Domestic Developments

How do strategic partnerships deepen soybean’s value?

*Find out on pages 16–23*

6–7

Meet the candidates for the Nebraska Soybean Board July elections, and be on the lookout for District 4’s ballot in the mail. Your vote matters!
Whether you’re dealing with drought, flood, heat or other climate-related stress, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to diversify U.S. soybean genetics and increase stress tolerance. We’re looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it’s helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at unitedsoybean.org
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Note from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This edition focuses on our domestic use of soybeans. Processed soybeans yield 80 percent of its primary component, soybean meal and 20 percent soybean oil. Ninety-seven percent of the soybean meal is utilized as animal feed for poultry and livestock. That leaves 3 percent for food products like protein alternatives.

Sixty-eight percent of the soybean oil goes to the food industry as a vegetable oil for frying and baking and as an ingredient in foods like salad dressing and margarines. Industrial use of paints, plastics and cleaners capture seven percent. Biodiesel and Bioheat utilize 25 percent of the soybean oil—which is a huge success story for your soybean checkoff dollar investment developing this new use.

The Nebraska Soybean Board puts great focus on investing dollars to continuously establish strong relationships and partnerships with end users to grow domestic usage of soybeans.

Wishing you a joyful summer.

For more information, go to NebraskaSoybeans.org.

TONY’S TAKE ON SOYBEANS’ FUTURE

Growing Agriculture and Growing Our Economy

By Tony Johanson, NSB Chairman

Wow—what a difference a few months can make.

I’ve seen challenging springs before, but this one took the cake. At times, it’s difficult to remain positive with the flooding challenges, intense rainfall and prevent plant decisions, but Nebraska farmers are resilient and will continue to help grow agriculture and grow our economy.

As I continue upon this theme of “Growing Agriculture and Growing Our Economy,” this article is focused on how the Nebraska Soybean Checkoff is utilizing our domestic marketing opportunities to increase soybean demand locally.

The main goal of the Domestic Marketing Committee is to continue to establish relationships and partnerships with end users to grow domestic soybean demand. The Domestic Marketing Committee focuses on three major areas to help grow agriculture and grow our economy.

1. **We will continue to increase the utilization of soybean oil.** This is where the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) works with the National Biodiesel Board to drive the demand for soy biodiesel in Nebraska and across the U.S. Within the past few years, we were able to open up three new biodiesel blending plants, making this cleaner-burning, renewable fuel more accessible for distributors across Nebraska.

2. **We will support the improvement of soybean meal quality and demand.** This area is a collaboration with the United Soybean Board (USB) through technical services, animal nutritionists, buyers and processors in the U.S. to increase soybean meal inclusion rates in animal diets that aid in growing demand.

3. **We will support the growth of Nebraska animal agriculture.** Animal agriculture consumes 97% of the soybean meal, making it our #1 customer. The NSB partners with other organizations such as the Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association, AFAN and others to continue to promote the importance animal ag provides to our Nebraska economy.

During our upcoming July board meeting, we will have projects presented to us that focus on the 2020 fiscal year’s domestic marketing efforts driving the board’s desire to grow agriculture and grow our economy. I thoroughly enjoy this meeting and the proposals presented as it forms collaborative efforts across multiple Nebraska commodity groups to grow domestic soybean demand.

There will be a board member election in District 4—be watching for your ballots. Districts 2 and 8 candidates ran unopposed. If you are a resident in District 4, I encourage you to take time to review the candidates and mail in your ballots. These candidates will be the ones who aid in the decision processes facing Nebraska soybean farmers for the next three years. I have been proud to represent District 2 for the past six years and will not be re-running with my appointment last year to the United Soybean Board. It’s a privilege and honor to serve on this board and represent the great soybean farmers in this state.

Enjoy the summer!

Tony Johanson
NSB Chairman
The spring planting season may not have gone as well as it could have for many producers, but one thing is for sure: we remain optimistic we’ll have a bountiful crop at harvest.

It seems we’ve been through many ups and downs this past year with the markets, tariffs, weather and no meaningful property tax relief. Farmers feel those emotions every year, but we’re always back at it. Over the last twelve months, we’ve dealt with a number of issues that could curb our excitement.

It’s been a year since China retaliated against the U.S., using soybeans as a pawn in the ongoing trade dispute. I believe the negotiating teams are getting closer to a deal and soybean sales will be part of the agreement. While we support the overall goal in these negotiations, ASA and NSA cannot support the escalating use of tariffs to achieve them. The soybean market in China took us 40 years to build—we need that market back, and soon. Even though a second round of Market Facilitation Payments is coming, we know assistance will only facilitate soybean sales in China. We want to get the assured price of our soybeans from the market, not a payment.

We’ve also seen progress on the new USMCA deal. Mexico and Canada are huge U.S. trading partners, and I believe this much needed agreement will be a great benefit to the soybean industry.

Since last planting season, Congress has approved a new farm bill. We’re waiting for it to be fully implemented, and when in place, I believe soybean growers will have the protection we need to be confident in our planting decisions.

An issue we confront year after year in the state legislature is high property taxes and school funding. Ag groups spent multiple days working with several of our rural state senators to craft legislation that would relieve the tax burden placed on agriculture. This was not an easy task, but we felt we had an effective plan to bring relief.

After every effort was made in the final days of the 90-day session to accommodate the concerns of a handful of state senators on the remaining property tax bills, efforts for property tax relief this session have been defeated. This outcome to the rural community is disheartening and frustrating to say the least.

Now, we continue to carry our message to our state senators—urban and rural as well as the governor—that we need property tax relief now. We will continue our work with the rural senators that helped carry the load and find a way to make it better for next session. We cannot give up now; we are the minority in the legislative body, so it takes all of us pushing.

The spring disasters have affected many. It will take a long time to get things back to normal. Nebraskans are strong and resilient. Thanks to all the support, donations and hard work, I believe Nebraska will recover. As soybean producers, we are resilient, and I assure you the ASA and NSA will continue to carry the message on your behalf.

As we look forward to another crop, remember to be patient. By the time you’re harvesting, you’ll enjoy the fruits of your labor.

I believe, I belong.
Election ballots for Nebraska Soybean Board District 4 will be mailed by mid-July to soybean farmers that reside in the district. Farmers eligible to vote in the election must produce soybeans, be a resident of the district and pay the soybean checkoff.

Qualified farmers who do not receive a ballot by July 17, 2019 may call 402-564-5827 to request a ballot. The voting farmer must sign and print their full name and hometown on the return ballot envelope for their vote to be valid. **Ballots must be postmarked by July 31, 2019.**

The elected board members will serve a three-year term for these seats beginning Oct. 1, 2019, and ending Sept. 30, 2022.

### MEET THE CANDIDATES INTERESTED IN REPRESENTING THE SOYBEAN FARMERS IN THEIR DISTRICT

#### Jason Penke
Craig, NE  
Burt County, District 2

- Jason ran unopposed; therefore, he becomes the District 2 Board Member.
- Jason’s family farming operation consists of corn and soybeans. He farms with his parents, Stan and Susan, and also has a small cow-calf herd.
- Jason has also been a Field Sales Agronomist for Central Valley Ag in Oakland for the past 10 years. His wife, Kylie, is the ag instructor at Oakland-Craig Public Schools, and they have three boys: Tate (10), Tye (8) and Travis (2).

“I feel that I can bring some insight and ideas from a soybean producer’s standpoint as well as on the sales side with my job in the retail ag industry. With the ever-changing world of agriculture, being a part of the Nebraska Soybean Board will allow me to help Nebraska soybean producers grow and prosper through the soybean checkoff program,” commented Jason.

#### Eugene Goering
Columbus, NE  
Platte County, District 4

- Eugene’s farm is a multi-generation farm with his two sons, which allows him to have flexibility to serve on the board.
- Eugene raises irrigated soybeans, field corn and corn, and his farm uses no-till, minimum till, cover crops and terraces. His farm ground lies upland, near the creek bottoms, and also in some hills.
- Eugene enjoyed being able to farm with his grandfather and father, and now with his sons and possibly grandchildren in the future.

“I would like to contribute and serve on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) to help guide and invest the checkoff funds to benefit Nebraska soybean farmers and the soybean industry. We invest in a wide area—from biodiesel to University of Nebraska–Lincoln soybean breeding programs and animal agriculture and aquaculture to producer education. I have enjoyed serving as current vice chairman of the NSB and secretary of the Soy Aquaculture Alliance. I am a graduate of UNL and Nebraska LEAD Class 26. I would appreciate your vote,” Eugene said.
Mark Stock
St. Edward, NE
Platte County, District 4

• Mark has been farming for 35 years and now works with his two sons raising corn, soybeans and alfalfa in Platte, Boone and Nance Counties and also has cows and feeds cattle.
• Mark’s operation is no-till and has a balanced crop rotation with the majority being under center pivot irrigation as well as dryland acres.

“Since my sons have become more involved with the farming operation, I have been more focused on the marketing of our farm products. I have noticed there is so much information affecting the grain trade that is not readily available to the producers of the product. I hope to learn more about the Nebraska Soybean Board and use my voice to make producers more aware of trends and factors that impact our income stream. I hope to bring ideas on how Nebraska farmers can tell their story and influence the worldwide users of Nebraska-grown products,” Mark comments.

Clay Govier
Broken Bow, NE
Custer County, District 8

• Clay ran unopposed; therefore, he becomes the District 8 Board Member.
• Clay’s family farm has been operating for five generations, and their operation currently consists of corn, soybeans, yellow field peas and alfalfa.
• They use mainly no-till practices and also incorporate cover crops. Rotational diversity and soil health are areas they focus on every year, and they are transitioning some acres to organic production.

“I would like to be on the Nebraska Soybean Board to be an advocate for the soybean growers in my district and Nebraska. I believe there needs to be more domestic consumption of soybeans so we’re not as reliant on exports, and finding ways to improve domestic markets has to be a top priority. Herbicide-resistant weeds are also a significant threat to successful soybean growing, so weed suppression practices such as cover crops need to be supported. I want to be a part of the effort to ensure soybeans are grown successfully in Nebraska for years to come,” said Clay.
Soybeans: Crop of the Year

Eleven Days of Soybean Celebration

The spotlight is on soybeans this year at the Nebraska State Fair, meaning your passion for the industry is being recognized—in a major way.

Come celebrate all the things your hard work produces with the Nebraska Soybean Board team!

The Big 1-5-0

The Nebraska State Fair and Raising Nebraska celebrate 150 years this season!

Join the Nebraska Soybean Board in exploring Raising Nebraska’s 25,000-square-foot exhibit focusing on “Your food and the families who grow it.” See you there!

Nebraska State Fair
Grand Island, Nebraska
August 23, 2019–September 2, 2019

Celebrate Biodiesel Day
August 24, 2019
Soybean Management Field Days addresses issues that are important to farmers, as well as challenges on the home front and internationally. Soybean Management Field Days highlights checkoff dollars at work in: Research, Marketing, Promotion, New Uses, and Education.

Making Sense of Production Costs and Policy Changes
Brad Lubben, Nebraska Extension Public Policy Specialist
Glennis McClure, Nebraska Extension Farm and Ranch Management Analyst

Insects, Cover Crops, and Hail: Making Good Management Decisions
Justin McMechan, University of Nebraska Crop Protection and Cropping Systems Specialist
Tom Hunt, Nebraska Extension Entomologist
Jim Specht, UNL Emeritus Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture
Robert Wright, Nebraska Extension Entomologist

Soybean Weed Control & Cover Crops
- What’s Doing All the Work? Rethinking Your Weed Management Program.
  Chris Proctor, Nebraska Weed Management Extension Educator
- Cover Crops and Soil Microbial Communities - Possible Effects on Soybean Nutrition and Nutrient Cycling
  Katja Koehler-Cole, UNL Research Assistant Professor

Soybean Production & Cover Crops
Seed, Planting and Irrigation Management Decisions with Cover Crops
Jim Specht, UNL Emeritus Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture
Aaron Nygren, Nebraska Extension Educator, Cropping Systems
Steve Melvin, Nebraska Extension Educator, Cropping Systems
Troy Ingram, Nebraska Extension Educator, Cropping Systems

https://enre.unl.edu/soydays
A group of researchers and extension specialists across the Midwest are working together to improve access for farmers to find and use the latest results from agricultural studies.

In its third year, the Crop Protection Network is creating and compiling publications and other resources to help farmers manage disease pressure and improve yields, primarily for soybeans, corn and wheat.

The North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) and other organizations have supported this work by awarding research to accomplish the goal of getting these resources into the hands of farmers.

All the Latest Resources Centrally Located for You

This team of extension professionals, formerly called the North Central Disease Study Group, established the Crop Protection Network.

In early 2018, they launched CropProtectionNetwork.org as a central location for resources from 29 extension offices across the United States.

Working with scientists from other land grant universities, the group has written and amassed articles and publications for the website with the latest information on soybean and corn diseases. Soon information on insects and weeds will be added.

“As we developed the publications, we noticed most of the work we do is not specific to a problem in one state. Most of our issues are crossing state lines,” continued Mueller. “We approached NCSRP after we developed the idea. They were the first group that invested in this.”

In just a few months, the website has logged more than 10,300 downloads of publications, according to the Crop Protection Network’s year-end report to NCSRP.

Mueller reports they’re adding website information monthly and developing a way for certified crop advisors to earn continuing education credit through utilization of the website’s publications.

Additional project success in recent years:

- Crop Protection Network publications were viewed more than 25,000 times on the Soybean Research and Information Initiative (SRII) website in 2016 and 2017.
- Crop Protection Network publications (including both NCSRP-specific and other publications) were printed nearly 100,000 times in 2016 and 2017. Several publications were translated into French for use in Canada.
- The Crop Protection Network has leveraged the talents of 99 extension and industry specialists from 30 universities and institutions to create more than 40 publications on soybean protection and other topics.

Visit CropProtectionNetwork.org to learn more.
Howard County leaders amplify skills at national training program.

Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) leaders, Clint and Katie Hostler of Boelus, Nebraska participated in the 35th class of the American Soybean Association (ASA) Corteva Agriscience Young Leaders training in Orlando, Florida, in early March.

The training was in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show. While in Orlando, the Young Leaders participated in training focused on leadership development, industry issue updates and outreach.

“The ASA Corteva Young Leader Program provides the soybean industry and all of agriculture with strong and forward-thinking grower leaders,” said ASA President Davie Stephens. “With an emphasis on leadership skills, development and collaboration, the Young Leader Program provides us with growers who are working together to amplify the voice of the farmer.”

NSA President Robert Johnston says, “We are grateful to Corteva for their longstanding program support. Nebraska has had many future state and national soybean leaders complete this program.”

The Hostler’s raise no-till soybeans, corn and have a cattle operation currently on their Howard County farm.
Soybeans are near and dear to Midwesterners’ way of life. It’s more than a plant, it’s a cultural staple critical to our shared economy. The state’s new science standards are making a shift in the way students learn and teachers teach.

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) helps educators and our school districts deliver on these new science education expectations by way of the Soybean Science Institute (SSI).

### Three-Dimensional Learning in Action

The SSI provides Nebraska teachers the opportunity to instill a valuable sense of scientific wonder in their students, starting with themselves.

This two-week focus on research and understanding immerses middle school educators from across the state in the hands-on learning experiences Nebraska’s new science standards require them to uphold.

Learning alongside industry experts eager to collaborate as a unit of science enthusiasts with a passion for the soybean has been critical to the Institute’s success over the years.

“The new standards present science in a way that reflects, in my opinion, reasons why teachers became teachers in the first place. And the outlined approaches might be different from how they learned as students or teachers. The Institute introduces or reintroduces Nebraska educators to science education through the gift of time and collaboration. This focused time and access to a wide variety of industry experts really helps them make the teaching standard shift asked of them,” explains Dr. James Blake, K–12 Science Curriculum Specialist, Lincoln Public Schools.

During their science immersion, SSI participants visited soy production sites, met with scientists, received lesson development, took part in field and greenhouse experiments and explored various soybean curriculums. As a result, professional development is enhanced with greater knowledge of 3-dimensional classroom and soybean curriculum training.

Focus areas covered during this two-week event included:

- Biotechnological lab activities led by Dr. Tom Clemente.
- Plant breeding and student research project updates led by Dr. George Graef.
- Predator/prey exploration concerning the soybean plant, soybean aphids and lady beetles led by Kait Chapman and Joe Louis.
- Soybean genetics and genomics led by Dr. David Hyten and grad students.
- Experiments related to soybean growth, soybean family variations, soybean responses to light, growth-regulating chemicals, injury or stress and competition with other plants led by Dr. Don Lee.

### Soybean Science Institute

**Translating Three-Dimensional Standards into 5-E Lesson Implementation**

**May 28–31, 2019 & June 4–7, 2019**

*University of Nebraska–Lincoln, East Campus*

**2019 Institute Leaders**

- Roger Cattle, Former SSI Participant & LPS Teacher
- Bre Hagedorn, Former SSI Participant & LPS Teacher
- Dr. James Blake, K–12 Science Curriculum Specialist, LPS
- Teri Zimmerman, Education & Outreach Director, NSB
- Dr. Don Lee, UNL Professor, Agronomy & Horticulture
Nearly 50 Nebraska teachers have enriched their scientific educational approach since the SSI’s shift from elementary school educators in 2010 to middle school educators in 2017. Here’s what a few participants and active supporters had to say about their recent experience.

**Liz Brown**
Arnold Public Schools
6th grade science & 7th–12th grade special education teacher

“The Soybean Science Institute arms me with a solid hands-on approach dealing strictly with soybeans, which are prevalent across Nebraska. The aphid, lady beetle and soybean plant activity we recently completed, for example, is something I’ll take back for students to graph and actively study.

This shared learning environment also allows me to leverage my 25 years of experience and take me, personally, from good to great. The focus on student immersion will help them become better critical thinkers and lifelong learners as they move through their education into the workforce. It really does cover all students and their learning needs.”

**Jason States**
Lincoln High School
Biology Teacher

“We always try to bring in phenomenon to get students interested. Though they often are interesting, much of it doesn’t tie to Nebraska. By connecting students with the soybean—a Nebraska staple—it helps make a deeper connection and, hopefully, lead interested individuals deeper down the path of studying agronomy or science in general.”

**Dr. James Blake**
Lincoln Public Schools
K–12 science curriculum specialist

“The Soybean Science Institute can provide two-weeks of professional learning, or approximately 56 concentrated hours. I think teachers, especially considering the expanded policy changes, enjoy this focused time together to get deeper into their own learning. During a school year, these educators might have 350 students a day, making it difficult to pick up on these new changes. Being able to spend their summers ‘doing their school’ help them go back and give the best to their students.”

The 2020 Soybean Science Institute planning has already begun! Reach out to your education service units to ensure you’re alerted next season when registration opens.


EVERY YEAR, THE NSB HOSTS A “SEE FOR YOURSELF” TOUR TO GIVE LOCAL SOYBEAN FARMERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW SOYBEANS ARE EXPORTED TO INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS AND THE ROLE INTERNATIONAL MARKETING PLAYS IN STAYING PROFITABLE. THE GROUP MET WITH FIVE DIFFERENT COMPANIES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN EXPORTING AND USING U.S. SOYBEANS.

“AS AN ELEVATOR MANAGER WHO WORKS WITH PRODUCERS, I FIELD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHECKOFF AT TIMES. NOW I HAVE A BETTER STORY TO TELL ON THESE DISCUSSIONS AND HOW THE CHECKOFF IS RETURNING VALUE TO THE PRODUCER WHO IS PAYING IT.” — JOEL ENDORF, WAHOO, ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND MERCHANDISING
Zen-Noh Grain Corporation

Zen-Noh Grain Corporation (ZGC) was established in New Orleans in 1979 with the goal of establishing a safe and stable supply of U.S. food grains and soybeans for the production of compound feed by Zen-Noh’s feed mills in Japan. To establish a safe stable supply of soybeans, corn, milo and other U.S. products, ZGC constructed a state-of-the-art export elevator at Mississippi River Mile 164. This elevator in Convent, Louisiana, is considered to be the fastest export elevator in the world, capable of simultaneously loading or unloading more that 150,000 bushels per hour.

Port of South Louisiana

As the United States’ and western hemisphere's largest tonnage port district, the Port of South Louisiana is the premier sea gateway for U.S. export and import traffic. Governed by a board of seven commissioners, the Port of South Louisiana stretches 54 miles along the Mississippi River and transfers cargo to and from vessels and barges arriving in the lower river. The inland barge system—with 19,262 miles of waterway—moves more than 303 million short tons of cargo upriver to major U.S. markets in the Midwest and Northeast.

Louisiana Sugar Refining, LLC

Louisiana Sugar Refining (LSR) represents the largest single investment in America’s sugar cane industry in more than 40 years. A joint venture of Cargill, Inc., and Louisiana Sugar Growers and Refiners, Inc. (SUGAR), LSR was formed in Gramercy, Louisiana, to ensure the growth and stability of Louisiana’s sugar cane farmers to further integrate 800-plus growers throughout south and central Louisiana. Sugar cane often rotates with soybeans every three years and is one of the Louisiana economy’s top commodities.

Diamond Green Diesel

In a joint venture called Diamond Green Diesel (DGD), Diamond Alternative Energy, LLC, a Valero Energy Corporation subsidiary, partnered with Darling Ingredients, Inc., to build an 18,000-barrel-per-day renewable diesel refinery. The operation near the Valero St. Charles Refinery in Norco, Louisiana, processes various feedstocks—like soybean oil—into renewable fuel diesel. Diamond Alternative Energy marks Valero’s first advanced biofuels production, complementing its other alternative-energy efforts in ethanol and wind energy.

The Port of New Orleans

The Port of New Orleans (Port NOLA) is a diverse deep-water port uniquely located on the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico. This naturally strategic location allows unparalleled access to 30-plus major inland hubs such as Memphis, Chicago and Canada via 14,500 miles of waterways, six Class-I railroads and interstate roadways. The acquisition of New Orleans Public Belt Railroad strengthens its position as an integrated hub and supports their vision for regional freight-based economic development. Port NOLA generates $100 million in revenue annually through cargo, rail, industrial real estate and cruises.

Tour participants now have the opportunity to serve as a voice for the soybean checkoff, sharing the insights they learned on the tour with other producers and colleagues in the industry.

If you are a Nebraska soybean farmer interested in attending the 2020 “See For Yourself” tour (location and dates to be determined), contact the NSB office at 402-441-3240.

INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS
DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

The Nebraska Soybean Board invests checkoff dollars in collaborations with domestic partners to further opportunities for both sides.

17 | Time to Swine
Adding a pig operation can enhance your soybean farm, and AFAN can help.

18 | Hog Wild
Thanks to the availability of soybeans, Nebraska’s pork industry is thriving.

19 | Paving the Way for Biodiesel
Minnesota’s MEG Corp is educating the next generation of biodiesel users.

20–21 | Mythbusters: Biodiesel Edition
Take fact over fiction with the clean-burning, renewable fuel.

22 | Surrounded by Soy
Soybeans aren’t just for feed and fuel—they’re in everyday products all around us.

23 | Getting a Grip
Checkoff funds helped Goodyear develop a superior, soy-infused tire for every season.

Follow the Nebraska Soybean Board to read more stories about the value of checkoff partnerships.
TIME TO SWINE

Diversify your soybean farm by adding a swine operation that produces manure for your fields and a new income stream.

For Nebraska soybean farmers, now’s the time to swine.

Raising pigs can be a welcome addition for a farm that wants to grow its income and integrate new efficiencies, and row crop farmers are a natural fit.

“There’s a lot of opportunity in Nebraska for adding livestock, especially swine and poultry that need a lot of that soybean meal in their diet,” said Steve Martin, executive director of the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN).

Thanks to the abundance of corn and soybean farmers, Nebraska is an ideal state for farmers to run swine operations either with the help of an integrator or on their own. Since hogs’ diets primarily consist of corn and soybean meal, farmers can easily divert some of their crops to feed them. Then, rather than spending thousands on fertilizers, farmers can save by using pig manure to boost the soil health of their fields.

“All around it’s a win-win as far as overall soil productivity goes,” Martin explained. “There’s the offset of what you would have had to purchase, but then there’s also some bumps in yields that people see from just adding that organic matter to the soil. Improving the overall soil health, you get a bump in yield, which is then extra dollars in your pocket too.”

AFAN has been focusing its energies on educating farmers around the state about the viability of the swine value-add. Soybean farms with swine operations are increasing in Nebraska—a natural occurrence because of the abundance in feed.

“If you look at where the swine industry is built out, for the most part it correlates with where your grains are, and soybean meal is a key component,” Martin said. “Swine can grow somewhat on corn alone but really not very well. They have to have that protein, and soybean meal is the best way to get that.”

Martin’s team acts as the conduit between farmers and integrators, lenders and the swine industry. To spread the word, AFAN partners with Nebraska organizations to bring lunch-and-learn outreach events to every corner of the state, but its signature event is Swine Summit, hosted July 17 at Northeast Community College’s Norfolk campus.

“It’s really aimed at people interested in swine production who don’t have a facility at this point in time, so it’s really kind of a ‘Swine 101,’” Martin said. “What’s my life look like if I build one of these buildings and grow hogs for an integrator?”

The event will cover topics ranging from county zoning regulations to the ideal number of pigs for beginners to the barn specifications needed for a swine operation.

Contact AFAN to discuss the feasibility of integrating swine into your farm operation at BecomeAFAN.org.
It’s been nearly two decades since Nebraska has seen so many pigs. According to the latest Hogs and Pigs Report from the Department of Agriculture, more than 3.55 million swine are being raised in-state—and the growth, faster than the national average, isn’t slowing down.

“A good geographic location, plentiful feed and water resources, a positive political outlook and the need to diversify farming operations have resulted in positive growth in the state’s pork production numbers,” said Al Juhnke, executive director of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association (NPPA).

Recent developments in pig processing around the state have provided fuel for growth. On top of existing plants in Crete (Smithfield Foods) and Madison (Tyson Foods), Hormel Foods sold its Fremont plant to Wholestone Farms, a group of 220 farmers intending to expand the operations. Just across the Missouri River in Iowa, Triumph-Seaboard’s growing processing plant in Sioux City stands as another buyer of Nebraska pigs.

Add in the soybean meal produced here, and the conditions are ripe for Nebraska soybean farmers to continue supporting the pork industry and vice versa.

“One of the main reasons for the sustained growth of pork production in Nebraska is the feed resources available to our farmers. Soybean meal makes up a large portion of swine feed rations,” Juhnke said. “This not only adds value to a soybean farmers’ crop, it also helps sustain pork production with a nutritive healthy feed. This important soybean-pork partnership adds to the overall economic vitality of our rural communities.”

According to the Pork Checkoff, Nebraska ranks sixth out of all 50 states for its pork production, making it an integral piece in the rise of American soybean meal. Before the pig industry was booming, the U.S. was a net importer of pigs. Now, however, with the growth in production in Nebraska and around the nation, the U.S. has shifted the needle to exporting one-quarter of what the industry produces.

Big or small, new or established, the NPPA supports all pig farmers and has resources available for those interested in adding swine to their operation.

“Our goal is to see that every pig farmer in the state is successful,” Juhnke said. “There is high potential for success on today’s pork farms. Whether selling the animals or utilizing the valuable manure resources, a business plan for these types of operations looks good. The future of Nebraska’s pork farmers is a very positive one.”

**Interested in Nebraska’s Pork industry or adding swine to your farm?**
Contact the NPPA by calling **1-888-627-7675** or emailing **nppa@nepork.org** to learn more.
MEG Corp was founded in 2005 to help consumers maximize their fuel performance.

Fourteen years later—even with all that's changed in the fuel industry—the Minnesota-based consulting company is still helping consumers get the most out of their fuel. MEG Corp is even working to grow the biodiesel industry in Nebraska through infrastructure and education.

Through the Biodiesel Education, Promotion and Technical Support project in collaboration with the Nebraska Soybean Board, MEG Corp is informing current and future generations about the benefits of biodiesel. Lisa Pedderson, MEG Corp's director of operations, said their staff will make the trip from their home base in Plymouth, Minnesota, to events like the PACEshow (Petroleum and Convenience Expo) in Kansas City, Missouri, and Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island to teach consumers face to face.

“We are on hand to answer questions about diesel and biodiesel,” said Lisa Pedderson, MEG Corp’s director of operations. “Often our booth display will have an interactive activity to engage attendees and help conduct light education.”

MEG Corp also takes its educational show on the road to tech schools in the region. Last year, they reached more than 150 diesel mechanic students through five workshops at four different schools.

“The students are provided education about diesel and biodiesel which will help them accurately diagnose filter plugging issues, give recommendations to customers about proper handling and use practices and create a biodiesel-friendly generation of diesel technicians who don’t discourage biodiesel use by their customers,” Pedderson said. “Instructors have come to count on our regular visit to their classrooms and have made this part of their curriculum.”

When they’re not teaching, they’re facilitating biodiesel’s future in Nebraska. On top of surveying to find where distributors offer biodiesel blending, MEG Corp has helped establish eight sites in the last six years that allow customers to splash blend the fuel—adding an estimated 15–20 million gallons of biodiesel distribution.

“MEG Corp continues to search for, evaluate and support more sites,” Pedderson said. “We provide education and promotion by creating informational pieces, conducting workshops for staff and customers and one-on-one meetings.”

Chat with MEG Corp representatives this summer in Nebraska: They’ll be at the Nebraska State Fair Aug. 24 and the Nebraska Soybean Board’s Husker Harvest Days booth Sept. 10–12 in Grand Island.

Got biodiesel questions? MEG Corp has answers.

MEG Corp’s Regional Diesel Helpline is a free resource for diesel and biodiesel users and fuel distributors. Whether you have general questions or want help troubleshooting, the helpline can help you analyze fuel and filter samples.

Call 800-929-3437 or email info@megcorpmn.com to get your diesel answers today.
If it weren’t for soybean farmers, the biodiesel industry wouldn’t be where it is today.

“Soybean farmers led the original development and the continued growth of the biodiesel industry,” said Kaleb Little, the director of communications for the National Biodiesel Board. “Through their checkoff, they fund research and promotion efforts to ensure biodiesel remains one of the most tested renewable fuels on the market.”

But even still, myths remain about the renewable fuel and its merits. Take it from an expert—Little dispels five of the most common biodiesel misconceptions.

Learn the facts—not the fiction—about the clean-burning fuel.
**MYTH:** Biodiesel doesn’t perform as well as diesel.

**FACT:** “Biodiesel has higher cetane than U.S. diesel fuel,” Little said. “B20, a 20-percent blend of biodiesel with diesel fuel, provides fuel economy, horsepower, torque and haulage rates similar to diesel fuel. Biodiesel also has superior lubricity, and it has the highest BTU content of any alternative fuel.”

**MYTH:** Biodiesel doesn’t work in cold weather.

**FACT:** “Properly managed, high-quality biodiesel blends are successful in the coldest of climates,” Little said. “Just like No. 2 diesel, biodiesel can gel in very cold temperatures. Although pure biodiesel has a higher cloud point than No. 2 diesel, blends of 20 percent biodiesel are usually managed with similar techniques. Blends of 5 percent and below have virtually no impact on cold-weather operability.”

**MYTH:** Using biodiesel voids manufacturers’ engine warranty coverage.

**FACT:** “Use of biodiesel in and of itself does not void the parts and workmanship warranty of any vehicle or engine manufacturer,” Little said. “And users of high-quality B20-and-lower blends, meeting the latest stringent standards from ASTM International, report performance is as good as—if not better than—petrodiesel alone. Most manufacturers do make fuel recommendations, and biodiesel blends up to B5 are fully supported by all major manufacturers producing diesel equipment for the U.S. market. In the GVW Class 5-8 vehicles, accounting for 92 percent of on-road diesel fuel use, nearly 90 percent of the medium- and heavy-duty truck OEMs support up to B20—many of them for more than a decade.”

**MYTH:** Biodiesel increases greenhouse gases because it causes land to be cleared.

**FACT:** “U.S. biodiesel is an advanced biofuel, reducing lifecycle carbon emissions by up to 86 percent,” Little said. “New cropland is not needed to make biodiesel because it is produced from coproducts and byproducts of crops already grown for food and other materials. From 2008-16, the U.S. tripled biodiesel use, doubled export of whole soybeans to China, decreased U.S. farmland by 18 million acres, decreased protein prices by $20-$40 per ton and soybean oil prices dropped by 40 percent. Surplus stocks of U.S. fats and oils remain sufficient to meet demand with no land impact.”

**MYTH:** Biodiesel contributes to rising food prices.

**FACT:** “Biodiesel actually benefits the world’s protein supply—processing biodiesel from soybeans uses only the oil portion of the soybean, leaving all of the protein available to nourish livestock and humans,” Little said. “By creating a new market for soybean oil, we increase the availability of protein-rich meal for human and livestock consumption. The increased meal supply results in a more cost-effective food and feed source.”

The continued support of the soybean industry lays the groundwork for maintaining and opening the door for new markets for biodiesel. Industry growth equals greater return on the investment of the soybean checkoff.

— KALEB LITTLE, NATIONAL BIODIESEL BOARD DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Learn more about the clean-burning fuel at [Biodiesel.org](http://Biodiesel.org).
Even as manufacturers turn to soy to improve product sustainability, the United Soybean Board continues to work toward increasing its use.

Soy is found in everyday items all around you, from car and tractor tires to seats and headrests in cars, from sandals and candles to even the backing for turf used on athletic fields.

— WOODY GREEN, UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD DIRECTOR

Maybe it’s not a novel idea, but it’s certainly no nonsense.

Manufacturers have been integrating soy into their product formulations for nearly a century, though it’s had its moments in and out of vogue.

“The idea isn’t new,” said Woody Green, a United Soybean Board (USB) director from Lynchburg, South Carolina. “Henry Ford and George Washington Carver shared a vision of using soybeans and other natural derivatives to make plastics, paint, fuel and other products. Following World War II, petrochemicals replaced soy feedstock in many industrial products due to their availability and cost. However, times—and economics—have changed.”

Soy is back and making its way into more and more products within arm’s reach: Arts and crafts materials. Candles. Cleaning products. Furniture. Paints. It can even be found on feet. The shoe company Okabashi integrates soybean oil into its flip-flops. Not only is it sustainable, but it’s also readily available in the U.S., works with its plasticizer and checks boxes for the footwear’s softness and strength.

Products typically use soy in one of two ways: with soybean oil or soybean meal. Lubricants, paints, plastics, polyurethane foam and rubber can be made with the former while the latter is ideal for formaldehyde-free adhesives, paper coatings, plastic composites and synthetic fibers.

“The versatile chemical composition of soybeans makes it possible to replace petrochemicals and other ingredients with soy derivatives to produce ‘greener,’ more environmentally friendly products without sacrificing performance or competitive pricing,” Green added.

Through its checkoff, the USB is working with brands and academic researchers to find new inroads for soy in manufacturing, including:

• The potential for high oleic soybean oil as an agent in waterborne coatings with Arkema, an international chemicals manufacturer.
• Production of low-temperature powder coatings with Battelle, a nonprofit science and tech developer in Columbus, Ohio.

• Soy-based technology and high oleic soybean for products made by paint and coatings company Rust-Oleum.
• High oleic soybean oil for fresh produce packaging with researchers at Iowa State University.

“The USB is always looking five years, ten years and even decades down the line when it comes to developing new markets, and a crucial part of the process is research,” Green said.

More manufacturers are choosing soy because it:

- Reduces dependency on petroleum and associated price fluctuations for raw materials.
- Replaces suspect carcinogens.
- Differentiates and improves product performance.
- Improves corporate sustainability practices while reducing regulatory compliance and insurance costs.
- Makes products eligible for higher LEED credits.
- Improves production with an uninterrupted, abundant supply of bio-based renewable raw materials.

Browse more than 800 products made with soy at SoyNewUses.org/soy-products-guide.
INVESTING CHECKOFF DOLLARS

GETTING A GRIP

After years of research and development, soybeans are gaining traction in the tire industry with Goodyear.

N early 30 prototypes. More than five years of collaboration. One all-weather tire to rule the road.

The United Soybean Board (USB) soy checkoff worked with Goodyear to produce a tire with better performance tied to soy-based technology, and it all came to life in 2017 when Goodyear started producing the Assurance® WeatherReady® all-season tire.

“For more than five years, the soy checkoff worked with Goodyear to develop soy-based technology that would add performance to road tires,” said Woody Green, a USB director from Lynchburg, South Carolina. “Goodyear harnessed this new technology to reach the aggressive level of traction it was looking for in the Assurance WeatherReady tire.”

Soybean oil can improve tire flexibility at low temperatures, keeping rubbers pliable and improving the tires’ grip even on wet or snowy roads. On the production line, soybean oil mixes easily with rubber compounds and improves manufacturing efficiency by lessening the power it takes to produce a Goodyear tire.

That’s a win-win for consumers and the company, but it wasn’t that easy of a road for the tire giant and USB. Twenty-nine tire prototypes in two different sizes—those with and without soy—went head to head. Iteration after iteration, Goodyear fine-tuned the tire through its engineers’ new formulations and scientists’ quality-assurance experiments, ultimately finding tires made with soy simply outperformed the competition.

“Soybean oil shined at each stage of the process, bringing new capabilities to Goodyear’s tire technology and supporting its commitment to innovation that leads to consumer benefits,” Green said.

The USB’s contributions to the process with one of the world’s largest tire companies may appear small, but the net result was a big win for the industry.

“The research investments made by soybean farmers through the checkoff represent a small fraction of funds required to conduct the studies, development and testing done by Goodyear and other manufacturers to bring soy-based products to market,” Green said. “And yet, these relatively modest investments make a big impact for farmers. Each new soy product that hits the shelves not only increases soybean value directly through volume consumption, but also expands soy markets into new industries.”

Diversifying the soy portfolio through new industrial uses like tires and coatings adds up to a solid return on investment to soybean farmers by way of creating new customers for soybean oil.

—WOODY GREEN, UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD DIRECTOR

Support the soybean industry the next time you’re looking for all-season traction for your truck—buy Goodyear Assurance WeatherReady tires at Goodyear.com.
People want to know where their food comes from and how farms and ranches ethically operate.

The unique CommonGround organization understands this and seeks to share information about farming and the food we raise to ensure misconceptions and misinformation don’t shroud the realities of food production, food safety, farm life and their common ground.

**Family Consumer Science teachers become the students.**

The CommonGround banquet’s second-year event brought Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators from across Nebraska to Paul and Deb Gangwish’s farm on June 4, 2019, near Shelton, Nebraska.

These educators and influencers—in the midst of their annual summer professional development training—were thrilled to connect with CommonGround volunteers and farmers to discuss how food is grown and raised in our state.
As FCS teachers help their students become informed consumers, CommonGround was eager to equip them with accurate, real-world information and lasting connections with experts to ensure they have quality classroom resources moving forward.

Before sitting down to an outdoor meal on the farm, the FCS visitors sampled food and beverages paired with learning to kick off their agricultural tour. These learning stations outfitted across Gangwish’s land immersed participants in four key aspects of farming and ranching:

1. Animal Health
2. GMOs and Biotechnology
3. Production Methods
4. Sustainable Agriculture

They also had face-to-face time with live animals and other visual exhibits focusing on these key areas.

“One misconception that stuck out to me revolved around the bad reputation GMOs receive, something many of my students are curious about as well,” explained Louise Dornbusch, Papillion-LaVista FCS educator. “I learned there are only 10 GMO products out there, and each one is modified for the benefit of the crop and consumer—not to harm them.”

“When consumers see so many foods packaged GMO-free, meaning they don’t contain any of the 10 GMO foods out there, it seems to imply GMOs need to be watched out for, which isn’t the case at all,” Dornbusch adds.

Cultivating the next generation of informed consumers, together.

One of the best things about being a Nebraskan is knowing you’re living side by side with people who take pride in working hard and openly sharing their knowledge and skills.

As the Nebraska Family and Consumer Sciences experts continue to integrate family and career readiness with technical skill instruction within a critical science perspective, networking experiences with groups like CommonGround strengthen farm-to-consumer understandings that benefit us all.

“I think it was the best social we’ve ever had in the 15 years of my teaching,” said Dornbusch. “It was just a fantastic, beautiful, welcoming place, and it was so neat to learn about these operations from CommonGround women. I’m truly excited to bring all this information back to my students who really are hungry to learn more about how our farms and ranches operate.”

It’s vital to keep communications from farm to consumer transparent to develop a trusting relationship between farmer and consumer. Events and organizations like this help forge that bond and instill consumers’ trust, knowing they are being delivered a safe and nutritious product.

The Nebraska Soybean Board and other commodity groups sponsoring this event would like to thank all the volunteers and participants who made this farm connection possible.

Farm women interested in adding their voice to the CommonGround movement can contact Karen Brokaw at karen@brokawmarketing.com.

10 GMOs currently in today’s marketplace

| Alfalfa | Papaya |
| Apples  | Potatoes |
| Canola  | Soybeans |
| Corn    | Squash  |
| (field and sweet) | Sugar beets |
It’s that time of year again!

What’s new?
Husker Harvest Days will be unveiling its new International Visitors Center this year!

Connect with local and global peers to share your passion for the ag industry and how it impacts our shared economy.

The Nebraska Soybean Board will be in the Ag Commodities Building on Main Street. Be sure to stop by!

Hours:
- **Tuesday & Wednesday:** 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- **Thursday:** 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Location:
9000 W. Husker Highway
Wood River, Nebraska
INVESTING IN NEW MARKETS FOR U.S. SOY

From promoting the profitability of using high-quality soybean meal in India to training animal producers on nutrition in Colombia, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to develop more market opportunities for U.S. soy. We’re looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it’s helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at unitedsoybean.org
IF YOU WANT

YOUR MONITOR TO SHOW

MORE YIELD

THE ANSWER IS

Pioneer® brand A-Series soybeans are raising more than expectations. They're raising yields by 2.1 bu/A on acres just like yours in Nebraska. Ask your local Pioneer sales representative how A-Series soybeans can put numbers on your yield monitor like you've never seen.

Data is based on an average of 2017-2018 comparisons made in Nebraska through Nov. 12, 2018. Comparisons are against all competitors, unless otherwise stated, and within +/- 3 RM of the competitive brand. Product responses are variable and subject to any number of environmental, disease and pest pressures. Individual results may vary. Multi-year and multi-location data are a better predictor of future performance. DO NOT USE THIS OR ANY OTHER DATA FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF TRIALS AS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PRODUCT SELECTION. Refer to www.pioneer.com/products or contact a Pioneer sales representative or authorized dealer for the latest and complete listing of traits and scores for each Pioneer® brand product.