

## Contests allow Kansas farmers to compete on soybean yield, value

As farmers begin fall 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, contiguous field of at least 5 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 surpassing the standing record of 104.14 bushels per acre. Further, in each district, first place will win \$300, second will earn \$200, and third will receive \$100.

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 (which now includes strip-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 <https://KansasSoybeans.org/contests> on the web, from the Kansas Soybean office (877-KS-SOYBEAN, 877-577-6923 or [info@kansassoybeans.org](mailto:info@kansassoybeans.org)) and in K-State Extension offices across the state.

"The contest is an incentive for farmers to maximize soybean yield and protein and oil contents and an opportunity to share the production practices that achieve those high levels of yield and value," said Greg Strube, Horton, who chairs KSA's contests committee.

Winners will receive their plaques, certificates and monetary awards during the Kansas Soybean Expo, January 8, 2020, in Topeka. 



## D.C. hosts Soy Issues Forum

Soybean farmer-leaders met on Capitol Hill in late July for an American Soybean Association Board of Directors meeting. Trade, transportation and biodiesel issues took center stage.

Directors from the national and state levels also visited their lawmakers to talk about issues like the U.S.–Mexico–Canada Agreement, the trade dispute with China, new free-trade agreements, biodiesel and infrastructure improvements.

The meeting concluded with the Soy Issues Forum, which featured presentations from both industry and congressional leaders. Its sponsors were Bayer, the United Soybean Board, Renewable Energy Group and Illinois Soybean Association.

Attendees heard North Carolina Pork Council CEO Andy Curliss discuss nuisance lawsuits and from a congressional-staff trade panel. Rep. Darin LaHood from Illinois spoke about the importance of agricultural advocacy, trade and biodiesel issues. Rep. Chellie Pingree from Maine discussed farmers' role in fighting climate change. 



Andy Winsor, Grantville, policy-committee chairman; Scott Gigstad, Everest, second vice president; Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha, president; Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne, first vice president; and Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, ASA Board member, represent KSA during Capitol Hill visits. They met with (top) Rep. Roger Marshall, (middle) Rep. Steve Watkins and (bottom) Rep. Ron Estes. [\[KSA photos\]](#)



# Associations build harbors during storm of uncertainty

Farming always involves a level of uncertainty. Of course, Mother Nature is the biggest part of that. Lately, Uncle Sam has been adding to the mix.

Back in May, our friends at the National Corn Growers Association described the “perfect storm of challenges” U.S. farmers are facing.

- ◆ Farm incomes continue to decline.
- ◆ International tensions and ongoing trade disruptions are creating uncertainty in the marketplace.
- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency’s waivers for petroleum refiners

continue to erode the biofuels market.

- ◆ Extreme weather conditions have affected this year’s crops significantly.
- ◆ Crumbling infrastructure is making it harder for us farmers to compete.

Let’s review what your Kansas and American soybean associations are doing to provide shelter from the storm.

On our summer tour, we Board members visited Oklahoma’s Port of Catoosa, which is about 70 miles south of Coffeyville. A lot of grain leaving Kansas and fertilizer destined for Kansas move through that facility. We heard about its backlog of critical maintenance, along with the costs and benefits of channel dredging. We also saw how this year’s persistently high water levels were disrupting barge traffic.

That experience reinforced how important it is to support state and federal infrastructure programs and projects that will help us market our products more efficiently. We hope to maintain our global competitiveness by investing in inland locks and dams and rural roads and bridges. Full use of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and increased appropriations for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund would be great steps.

In 2018, crop insurance protected 19.3 million acres in Kansas, providing \$4.6 billion in liability protection. Farmers paid \$228 million for that coverage, and insurers disbursed \$335 million for crop losses. We need federal crop insurance to protect us against natural disasters. Your soybean associations continually work to protect it as farmers’ primary safety net.

We advocate for the U.S. biodiesel industry – endeavoring to grow its volume obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard, offset the reduced demand from those pre-

viously mentioned “small refinery” exemptions, extend its tax credit and maintain duties on subsidized biodiesel imports. Nationwide, biodiesel contributes 63 cents per bushel to the price of soybeans, and biodiesel production adds nearly \$60 million to the Kansas economy annually.

Your associations have been encouraging the administration to complete its trade negotiations with China and get it to lift the 25% tariff on U.S. soybeans as soon as possible. We also have been monitoring the U.S.–Mexico–Canada Agreement and encouraging Congress to approve it. Meanwhile, we are asking federal and state officials to help secure agreements with new trade partners like Japan, the European Union, Taiwan, Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mozambique and many others.

Improving market access for U.S. soybeans, red meat and poultry, biodiesel, and other soy products would go a long way toward achieving the marketplace certainty we need to stay afloat. We also are working for income support from initiatives like the Market Facilitation Program. We’ve had dialogue with state government to ensure we have diverse production and marketing tools. Finally, we explain to policymakers how important it is to maintain effective, transparent and fair commodity-checkoff programs.

“There are some things you learn best in calm, and some, in storm,” the writer Willa Cather said. Along the same line, President Franklin Roosevelt said, “A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor.” Here’s hoping all of us – our individual farms, our associations and our governments – are learning valuable lessons from these challenging times. 

Volume 24, Issue 1 • Fall 2019

## Straight Rows

is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall and winter) by the  
**Kansas Soybean Association**

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District 5.....	Gary Robbins, Emmett
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## 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 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, at Heritage Hall, 1 Expocentre Drive, Topeka.

### Agenda

- ◆ Call to order
- ◆ Consideration of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes
- ◆ Officer reports
- ◆ Election of directors for districts 2, 3 and 6 and the second director at large (<https://KansasSoybeans.org/directors>)
- ◆ Approval of 2020 policy resolutions (<https://KansasSoybeans.org/policy>)
- ◆ Such other business as may come before the meeting
- ◆ Adjournment

Only current Association members may vote at the Annual Meeting.

# Thank you, corporate partners

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.



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## Big picture inspires new District 1 director

**M**y family still farms the same ground our ancestors settled in Kansas during the Civil War. So, as a sixth-generation farmer, this state and this vocation are in my blood.

I got my first shot at farming when I was 16 and a family member allowed me to sharecrop 80 acres. Before I started farming full-time in 2011, I received my bachelor's and master's degrees from Kansas State University and worked a brief stint in higher education. I now farm soybeans and corn and raise cattle in Doniphan and Brown counties.

In 2014, I was a member of the Kansas Soybean Emerging Leaders Academy in-

augural class. During that training, I was inspired to do more to promote our industry. I guess you could say I finally saw the big picture. Then, as a 2017 Young Leader, I joined the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) Board of Directors. This past January, I was elected to represent District 1 in the northeastern corner of the state.

Between unforgiving weather conditions and tumbling grain prices, farming is going through a challenging time. Nevertheless, we farmers remain determined to continue caring for the land. KSA works resolutely to promote the interests of this state's soybean farmers. I am proud of the work it does for agriculture.



The Neibling family (Courtesy photo)

My other activities include the Doniphan County Farm Bureau board, the board of trustees for Doniphan Electric Cooperative, vice chairman of the Kansas Water Office's Missouri Regional Advisory Committee and the First Presbyterian Church in Hiawatha. Brittney and I have three daughters: Brenna, 7; Bristol, 4; and Bryce, 1. 🌱

## *WOTUS repeal is step toward regulatory stability*

**I**n June 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said it would repeal the "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule, and it followed through on that promise Sept. 12. EPA, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, announced the repeal of the 2015 rule that expanded the WOTUS definition under the Clean Water Act.

The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) and American Soybean Association (ASA) view the move as a significant step toward greater regulatory certainty for soybean farmers.

"We agree with the goal of assuring clean water, but the proposed rule really was impractical and unworkable for farmers," said Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, who represents KSA on the ASA Board of Directors. "Creeks, streams and ditches were unjustifiably subjected to a broad, one-size-fits-all regulatory definition. It was not what Congress intended."

EPA is developing a new rule that protects waterways while still offering a workable solution for farmers. This time, it is considering comments from ASA and other stakeholders. Until a new rule is finalized, jurisdictions nationwide will return to the regulatory framework that was in place before the 2015 rule. 🌱



## KSA Board completes summer agenda

**H**ere are highlights from the Kansas Soybean Association Board of Directors meeting convened July 20 in Independence.

- ◆ Prepared for the CEO search, which will begin by conducting an organizational assessment.
- ◆ Met summer interns Allison Railsback, Osage City, and Natalie Harris, Abilene, and heard about their experiences.
- ◆ Discussed recruiting for the Emerging Leaders Academy and national Young Leader program.
- ◆ Approved the IRS Form 990 for fiscal year 2018.
- ◆ Reviewed the 2020 membership and corporate-partnership plans.
- ◆ Revised the yield-contest rules to award \$1,000 for setting a new record (rather than achieving 100 bushels per acre) and to assign strip-tillage entries to the no-till division.
- ◆ Expressed support for a national yield contest.
- ◆ Selected the Meritorious Service Award and Friend of Soy recipients to be named at Kansas Soybean Expo 2020.

Association members can contact any director or Kenlon Johannes in the office (see page 2) to suggest agenda items for the next Board meeting, Nov. 22 in Topeka. 🌱

**GROW  
YOUR FARM'S  
FUTURE.**

Renew your  
KSA membership  
today.

## ASA to give scholarship to high-school senior

**T**he Soy Scholarship is a one-time, \$5,000 award presented to an eligible high-school senior planning to pursue a degree in agriculture at an accredited college or university. The American Soybean Association (ASA) manages the scholarship, which a grant from BASF Corp. makes possible.

ASA will award it in \$2,500 increments (one per semester) during the 2020–2021

school year. The recipient must maintain successful academic progress and be in good standing with the institution to receive the full scholarship.

Interested high-school seniors must apply online via [https://SoyGrowers.com/scholarship](https://SoyGrowers.com/soy-scholarship) by Dec. 1. ASA will notify the recipient in late January, with an official announcement to follow. 🌱

# HELPING YOU DELIVER ON DEMAND

*Whether it's improving soybean meal to outperform the competition or promoting the sustainability of U.S. soy,* the soy checkoff has been working behind the scenes to help farmers satisfy their customers' needs. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And for U.S. soybean farmers like you, the impact is invaluable.

*See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for farmers at* [unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)



## Timely harvest, well-adjusted equipment are important

We have reached the final piece of the soybean yield-management puzzle for the year: optimal harvest timing. We have seen that be one of the biggest factors in achieving top-end soybean yields on both dryland and irrigated acres. As many areas across Kansas have experienced more pressure from pests like decodes stem borer, optimal harvest timing becomes even more important to minimize losses.

Ideally, our fall weather conditions will allow a relatively slow rate of soybean dry-down, providing a wider opportunity for harvest at optimal grain moisture.

Pioneer agronomists conducted a survey of soybean-management practices in Nebraska and Kansas over four years (2013–2016) to help determine those associated with high-yield irrigated and nonirrigated soybean production. In that study, an average yield gain of 7 bushels per acre was

realized by harvesting at 13% grain moisture rather than 10%.

That often is easier said than done, especially in years when we have warm, dry weather and the soybeans lose grain moisture quickly. Soybeans at optimal harvest moisture likely still will have a bit of green in the stems across the field.

In the four years of the study, Pioneer consistently saw the highest soybean yields come from the first seven to 10 days of harvest. Keep that in mind for your 2019 harvest.

Good harvest practices can reduce losses to near 3%, or only 1–2 bushels per acre. However, delayed harvest or poorly adjusted equipment can result in losses of 10% or more. Because soybeans dry quickly, close monitoring of grain moisture is required for timely harvest. In addition, combines must be properly adjusted, frequently checked and carefully operated to minimize losses.

Pioneer's 4-Year Study	
Grain Moisture	Yield (Bushels per Acre)
14%	85.3
<b>13%</b>	<b>83.5</b>
12%	81.4
11%	79.1
<b>10%</b>	<b>76.5</b>
9%	73.7

## Supporters rally for USMCA

Lawmakers from both parties and farm leaders recently rallied for passage of the U.S.–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA). Representatives from the American Soybean Association and several other agricultural groups joined with members of Congress to discuss how USMCA provides farmers with new market access while maintaining a zero-tariff platform. Those participating in the Sept. 12 rally urged congressional leadership to advance consideration of the agreement without further delay. Check out the #Rally4USMCA hashtag on Twitter to see coverage of the event.



{North American Millers Association photo}

## GROWING KANSAS SOYBEAN-CROP VALUE FROM \$240 MILLION TO \$1.7 Billion

The Kansas Soybean Commission looks beyond the elevator to identify issues that affect Kansas soybean farmers' profitability. Simply put, a **#Croppportunity** 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 <sup>1</sup>
- **\$403 million** in Kansas exports in 2017 <sup>2</sup>
- From **1.9 million** acres and **\$5.55** per bushel to **5.1 million** acres and **\$8.95** per bushel (1991 to 2017) <sup>3</sup>
- **17.2 million** bushels of soybeans used by Kansas animal agriculture in 2015 <sup>4</sup>
- **63¢** more per bushel due to biodiesel <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kansas Department of Agriculture (farming & processing) • <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau • <sup>3</sup> National Agricultural Statistics Service • <sup>4</sup> United Soybean Board • <sup>5</sup> National Biodiesel Board



[unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)

# MAINTAINING OUR REPUTATION TO DELIVER

*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](http://unitedsoybean.org)*



# Straight Rows



Volume 24, Issue 1 | Fall 2019

The voice and advocate for soybean-farmer-members

1000 SW Red Oaks Place  
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1207

## Calendar of industry events

- Oct. 3–4 Kansas Renewable Energy Conference, Manhattan  
Oct. 6 Friends of 4-H Day, Junction City  
Oct. 7–10 U.S. Soy International Marketing Forum, Mexico City, Mexico
- Oct. 13 Yoga on the Farm, Manhattan  
Oct. 15 Kansas Soybean Commission FY '21 proposals deadline  
Oct. 15–17 #RealPigFarming tour, Indiana  
Oct. 22–23 American Soybean Association state-staff meeting, Saint Louis, MO  
Oct. 25 Kansas agriculture roundtable, Manhattan  
Oct. 25–26 Kansas Cattlemen's Association annual convention, Newton  
Nov. 6–8 U.S. Meat Export Federation strategic-planning conference, Tucson, AZ  
Nov. 7 Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom annual meeting, Manhattan
- Nov. 7–8 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Wichita  
Nov. 12–14 Kansas Association of Counties annual conference, Wichita  
Nov. 13–15 National Association of Farm Broadcasting convention, Kansas City, MO  
Nov. 18–20 National Biodiesel Board meeting, Washington, DC  
Nov. 20–21 Kansas Agri Business Expo, Wichita  
Nov. 21–22 Kansas Soybean Emerging Leaders Academy (Class 6, Phase 1), Topeka  
Nov. 22 Kansas Soybean Association Board of Directors meeting, Topeka  
Nov. 24–26 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts annual convention, Wichita  
Dec. 1–4 Soy Transportation Coalition meeting, Merida, Mexico  
Dec. 1–3 Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting, Manhattan  
Dec. 5–7 Wichita Farm & Ranch Show, Mulvane  
Dec. 5–7 Kansas Soybean Commission meeting, Topeka



Free Parking  
Free Admission

WICHITA FARM & RANCH SHOW

**December 5, 6, 7, 2019**

Kansas Star Event Center

777 Kansas Star Drive  
Mulvane, Kansas 67110

### Show Hours

Thursday	9 am to 5 pm
Friday	9 am to 5 pm
Saturday	9 am to 4 pm

**Call Tradexpos, Inc.  
for more information**

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