## Volume 25, Issue 1 | Fall 2020

### KSA requests multi-year dicamba registration

Earlier this year, farmers who integrate dicamba into their weed management program planted their dicamba-tolerant soybeans with confidence. Just as many were making plans to apply post-emergent herbicides, news broke that a federal court issued a vacatur on three dicamba products. This decision vaulted dicamba into the center of a monthslong debate and left farmers feeling uncertain about the remainder of the growing season.

On June 3, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit vacated the registrations for XtendiMax, Engenia and FeXapan, which were previously approved through December 2020 for over-the-top application in sovbeans with a dicamba-tolerance trait. The court stated that the EPA failed to acknowledge significantly understated risks posed by dicamba products when issuing registrations in 2018.

The Environmental Protection Agency responded on June 8 stating that farmers and applicators would be able to use existing stocks of the impacted products through July 31 – but only if the existing stocks were in their possession on June 3. The situation continued to develop over the summer as both sides in the case took actions in response to the other. The cancellation order from EPA, including use of existing stocks,

was upheld by the court July 19.

In August, the Kansas Soybean Association and other state agriculture groups signed and sent a coalition letter to the Environmental Protection Agency asking that the agency approve a multi-year registration of product labels for dicamba herbicide products. The coalition requested that the labels include clear and understandable directions for over-the-top, post-emergent application on dicamba-tolerant crops. It also called for the new registration to be released in the near future, as growers are already making selections for the 2021 growing season.

The letter emphasized that "dicamba broadens the spectrum of weed species control and weed resistance management" and "use of products like dicamba allows for the sustainability of agricultural crop production" by reducing tillage.

Lucas Heinen, Everest, says he opted to use dicamba this growing season when the timing of rains delayed planting and the residual herbicide in the field had become ineffective by the time the soybeans reached canopy. He urges responsible use, noting that he chooses other chemistries when neighboring fields are not dicamba-tolerant.

Prevalence of tolerant varieties has grown in the last few decades as farmers turn to new management options. According to an amicus brief filed with the court, nearly 64 million acres of dicamba-tolerant seed had been put in the ground at the time of the vacatur order, with no realistically viable weed control alternative in sight. The expected yield loss for soybeans and cotton was as high as 50%, had the plaintiffs' request for an immediate halt in dicamba use been upheld.

Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha, says many farmers are struggling as they try to learn more about newer products like soybeans with ExtendFlex or Enlist traits and as they await word on re-registrations for dicamba products ahead of next growing season.

He says that the board continues to work with elected representatives to form the best policies for Kansas farmers.

U.S. Congressman Roger Marshall signed onto a letter Sept. 30, along with 30 other representatives, urging the EPA to issue new registrations.

Andrew Wheeler, administrator for the EPA, acknowledged that farmers want to make plans for the 2021 growing season and announced that a decision on re-registration for Xtendimax and Engenia should be announced mid-October.

Further explanation of the current dicamba situation is available at <a href="https://iwilltakeaction.">https://iwilltakeaction.</a> com/dicamba-resources.











### Looking ahead to what sits on the horizon

Here we are again - a number of events that impact our farming operations are up in the air. The election, possible legislation moves and pending dicamba registrations loom on the horizon and it leaves us with some important decisions to make.

Volume 25, Issue 1 | Fall 2020

### STRAIGHT ROWS

is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall and winter) by the

### Kansas Soybean Association

1000 SW Red Oaks Place, Topeka, Kansas 66615-1207 phone: 785-271-1030 | fax: 785-271-1302 toll-free: 877-KS-SOYBEAN (877-577-6923) www.KansasSoybeans.org | info@kansassoybeans.org

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Dwight Mayor Hiswatha

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Looking ahead to the election, the outcome may provide new items for the association to focus on and work on, and it may give us reason to evaluate what our board stands for. We've got to be looking forward to how the congress may work together and from there, we will need to figure out what actions to take that will protect our farmers.

I think it could be rather difficult to get a future farm bill passed in part because of the administration's decision to use Commodity Credit Corporation money in paying out the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program aid. That is a concern. CCC money generally acts as emergency funds for farmers needing of assistance, while farm bills have provided reliable support to farms. The American Soybean Association, as well as KSA, will likely be involved next year in developing a new farm bill.

Many of us are looking to decide what kind of soybeans we are going to plant next year.

The dicamba debate this coupled with summer EPA's pending decision on future dicamba registrations has thrown many for a loop. Our association sent a letter requesting immediate re-registrations of products involved in this summer's case, and news from that should be coming soon.

Not much is known about newer bean varieties, like Pioneer's Enlist E3 or Bayer's ExtendFlex, which recently received regulatory approval by the European Union. There will be definitely be some consideration needed ahead of making trait selections.

As far as this season goes, I hope you've decided to enter the 2020 Kansas Sovbean Yield and Value Contests. The possibility of setting new yield records and maximizing value potential should be good incentive to enter. Results of the contests are given at the 2021 Kansas Soybean Expo.

On that note, mark your calendars for January 6 and make plans to attend Expo. We do plan on meeting in person, and the committee is working diligently to create a worthwhile event.

With all these decisions to be made, here's an easy one to make: renew your KSA membership! Being a member provides value to you as a farmer. You get a voice in creating policy and you get input in the issues that affect your farm; plus there are additional incentives, like coupons. I thank you for your membership and hope you continue as part of KSA.

As a final message, be safe while you're out there in the combine this harvest season.

### 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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### Leadership role at K-State brings Ransom to board

The head of the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University maintains an ex-officio position on the Kansas Soybean Association board of directors, and that's how I became involved in KSA. I stepped into the role of interim head for the department in 2018 and then officially became head in 2019.

Although I joined through this position, I have always been interested in soybean production and greatly enjoy working with soybean producers. I believe KSA is important because it represents growers in Kansas and promotes soybean production and guidance for university research that provides direct benefit to soybean producers in Kansas.

My start in agriculture came from growing up on a farm in north central Arkansas. We grew soybeans, corn and hay and raised beef and poultry. From there, I attended the University of Arkansas for my bachelor's degree in agronomy and master's degree in soil science. I spent two years as a field soil scientist for what is now

the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service after finishing my M.S. and before starting my Ph.D. program. My Ph.D. is in soil genesis, classification and mineralogy from



The Ohio State University. After coming to K-State, I spent 18 years coordinating teaching and advising programs as the assistant head for teaching and was a professor, as well.

I am a Registered Professional Soil Classifier in Arkansas and a Certified Professional Soil Classifier and have received recognition like the Soil Science Society of America Soil Science Education Award. Other honors include serving as Associate Editor for the Soil Science Society of America Journal and being a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America. I coached the Kansas State University Soil Judging Team for 35 years, in which time the team won two National Collegiate Soil Judging contests. I am also active with the K-State faculty senate and belong to many national agronomic societies.

My wife is Nora, who is a retired instructor of English at K-State. We have two children, Jessica and Brian. When Raj Khosla takes over as head of the Department of Agronomy in 2021, I will assist in the transition and then retire in April. Nora and I plan to move to Spokane, Washington, where Jessica and her family live.

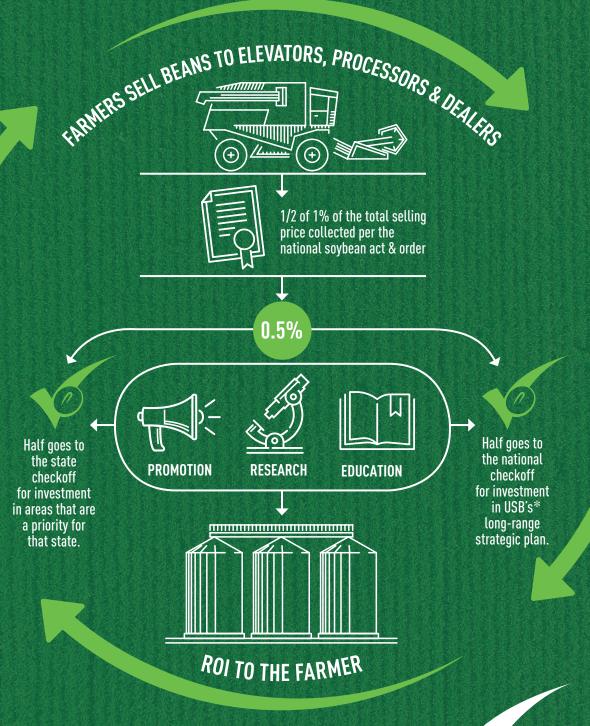
### KSA board of directors gathers for summer meeting

The Kansas Soybean Association board of directors convened July 24 in Topeka. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Met summer interns Shelby Berens, Holland, Michigan; and Sage Collins, Chanute.
- Spoke with the American Soybean Association's Washington, D.C., staff on trade with China, EPA happenings, biodiesel, the election season and other issues.
- Heard from Michelle De La Isla on her congressional campaign and Barbara Bollier on her senatorial campaign.
- Approved Kenlon Johannes to serve as executive director of the Soy Aquaculture Alliance.
- Received a call from U.S. Rep. Steve Watkins, who provided an update on policy issues affecting agriculture.
- Discussed recruiting for the Emerging Leaders Academy and Corteva Young Leader Program.
- Considered possible recipients for the Meritorious Service Award and Friend of Soy recognition.
- Discussed the Yield and Value Contests and 2021 Kansas Soybean Expo.

### FULL-CIRCLE RETURN

HERE'S HOW THE SOY CHECKOFF WORKS. The national soy checkoff was created as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The Act & Order that created the soy checkoff requires that all soybean farmers pay into the soy checkoff at the first point of purchase. These funds are then used for promotion, research and education at both the state and national level.



\* Led by 73 volunteer soybean farmers, the United Soybean Board (USB) invests and leverages soy checkoff dollars to MAXIMIZE PROFIT OPPORTUNITIES for all U.S. soybean farmers.

united**soybean**.org



### Contests call for farmers to compete in yield, value

All soybean growers in Kansas are invited to participate in the 2020 Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests. As harvest progresses, those interested in competing may collect relevant records for one entry per field, and submit entries postmarked no later than Dec. 1.

"The contests are an incentive for farmers to maximize soybean yield and protein and oil contents," says Sarah Lancaster, chair of the Kansas Soybean Association contest committee. "They also provide an opportunity to share production practices that achieve high levels of yield and value."

Per yield contest rules, one entry per field is allowed. Eligible fields must consist of at least five contiguous acres as verified by the Farm Service Agency, GPS printout or manual measurement. A non-relative witness, either Kansas State Research and Extension (KSRE) per-

sonnel or a specified designee, must be present at harvest and should ensure that the combine grain hopper is empty prior to harvest. Official elevator-scale tickets with moisture percentage and foreign matter included must accompany entries to be considered.

Four categories – conventional-till dryland, no-till dryland, conventional-till irrigated and no-till irrigated – are considered for the contest, with dryland entries further divided into eight districts based on field location. A farmer may enter multiple categories.

The Kansas Soybean Commission provides monetary awards to yield contest winners. The highest dryland and irrigated yields in the contest each will receive a \$1,000 award. If an entry surpasses the previous record of 104.14 bushels per acre, they could earn an additional \$1,000. In each district, first

place receives \$300, second will earn \$200, and third will receive \$100. No-till on the Plains supplies additional awards in the no-till categories.

The value contest allows for one entry per individual and is a statewide contest that recognizes the top three contestants. Entries consist of a 20-ounce sample of seed sent to KSA; these samples are analyzed by Ag Processing Inc. for protein, oil and additional qualities to calculate a value.

Farmers are welcome to enter the just the yield contest, just the value contest, or both. The results are shared at the Kansas Soybean Expo, which is scheduled for January 6, 2021.

Rule and entry information is available to interested individuals by visiting <u>www.kssoy.org/contests</u>, calling the Kansas Soybean office at 877-KS-SOY-BEAN/877-577-6923 or checking with local KSRE offices.

### USMCA takes effect, seen as modernization of NAFTA

The U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade deal officially took effect July 1 as a replacement for the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). According to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, USMCA supports more balanced, reciprocal trade, leading to freer markets, fairer trade, and economic growth in North America. The agreement, which was signed in January, contains improvements and modernized approaches to rules of origin, agricultural market access, intellectual property, digital trade, financial services, labor, and numerous other sectors.

"The agreement coming into effect is a positive thing for U.S. agriculture soybean farmers," says Rosalind Leeck, senior director of market access for the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC). "It is a modernization of NAFTA; 25 years ago, we couldn't have anticipated some of the changes in trade that have occurred."

Leeck says soybeans already had reliable market access with Mexico being the No. 2 buyer of soybean meal and oil, and Canada being the No. 4 buyer for soybean meal. She notes having over 90% market share in both of those countries.

"We were already in a good position, but what this modernization does is bring in new aspects of digital trade, intellectual property, biotechnology and other innovations we use in agriculture," Leeck says.

The agreement also granted better market access for dairy and poultry products, which Leeck says can create a positive ripple effect for other agricultural commodities.

More details about information included in the agreement can be found at <a href="https://www.trade.gov/usmca">https://www.trade.gov/usmca</a>.





### Biofuel advocates applaud EPA decision on SREs

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced Sept. 14 that he would deny 54 of 68 pending small refinery exemption (SRE) petitions based on Department of Energy recommendations. The agency was considering a total of 98 pending waiver requests from the renewable fuel standard (RFS), of which 68 were retroactive for compliance years 2011 through 2018.

The National Biodiesel Board applauded the decision, saying it "will restore integrity to the RFS and provide much-needed certainty for America's biodiesel producers and soybean farmers."

In January, an appeals court ruled that waivers granted to small refineries after 2010 could only be approved as extensions of pre-existing waivers — the three refineries involved in the case did not have such waivers. Following the ruling, a letter composed by several biofuel groups, including Renew Kansas, was sent to the President in March calling for him to apply the court's decision nationally.

Refiners filed petitions for 2011 through 2018 to circumvent the court's decision and create a continuous chain of approvals that would allow the affected refineries to maintain eligibility for future SREs. These retroactive petitions, also called gap filing petitions, made headlines throughout the summer as agricultural and renewable fuel organizations rallied for the EPA to uphold the renewable volume obligations outlined in the RFS.

A letter composed in June by a group of national organizations, including the American Soybean Association, questioned under what legal basis EPA believed it may consider the gap filing petitions. It further stated that "EPA inaction on court orders and prolonged SRE uncertainty continue to stifle investment in American biofuels and destabilize agricultural markets."

A separate letter sent in July, signed by Kansas representatives Roger Marshall, Steve Watkins and Ron Estes, cited the success of the RFS in providing value for farmers and criticized the waivers as an attempt to undermine the standards.

Under the RFS, refiners are required to meet certain volume obligations of renewable fuels every year. The EPA, which administers the program, can grant waivers to small facili-

ties that can prove compliance would put them in financial straits. Small refineries producing less than 75,000 barrels per day are eligible for a waiver. Biofuel advocates say granting the waivers hurts demand for crops, while the oil industry says compliance with the obligations is too costly.

The most recent letter came in September when the Renewable Fuel Association wrote to the EPA asking that Wheeler adopt the court's decision and decide all 2019-20 SREs accordingly, deny all pending retroactive refinery waiver petitions, comply with the court order to restore gallons illegally waived from the 2016 RFS requirements and publish the proposed rule for 2021 renewable volume obligations.

The RFS sets annually increasing volumes of renewable fuels to be used in U.S. transportation. Since soybean oil is a major feedstock for biodiesel, the standards positively impact soybean prices, supporting 13% of the bushel price. Since the start of the RFS, the U.S. biodiesel and renewable diesel market has grown from a few hundred million gallons to more than 2.6 billion gallons every year.

### ASA announces 2021-22 Soy Scholarship opening

High school seniors are invited to apply for the Soy Scholarship through the American Soybean Association.

The scholarship is a \$5,000 one-time award, split into \$2,500 increments over two semesters. Students who are a

child or grandchild of an ASA member and are planning to pursue a degree in agriculture at an accredited college or university are eligible.

Applicants must fill out an online application during the open application period, available at <u>www.soygrowers.com/soy-scholarship</u>. The window closes early December and final selection is made in January.

The scholarship is managed by ASA and made possible through a grant by BASF Corporation.

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OR

Stack multiple sites of action

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\$1/acre

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Apply soil residual herbicide

HERBICIDE

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**Trivence**®

Apply Enlist™ herbicides

HERBICIDE

Enlist Duo Enlist One COLEX•D\* technology

COLEX•D\* technology

EverpreX<sup>®</sup> **Durango**® DMA®

Apply Liberty® herbicide No later than R1 or beginning bloom





for minimum terms and conditions.



### Committee progresses on KS Soybean CEO search

A committee comprised of seven Kansas farmer-leaders initiated a search for Kenlon Johannes' successor in July. Johannes, Kansas Soybean Association CEO and administrator for the Kansas Soybean Commission, informed the KSA board of directors of his intention to retire in March 2021. The committee has accepted applications and met in September to review applicants. The new CEO is expected to be announced by the end of the year.

Johannes has an accomplished 40-year career in the soybean industry, including 20 years at Kansas Soybean. Under the direction of Kansas Soybean boards of directors, he manages and implements production and utilization research, domestic and international market devel-

opment and education projects for KSC and federal and state lobbying programs for KSA.

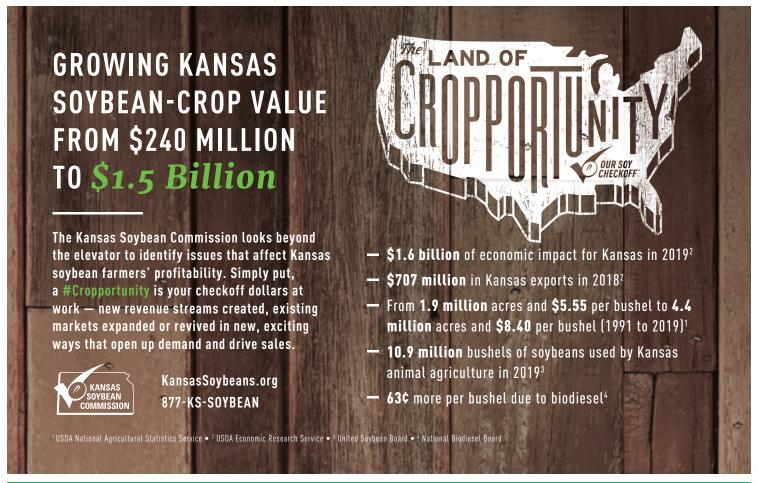
He previously worked with the Missouri Soybean Association and Wisconsin Corn and Soybean Program.

"I have worked with Kenlon firsthand since becoming involved with KSA in 2007," says Dwight Meyer, 2020 KSA president. "It is an honor to have had Kenlon as our leader for 20 years. I enjoy working with him and I know many other directors and commissioners would agree. Earning the American Soybean Association Pinnacle Award, a top national honor, proves that Kenlon's peers throughout the soybean industry think highly of him and his leadership."

Going forward, Johannes plans to spend time with his family and wife, Jennifer, as well as take up some consulting opportunities.



Kenlon Johannes served the Kansas Soybean Association and Commission for 20 years as CEO and Administrator.





The voice and advocate for soybean-farmer-members

1000 SW Red Oaks Place Topeka, Kansas 66615-1207

### **Calendar of Industry Events**

Events are subject to change or cancellation due to health organization guidelines.

Nov. 16-18	National Biodiesel Board November membership meeting   virtual
Nov. 19-20	Emerging Leaders Academy: Class 7, Phase 1   Topeka
Nov. 20	Kansas Soybean Association board meeting   Topeka
Dec. 3-5	Kansas Soybean Commission meeting   Manhattan
Dec. 3-5	Wichita Farm and Ranch Show   Wichita
Dec. 7	Soy Aquaculture Alliance board meeting   St. Louis, MO
Dec. 7-8	U.S. Soybean Export Council meeting   St. Louis, MO
Dec. 7-8	North Central Soybean Research Program meeting
Dec. 8-11	American Soybean Association board meeting   St. Louis, MO
Dec. 9-11	United Soybean Board meeting   St. Louis, MO
Dec. 14-16	U.S. Poultry & Egg Export Council winter meeting   virtual
Jan. 5, 2021	KSA board meeting
Jan. 6, 2021	Kansas Soybean Expo

www.kansassoybeans.org/events





