as members of USAPEEC. The Illinois Corn Marketing Board, the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, the Illinois Soybean Association and the Iowa Soybean Association are all celebrating 20 years of partnership with USAPEEC. The United Soybean Board, at 18 years, the Indiana Soybean Alliance, at 13 years, and the Kentucky Corn Board, at 12 years, are also marking anniversaries.

“We cannot thank NSB and all of our soybean and corn partners enough,” USAPEEC President Jim Sumner said. “We look forward to another 11 great years of partnership with NSB.”

NSB is one of USAPEEC’s 18 soybean and corn board partners. Please visit www.usapeec.org for more information.
Tapping into Our Roots
Unique NET Project Showcases How Farmers Use Water
Along Platte River Basin  – by Drew Guiney

Mother Nature produces an abundance of challenges for Nebraska farmers and ranchers on an annual basis. Whether it’s having to deal with drought, too much moisture, high winds, early frost or a myriad of other setbacks, folks in the Husker State have had to learn to adapt.

Other than plain old good luck, water is the most critical resource to Nebraska producers. Nebraska farmers depend heavily on water to produce a crop. Unlike states in the Eastern Corn Belt, Nebraska isn’t particularly blessed when it comes to rainfall totals. On average, annual precipitation will drop one inch every 26 miles from east to west. To help combat that variance, many Nebraska farmers rely on irrigation to supplement the natural rainfall.

In an effort to take a more in-depth view of the water supply chain and help children learn about its importance to our state, the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) teamed up with the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB), Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) and other key stakeholders to fund the Platte Basin Timelapse project. The project was co-founded by award-winning nature photographers Mike Forsberg and Michael Farrell and offers a unique perspective of the Platte River watershed. The project aims to tell the story of Nebraska’s most important resource through the power of imagery from multiple viewpoints including environmental, agricultural, recreational and other aspects.

The Platte Basin Timelapse website (plattebasintimelapse.com) highlights the importance of the river system to the region.

The Platte River Basin is one of the most appropriated river systems in the world. Every drop of water is spoken for, and little is free. The basin supports an industrial agricultural powerhouse laid over one of the most endangered and altered grassland ecosystems on earth. Beneath the ground it harbors more than half of the mighty Ogallala Aquifer; fossil water whose quantity and quality are at stake. Today this basin is being asked to be both food producer and energy pump in an age of climate change and economic uncertainty.

In 2016, the NSB and NCB teamed up to help NET tell farmers’ stories within the project. Time lapse cameras were mounted on center pivots on two different farms, the Greving farm near Chapman, which focused on soybeans and seed corn and the Hunnicutt farm near Phillips, which focused on field corn. The timelapse cameras are scheduled to take pictures every 15 minutes and offer a unique perspective on the development of these two important crops.

In addition to the stunning visual imagery, NET is also working to develop video interviews with both farmers in which they describe how farmers use water and are constantly looking for ways to conserve such a precious resource. Finally, NET will develop learning modules that will help elementary students learn more about how farmers use water and their conservation and sustainability efforts.

Visit the Platte Basin Timelapse website (plattebasintimelapse.com) for highlights on the importance of the river system to the region.
Featured Winter Recipe:
Chilly Day Beef Chili

Stay warm this winter with this easy, bone-warming favorite.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2-1/2 lbs. boneless beef chuck or round, cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 2 cans (15-1/2 ounces) black beans, rinsed & drained
- 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) chili-style tomato sauce with diced tomatoes
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup prepared thick-n-chunky salsa
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Diced red onion
- Diced green onion
- Diced avocado
- Dairy sour cream

DIRECTIONS:

1. Combine all ingredients except salsa and toppings in slow cooker and mix well
2. Cover and cook on HIGH for 5 1/2 - 6 hours, or on low for 8-9 hours, or until beef is tender.
3. Just before serving, stir in salsa and cook for 2-3 minutes or until heated through.
4. Serve with toppings as desired.

As the Huskers march towards a bowl game, why not load up your own bowl of chili with all your favorite toppings! Log on to TasteoftheTailgate.com for more great recipes, giveaways and grilling tips from local experts.
While other seed treatments claim to be effective against soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), Clariva® Complete Beans seed treatment, a combination of separate products, is the only broad-spectrum seed treatment proven to kill them all season long. As it acts to destroy SCN, it also reduces damage from sudden death syndrome (SDS). All this lethal power comes from a tough nematicide paired with the unbeaten insect and disease protection of CruiserMaxx® Beans with Vibrance® seed treatment, a combination of separately registered products. So contact your Syngenta representative or visit ClarivaCompleteBeans.com. And take back your fields.