

STRAIGHT ROWS

Volume 27, Issue 1 | July 2022

ASA selects Phelon to advance leadership

When a new class of Corteva Young Leaders are chosen each year, the participants attend two training phases to become better equipped as agricultural leaders. A small cohort of 10 leaders within the class are then selected through an application process to participate in Phase III of the program, which is a highly-specialized training that includes putting leadership lessons to the test visiting with elected officials in Washington, D.C. Adam Phelon, 2022 Young Leader from Kansas, said he applied for this opportunity as soon as he learned about it, and he was selected.

“During the program’s third phase, we were able to take the things we learned in the first two phases straight to Washington D.C.,” Phelon shares. “The first sessions taught us about the lobbying process, how to tell our story and how to get our message across. On top of that, the policy priorities discussed through the American Soybean Association committees during the second phase were put into play as each state met with their representatives at Capitol Hill.”

It was a jam-packed few days of activities that took place in conjunction with the ASA summer meeting, and wrapped up July 14. Phelon says the experience began Tuesday, July 12, with presentations from ASA staff and from sponsor Corteva’s organization leaders. The group listened to a panel on advocacy, and engaged in the Soy

Issues Forum dedicated to discussing important issues that soybean lobbying organizations focus on.



Wednesday consisted of Capitol Hill visits, which Phelon shares was his favorite part of the experience.

“Getting to sit down at the table with those responsible for introducing legislation that can have such a huge impact on our lives as soybean farmers was something I had always wanted to be a part of,” he says. “I learned a lot from observing the other leaders of our Kansas Soybean Association as they sat down and made their case as to why we needed each member of congress’s support. I watched as our farmer leaders laid out what issues were important to our state and listened as they answered the questions our legislators had on what their concerns were.”

He adds that the conversations with Rep. Jake LaTurner, Sen. Roger Marshall and Rep. Tracey Mann revolved around the Farm Bill, biofuels, developing

markets and transportation issues such as rail, sea, and grain transport.

The program concluded with attending the ASA board meeting on Thursday.

Phelon says the process helped him understand why soybean farmers need to have a voice in Washington D.C. and that he is more interested in paying more attention to policies.

“Not only has this program created a streamlined path to get involved in lobbying for the soybean industry; it’s also created a way for young farmers and leaders from all different parts of our country with different perspectives and different knowledge bases a way to connect and network in a way that we can more uniquely and effectively represent our peers on the state and national level,” he says.

Phelon says the reward for participating extended beyond just an enhanced interest in policy advocacy.

“It also gave me an opportunity to bond more with some of the members of our board and get to know them on a more personal level,” he shares. “I still feel like I have a lot to learn but I believe the experience is a positive step in being of service to soybean growers in the future.”

The application process is currently open for the next class of Corteva Young Leaders. See the story on page 11 for further details about getting involved.

Greetings! We are at the point in the summer where it feels like things might slow down a little bit- temporarily, of course! In absolutely no time, the kids will be headed back to school and the combines will be rolling into the fields. We are trying to soak in a little fun and family time while we prepare for fall, and our family is certainly due for a slowdown.

Some of you may have noticed a small change in the green bar above – we moved! We were able to relocate from Osborne to Russell and are so thankful to be significantly closer to our farm, which will really help with both time spent on the road and fuel costs! The move has kept us on the go all summer as we made some updates to our new house, moved, and then did some needed renovations to our old house before listing. That's on top of all our farm and family activities!

The Kansas Soybean Association has also had plenty happening! A few weeks ago, myself and four of our other board members traveled to Washington, D.C., for the American Soybean Association summer meeting. That trip included meaningful conversations with our Kansas legislators about things that matter to all of our farming operations – priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill, keeping a robust crop safety net and maintaining access to critical herbicides and pesticides in a time when the Environmental Protection Agency has been reluctant to acknowledge the science behind them.

For many of our members in southeast Kansas, the ability to use Enlist herbicide products on your crops this summer happened because of the work done by the staff and leaders of the Kansas Soybean Association. This was a big win for KSA, and that's just one example of the advocacy

work that happens behind the scenes of the association.

We are so grateful for the trust that our members continue to put in our board and staff to advocate on your behalf, and we will continue to leave our farms to fight for yours whenever we are needed. With that, I also want to thank the individuals that continue to renew their memberships, and the companies that have partnered with KSA as Corporate Partners. This support is paramount to our ability to do this vital work.

We also hope that you understand that this organization only works if the conversation goes both ways. The KSA depends on its members to determine the policy that we advocate for in both Topeka and Washington D.C. You have a voice in everything we do, so please feel free to reach out to discuss any legislative actions that concern you. As your KSA President, I'm always happy to talk to you, and can be reached at lukeandteresa@gmail.com or 785-324-1570. My fellow board members in the green box on the left are also well-equipped to have those conversations.



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1000 SW Red Oaks Place, Topeka, Kansas 66615-1207

phone: 785-271-1030 | fax: 785-271-1302

877-KS-SOYBEAN (877-577-6923)

www.KansasSoybeans.org | info@kansassoybeans.org

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USDA expands double crop coverage in 681 counties

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced July 12 it would reduce the economic risk of raising two crops on the same land in one year by expanding double crop insurance opportunities in numerous counties for the 2023 growing season.

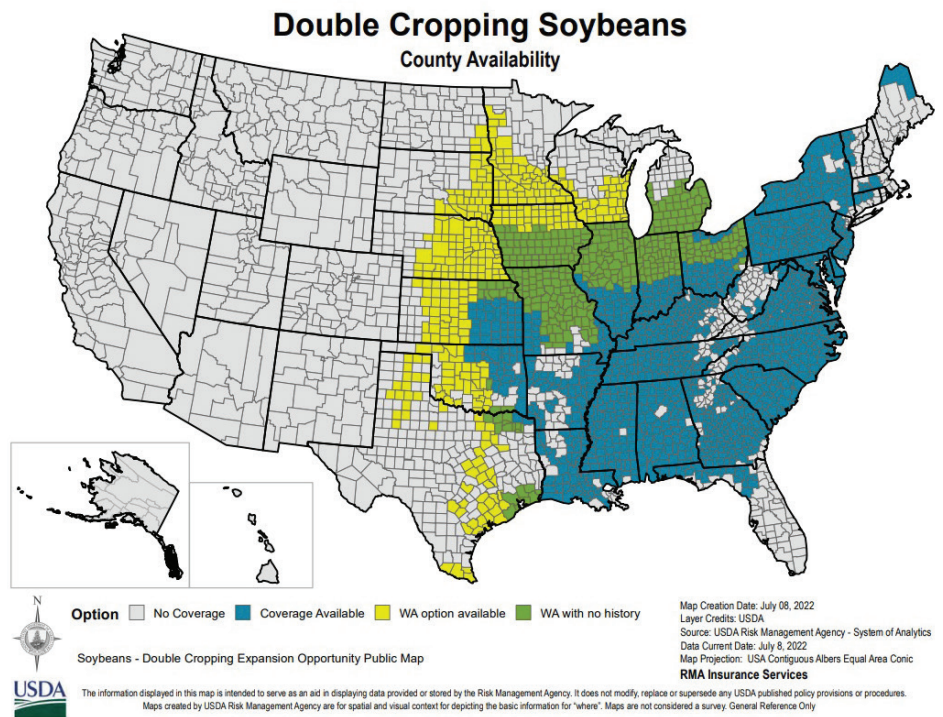
The USDA Risk Management Agency press release shares that soybean double crop coverage will be expanded or streamlined in 681 counties, including expansion in 42 Kansas counties. Most of the expansion removed barriers to receiving insurance, such as requiring production records, and simplified the process for receiving coverage through a written agreement. Written agreements are part of the process producers go through to obtain individual crop insurance coverage in a county where soybeans or grain sorghum is not insurable after a first crop.

USDA says it will examine these options over the next few months before the final rules lock in by November 30, with the possibility of adding additional counties. The agency cites supply chain disruptions

as the motivation to “leverage programs and services to support domestic production.”

In the map, counties in green will not require a producer to have previous double cropping history to obtain a written agreement for insurance. Additionally, in certain areas, a blanket written agreement may be available which further re-

duces the administrative burden for producers, agents, and AIPs. In general, this means a written agreement offer is available without a significant underwriting review. All of the counties in yellow will go through the normal underwriting process, which may include a history requirement in order to obtain a written agreement.



Sen. Marshall proposes bill to safeguard crop inputs

Kansas Sen. Roger Marshall introduced the EPA Transparency for Agriculture Products Act of 2022 on July 21 to “ensure transparency and accountability with regard to crop protection product review at the EPA.”

The bill focuses on amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act that would modify the pesticide registration process to create a safeguard against EPA hastily revoking herbicide or pesticide labels with no via-

ble alternatives in place. The bill also includes a stipulation that any non-voluntary changes to pesticide labels cannot take effect until one year following the decision to allow farmers time to make proper adjustments to their pest management plans.

“It’s simple,” Kansas Soybean Association President Teresa Brandenburg says. “Farmers need critical crop protection tools like glyphosate to feed the world. Farmers use it on 40% of all acres in the US and it enables

more than \$50 billion dollars of production annually. We appreciate this bill that will provide farmers with continued access to these and other crop protection tools prospectively.”

Scan the QR code to learn more about the proposed legislation.



SE Kansan anticipates preserving farming legacy

I first joined the Kansas Soybean Board of Directors in 2003 when I was asked to take over an unfinished term on the Board of Directors. Feeling led to help the Kansas soybean industry, I accepted the offer and have been representing Cherokee County on the Board of Directors since. I enjoy being a part of the Kansas Soybean Association because it allows me to become friends with many, including other Kansas farmers who enjoy sharing similar and different perspectives that can inspire new ideas for my own farm. I also enjoy being part of KSA because it allows farmers to have a voice in the industry on local, state and national levels.

I have been involved with agriculture my whole life, influenced by my grandfather from a young age. My grandfather had

a small farming operation and he taught me the value of hard work and persistence. I carried these lessons with me through my life in agriculture, from the time that I farmed for others in



high school to now as I teach my two boys how to manage our family operation.

I farm soybeans, wheat, corn, and run a 600 head cow-calf with my two sons, Dalton and Luke, in Cherokee County. My wife, Elisama, also helps us by keeping our books as well as watching the grandkids while we are hard at work. I started with raising cattle, my favorite part of our operation, which then led me to raise grain crops. It has been very special for me to raise my boys on the farm, getting to teach them valuable lessons similar to those that my grandfather taught me. My favorite part of being a farmer is watching my sons and grandsons develop a love for agriculture, knowing they will carry on the legacy.

Dauids joins House Ag

Rep. Sharice Davids of Kansas' 3rd Congressional District was assigned to the House Ag Committee in June. Davids becomes the third Kansan to currently serve on a congressional agriculture committee, following Sen. Roger Marshall and Rep. Tracey Mann of Kansas' 1st Congressional District.

The House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee recommended Davids to serve on the committee, which oversees USDA and has jurisdiction over all aspects of agriculture, including forestry, nutrition and water conservation. The appointment comes just as discussions on the 2023 Farm Bill are ramping up.

Davids also serves Kansans as Vice Chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and on the Small Business Committee, chairing the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access.

She was elected to represent Kansas in 2018.

KSA calls for yield entries

It is never too early to think about entering the 2022 Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests. As you are out walking your soybean fields for late summer scouting, consider which five-or-more-acre plot could win you recognition or even prize money.

The Kansas Soybean Association sponsors the Yield and Value Contests annually with prize money contributed by the Kansas Soybean Commission. The contests are open and free of charge to any Kansas soybean grower or individual involved in a farming operation. There are eight geographical dryland districts, each with a no-till and conventional till category, plus a statewide irrigated division. The value contest evaluates protein and oil quality of a 20-ounce sample.

What can you do now to prepare? Select and monitor your best plot, find a witness to verify your harvest and watch for the entry information to be released.




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RESEARCHING A BETTER BEAN

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

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Making Waves to Manage Water More Sustainably



SOYBEAN RESEARCH &
**INFORMATION
NETWORK**

Soybean farmers proactively use conservation practices such as no-till, grass filter strips, cover crops and drainage water management to improve water quality and protect water resources. Funding from the soybean checkoff provides education to help farmers advance and expand these efforts and supports research to further enhance soybean production sustainability.



DIVING DEEPER INTO IRRIGATION INNOVATION

Limited water availability, especially at critical growth points, can reduce soybean yield and quality. Efficient use of irrigation and soil moisture can maximize return on water investments. Research is exploring the value and best use of soil moisture sensors, variable rate irrigation technology, best irrigation management practices based on soil type and even safe reuse of recovered tailwater during the growing season. *There's now even an app for smart irrigation!*

SHORING UP WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Edge-of-field monitoring stations placed in watersheds allow water samples to be collected for nutrient and sediment analyses after runoff-generating precipitation events. Such projects measure effectiveness of field practices and document and demonstrate continuous improvement farmers can share with the public and environmental regulators. A decline in impaired waters can be documented through long-term studies such as assessing poultry manure application and cover crop implementation and looking at the impact of chisel plows or strip tillage on runoff.



TAKING NUTRIENT LOSS TO A TRICKLE

Cover crops are known to benefit soybean farmers by saving soil, improving water storage during the summer, suppressing weeds and increasing efficient use of nutrients. Keeping crop inputs out of waterways makes farming more economically and environmentally sustainable. For example, research is exploring improved potassium management in specific soil types to identify best practices to slow nutrient loss. Other studies are evaluating phosphorus application timing, placement, source and rate to single out ways to increase profitability and reduce loss.

best practices
**TO SLOW
NUTRIENT
LOSS**

SATURATING WATERSHEDS WITH BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION

Data collection can be used to determine if conservation practices have a positive effect on reducing nitrates in groundwater and subsequently improving water quality in watersheds. This includes research into understanding the efficacy of fall cover crops. Scientists are working to accurately document the effect of a variety of conservation practices on environmental conditions in watersheds nationwide to estimate full public and private benefits and costs.

TURNING THE TIDE ON BETTER VARIETY ADAPTATION

Research allows geneticists and breeders to better understand how soybeans manage water, so they can develop varieties that adapt for all water conditions. For instance, transpiration research measures how different soybean varieties under stressful conditions release water through leaves. Flood-tolerant varieties may help farmers who plant low-lying fields or farm in other wet areas.



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The Soybean Research and Information Network (SRIN) is a joint effort of the North Central Soybean Research Program and United Soybean Board. The online resource contains checkoff-funded soybean production challenge research findings with direct links to the respective underlying scientific studies housed in the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database. Funded by the soybean checkoff.



Supreme Court will not hear glyphosate label case

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) sets the foundation for pesticide regulation in the best interest of applicators, consumers and the environment. FIFRA includes a “Uniformity” subsection that declares states may not impose labeling requirements contrary to those required under FIFRA.

The court case *Hardeman v. Monsanto* called that uniformity and glyphosate labeling requirements into question after a plaintiff in California alleged that the glyphosate in Roundup caused cancer. Numerous entities, including the Environmental Protection Agency, have relied on scientific studies and expert consensus to assert that glyphosate is, in fact, not a carcinogen.

In the early days of the case, the district court jury found Mon-

santo liable in the case despite the science-backed position of EPA. Monsanto appealed based on FIFRA preemption rulings, though the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the original verdict. Monsanto then filed a petition for writ certiorari, which is a request for the U.S. Supreme Court to review a lower court’s ruling. In recent movement of the case, the U.S. Solicitor General provided a brief expressing that the Supreme Court should not hear the case.

The American Soybean Association was one of 54 trade associations that submitted a joint letter to President Biden May 23 in response to the Solicitor General’s brief. The letter warns that the new policy would set a dangerous precedent that threatens the science-based regulatory process, stating that the position is a “stunning reversal from numerous past ad-

ministrations.”

On June 21, ASA shared that the Supreme Court denied the writ of certiorari and would not hear the case of *Hardeman v. Monsanto*, meaning the Court of Appeals decision would stand. ASA expressed disappointment at the decision, citing the potential for a patchwork of state labels that could jeopardize grower access to vital pesticides. The organization says it will consider what reforms may be needed to prevent state labeling differences from disrupting commerce and pesticide availability.

The immediate impact in the case is that the Solicitor General brief means the federal government has broken away from its position on uniform pesticide labeling, opening up the possibility for increased cases of this nature going forward.

Soy is poised to provide protein in form of RUTFs

The U.S. Agency for International Development today announced nearly \$1.3 billion in additional critical humanitarian and development assistance to Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, including \$200 million for the procurement of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food.

RUTFs, an energy-dense medical food paste made of soy, peanuts, powdered milk, vegetable oil, sugar and multivitamins, is one of the most effective tools to help severely malnourished children. The U.S. is one of the world’s largest and most cost-efficient producers of RUTFs, but American farmers have the capacity to produce more.

The American Soybean Associ-

ation, along with other invested agricultural organizations submitted a letter to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies in support of appropriating money toward increasing the global RUTFs to reach vulnerable populations. The letter explains that RUTFs are shelf stable for up to two years and do not require mixing with potentially contaminated water. The paste is specially formulated to contain the essential nutrients and ingredients in requisite amounts determined by experts convened by the World Health Organization to be scientifically essential for nourishment of children. According to the letter, a typical

treatment regimen consists of three RUTF packets every day for about six weeks and costs less than \$1 per day. Up to 90 percent of children treated will recover.

“USAID’s announcement further reinforces the importance of U.S. soy for global food security,” said Gerry Hayden, ASA/WISHH Program chair and an ASA director from Kentucky. “Through USB’s funding of ASA/WISHH’s leadership for global food security, U.S. soybean growers were able to personally see the role of U.S. soy in Edesia’s RUTFs in December at WISHH’s global food security dialogue. Edesia already expects to procure the equivalent of more than 170,000 bushels of U.S. soy this year. USAID’s announcement may result in an increase to that amount.”

WISHH works with key international stakeholders to demonstrate **U.S. soy's value** for businesses and communities.



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WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.

ASA opens applications for 2023 awards, programs

Each year, distinguished individuals are recognized during the American Soybean Association annual awards banquet. The three recognition awards – Outstanding State Volunteer, ASA Distinguished Leadership and Pinnacle – are currently accepting nominations through Oct. 24.

The Outstanding State Volunteer Award recognizes individuals who have given at least three years of volunteer service to any area of their state soybean association.

The Distinguished Leadership Award honors visionary leadership within ASA or a state association by a soybean farmer-leader or staff leader with at least 5 years of service.

The Pinnacle Award recipient demonstrates the highest level of contribution and lifetime leadership within the soybean industry.

These awards are to be presented at the 2023 Commodity Classic in Orlando, Florida. Nom-

inations must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022. All nomination submissions must be completed online. No telephone, mail or email submissions will be accepted.

The 2023 Conservation Legacy Awards are also open for submissions. This set of awards is presented in four regions – Midwest, Upper Midwest, Northeast and South – with one overall winner. Winners demonstrate outstanding conservation techniques on their farm, including reduced tillage, cover crops and energy efficiency.

Regional winners receive a trip to Commodity Classic, plus a magazine and video feature. Conservation Legacy Award applications are due Sept. 1. The award information and nomination forms are available at soygrowers.com/awards.

ASA has also called for applicants looking to participate in the next class of the Corteva Young Leader program. The Young Leader program is a two-

phase educational program for actively farming individuals or couples who are passionate about agriculture.

Phase I of the 2022-23 Young Leader program is scheduled for Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2022, at Corteva's Global Business Center in Johnston, Iowa. The program continues March 7-11, 2023, in Orlando, Florida in conjunction with Commodity Classic.

Soybean growers, both individuals and couples, are encouraged to apply for the program, which focuses on leadership and communication, agriculture trends and information, and the development of a strong and connected network.

Kansans are asked to submit applications by Sept. 1 to give the Kansas Soybean Association board adequate time to review applicants and make recommendations for selection to the American Soybean Association.

Check out www.soygrowers.com for information about all of these awards and programs.

Soy policy priorities shared at ASA July meeting

The American Soybean Association released policy priorities at its summer meeting in July. The priorities are:

Keep markets viable & increase demand for soybeans by:

- Supporting extension of the biodiesel tax credit, which expires in December 2022
- Supporting soy as a feedstock for sustainable aviation fuel
- Supporting EPA RFS rulemaking that increases biofuel blending volumes
- Supporting investments in biofuels infrastructure

- Co-sponsor the AQUAA Act to increase U.S. aquaculture production

Improve transportation & infrastructure channels through the:

- Water Resources Development Act: support Sec. 103 of Senate legislation to bolster investments for U.S. inland waterways
- Federal Truck Weights: support an increase in federal truck weight limits to 91,000 pounds for six-axle vehicles

Support additional resources to strengthen the next farm bill,

including:

- improve the farm safety net for soybeans
- Protect crop insurance
- Enhance accessibility of conservation programs and maintaining the voluntary, incentive-based approach
- Grow investments in the promotion of U.S. commodities globally
- Build opportunities for biofuels and biobased products

Read all the ASA Farm Bill Priorities on page 15.

KSA makes rounds on Capitol Hill, discuss ag issues

The American Soybean Association summer meeting creates an opportunity for state soybean association boards to visit their state's elected officials on Capitol Hill. Teresa Brandenburg, Charles Atkinson, Scott Gigstad, Jared Nash and Adam Phelon attended the July

12-14 meeting and advocated for Kansas soybean farmers in conversations with all six congressmen from Kansas.

Brandenburg and Atkinson provided a report of their visits at the July 15-16 Kansas Soybean Association meeting, sharing that conversations fo-

cused on the upcoming Farm Bill, concerns about accessing crop inputs, reinstating biofuel tax credits and strategies to move soybean meal.

The group was also able to tour the new ASA Washington, D.C. office.



Top left: Charles Atkinson, ASA representative (left), and Teresa Brandenburg, KSA president (near left), engage with Rep. Sharice Davids and staffer on agricultural issues. Top right: Jared Nash (right) and Scott Gigstad, KSA First Vice President (near right), visit with Rep. Tracey Mann in his office. Middle left (L-R): Jared Nash, Corteva Young Leader Adam Phelon, Charles Atkinson, Rep. Jake LaTurner, Scott Gigstad and Teresa Brandenburg smile for a photo. Middle right: Jared Nash, Teresa Brandenburg and Charles Atkinson visited Rep. Ron Estes at his office. Bottom right: Sen. Jerry Moran (left) discusses agricultural policies with Charles Atkinson and Teresa Brandenburg. Bottom right: Scott Gigstad, Jared Nash and Charles Atkinson prepare to converse with Sen. Roger Marshall (near left) and staffer.

WISHH serves as an international soy industry incubator, spurring innovation by connecting local entrepreneurs with industry-specific resources and business knowledge.



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WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.




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KEEPING THE FUTURE OF SOYBEANS BRIGHT

From researching new uses for soybeans to identifying new markets for U.S. soy, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to create new opportunities and increase profits for 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

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Checkoff Check-In

Written by Abby Johnson, 2022 intern

Every soybean farmer contributes to the checkoff at the first point of purchase, paying half of one-percent of the price per bushel. Here is what your soybean checkoff has been doing for you.

Bob Haselwood, Kansas Soybean Commissioner and treasurer for the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, traveled to Cambodia in June with other U.S. soybean leaders.

Cambodia imports much of its fish for human consumption from Vietnam. To become more sustainable and self-sufficient, Cambodians in the aquaculture industry are working toward farming their own fish with the support of the Commercialization of Aquaculture for Sustainable Trade project, funded by the checkoff and USDA.

Haselwood says he observed on the trip how the Cambodian aquaculture industry has grown and how soy has improved their commercial fish feed since his last trip in 2020. In-pond raceway systems, which use technology with continuous water flow to culture fish at higher densities, have been improved to overcome production limitations. Solar dome drying systems, similar to greenhouses, have been implemented to improve food safety practices when preserving fish.

Aquaculture is new to the soy industry com-

pared to poultry, swine, or cattle, and aquaculture diets vary depending on the species. However, soy in aquaculture feed has contributed to a safe and sustainable supply of protein. U.S. soybean leaders in Cambodia also learned about the role soy plays in aquaculture by visiting an expansion of AgriMaster's livestock feed facility and fish feed manufacturing.

Cambodians are seeing the benefit of the CAST program in their communities involved with the aquaculture industry. A Cambodian Aquaculturist Association started by CAST has grown from a few members in 2020 to 550 members in June. The growth of this association will be important for the continued development of Cambodian aquaculture once the CAST program ends.

Haselwood says he was excited to see the progress that Cambodian aquaculture has made and how the involvement of WISHH has been beneficial. WISHH and their work to introduce soy to Cambodia has helped raise their economy, improving the lives of citizens. As the checkoff invests in WISHH, more value is added to programs like CAST, aiding in the integration of soy to international markets.

Find more Kansas Soybean Commission content in the August 2022 Soy Notes newsletter.

Farm Bill Priorities

The American Soybean Association shares these initial priorities which will be further refined into more specific requests by early 2023. These priorities reflect feedback gathered from soybean grower feedback and current policy resolutions.

General

- Increased budget authority for the next farm bill is justified in this current environment marked by economic and geopolitical volatility. Additional resources are needed to address needs and interests throughout this comprehensive piece of legislation.
- Congress should maintain the agricultural and nutrition titles in the next farm bill.
- Review of USDA staffing, technological capabilities and cybersecurity, and pathways for knowledge transfer should occur to ensure readiness for farm bill implementation. Gaps should be prioritized to receive appropriations or farm bill implementation funding.
- Policy should support innovation in data collection, data analysis, and internal data sharing between USDA agencies, while emphasizing the confidentiality and nonpublic disclosure of individual producer data.

Farm Safety Net

- Crop insurance is the most effective and important component of the farm safety net and must remain affordable.
- The Title I farm safety net components of Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs must be improved for soybeans. Strong consideration should be given to increasing the soy reference price combined with an option for farmers to update base acres. Planting flexibility must be maintained.
- Marketing assistance loans must be maintained, and consideration should be given to increasing marketing loan rates.
- Program eligibility should not be restricted through means testing.
- As a condition of receiving Title I and crop insurance benefits, farmers are required to meet specific environmental standards such as protecting water quality, wetlands or soil health. These should be maintained but not augmented.
- If a standing disaster assistance program is created, the financial protection provided by Title I programs and crop insurance should not be reduced to fund the disaster program, and it must not undercut or disincentivize participation in crop insurance.

Conservation

- Conservation programs must remain voluntary, incentive-based and flexible; one size does not fit all. Early adopters must be fully eligible for conservation programs. Regulatory burdens regarding program enrollment and adaptive management should be reduced.

ITC rules against imposing final duties on fertilizer

Press release from ASA July 18

As U.S. soy growers face historic fertilizer costs, the American Soybean Association applauds the U.S. International Trade Commission's announcement today that it rejects imposing final duties on Urea Ammonium Nitrate from Russia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Few inputs have exhibited more price inflation than UAN, which has experienced a jarringly high price increase due in large part to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These two countries are im-

portant crop and energy producers, as well as producers of fertilizers and fertilizer input products—including natural gas for UAN. Last month, ASA and other ag groups asked ITC to take into consideration that price pressure experienced by commodity farmers has cascading effects that reverberate through the farm economy.

"ASA has expressed concerns with fertilizer prices and availability for over a year," said Brad Doyle, president of the

American Soybean Association and Arkansas soybean grower. "Today's ruling by the ITC against the imposition of final duties on imports of UAN from Trinidad and Tobago and Russia will provide much-needed relief from tariffs for U.S. soybean growers and farmers across the country. We thank the ITC for considering the impact on farmers in their determination, and ASA will continue to advocate for the removal of tariffs."

Out-of-the-Past Photo

The late Harold Kraus (center) and wife, Virginia, of Hays, Kansas, earned the 2003 Conservation Legacy Award for the Western Region. Their excerpt from the American Soybean Association's news release on the awards shares, "Harold began his career in 1960 after serving in the U.S. Navy. His operation began with 960 acres of mostly rented land. He now farms 2,500 acres. The overall goal of K.U. Farms is zero runoff. To accomplish this, Harold and Virginia employ reduced and no-till practices, buffer strips, terracing and they have an aggressive nutrient management system."

The award plaques were presented February 27, 2003 during the ASA Awards Banquet at Commodity Classic.

Kraus served on the Kansas Soybean Commission from 2001 to 2011 and was integral in promoting biodiesel in Kansas.



RSC budget involves ag

A spending task force within the Republican Study Committee released its annual alternative budget for fiscal year 2023. The comprehensive document details how RSC would balance the national budget if the proposal passed.

The budget includes the following proposals of interest to agriculture and soybean producers:

- Eliminate the Renewable Fuel Standards
- Separate nutrition subsidy programs from agriculture subsidy programs in the Farm Bill
- Eliminate Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage farm support programs from the federal budget and move them to the private sector
- Reform the crop insurance program by "reducing subsidies to 30 percent of premium costs and eliminating the government's reimbursement to crop insurance companies for administrative expenses"
- Prohibit new enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program and Conservation Reserve Program
- Eliminate the Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program

RSC states the agriculture section of the proposal is intended to "refocus programs in a more efficient manner" and "create a level playing field for rural America." Rep. Ron Estes of Kansas' 4th Congressional District is one of 16 signers of the budget proposal.

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Biden signs Ocean Shipping Reform Act in June

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act became law June 16. The bill was first introduced in the Senate in February with Kansas Sens. Marshall and Moran cosponsoring the bill.

The legislation expands prohibition on retaliation; clarifies prohibited carrier practices; requires rulemaking to define unfair detention and demurrage practices; expands penalty authority to include refund of charges; and establishes an expedited detention and demurrage certification and complaint process.

The American Soybean Association endorsed this legislation, stating it help to bring “greater accountability and transparency to ocean carriers while improving efficiency throughout the system.”

ASA shares that about 5-10% of soybeans are exported via container annually, though that volume is higher for specialty soy and varies based on region of the country.

EPA releases neonic BEs

The Environmental Protection Agency published final biological evaluations for neonicotinoid pesticides, including imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and clothianidin. BEs evaluate the impact of pesticides on endangered species and their habitats.

ASA said in a press release June 16 that the organization believes the BEs are overly conservative and fail to use important scientific data. The release stated that the evaluations do not incorporate scientific and commercial data that could have provided a more realistic picture of the potential impact of the chemistries on species.

“For example, nearly all applications of neonicotinoids in soybeans are made as seed treatments, using a minuscule amount of pesticide buried underground where it is far less likely to impact species or habitat” ASA said in the release. “However, the final BEs assume growers exclusively make foliar spray and soil applications using many times more active ingredient than is reflected by real-world USDA and market survey data. The BEs also continue to assume a species will be adversely affected if only one individual in a species is impacted, which greatly inflates effects assessments.”

EPA sets RFS volumes

The Environmental Protection Agency announced its renewable volume obligations under the renewable fuel standard June 3. The finalized rule aligns with levels previously determined by Congress, setting the 2022 bio-based diesel volumes at 2.76 billion gallons, up from 2.43 billion for 2020 and 2021. The 2022 overall volumes are set at 20.63 billion gallons and retroactive volumes for 2021 at 18.84 billion gallons, 2020 at 17.13 billion gallons. According to the American Soybean Association, these are the largest-ever volumes for total renewable fuels and specifically for bio-based diesel since the renewable fuel standard was created.

In the same announcement, EPA said it had denied the final set of pending small refinery exemption petitions from compliance years 2016-2021. USDA jointly shared that it would be investing \$700 million to help lower costs and support nearly 300 biofuel producers across 25 states who had faced unexpected market losses during the pandemic.

McKalip nominated USTR

Press release from ASA June 8

The American Soybean Association welcomes the long-awaited announcement from President Biden that he has nominated Doug McKalip as Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ASA and other groups are urging the Senate Finance Committee to swiftly advance Doug McKalip's nomination as USTR Chief Ag Ambassador. In a letter to Senate Finance Committee leaders, the groups expressed enthusiastic support for McKalip, who President Biden nominated for the position in June.

“We believe that Mr. McKalip has the experience and expertise to reduce foreign trade barriers, secure greater market access for U.S. products and ensure enforcement of clear and fair rules with our trade partners so U.S. food and agriculture workers and our industry sectors may fairly compete in the global economy,” the groups write. McKalip currently serves as senior adviser to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, where he works on matters relating to trade, national security, animal and plant health regulations, and a wide portfolio of domestic and international issues.

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 enterprises. KSA also relies on corporate partners to keep members 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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STRAIGHT ROWS

Volume 27, Issue 1 | July 2022

The voice and advocate for soybean-farmer-members

1000 SW Red Oaks Place
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Calendar of Industry Events

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Aug. 2 | Kansas Soybean Commission annual meeting; Manhattan |
| Aug. 2-4 | North Central Soybean Research Program meeting; Manhattan |
| Aug. 7-9 | Soy Aquaculture Alliance meeting; Ankeny, Iowa |
| Aug. 15-18 | Iowa Biofuels Tour; Iowa |
| Aug. 16-17 | Kansas State University Risk and Profit Conference; Manhattan |
| Aug. 17-18 | Kansas Department of Agriculture Ag Growth Summit; Manhattan |
| Aug. 22-24 | U.S. Soybean Export Council Soy Connex; San Diego, California |
| Aug. 30- Sept. 1 | Soy Nutrition Institute fall member meeting; TBA |
| Sept. 8-18 | Kansas State Fair; Hutchinson |
| Oct. 3-4 | Kansas Energy Conference; Manhattan |
| Nov. 8-10 | Grass and Grain Farm and Ranch Show; Manhattan |
| Nov. 9-11 | U.S. Meat Export Federation meeting; Oklahoma City, Okla. |
| Nov. 14-16 | Clean Fuels Alliance America member meeting; Washington, D.C. |
| Nov. 15-18 | Agri-Business Expo; Wichita |
| Nov. 16-17 | Kansas Water Office Water Conference; Manhattan |
| Nov. 18 | Kansas Soybean Association board meeting |
| Dec. 1-3 | Wichita Farm and Ranch Show; Mulvane |
| Dec. 1-3 | Kansas Soybean Commission meeting; Manhattan |
| Dec. 4-8 | United Soybean Board meeting; St. Charles, Missouri |
| Dec. 11-13 | Soy Transportation Coalition board meeting; Savannah, Georgia |
| Dec. 12-14 | U.S.A Poultry and Egg Export Council winter meeting; TBA |
| Jan. 10-12 | Topeka Farm Show; Topeka |
| Jan. 11 | Kansas Soybean Expo (Save the Date!) |

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