

# STRAIGHT ROWS

Volume 26, Issue 3 | Spring 2022

## KSA steps up to bat for soybean growers

As baseball players put cleat to dirt to kick off Spring Training, the Kansas Soybean Association put boots on the ground at the Capitol to advocate for soybean growers. Just as Spring Training sets baseball teams up for success during the season, KSA's advocacy sets growers up for a successful growing season.

Supply chain challenges are top of mind for many of the KSA policy committee members.

"Several of our association members have had trouble getting herbicides, fertilizers or other crop products," Scott Gigstad, Atchison County director, explains. "We want to encourage policies that ease those supply chain issues."

Many of the supply issues are due to constraints on the market and cannot necessarily be remedied by policy. There are, however, a few areas where policy efforts can move the needle on challenges. ASA has expressed support for the bill that would

eliminate countervailing duties on certain imported fertilizers.

Kansas' ASA director Charles Atkinson visited state representatives in Washington, D.C. to discuss Title I of the 2023 Farm Bill. The visit concurred with the ASA board of directors' business meeting March 1-3. ASA president Brad Doyle, Arkansas, testified during the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee's hearing.

The success of putting beneficial policies in place depends largely on having a good relationship with legislators. KSA joined the Kansas Ag Alliance in hosting a breakfast January 25 at the Kansas Capitol. KSA partners with other associations in the state as part of the Kansas Agriculture Alliance in order to amplify policy efforts. The KSA board hosted a legislative lunch February 10 as an additional networking opportunity.

"Like with any business, relationships are key," Gigstad,

who attended the breakfast, says. "While the refreshments we provide at such events do not amount to much in monetary value, the show of solidarity helps us get key legislation passed. We gain respect from legislators."

The agricultural community had such a robust outreach effort to eliminate stepped-up basis from the Build Back Better plan that it was removed from the language.

"We've had some curveballs thrown at us," Andy Winsor, policy committee chair and ASA director, says. "KSA and ASA have been there to help growers field them."

There's always plenty to do when legislature is in session. Spring is a particularly busy time as both the state and national house and senate are actively policymaking, and the American and Kansas soybean associations have been with them every step of the way.



CEO Kaleb Little, Policy Consultant Gary Reser, Kendall Heiniger, Fairview, and Gail Kueser, Garnett, socialize with legislators at the luncheon Feb. 10.



Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, discusses 2023 Farm Bill policies with Senator Roger Marshall during his visit to Washington, D.C. in early March.

**Greetings! I hope that this edition of Straight Rows finds you well as we gear up for the busy spring season!**

As some of you may know, last December, my part of the state experienced a devastating wildfire that was made worse by outrageous winds. So many of the people in our community lost so much, including homes, crops, facilities, and livestock. We were so fortunate to only lose a machine shed to the wind, but many of the people that we care about were not as lucky. In the days

and weeks after, it would have been easy for everyone to focus on the loss and devastation. Instead, we saw our little communities come together in a way that could bring hope to the hopeless.

If you have been watching any news lately, it would be easy to let feelings of hopelessness creep in. Whenever thoughts of how hard things have been or could be make me feel overwhelmed, I remember how lucky I am to be part of the agriculture community. I remember that our livelihood is literally founded on the rebirth that comes in spring, and that a fresh start is always possible.

While was driving through the fire-ravaged area a couple weeks ago, I noticed that green grass is starting to appear where we previously only saw black Earth. That green grass signifies a fresh start, and sometimes that is all we need as farmers. Each year brings a new opportunity to try something new, to get better, to achieve more. I hope that as you roll into the fields this spring, that the growing season brings you only good things, and that you remember how blessed we all are to do this important work.

I just returned home from Commodity Classic and am so thankful for that time to join with farmers from across the state and nation. During our time in New Orleans, we spent a great deal of time collaborating across state lines to determine the policy that we will take to Washington D.C. this year. I hope you know that we continue to leave our farms to



fight for yours, because we believe in the future of our industry and will work to ensure that all farmers have the ability to do what is best for the future of your farm and family.

Commodity Classic is also a fantastic place to learn about new ideas and technology. Both the educational sessions and the trade show offered plenty of opportunities to hear from innovators and agribusinesses on the leading edge of agriculture technology. I know that hearing new ideas always makes me excited to start a new year, and I look forward to continually trying to do better for our farm and for the future.

I hope that this spring is both safe and successful for you and all your family, friends, and neighbors, and I hope that you take the opportunity to try something new that you have learned over this winter season. We look forward to celebrating your success as an organization, and I welcome any questions or concerns that you might have.

Feel free to reach out to me at [lukeandteresa@gmail.com](mailto:lukeandteresa@gmail.com) or 785-324-1570.

Safe planting!

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# Ag expresses frustration at EPA herbicide actions

Purchasing crop seed for the subsequent growing season begins as early as November for some growers. The Environmental Protection Agency has until mid-January to withdraw herbicide registrations or release tight restrictions on using them. When seed traits are tied to herbicide tolerance – such as Xtend or Enlist systems – a sudden revocation after seed has been purchased is detrimental.

During the ASA resolutions process at Commodity Classic, delegates voted to add a resolution urging EPA to set August 31 as the deadline for making chemical registration restrictions for the following season. The hope is to eliminate leaving growers with a lack of options for treating their fields and allow time for other chemical systems to be considered.

The resolution reads in entirety: “ASA opposes regulators imposing new use restrictions on existing pesticides effective for the upcoming growing season no later than August 31 the year prior to give growers sufficient certainty of product use conditions needed to make purchasing decisions. Ideally, regulators will announce any new use restrictions at least one year before they are to take effect.”

Jared Nash, Parsons, is one grower familiar with having his options taken away. He lives in one of the southeast Kansas counties affected by an Enlist prohibition based on alleged Endangered Species Act risks.

“I think we are going to plant Enlist crops this Spring and

hope for the best,” Nash says. “Nobody knows what to do because many growers have gone all in on the Enlist system this year and now we may have to treat those crops differently than we planned.”

Coupled with supply chain limitations “hoping for the best” or trying to get ahold of a different herbicide late in the Spring is an unnecessary challenge.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture started work to secure a 24(c) special local needs label on behalf growers affected by the Enlist prohibitions. The goal is that growers can apply the best possible treatment to their fields in the 2022 growing season if the ban is not cleared.

According to the EPA website, a “FIFRA section 24(c) allows states to register additional uses of federally registered pesticides to meet special local needs within the state, but it does not provide for states to issue more restrictive registrations.”

Kyle Kunkler, director of government affairs for the American Soybean Association, notes that EPA has rejected multiple 24(c) registrations in a broad stroke in recent years. He shares concerns about the ability of a 24(c) to counteract the Enlist restrictions as it does not directly apply to endangered species. The likely course of action, he says, is to wait for the registration to clear, though that could take up to nine months.

“There are a lot of people affected by this,” Nash says. “We rely on our organization’s presence to talk to the leaders im-

plementing restrictions and urge them to use sound science when making decisions.”

In the best-case scenario, the EPA would follow sound science and decide to allow use of Enlist products where the American burrowing beetle restrictions were set, something Kansas’ ASA director, Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, says he is “optimistic” about. As of March 25, discussions had taken place, but no announcement had been made.

Enlist is not the only herbicide affected by a setback. On Tuesday, March 15, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals denied the motion to stay the rule revoking tolerances of chlorpyrifos. Essentially, growers cannot use chlorpyrifos for the 2022 growing season since EPA’s revocation rule, which went into effect on Feb. 28, will now remain in effect.

Per ASA, it and other ag groups brought a lawsuit against EPA in February over the agency’s decision to revoke tolerances after EPA’s career scientists found that chlorpyrifos did not pose a dietary risk of concern. At least 11 crops, including soybeans, were identified as safe for continued use by EPA though the agency still effectively banned the chemistry for agriculture.

ASA and KSA continue to work on behalf of growers to stress to EPA the importance of collaborating with the agricultural community on such matters.

“If there’s a play to make, you better believe we will be making it,” Kunkler says.



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# BUSINESS & BEIGNETS



## *in the Big Easy*

Commodity Classic 2022 offers something for every attendee.

Commodity Classic is America's largest farmer-led, farmer-focused event. The flurry of meetings, educational opportunities and, of course, the trade show means there is something valuable for every person who attends.

The trade show and learning sessions are the draw for many attendees. Kansas Soybean Association director Kendall Heiniger, Fairview, describes the size of the trade show as "overwhelming at first," but something she adapted to and enjoyed perusing. With 383 exhibitors representing equipment, crops, finances, startups and more, it is a lot of ground to cover. As for the education piece, "I really loved the opportunity to further my knowledge and understanding of the world of agriculture through the many learning sessions provided," Heiniger says.

The 2022 theme, "The Future is in Your Hands," came to life with the slate of innovative equipment presented by manufacturers. Attendees were able to interact with the cutting-edge machinery in ex-

hibitor booths or discover how the technology works by listening to the five-minute "what's new" sessions on the stage near the trade show.

"It is interesting to stand in front of a million-dollar combine and see the technology that is the future," American Soybean Association director Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, says. "These companies are bringing out some futuristic items that are applicable to our farms."

Classic also features learning sessions which are in-depth discussions of current issues and topics that have are impactful to farming operations.

Kansas Soybean Association director Scott Gigstad, Everest, took time during the Friday of Classic to attend those learning sessions, as well as visit with exhibitors at the trade show. He says opened the door to network with others in the commodity space and see new technologies.

"We are starting to see more autonomous equipment," he says. "There are exciting things coming in agriculture and Com-

modity Classic is a good place to check those out."

As for what the future might look like, Gigstad believes technology will allow for increased yields, more precision detecting weeds in the field while spraying and different ways to fertilize crops with fewer inputs. He shares, "I think the front door is wide open on where we will head."

KSA Chairman Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha predicts larger operations and fewer farmers in the future. That, he says, could impact participation in KSA efforts, noting that as farmers begin to feel a strain on their time, it becomes harder to be involved in association work.

"We need this organization and their involvement," Meyer says. The largest piece of the association's work is policy advocacy, which ramps up during the resolutions process at Classic. For many of the KSA board members, discussing policy and leading change is the focal point.

"It is kind of the highlight for policymaking, Gigstad says.



Kansas policy delegates discussed revisions to the ASA resolutions Thursday morning during the Kansas-Nebraska-Oklahoma-Texas caucus. The "KNOT" group contributed many meaningful changes to the document.



ASA President Brad Doyle joined a panel of leaders from Classic's sponsoring organizations. Panelists discussed highlights and challenges within the industry and how their organizations are managing them.

"We spent a significant amount of time going over policies in the caucus and refining them. It can be a slower process that takes some time."

Kansas delegates kicked off Thursday with the Kansas-Nebraska-Oklahoma-Texas state caucus to discuss possible amendments to the American Soybean Association resolutions. Those amendments were presented Saturday afternoon during the ASA Voting Delegates session.

"Kansas has been rather instrumental in writing a number of the ASA resolutions," Meyer says. "I can look through them and pick out those that we worked on and proposed – maybe some as far as 10 years back."

This year, regulations on and availability of crop inputs provoked much discussion within the caucus group. Language in the resolutions encourages entities such as the Environmental Protection Agency to use sound science when evaluating herbicide registrations and consider timeliness if restrictions are to be imposed. Other discussion

centered on modifying existing resolutions to fit current situations.

"I feel like there are not too many new resolutions that will be making big changes in our policy," Meyer says. "There were some things added this year to clarify other areas of the resolutions, clean up some different areas and look at some new ideas as to how we go forward."

Even though KSA directors attend Classic for business, networking with peers from other states is a bonus, and those opportunities for social interaction are plentiful. ASA hosted both the SoyPAC fundraiser Thursday evening and the Awards Banquet Friday evening, which bring soybean growers together in fellowship and fun. Often, attendees cross paths with acquaintances during other parts of the event and value those opportunities to catch up.

"It is great to visit with friends made throughout the years and learn how their lives, farms and families are doing," Meyer says.

Meeting up with old friends and making new is an irreplaceable

feature of Classic – one that was greatly missed during the virtual 2021 Commodity Classic.

For Heiniger's first-ever Classic, she says, "I was grateful to have it in person this year as it provided me with the opportunity to meet new farmers and make connections from all over."

While Heiniger's experiences with Classic are just beginning, Meyer and Gail Kueser, Garnett, enjoyed their last Classic fulfilling duties for the KSA board as they will retire from the board in January. Both share fond memories of Classics over their years of service.

"I will miss being able to come to Classic and work on the resolutions," Meyer says. "It's been a learning experience and it has been great to work with people from our own state and other states to be advocates for agriculture."

"I will probably miss attending, but I will let a new generation take over," Kueser adds.

Another feature of Commodity Classic 2022 was the General Session where U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was



Top left: Kansas had six voting delegates during the ASA resolutions voting session. Front row (L-R): Andy Winsor, Grantville; Gail Kueser, Garnett; Jared Nash, Parsons; Charles Atkinson, Great Bend. Top row Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne, Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha.



Dwight Meyer and Teresa Brandenburg review the proposed resolution changes during the delegate voting session. The resolutions are composed in a lengthy document featuring hundreds of statements on policies ASA supports or opposes.

the featured speaker. Vilsack spoke about supply challenges and other top legislative issues in agriculture. He also shared news of the Home Front Energy Independence Act, which seeks to promote biofuels. Emcee Mark Mayfield led a panel

with leadership from the five sponsoring organizations to discuss industry challenges and how associations are combating those issues. ASA president Brad Doyle, Arkansas, participated in the panel.

Attendees could also participate

in offsite cultural and agricultural tours unique to southern Louisiana.

The next Commodity Classic is scheduled March 9-11, 2023 in Orlando, Florida. Information about the event is available at [www.commodityclassic.com](http://www.commodityclassic.com).

## ASA shares approved resolutions following Classic

The resolutions approved for this year highlighted soy policies including supply chain, crop protection and a strong safety net for the 2023 Farm Bill. Among the approvals are resolutions supporting:

- An improved Title I farm safety net in the next farm bill and continued support for crop insurance
- Sufficient in person staffing at USDA county offices
- Policies that ease supply chain delays and obstructions
- The use of sound science, grower engagement, and flexibility on pesticide Endangered Species Act mitigations
- Biofuels enhancement programs in the 2023 Farm Bill

- Increased USDA investment in soybean research proportionate to soybean's farmgate receipts
- Engagement in negotiations for new free trade agreements, including in the Indo-Pacific region
- Promotion of U.S. soy as the most sustainably produced soy in the world
- Inclusion of soy and bio-based products in the next farm bill and beyond
- Federal agencies working together to improve broadband spectrum licensing decisions and cyber security
- Full funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Definition of biodiversity that encompasses the wide variety of beneficial species

tied to agriculture

- Energy development on private land that protects farmers' interests
- A reaffirmation of producers' right to repair their equipment and machinery
- The national soybean check-off, which helps develop new uses and expands markets

Recommendations are thoroughly reviewed by resolution subcommittees, which hone the language that is voted on by delegates. The process is conducted in multiple stages to allow ample input, revisions, and improvements from ASA membership across the soy states and culminates in the final voting process, held on the final day of Commodity Classic.

# Corteva Young Leaders complete 2022 program

The Corteva Young Leader program is “a great opportunity for any young farmer to get involved, see every aspect of the industry and get a better understanding of how we can make a difference,” Adam Phelon, Melvern, says.

Phelon completed the program alongside James and Liz Moreland, South Haven. The 2022 class first met in Johnston, Iowa, for Phase I of the program in December. There, the participants say, they spent time learning about the sponsoring organizations, discussing communication strategies and assessing how differing personality types can work effectively together.

“I think the most eye-opening part of this phase was interacting with fellow farmers and understanding the vast regional differences in production agriculture,” Moreland says.

Phase II took place in conjunction with Commodity Classic in March. In this phase, the group completed team building and engagement exercises, learned about different aspects of the soybean industry and discussed the various roles in providing agricultural products to the world.

“After completing both phases, I feel I have progressed as a leader,” James Moreland says. “I am better able to listen to and understand other people’s situations, and I can appreciate the concept that any level of involvement in agriculture can be beneficial.”

In addition to personal development, the Young Leaders remark that there is value to their operations and to soybean associations. Moreland says he will use the training on a daily basis back on his operation by better communicating with team members and by better

advocating within his community. He also says the program is valuable leadership training for future members – and leaders – of associations.

Phelon shares that completing the Corteva Young Leader is just the beginning of a “long, impactful path of service towards the industry I love.”

“The training through this program on branding, social media, leadership, communication, networking, etc. has been next level,” Phelon says. “The number of times I sat and thought about how to do things through a different lens really reflects on how much we can grow as humans and leaders. And this program does an excellent job at doing just that.”

As a final note, “get involved,” Phelon urges anybody tied to agriculture.



Top left: James and Liz Moreland (center and center right) accept a plaque from Matt Rekoweg, U.S. Industry Affairs Leader; Peter Laudeman, Political Affairs Manager; and Katie Jordan, Federal Government Affairs Associate, all with Corteva Agriscience. Bottom left: Adam Phelon accepts his plaque from Matt Rekoweg for completing the program. Plaques were presented at Commodity Classic following Phase II of the program. Right: The 2022 Corteva Young Leaders from Kansas were recognized at the American Soybean Association awards banquet at Commodity Classic March 11, 2022.



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## KDA leads Agriculture Workforce Survey

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is calling for producers, agribusinesses and others involved in the realm of agriculture to complete the Kansas Agriculture Workforce Needs Assessment Summary. This will be the second assessment; it follows one in 2015 that helped “develop immersion activities connecting secondary school students with local agriculture businesses to learn about career opportunities.”

Per KDA, the need for the assessment was realized through conversations with stakeholders through the Ag Growth Summit and other means. Much of the feedback centered on a need to identify agricultural jobs available in Kansas and the skills needed to fill those positions.

The survey is available online at [agriculture.ks.gov/workforce](http://agriculture.ks.gov/workforce) or by scanning the QR code. KDA estimates about 15 minutes to complete the survey. Responses are requested by April 8, 2022, and results are expected to be shared at the 2022 Ag Growth Summit.



Scan to access the KDA survey.

## Conservation districts host NRCS workgroups

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts is helping facilitate the USDA Local Workgroup meetings and invites growers to participate. These meetings are intended to gather information from attendees and make recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Services conservationist and local leaders.

A schedule of meeting dates, locations and times is available at [www.kacdnet.org](http://www.kacdnet.org). There will be a virtual option available for most of the meetings.

- Topics to be covered at the LWG meeting will include:
- A review of a resource assessment completed by each Conservation District in the Management Unit.
- Identification of local priority resource concerns
- Training Needs in the Management Unit
- Outreach Opportunities in the Management Unit
- Other issues raised by meeting attendees

KACD is seeking a diverse range of attendees representing various crops, livestock, organizations and interests.

## Board conducts Spring business; Johnson visits

The Kansas Soybean Association board of directors gathered March 25 to conduct Spring business. Steven Johnson, As-saria, visited the board to introduce his campaign for State Treasurer. Johnson shared his connection to agriculture and

career path in finances. He currently represents the 108<sup>th</sup> District in the Kansas House of Representatives.

Other business conducted by the board includes:

- Discuss key legislative issues that impact soybean growers.
- Received and reviewed the 2021 financial audit.
- Review the fiscal year 2023 budget for KSA.
- Recap Expo and set 2023 plans in motion. Discussion ensued about potential regional meetings to engage association members.
- Set a location and dates for the summer corporate tour. The committee determined the tour would happen mid-July in Great Bend and the surrounding region.



L-R: Gary Reser, KSA Policy Consultant; Andy Winsor, Grantville, KSA policy chair; Steven Johnson, candidate for State Treasurer; Teresa Brandenburg, KSA president. Johnson introduced himself to the KSA board and fielded questions related to tax legislation in Kansas.

# Bills introduced in D.C. address supply chain events

Year to year, farm operations deal with varying challenges. Sometimes it is weather or a natural disaster; other times it is record input prices coupled with strains on the supply chain. That is the case for the approaching 2022 growing season.

Kansas legislators are leading the charge on legislation aimed at alleviating high fertilizer costs. A March 10 bill introduced by Kansas Senator Roger Marshall, titled “Emergency Relief from Duties Act,” calls for tariff waivers when economic issues threaten domestic supply.

A countervailing duty an import tax intended to offset government subsidies given to producers of a product in the exporting country – essentially, it is meant to eliminate any unfair

price advantage. Representative Tracey Mann of the Kansas 1st District is circulating a letter addressed to the International Trade Commission urging the ITC to reconsider the countervailing duties imposed on imported phosphate fertilizer from Morocco. The letter also requests the ITC and Commerce suspend their preliminary determination to impose duties on urea ammonium nitrate imports from Trinidad and Tobago.

According to the American Soybean Association, February 2022 marked record levels of fertilizer prices, and eliminating duties would provide the most immediate partial remedy to the high input costs. The Canadian Pacific Railway strike March 20 threatened to further

exacerbate fertilizer supply issues, as Canada is a major supplier of potash. As of March 22, work resumed and CP Rail and the Union reached arbitration.

A second biofuel-focused bill introduced by Iowa senators Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst March 9 addresses the war in Ukraine. The Home Front Energy Independence Act “prohibits the importation of petroleum and petroleum products from Russia until Russia recognizes the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.” The bill also extends the income tax credit for biodiesel and renewable diesel used as fuel through 2025.

The Kansas Soybean Association continues to monitor these situations and work on behalf of growers.



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## Domestic, int'l markets benefit from soy checkoff

The soybean checkoff is always at work. It utilizes dollars collected from every soybean grower in the U.S. to increase demand for soybeans and secure a competitive return on investment.

When asked where he sees success of the checkoff playing out in Kansas, Commission Chairman Bob Haselwood points to industrial uses.

“I think we’ve created some long-term demand for renewable diesel and biodiesel. Just look at all the plants going up,” he says.

Bartlett announced in Fall 2021 that the company would build a new soybean crush plant in Montgomery County. The facility is expected to be able to handle about 38.5 million bushels of soybeans each year, or about 110,000 bushels per day. Kansas is one of many Midwestern states welcoming a new crush facility.

Increased demand and produc-

tion of soybean oil leads to decreased soybean meal costs – a big win for livestock that rely on the protein-rich quality of soy feed.

Animal agriculture is the largest customer of soybean meal, with pork being the largest consumer in Kansas. The U.S. Meat Export Federation shared a report in February detailing 2021 export statistics for pork and beef. Pork and variety meat exports for the year totaled 2.922 million metric tons. Export value reached a record \$8.11 billion, up 5 percent or \$392 million up from 2020. Those exports accounted for 29.4 percent of total production. It was a record export year for US Beef globally for volume at 1.44 million metric tons and value at \$10.58 billion. The year’s beef exports accounted for 15 percent of total production.

Soy is most often associated with animal diets, but it also has an essential place in human nutrition. National Nutrition

Month in March and National Soy Foods Month in April are opportune times to share where soy foods fit into healthy living. In its many food forms – vegetable oil and high oleic soybean oil, tofu and others – soy touts heart healthy attributes and can lower risk of some cancers. Early in 2021, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans added soy food products to four of its six core elements for the 2020-2025 guidelines.

Researchers are gearing up for new and continuing soybean research projects with the start of the growing season. Projects focus on a range of agronomic practices, including biological weed control, disease control, nutrient management and technology. Read more research highlights in the April digital edition of Soy Notes. Growers are invited to get on the Soy Notes email list to receive each digital edition directly. Sign up here: <https://lp.constantcontact-pages.com/su/RcAJwAY/soynotes>.

## Commission encourages all to watch new video

Agriculture in Kansas is beautiful. Vibrant sunsets set the backdrop over fields of green and gold through summer and fall months. Kansas Soybean sought to capture that beauty and showcase all that soybeans have to offer through a new video released in celebration of National Agriculture Month.

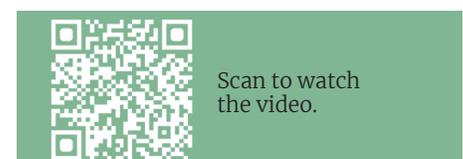
The video walks through a soybean’s growth stages from seedling to maturity to provide viewers with an understand-

ing of how beans are grown and treated for success. Viewers get a glimpse of the usefulness of soybeans from rubber and paint to fuel, and even in food and feed uses by humans and animals alike. Soybeans are showcased as “the most important bean in the world’s economy.”

Kansas Soybean partnered with Mammoth Creative Co. based out of Meriden, Kansas, to create the video. All on-farm footage features farms in Kansas,

including HeinCo. In Brown County, Rezac Land & Livestock in Pottawatomie County and Phelon Farms in Osage County.

Watch the video to see how soy fits into everyday life by visiting <https://kansassoybeans.org/soy-video> or scanning the QR code.



# WISHH works with international associations to build lasting potential for **U.S. soy** trade.

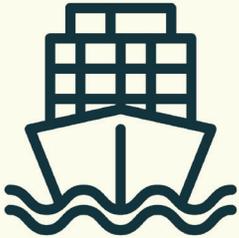


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## Boards meet to discuss organizational strategies

Kansas Soybean Association directors gathered with Commissioners Feb. 25-27 to discuss how the two organizations work in tandem and can continue to do so moving forward.

Kansas Soybean is working with Paulsen Agency to determine areas where the organization has been successful and where there is an opportunity for growth. Farmer leaders serv-

ing on both the KSA board and Commission submitted open feedback regarding the organization's mission, projects, sponsorships and more. Following the feedback, Paulsen is expected to create a Strategic Plan by summer.

Part of the agenda was also dedicated to reviewing and discussing both Commission and Association projects and bud-

gets. The Kansas Soybean Association is the largest contractor for the Kansas Soybean Commission, relying on funds to carry out various non-policy projects.

Both boards meet for Strategic Planning every few years to ensure the organizations are working toward an appropriate goal on behalf of the soybean farmers they serve.

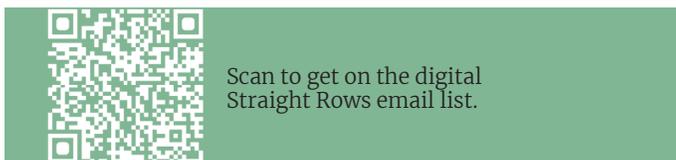


## KSA announces digital Straight Rows editions

Curious why Straight Rows seems to be on a different schedule than it once was? Beginning this year, the newsletter took on a bi-monthly schedule to bring more value to your membership with the Kansas Soybean Association. The publication continues with four print editions that will reach mailboxes in January, March, July and September.

Members now also have the chance to receive two digital newsletters in their inbox. A state legislative special is to be sent each May to share news out of the Kansas Statehouse. A national legislative special in November will cover happenings in Washington, D.C.

In order to receive the digital newsletter as part of your membership benefits, ensure that your email is updated on the American Soybean Association membership portal, or scan the QR code to submit your information.



## WISHH welcomes new executive director

The American Soybean Association announced February 23 that Gena Perry will serve as the executive director of the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, a partner organization of ASA.

Perry joined WISHH in 2019 as project director of WISHH's U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded Food for Progress poultry project in Ghana and most recently served as project director for global strategies. Before joining WISHH, she lived and worked in West Africa as liaison for AgriCorps and 4-H Ghana then took on the role of AgriCorps chief of staff, according to the press release.

"I'm excited to lead WISHH's unique work at the intersection of trade and development," said Perry. "I look forward to expanding our activities with U.S. soybean growers and our U.S. and international partners to create better access to protein-rich foods and feeds while improving food security in developing and emerging markets."

Over its 22 years, WISHH has developed connections in 28 countries to implement programs that increase food security globally.

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# STRAIGHT ROWS

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The voice and advocate for soybean-farmer-members

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## Calendar of Industry Events

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| April 7-9  | Great Bend Farm and Ranch Expo; Great Bend                        |
| May 11-12  | Animal Ag Alliance Summit; Kansas City, Missouri                  |
| May 16-20  | U.S. Soy International Marketing Planning Forum; Barcelona, Spain |
| May 20-22  | Four State Farm Show; Pittsburg                                   |
| May 25-27  | U.S. Meat Export Federation Spring Conference; San Antonio        |
| June 13-15 | Clean Fuels Alliance America Member Meeting; Washington, D.C.     |
| June 13-17 | U.S.A. Poultry and Egg Export Council Annual Meeting; Vail, CO    |
| June 20-29 | World Initiative for Soy in Human Health Cambodia Tour; Cambodia  |
| July 12-14 | American Soybean Association Meeting; Washington, D.C.            |
| July 14-16 | Kansas Soybean Association Corporate Tour, Great Bend region      |
| August 4-5 | North Central Soybean Research Program meeting, Kansas            |

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