More than 225 soybean enthusiasts gathered Jan. 9 in Topeka for Kansas Soybean Expo 2019. The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) organized the annual event, with checkoff funding from the Kansas Soybean Commission (KSC), to coincide with the Topeka Farm Show at the Kansas Expocentre.

“We were really excited to have so many farmers and friends of the industry join us,” said KSA Vice President Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne, who chaired the Expo planning committee. “It was a great day to network and advance the Association’s and Commission’s commitments to producer education.”

KSA President Lucas Heinen, Everest, and KSC Chairman Kurt Maurath, Oakley, welcomed the attendees. The opening session featured updates from checkoff-partner organizations. The main presenters were Thaddaeus Babb, waterways program manager for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Ed Anderson, Ph.D., executive director of the North Central Soybean Research Program. Mike Hucker, Southwest Region general manager for Consolidated Grain & Barge Co., and Steve Taylor, Port 33 director for Bruce Oakley Inc., assisted Babb.

The keynote speaker, Bob Farmer with Farmers’ Almanac, entertained the audience with his down-home, humorous storytelling, anecdotes, remedies and practical tips for better communication.

“Bob helped us think and laugh about the funny things we do in life,” said Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, KSA’s representative on the American Soybean Association (ASA) Board of Directors and a member of the Expo planning committee. “He used humor and a positive outlook to deliver a meaningful, memorable message.”

Tom Brand, executive director of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting, was the master of ceremonies at the luncheon. The featured speaker was Lt. Gov.-elect Lynn Rogers. He discussed the incoming administration’s plans for collaborative problem-solving to tackle issues of rural prosperity.

During the awards and recognitions, the Meritorious Service Award went to Charles Hamon, Valley Falls. He was the first KSC chairman in 1977 and elected ASA president in 1981. One of his most memorable experiences was traveling to China to open the ASA International Marketing office in Beijing. He also traveled to the Soviet Union to assure trading partners of a reliable supply of U.S. soybeans during the trade embargo. Finally, he remembered snacking on a few of the famous jelly beans always in a jar on President Ronald Reagan’s desk during a meeting about soybean issues.

Administrative Assistant Mary Lou Dillman, Topeka, who retired about three weeks after Expo, was recognized for nearly 22 years of service to KSA and KSC. In addition to being the “director of first impressions,” as Brand described her, Dillman’s duties once included youth-education presentations, primarily to third- and fourth-grade classes across the state, earning her the “Soybean Lady” moniker.

Heinen acknowledged Raylen Phelon, Melvern; Doug Shoup, Scranton; and Grant Webber, Sublette, as they left the KSA Board. Maurath thanked Jim Zwonitzer, Horton, for his KSC service, which began in 2004.

Heinen presided over the KSA Annual Meeting. Atkinson outlined ASA’s policy successes in 2018 and priorities for 2019. Vice President Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha, as then-chairman of KSA’s policy committee, presented the guiding resolutions for 2019, which the voting members present accepted. The Board elections resulted in Brett Neibling, Highland, as the director for...
The 1st 5 things on my mind as I take the gavel

A bout 350 words. That's what our newsletter editor replied when I asked how long these president's columns should be.

My farmer side knows how much goes into 350 acres. My accountant side knows what $350 gets. While I'm not sure if 350 words are a lot, here goes. I decided to approach my first message with a numbered list.

1 – Kansas Soybean Expo. We had a good turnout and a great program. Thanks go to the planning committee, chaired by Vice President Teresa Brandenburg; the staff, especially event coordinator Charlene Patton; and all the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) directors for their hard work. For me, a special moment was helping recognize Mary Lou Dillman, who retired Jan. 31 after almost 22 years as our administrative assistant.

2 – Commodity Classic. Initial reports indicate total attendance exceeded 9,100 – the third-largest crowd in the event's 23 years. Farmer attendance was about 4,500 – the second-largest turnout so far. During the American Soybean Association’s (ASAs) policy-setting process, KSA caucused with the Nebraska and Texas associations. Kansas then had three seats in the voting delegates' session that approved ASAs 2019 resolutions. You can find them at http://SoyGrowers.com/policy-resolutions on the web.

3 – Farm bill. Getting the 115th Congress to pass the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 was a major accomplishment. Our Kansas delegation, especially Senate ag committee chairman Pat Roberts, contributed greatly to the effort. While a “status quo” bill in many ways, it provides needed stability and certainty. Its significant benefits include market-development resources, revenue-loss protection and crop-insurance provisions for the next five years.

4 – Trade. Building a preference for U.S. soy is more important than ever. While global soybean production is growing and trade dynamics are shifting, we must have access to every market. We currently export to more than 100 destinations, yet there are emerging opportunities and room to grow.

5 – Statehouse activities. Good relationships with our state legislators are essential for industry success. KSA not only wants them to understand our positions but also to see us as a reliable resource when they are wrestling with questions that affect their farmer-constituents. We continue to work at keeping Kansas agriculture-friendly, contesting anti-agriculture groups, protecting our sales-tax exemptions and resisting the rise in property taxes, to name a few things.

As you can tell from my first 375 words, it's hard to contain my enthusiasm toward being your KSA president. I appreciate the honor and welcome the responsibility.

Expo '19

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District 1 and Andy Winsor, Granville, continuing as a director-at-large. The District 7 directorship became vacant, and the Board will fill that position soon.

The KSA directors gathered afterward to elect their 2019 officers. The list appears in the masthead to the left.

District 6 Director Kim Kohls, Moundridge, announced the district and overall winners in the Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests. (See page 6.)

Participants then heard three K-State Research and Extension updates.

- "Increasing the Rate of Genetic Gain for Yield in Soybean-breeding Programs" by Bill Schapaugh, Ph.D., soybean breeder.
- "Dicamba: A Look Back and a Look Ahead" by Dallas Peterson, Ph.D., weed-science specialist.

The day's program concluded with David Schemm, Sharon Springs, state executive director of the Agriculture Department's Farm Service Agency, who provided a special update about federal programs related to commodities and disasters, natural-resources conservation, and agricultural credit.

Expo photos and presentations are available via http://KansasSoybeans.org/expo on the web.
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
Industry service is more than paid vacations

Joining the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) Board of Directors in spring 2017, I succeeded Terry Reschke as Brown County’s representative. I remember my first Board meeting consisted of about five furious minutes right after an Expo lunch in Topeka.

I joined the Board with some persuasion from Terry Reschke and Bob Henry. They both had been active and passionate about what they had accomplished with the Association. Since joining, it has been a completely eye-opening experience for me.

From a producer’s perspective, it might appear as though directors just get to go on repeated paid vacations. The group of farmers with whom I get to work at KSA, however, volunteer their time to improve both soybeans and the agricultural industry as a whole.

They are the same people who spend long days in combines and tractors, then they shoulder a little more of the load by helping create policies and procedures so those in our state and federal governments know what needs attention.

Growing up on a farm in southwestern Brown County, I’ve been involved in agriculture forever. Early on, the enterprise consisted of my dad, uncle and grandfather. We now raise soybeans and corn and manage cow-calf pairs with my parents, Terry and Jeanie.

I married my high-school sweetheart, Michelle, and we have two boys: Cooper, 11, and Thatcher, 8.

In 2007, we purchased our first farm and, just like for many other young producers, part of the challenge is prioritizing the factors I can change and not getting caught up in the ones I can’t.

An easy example of that is the number of times I refresh the radar image on my smartphone because I’m sure I can affect the path of an incoming storm as we all are praying for rain around July 10. My wife continues to tell me – and she’s right – that it’s one of those factors that’s out of my control and I need to go to bed.

After graduating from Kansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in animal science and spending nine years as a loan officer at a local bank, I joined the Pederson Seed team in Hiawatha in 2011. We provide agronomy, seed and precision-agriculture services.

That position has forced me out of my comfort zone and allowed everyday interactions with other farmers in northeastern Kansas. It’s always a joy to see what effects I can have on other enterprises and what effects they have on me.

When there’s extra time beyond my job and helping on the family farm, I enjoy spending lots of it with my family and watching all sorts of sporting events.

Association remains active under the dome in Topeka

Kansas legislators gavelled in their 2019 session Jan. 14 with Republican control of both chambers, a newly elected Democrat governor and more revenue available than in recent years.

Political differences on major issues challenge Gov. Laura Kelly and Kansas lawmakers this year. The governor wants to increase school spending; expand Medicaid in Kansas; and restore funding for the transportation department, state prisons and higher education.

She hopes to pursue additional funding in an effort to squash a lawsuit over education spending that has frustrated the Legislature for several years. Her approach would be to provide schools with an additional $90 million per year for inflation on top of the $525 million over five years appropriated in 2018.

The governor will attempt to expand Medicaid and its state-managed federal program that delivers healthcare to people with low incomes or disabilities. Under expansion in Kansas, people who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level would qualify and the U.S. government would pay 90 percent of those costs.

On the session’s second day, the Kansas Agricultural Alliance (KAA) conducted its annual welcome luncheon for the entire Legislature. Participation was excellent, and the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) was well represented.

KSA’s initial weekly meeting was Jan. 21. KSA is one of 15 agricultural organizations in the alliance.

The first Tuesday evening reception also was Jan. 15. KSA is one of 40 lobbying groups that co-sponsor the weekly gatherings for Kansas lawmakers.

KSA conducted its annual luncheon for Kansas lawmakers and legislative staff Feb. 19 in the Statehouse. More than 200 guests attended what has become a popular annual event.

Regarding specific legislation, Senate President Susan Wagle, Wichita, appointed herself to chair her chamber’s select committee on federal tax implementation. It might be the first time ever a committee was created to deal with only one bill. SB 22 would change the state tax code to protect individuals and businesses from paying additional state taxes due to passage of the 2017 federal tax cuts.

Some lawmakers fear that multinational companies might move their operations from Kansas if they fail to pass SB 22. Others are nervous because they do not have a firm idea about what the measure actually would cost the state in lost revenue next year, but it currently is estimated to be $191 million.

The newly christened House rural revitalization committee has
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.
Latest 100-Bushel Club member sets new record

Despite challenging weather during harvest, the best agronomic practices and wisely selected varieties still contributed to Kansas farmers’ producing high-yielding, valuable soybeans in 2018.

“The annual Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests recognize outstanding Kansas farmers and provide fun incentives for them to improve,” said Doug Shoup, Ph.D., Scranton, a former Kansas State University area agronomist and the contests coordinator. “They also allow the Kansas Soybean Association, thanks to check-off funding from the Kansas Soybean Commission, to share what participants learned to benefit all Kansas soybean farmers.”

Love & Love Farms, Montezuma, topped the statewide irrigated division with a conventional-tillage entry that made 104.14 bushels per acre – the contest’s new record and only the second entry ever to document more than 100 bushels. Matt Geiger, Denton, led the dryland division with a conventional-tillage entry of 94.10 bushels per acre. Kole McCauley, Leona, won the value contest with $1.037 per bushel of increased value (12.1 percent over the cash price).

The yield contest included 29 entries, 10 categories had verified yields averaging 81.87 bushels per acre, compared to the reported state average of 42 bushels per acre in 2018. The contest winners’ average increased by 3.76 bushels per acre, while the state average increased 2 bushels per acre from 2017.

The value contest had 21 entries, 10 fewer than in the previous year. For their protein and oil contents, the top three entries averaged 99.5 cents (11.5 percent) in increased value over the $8.60 base cash price. In 2017, that average was 93.8 cents (10.2 percent) above a $9.18 cash price.

The Kansas Soybean Association presented the state and district winners with plaques or certificates and monetary prizes from the Kansas Soybean Commission at the Kansas Soybean Expo, Jan. 9 in Topeka.

The highest dryland and irrigated yields in the state each received a $1,000 award, and Love & Love Farms got an additional $1,000 bonus for surpassing 100 bushels per acre. In each district, first place won $300, second earned $200, and third received $100.

Complete results and award photos are available via http://KansasSoybeans.org/contests on the web.

Directors tackle winter chores

What follows are the highlights from the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) Board of Directors meeting convened Jan. 8 in Topeka.

- Heard updates from American Soybean Association (ASA) lobbyists in Washington, D.C.
- Readied for Expo ’19.
- Set the office’s fiscal year 2020 holiday schedule.
- Approved the administrative assistant’s job description and retained a staffing agency to assist with filling the position.
- Discussed Kansas Commodity Classic 2019. KSA would join as a co-host. The Kansas Soybean Commission (KSC) would be a Platinum Level sponsor.
- Previewed the KSA–KSC combined leaders’ orientation and strategic planning meeting, scheduled for Feb. 9.
- Reviewed the sustainability grant ASA gave KSA, which it used to send a specially themed winter ’18 Straight Rows to more than 2,400 current, former and prospective members.
- Chose delegates and alternates for the ASA resolutions session at Commodity Classic in Orlando, Florida.
- Marked their calendars with the Kansas Agricultural Alliance legislative luncheon, Jan. 15; “Wake Up to Kansas Agriculture” legislative breakfast, Jan. 16; and KSA legislative luncheon, Feb. 19.
- Prepared KSA policy resolutions for the membership’s final approval during the Annual Meeting (http://KansasSoybeans.org/policy).
- Learned the results of the 2018 yield and value contests.

The directors scheduled their next meeting for March 22 in Topeka. Those highlights will be in the summer issue of Straight Rows. The summer agribusiness tour and Board meeting likely will be in July around Independence and Coffeyville. Association members can contact any director or Kenlon Johannes in the office to suggest agenda items.
Whether shipping by river, road or rail, the soy checkoff is committed to ensuring America’s infrastructure is a significant advantage for U.S. soybean farmers. 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
Additional support maximizes customer success

Hard-to-control weeds are among the biggest threats to farmer productivity in the United States. For many years, Bayer has partnered with farmers, weed scientists, retailers, applicators and other agricultural stakeholders to implement integrated weed management.

In November, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a two-year registration for Bayer’s XtendiMax herbicide with VaporGrip Technology. Bayer since has scheduled more than 600 training events and provided resources to help farmers succeed with the Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System and XtendiMax herbicide.

Bayer has taken steps to provide customers additional support to maximize their success.

- A technical support call center is open and can be accessed by calling 844-RRXTEND (844-779-8363).
- The RRXTEND Spray App (http://bit.ly/rrxtend-spray) is available to help applicators create and retain application records and identify weather conditions conducive for successful application.
- Farmers can take advantage of an additional incentive through Roundup Ready PLUS when applying XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology, plus additional solutions.
- Bayer is continuing to add approved tank-mix options – including herbicides, adjuvants, micronutrients, insecticides and fungicides (http://XtendiMaxApplicationRequirements.com) – to provide farmers additional choices and flexibility.

Based on the updated EPA label, annual training remains a requirement for all certified applicators. Bayer cites those training opportunities as a key to success with XtendiMax herbicide. In 2018, more than 96,000 farmers and applicators attended mandatory training sessions hosted by the public and private sectors. This winter’s sessions covered updates to the label, guidance on application requirements and other management practices that have been developed for the system.

As you prepare for another season with the Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System, use Bayer’s websites, local resources and Extension agents to help ensure you have the best experience with it. For the latest information about XtendiMax herbicide, visit http://RoundupReadyXtend.com on the web.

Farmers ‘shine’ at Commodity Classic

Farmers across the nation are using new challenges in the industry as a launch pad for innovation, and that was clear at Commodity Classic, Feb. 27–March 2 in Orlando, Florida.

“Commodity Classic is where farmers go to gain knowledge and insights, and this year’s educational lineup put us on the inside track during a time of uncertainty,” said Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, who represents Kansas on the American Soybean Association (ASA) Board of Directors. “Every educational session is selected by farmers for farmers, so the topics and speakers are relevant and important to our enterprises.”

Themed “Time to Shine,” Commodity Classic 2019 included a trade show with 404 exhibitors showcasing the latest in technology, equipment, inputs, services and innovation; a keynote address by Sonny Perdue, U.S. secretary of agriculture, who also greeted farmers during a walk through the trade show; more than 40 educational sessions covering soil health, farm policy, trade, yield barriers, farm transition and more; dozens of opportunities for farmers to network and learn from each other; and meetings and policy-development sessions involving the national commodity associations.

Commodity Classic 2020 will be Feb. 27–29 in San Antonio, Texas. For more information and to sign up for e-mail updates, visit http://CommodityClassic.com on the web.

Established in 1996, Commodity Classic is America’s largest farmer-led, farmer-focused convention and trade show. ASA and the corn, wheat and grain sorghum national associations join with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers to present it each year.
Association remains active

The Kansas Soybean Commission looks beyond the elevator to identify issues that affect Kansas soybean farmers’ profitability. Simply put, a #Cropportunity is your checkoff dollars at work — new revenue streams created, existing markets expanded or revived in new, exciting ways that open up demand and drive sales.

KansasSoybeans.org
877-KS-SOYBEAN

— $5 billion of economic impact for Kansas in 2017
— $403 million in Kansas exports in 2017
— From 1.9 million acres and $5.55 per bushel to 5.1 million acres and $8.95 per bushel (1991 to 2017)
— 17.2 million bushels of soybeans used by Kansas animal agriculture in 2015
— 63¢ more per bushel due to biodiesel

1 Kansas Department of Agriculture (farming & processing) • 2 U.S. Census Bureau • 3 National Agricultural Statistics Service • United Soybean Board • National Biodiesel Board

geared up in a major way and commenced a flurry of activities early in the session. Its first meetings included the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development and Advanced Manufacturing Institute at Kansas State University and the Kansas Sampler Foundation.

KSA has taken an active role in supporting SB 32. The measure would grant an exemption from Kansas Insurance Commission jurisdiction for the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) so it can partner with a provider to offer healthcare-benefit plans that could allow some farm families to save significantly on health insurance.

KFB stated an estimated 16 percent of the Kansas population currently is uninsured or forced to purchase insurance on the open market. Proponent testimony in the Senate insurance committee revealed that some of one group's members were paying more than $20,000 per year for insurance that provided little more than catastrophic coverage.

KSA has lobbied legislators to support the bill. It also e-mailed several action alerts to keep its members informed and encourage their participation in the process.

The Association also has lobbied and testified in support of HB 2340. It intends to prohibit county treasurers from distributing any portion of taxes that exceed the previous year’s taxes and are under appeal until the appeal is finalized. The bill would provide a favorable outcome for property owners and taxing authorities. It also would establish a framework for more accurate budgets and eliminate the need to create budget line-items for refunds to taxpayers after the appeal process.

Kansas soybean farmers are assessed millions annually in property taxes to assist in the financing of schools and local government units. Their property-tax load has increased dramatically in recent years, negatively affecting already tight operating margins.

KSA lauded the House taxation committee for considering legislation that was a “remarkably sensible, practical, logical and ethical approach” to publically funded budgets in Kansas.

The deadline for advancing bills from their chambers of origin was Feb. 28. It generated a flurry of activity Feb. 26–27. The Senate passed 32 bills during those two days, and the House passed 36. The noncontroversial nature of the measures was reflected in the fact that the vast majority of them were approved unanimously or by wide margins.

KSA is examining, monitoring or lobbying 32 pieces of legislation this session.
Calendar of industry events

April 3–4  North American Leaders Session on Agricultural Technology & Innovation, Orlando, FL
April 6  Kansas Agriculture & Rural Leadership graduation, Manhattan
April 6  Kansas State University open house, Manhattan
April 8–9  Kansas Grain & Feed Association annual meeting, Wichita
April 10–12  Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo, Great Bend
April 22–25  Soybean states’ staff meeting, Santa Fe, NM
April 23  Five-county kids’ Earth Day, Erie
May 3  Jefferson West High School agriculture day, Meriden
May 3  Junction City agriculture day, Junction City
May 3–5  Four State Farm Show, Pittsburg
May 4  Touch a Truck, Paola
May 7–9  Farm Food Tour
May 8  Riley County kids day, Manhattan
May 8–9  Animal Agriculture Alliance stakeholders summit, Kansas City, MO
May 22–24  U.S. Meat Export Federation spring conference, Kansas City, MO
May 28  Topeka-area family & consumer scientists’ meeting, Topeka
June 6–8  National Festival of Breads, Manhattan
June 14  Kansas Motor Carriers Association truck-driving championship, Topeka
July 14–19  United Soybean Board meeting, Fargo, ND

See more at http://KansasSoybeans.org/events