Kansas farmers compete on soybean yields, values

While farmers prepare for soybean harvest, they should think about the annual Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests. Entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 1.

Kansas State University (K-State) Extension personnel or a designee must witness the harvest. A designee may be anyone not involved with the farm enterprise. For example, a family member or input supplier may not serve as the witness.

Pertaining to harvest, some of the contest rules’ highlights include the following.

- An entry shall consist of one field of at least five contiguous acres. Farm Service Agency measurements will serve to verify a field’s size if entered in its entirety. If not, the harvest witness must take measurements with a measuring wheel, GPS device or smartphone app. If using an electronic method, a color printout must accompany the entry.
- Contestants should notify their Extension county offices of when harvest is to begin as early as possible.
- The harvest witness must inspect the combine’s grain hopper and verify it is empty before harvest begins.
- Only official elevator-scale tickets shall verify the soybeans’ weight. While a minimum of 5 acres must be checked, the entire field’s weight may be taken.

Thanks to the Kansas Soybean Commission (KSC), the highest dryland and irrigated yields in the contest each will receive a $1,000 award. The overall winner could earn an additional $1,000 for achieving or surpassing 100 bushels per acre. In each district, first place will win $300, second will earn $200, and third will receive $100. The No-till on the Plains organization will supply additional awards in the no-till categories.

Managed by the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA), the contests are free to all Kansas farmers, but there is a limit of one entry per field. One person may enter multiple categories – conventional or no-till, dryland or irrigated.

Farmers may enter the value contest, which evaluates protein and oil contents, without entering the yield contest and vice versa.

The complete rules are available at http://KansasSoybeans.org/contests on the web, from the Kansas Soybean office (877-KS-SOYBEAN, 877-577-6923 or information@kansassoybeans.org) and in K-State Extension offices across the state.

Doug Shoup, Ph.D., K-State Southeast Area crops and soils specialist, coordinates the project as the Extension representative on the KSA Board of Directors.

“You think EPA should enthusiastically support more aggressive, but easily achievable, volume targets for biodiesel,” Gaesser said. “We see no reason why EPA should not, at a minimum, support biomass-based diesel volumes of 2.5 billion gallons for 2018.”

EPA conducts hearing about proposed RFS volume requirements

Protect the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) as Congress originally defined it nearly a decade ago. That was the message at a public hearing June 9 in Kansas City, Missouri, regarding the proposed RFS standards for 2017 and biomass-based diesel volume standard for 2018. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the volume requirements in May, calling for targets that are lower than in statute yet higher than 2016 requirements.

Renewable fuels are an American success story and critical to keeping our nation moving forward in reducing dependence on foreign oil and providing well-paying jobs in rural America. EPA’s proposal to reduce the RFS would hurt agriculture and rural economies at a time when farmers already are struggling with a downturn.

Iowa soybean farmer Ray Gaesser, a former American Soybean Association president, said the proposed rule should contain a more aggressive biomass-based diesel program.

“We think EPA should enthusiastically support more aggressive, but easily achievable, volume targets for biodiesel,” Gaesser said. “We see no reason why EPA should not, at a minimum, support biomass-based diesel volumes of 2.5 billion gallons for 2018.”

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KSA CEO Kenlon Johannes (right) testifies at the EPA’s hearing about the RFS in Kansas City, Missouri.
Harvesting accomplishments, recognizing support

Here’s hoping everybody had a great summer. As I write this, corn harvest has started in some parts of the state, and I’ve heard of good to maybe-a-little-above-average yields. Soybean harvest is still a few weeks away, but the yields look promising.

In my area, we had pretty good rains throughout the whole summer – with the exception of June, when it was dry during planting. There was some replanting where poor stands were apparent, but those acres appear to have caught up with the earlier-planted soybeans.

As I’m wrapping up my second term as the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) president, I want to thank everyone who supported me and all the Board of Directors and staff members for their hard work and dedication. It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve as the president, and in January, I will hand the reins to someone else. Without the members, directors and staff, KSA would not be as strong as it is.

One of our Association’s major accomplishments during the past couple of years has been the passage of the Section 179 tax deduction that permanently qualified farm equipment up to $500,000. That is crucial for us farmers as we plan for year-end expenditures and future expansion of our enterprises. All the commodity groups’ cooperation with each other and our legislators made that possible.

Crop insurance also was a major emphasis in the last farm bill. The influence of commodity groups, including KSA, in our nation’s capital can take credit for that.

Lastly, we need to recognize our corporate partners. Without their support and dedication, KSA would not have the visibility, strength and influence it does. On behalf of the whole KSA Board, I thank our sponsors for their support. We all understand you can choose to invest your dollars elsewhere, and we assure you we have your back when it comes to standing up and fighting for legislation that affects all our bottom lines.

As we move into harvest, let’s take time to look at our equipment and the roads we are going to travel. Think if what we are doing is safest it can be. Don’t take shortcuts. If something that can help keep you, a family member or an employee from getting hurt needs repaired, take the time to do it right.

Have a safe harvest.

Manhattan hosts summer Board meeting

The following are highlights from the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) Board of Directors meeting convened July 30 in Manhattan.  

- Approved the 2016 year-end financial statements subject to audit and the IRS 2014 Form 990.
- Adopted the American Soybean Association’s (ASA) new membership structure and the fiscal year 2017 state membership plan.
- Met summer interns Danielle Comstock, Fredonia, and Garret Heath, Topeka.
- Conducted a conference call with ASA’s Washington, D.C., staff for updates about developments at the federal level.
- Retained Gary Reser, Topeka, for government-relations and political consulting services during the 2017 legislative session.
- Worked on addressing the Labor Department’s new overtime rules before their Dec. 1 implementation.
- Revised the Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests entry form.
- Continued planning for Kansas Soybean Expo 2017, Jan. 11 in Topeka.

The next Board meeting will be Nov. 18 in Topeka. Association members can contact any director or Kenlon Johannes in the office to suggest agenda items.

Notice of Annual Meeting • Kansas Soybean Association

Notice is hereby given that the regular Annual Meeting of the members of the Kansas Soybean Association will be at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, in Heritage Hall, 1 Expocentre Dr., Topeka.

- Call to order
- Consideration of the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes
- Officer reports
- Director elections for districts 2, 3 and 6 and the second director-at-large (http://KansasSoybeans.org/directors)
- Approval of 2017 policy resolutions (http://KansasSoybeans.org/policy)
- Such other business as may come before the meeting
- Adjournment

Note: Only current Association members may vote at the Annual Meeting.
Corporate partners and advertisers are extremely important to the overall effort of the Kansas Soybean Association. They provide the Association with financial support and are links to the allied industries that provide soybean farmers with inputs and capital to manage our enterprises. KSA also relies on corporate partners to keep us up-to-date with the latest breakthroughs in production technologies, and we all work together to create and implement environmental and trade policies that benefit the soybean industry.

Thank you,
corporate partners
Membership chairman seeks to improve industry’s ‘sphere’

I have been Labette County’s representative on the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) Board of Directors for three years. I chair the membership and corporate relations committee and am on the yield and value contests committee.

I first became involved with KSA in 2001 when one of my customers placed in the yield contest and I attended the Kansas Soybean Expo with him. I was impressed with the work I saw going on there.

I firmly believe in the following quotation from Theodore Roosevelt: “Every man owes part of his time and money to the business or industry to which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve the conditions within his sphere.”

KSA and the American Soybean Association (ASA) enable farmers to do that while spending their time in production agriculture. Membership is important. Every farmer benefits from their associations’ work, and every one of them should be a member to support that work.

I grew up on a farm in Cherokee County and was active in FFA. I attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in agricultural education. I taught for several years in Nebraska and Kansas and held several ag positions over the years. My business for the last 17 years has been in seed retail. We have a small acreage that allowed us to raise a few head of cattle.

I have been active in Rotary International as a local club president and with the district as assistant governor. I still believe in the importance of youth in our future and am the district coordinator for Rotary Youth Exchange. We also help sponsor high-school juniors to Rotary Youth Leadership camp.

I have been a supporter of 4-H and FFA (Labette County and Columbus chapters) for years at the Labette County Fair, Cherokee County Fair and Interstate Fair.

My interests are agriculture-related antiques, including original covered wagons and antique wood-burning cook stoves. I complete the stove displays with a collection of enamel and cast-iron cookware like our ancestors used.

I enjoy cooking, barbecuing and smoking meats. I retired from the Kansas Army National Guard after 22 years.

My wife, Dorothy, and I have been married 47 years. We have two sons. Mike is an accountant with offices in Miami, Oklahoma, and Joplin, Missouri. Tom is in management with Scholastic books in Lenexa.

These days I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my three granddaughters, ages 9, 5 and 4. I always enjoyed gardening, hunting and fishing, but because all the granddaughters have discovered fishing, that is my favorite.

I have enjoyed working with KSA the last 16 years and with the Board the last three years. KSA’s work for farmers is invaluable.

New affiliation agreement with ASA begins Oct. 1

Both the American Soybean Association (ASA) and the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) are nonprofits dedicated to improving the economic well-being of American soybean farmers. Together, the whole is much more than the sum of its parts. To maximize their respective successes, the associations cooperate in supporting their mutual missions. To best achieve that cooperation, they signed a new affiliation agreement July 30.

ASA therefore recognizes KSA as its exclusive affiliate in Kansas, and KSA recognizes ASA as its exclusive national soybean policy organization. KSA will provide its members’ names to ASA so they can receive ASA memberships at no cost. KSA and its members will receive the following from ASA:

- Representation on the ASA Board of Directors.
- Legislative and regulatory lobbying in Washington, D.C., and regular legislative and regulatory updates.
- Newsletters, news reports, action alerts, and communication of market events and policy updates affecting U.S. soybean farmers.
- National leadership-development programs.
- Special registration rates at the annual Commodity Classic convention and trade show.

As stated in ASA’s bylaws, the public policies of ASA and its state affiliates should be coordinated. If either seriously considers the adoption of contrary public policy, the top officers of KSA and ASA will meet in person or via telephone to exchange information and viewpoints and resolve the issue internally between the organizations before adopting or publicly communicating the policy under consideration.

Each party also will cooperate with the other as much as is practical regarding industry-sponsored programs for members.

By Sept. 1 of each year, KSA will inform ASA as to the number of directors it intends to have on the ASA Board, which will establish KSA’s required investment level for the next ASA fiscal year.

Kansas has nearly 5 percent of U.S. soybean acres. Like all states with more than 3 percent, KSA’s base level of investment in ASA will be $15,000 annually for five years, beginning Oct. 1. A second director would require another $30,000. The third, fourth and fifth directors would require $35,000 each. Beyond that, each additional director would require another $40,000.

A state’s investments in ASA projects (for example, Soybean Leadership College, the SoyStats reference guide, and the Young Leader and Leadership at Its Best programs) will count toward additional ASA Board representation.

KSA intends to maintain its single ASA director for the time being. Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, has served in that role for almost a year. Bob Henry, Robinson, held the seat from 2006 to 2015.

After five years of the new affiliation system, any ASA director may call for a vote of state affiliates to change the investment levels and acreage percentages as they apply to the levels of investment outlined in the ASA bylaws.
Win back the 4 billion pounds of annual oil demand you lost to canola and other crops. High oleic soybeans produce oil with zero trans fat and less saturated fat. That’s why the food industry wants it, and processors and elevators are willing to pay a premium for it. Grow it now and grow your bottom line. New delivery locations are being added every year, and current programs are expanding their offerings. Ask your seed rep for the best varieties in your area. — SOYINNOVATION.COM
Engage Cuba, a coalition of private companies and organizations, joined Kansas agriculture and business leaders Sept. 19 to launch the nonpartisan Engage Cuba Kansas State Council. The council will build statewide support for congressional action to end the travel and trade embargo on Cuba. The goal is to allow Kansas farmers to regain lost market share in Cuba and support the island’s growing private sector.

“Cuba has the potential to be a substantial market just 90 miles off our shore,” said Sen. Jerry Moran, “but until Congress lifts the embargo, Kansas farmers and other small businesses will continue to miss out on export opportunities.”

“As Cuba’s markets continue to grow, given the rise of tourism and the increasing purchasing power of 11 million Cubans, demand for high-quality U.S. agricultural products will increase. A top ag exporter, Kansas’ farmers would benefit tremendously from expanded trade with Cuba, which imports large quantities of soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum and corn.

The state’s capacity for trade with Cuba extends beyond agriculture. For example, Kansas is uniquely positioned to be an international leader in exporting renewable-energy technology and infrastructure to Cuba.

While the Engage Cuba Kansas State Council will continue recruiting, its founding members include KSA, the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Engage Cuba (http://EngageCuba.org) has 14 other state councils, including Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Colorado.
Farm, food groups celebrate huge win in biotech-disclosure law

Legislation to pre-empt all state and local biotechnology-disclosure laws by creating a federal program that requires on-label access to ingredient information now is law. President Barack Obama signed it July 29, capping a historic win for farm groups, food companies and the biotech industry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has formed a working group to implement the legislation and has established a page for the new program at http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/gmo on the web.

The law mandates disclosure of biotech ingredients but allows companies to do so through scannable smartphone codes as an alternative to on-package text or a symbol.

A coalition of 1,100 food and agriculture groups, including the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) and American Soybean Association (ASA), pushed for the legislation and now will press AMS to implement the law in line with congressional intent.

It provides what supporters intended to be a narrow definition of biotechnology that would exclude new techniques, such as gene editing, and highly refined ingredients, such as vegetable oil and sugar.

The bill resulted from weeks of negotiations between Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican, and the committee’s ranking Democrat, Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

Rep. Mike Pompeo, who represents the Fourth District of Kansas, had introduced the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act last year. That bill passed the House of Representatives, but it met resistance in the Senate.

Pompeo then played an important role in adopting the Roberts–Stabenow compromise. He spoke in favor of the Senate measure during the House’s floor debate, recognizing the help of many Kansans and organizations. KSA President Raylen Phelon, Melvern, and Director of Field Services Dennis Hupe were among those he named. You can view his speech at http://bit.ly/pompeo-s764 on the web.

EPA conducts hearing................. continued from page 1

By not increasing biomass-based diesel levels, Gaesser said, “the EPA and administration are missing an easy opportunity to help the ag and rural economy while at the same time achieving greater greenhouse-gas emission reductions – a high priority for EPA and this administration.”


“It’s the EPA’s responsibility to continue with the RFS to honor soybean farmers’ investments in biodiesel research and market development,” he told an interviewer afterward.

Regulators began drafting a final rule July 11.

Biodiesel industry seeks producers’ tax credit

Fourteen senators, including Pat Roberts from Kansas, are backing a bill to maintain the current biodiesel blenders’ credit through 2019 then convert it to a producers’ credit, limited to domestic production.

The existing federal blenders’ tax credit is paid to petroleum refiners as an incentive to blend biodiesel and renewable diesel, designated “advanced biofuels” because of their relatively low carbon footprints. Producers who make the fuels from oilseeds and animal fats would prefer to receive the credit directly.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s latest proposal, released in May, calls for a total of 18.8 billion gallons of renewable fuels to be blended with conventional fuels. The Renewable Fuel Standard says that should be 24 billion gallons. The agency used its “waiver authority” to opt for a lower level. The formal public-comment period, which closed in July, generated more than 42,000 submissions.
## Calendar of events

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<td>#RealPigFarming tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Ellsworth County kids day, Wilson</td>
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<td>Oct. 13–15</td>
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<td>Oct. 27–28</td>
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<td>Oct. 28–29</td>
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<td>Nov. 2–4</td>
<td>U.S. Meat Export Federation strategic planning conference, Carlsbad, CA</td>
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<td>Nov. 8</td>
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<td>Nov. 8–10</td>
<td>Wichita Farm &amp; Ranch Show, Park City</td>
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<td>Nov. 9–10</td>
<td>Crop Input &amp; Technology Exposition, Hiawatha</td>
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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Crop-insurance workshop, Salina</td>
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<td>Nov. 14–15</td>
<td>Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Manhattan</td>
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<td>Nov. 14–16</td>
<td>National Biodiesel Board meeting, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Nov. 15–17</td>
<td>Kansas Association of Counties annual conference, Overland Park</td>
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<td>Nov. 16–17</td>
<td>Kansas Agri Business Expo, Wichita</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Kansas Soybean Association Board of Directors meeting, Topeka</td>
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<td>Nov. 20–22</td>
<td>Kansas Association of Conservation Districts annual convention, Wichita</td>
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<td>Nov. 28–30</td>
<td>Soy Transportation Coalition annual meeting, Williamsburg, VA</td>
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<td>Nov. 30–Dec. 2</td>
<td>Kansas Livestock Association convention, Wichita</td>
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<td>Dec. 1–3</td>
<td>Kansas Soybean Commission meeting, Topeka</td>
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<td>Dec. 2–4</td>
<td>Kansas Association of School Boards annual conference, Wichita</td>
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<td>Dec. 5–6</td>
<td>Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting, Manhattan</td>
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<td>Dec. 5–6</td>
<td>U.S. Soy International Marketing Dialogue, Saint Louis, MO</td>
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See more at [http://KansasSoybeans.org/events](http://KansasSoybeans.org/events)