

# MISSOURI SOYBEAN FARMER

DECEMBER 2015



Non-Profit Organization  
POSTAGE PAID  
Fulton, MO  
Permit No. 38

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Missouri Soybean Association  
P.O. Box 104778  
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4778

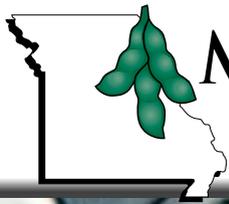
# How are you growing?

Missouri soybean farmers continue to be more efficient. Today, one bushel of soybeans can be produced with 50 percent less energy, 40 percent less water and 35 percent less land than in 1980.

Missouri is also a national leader in soy biodiesel, producing nearly 200 million gallons of the renewable fuel each year.



## We're growing for you.



**MISSOURI**  
**SOYBEANS**

Learn more online at [MOSOY.ORG](http://MOSOY.ORG)

*brought to you by Missouri soybean farmers and their checkoff*



# MISSOURI SOYBEAN FARMER



DECEMBER 2015 | VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 5

## STAFF CONTACTS

### **Executive Director / CEO**

Gary Wheeler  
gwheeler@mosoy.org

### **Director of Communications & Public Relations**

Christine Tew  
ctew@mosoy.org

### **Director of Industry & Producer Relations**

Dan Engemann  
dengemann@mosoy.org

### **Director of Business Development & New Markets**

Tony Stafford  
tstafford@mosoy.org

### **Director of Research**

Greg Luce  
GLuce@mosoy.org

### **Director of Compliance & Research Administration**

Ebby Neuner  
eneuner@mosoy.org

### **Office Manager**

Mary Kever  
mkever@mosoy.org

### **Accounting Manager**

Jeff Bruemmer  
jbruemmer@mosoy.org

### **Administrative Manager**

Diana Coonce  
dcoonce@mosoy.org

**Missouri Soybean Programs**  
P.O. Box 104778  
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4778  
Phone: (573) 635-3819  
<http://www.mosoy.org>

Missouri Soybean Farmer is published five times annually by the Missouri Soybean Association and is an excellent opportunity to reach row crop farmers. Contact [ctew@mosoy.org](mailto:ctew@mosoy.org) for advertising information and with story ideas.

Copyright Missouri Soybean Association, 2015. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use of any content without the express written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

## IN THIS ISSUE

9



Elections to the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council will be held this winter. Learn how you can register to vote for your representatives.

14



Follow a Missouri grain inspector for a night for a first-hand look at the grading process for soybeans.

18



The Missouri Soybean Association is partnering with MFA, Inc. on precision agriculture projects - including on the farm at the center of our checkoff-funded research efforts.

---

## COVER SHOT



Dry, sunny weather moved harvest along quickly across Missouri, including in the bootheel, where father-son pair Elott and Tom Raffety grow soybeans and corn near the small town of Wyatt.





# FROM THE FIELD

*Notes from Missouri Soybeans' leadership team*

## MSA Board Members:

- Steve Alexander**, Hopkins
- Neal Bredehoeft**, Alma
- Peter Rost Jr.**, New Madrid
- Kelly Forck**, Jefferson City
- C. Brooks Hurst**, Tarkio
- T. Brooks Hurst**, Tarkio
- John Kleiboeker**, Stotts City
- Matt McCrate**, Cape Girardeau
- Tom Raffety**, Wyatt
- E.L. Reed**, Chillicothe
- Ronnie Russell**, Richmond
- Greg Sharpe**, Ewing
- Warren Stemme**, Chesterfield
- Larry Strobel**, Bell City
- Doug Thomas**, Brashear
- Matt Wright**, Emden

## MSMC Board Members:

- Robert Alpers**, Prairie Home
- Cecil DeMott**, Rock Port
- Kyle Durham**, Norborne
- Harold Gloe**, Hermann
- Tim Gottman**, Monroe City
- Patrick Hobbs**, Dudley
- John Kelley**, Faucett
- Bob Littleton**, Dalton
- David Lueck**, Alma
- Baughn Merideth**, Caruthersville
- Lewis Rone**, Portageville
- Will Spargo**, Naylor
- Jim Underhill**, Palmyra

## USB Board Members:

- Richard Fordyce**, Bethany
- Todd Gibson**, Norborne
- Lewis Rone**, Portageville

## ASA Board Members:

- C. Brooks Hurst**, Tarkio
- E.L. Reed**, Chillicothe



Our mission at the Missouri Soybean Association is to increase the profitability of Missouri Soybean farmers through legislative advocacy, public policy initiatives and education. With that mission as our guide, we're looking at a very big year in 2016. From local elections, to races for our governor, attorney general and congressional delegation, there's going to be a lot to watch in addition to the candidates for President.



Each of those elections – from county commissioner seats to the presidency – can, and likely will, have a direct impact on how we do business going forward. The challenges of low prices, tough weather and rising input costs are more than enough to keep us all busy, but that doesn't excuse us from being watchful for those thinly-veiled regulatory and environmental efforts (WOTUS, anyone?) targeting our ability to raise crops and livestock.

Get to know the men and women who represent you, as well as those who aspire to do so. Your staff at the Missouri Soybean Association work hard to create opportunities for you to connect with your elected officials, from weekly visits to the Capitol during the upcoming legislative session, to meetings and events with our congressional delegation, as well as our statewide officeholders and candidates. All Association members are invited to participate in those opportunities, and I hope you do.

**Tom Raffety**  
Missouri Soybean Association President

Heading into harvest this year, there were a lot of unknowns. Mother Nature made it a tough year, from soggy planting conditions to a bone-dry harvest. On top of that, every time you turned on the news, you heard something new about what could happen once we got the crop out of the field. Highway weight limits were the big thing – Missouri's legislature passed a 10 percent weight waiver for harvest, meaning we could go up to 88,000 pounds on state roads – and putting us closer to surrounding states' limits. Unfortunately, many of our bridges aren't okay to take 88,000-pound trucks and the proposed increase for weight limits on the federal Interstate didn't make it over the finish line.



One economic impact study found that Missouri farmers could save as much as \$20 million with one year under a 10 percent increase. Those savings in fuel, time and employee wages weren't fully realized this year, but that's not because our transportation challenges have been addressed. There were a lot of growers who weren't able to use that 10 percent weight waiver because, like me, they have to cross a bridge to deliver their soybeans.

Regardless of whether we use the river or railroad later on, the first step for transport is most likely a truck. The challenge of getting our soybeans to market isn't going away – we have to continue working with our communities, our checkoff partners and the rest of the soybean industry to address this issue. Harvest may be over, but we have work to do.

**David Lueck**  
Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This summer, we half-jokingly talked about soybean harvest stretching so far into November that it bumped up against Thanksgiving. It turned out we were more than half-right. I chatted with several farmers recently who were still cutting beans as the holiday season kicked off. Most agreed that it wasn't part of their plan for the season, but then again, neither was planting soybeans in July.

What stood out to me talking to the guys cutting those late-planted beans was that every one of them was happy to be doing it. They might not have been excited about the idea of being up against a hard freeze, but having beans to cut was a good thing.

Whether their positivity was because they were filling contracts on 9 or 10-dollar beans, or because the forthcoming holiday season already had them thinking that having \$8.50 beans in the bin was better than no beans, I can't say for sure. Either way, there was something to be thankful for.

Ultimately, that's what the holiday season brings – a hearty reminder that even when things are tough, we all have much to be thankful for in this world. Family and friends, most definitely. A safe harvest, too – and a community that comes together to lend a hand when things don't go as planned.

As we put this issue together, we talked quite a bit about looking ahead – at the latest in technology and market analysis, what to do for weed management and soil health in the coming years, and where our elected officials might support (or challenge) us next. USDA harvest estimates and exports are both up, which was good to see after some of the speculation we heard earlier this year.

The greatest resource we have for long term success is our people. This year, more than 30,000 of you, Missouri's soybean growers, have supported research and education by investing in the soybean checkoff. You made membership in the Missouri Soybean Association, our voice on policy, grow by more than 60 percent. You pushed our soybean exports to new heights with your high-quality crop and through the tireless work of farmer leaders traveling to key markets in Mexico, China, Japan and other countries. You helped us move good policy forward, and to put burdensome regulations like WOTUS squarely on the chopping block.

Thank you for your support during this tough year, and for the positive note visiting with each of you brings to my holiday season. I'm proud to serve each of you and look forward to the year ahead. Let us know how we can better serve you – that's what your staff is here to do.

Happy Holidays and All the Best in 2016,



Gary Wheeler  
Executive Director / CEO  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council



**Gary Wheeler (second row, far right) with Missouri soybean farmers at the Capitol in Jefferson City for visits with legislators.**

# RISK & REWARD



**Darrick Steen**

*Missouri's new Strip Trial Program helps farmers limit the costs and risks of comparing new conservation practices on their farms - and provides actionable management plans growers can use for years to come.*

**M**aking decisions that strike the right balance between maximizing the economic gain on the farm and improving environmental stewardship is a challenge farmers face each growing season. Scaling up and investing in new practices without on-farm data showing how those practices will perform is often a hard pill to swallow – and rightfully so. Across agriculture, farmers are facing tough challenges ahead with rising input and equipment costs, softening market prices, increased environmental regulatory pressure, as well as addressing sustainability demands from consumers and the food industry.

The Missouri Strip Trial Program is a new, grower-focused program for 2016 designed to help Missouri farmers compare on-farm management decisions and practices in a low-cost, low-risk setting. Through this new program, the Missouri Soybean and Corn Merchandising Councils in partnership with the University of Missouri are supporting

landowner efforts toward the goal of continuous improvement. It is through continuous improvement that Missouri farmers will overcome tomorrow's challenges, reach production goals and contribute to the greater effort of improving environmental quality and agricultural sustainability.

This program will use on-farm and field-scale research to provide growers with farm-specific data and information they can use to guide decisions and evaluate best management practices while protecting or improving their bottom line. Similar programs in Iowa and Indiana have provided growers with a wealth of data, knowledge and practical management information. Building on their successes, we are excited to kick start a Missouri-based program in 2016, a program with potential to improve grower profitability and enhance soil and water quality across our state. The program is made possible by support from the soybean and corn checkoffs and the University of Missouri Cooperative Extension Service.

In this program, participating farmers will use their precision ag tools to conduct on-farm research in their own crop fields. Participating farmers will work with a specialist from the University of Missouri Extension, or other crop advisor of their choice to guide the planning, implementation and methodology used for the trial. This additional guidance and assistance helps ensure growers receive a reliable, statistically valid and unbiased evaluation of a particular practice, method or idea.

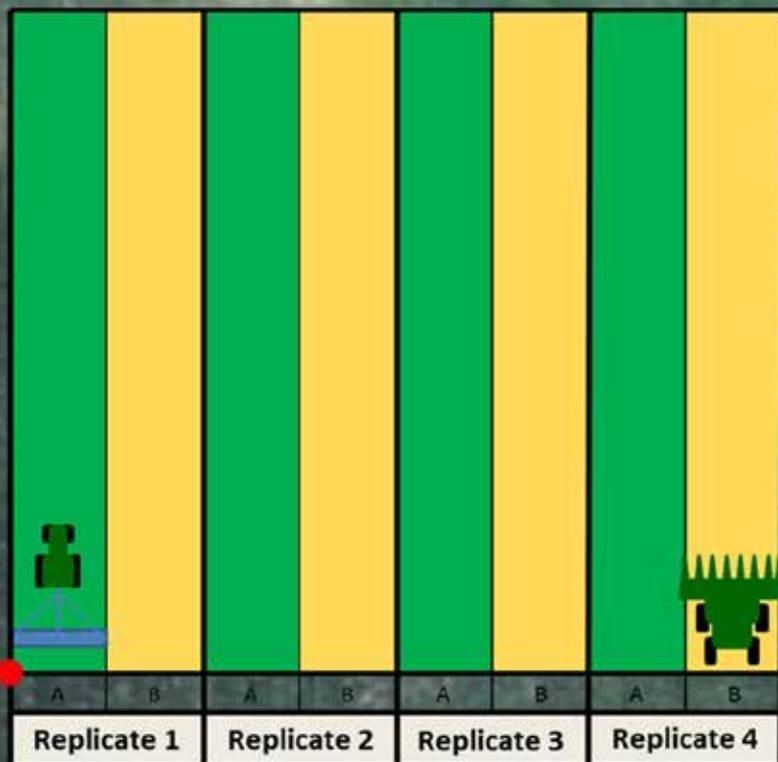
The primary tools employed in the program are replicated strip trials and in-season aerial imagery. Strip trials are just as they sound: multiple long strips laid out side-by-side in a field that have different management practices - also called treatments. The treatment "strips" are created using a grower's own field scale equipment.



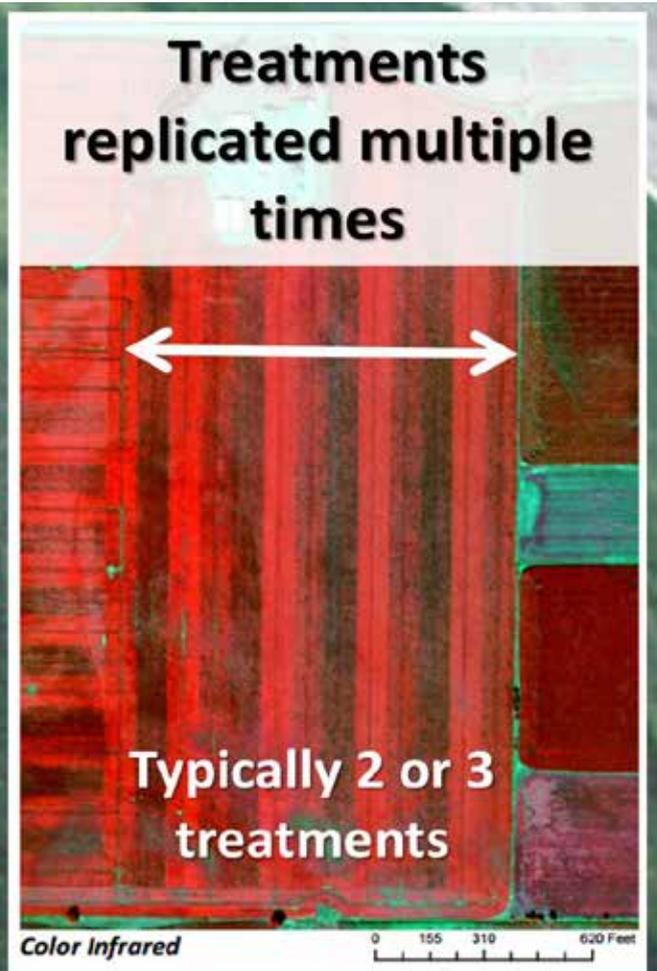
**Aerial image of a strip trial mid-season**



*Darrick Steen serves as the director of environmental programs for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. His focus areas include stewardship projects and checkoff investments benefitting sustainability and growers' bottom line.*



- Production equipment, production fields.
- Combine results from many locations.



Implementing a strip trial on-farm allows a landowner to compare several practices at one time, under normal growing conditions for his or her farm. These images show several replications of practices being compared to account for any variation within a field. Graphics are courtesy of the University of Missouri.

When coupled with in-season aerial imagery and their GPS referenced yield monitor data, the trials will allow farmers to evaluate two or three agronomic treatments through carefully managed, side-by-side comparisons. In addition to their individual results, which will be compiled into a personalized report for each participating farmer, growers will also have access to aggregated results from trials in their area and across the state to evaluate the effectiveness and the economic pros and cons of the different management practices.

The program tools and personalized summary report will be available at no cost for Missouri growers involved in the strip trial program.

Initially, trials will target practices that influence nutrient management. We hope the trials will allow farmers to unpack and discover the concepts under what is known as the "4R's" of nutrient management.

Developed and promoted by the agricultural industry, the 4R's represent a suite of best practices that focus the management of crop nutrients in the right place, at the right time, using the right source, and in the right amounts. Applying practices and making decisions that follow these four straightforward principles will help improve fertilizer-use efficiency, maximize crop uptake and utilization, while

reducing nutrient loss to the environment and improving environmental stewardship.

In future years of the program, we hope to expand the list of available trials to address other agronomic questions and decisions. Possible trial topics include agrochemical decisions, from seed treatments, fungicides and insecticides to crop seeding rates and dates. Ensuring that the trial results and data analysis is of maximum value to growers is paramount, and the staff behind Missouri's strip trial program are happy to hear your feedback on the things you'd like to compare.

Participation in the new strip trial program will begin with the 2016 growing season. Signups are set to begin in January around the state with outreach on the program incorporated into grower meetings, as well as available by contacting program staff directly. Your Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council staff and other partners will be sharing those details, including specifically how to sign up, at our organization's regional meetings this winter.

For details on the regional meeting nearest you, please check our website at [www.mosoy.org](http://www.mosoy.org). Want to know more now? Send Missouri Soybeans' director of environmental programs, Darrick Steen, an email at [DSteen@mosoy.org](mailto:DSteen@mosoy.org).



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION

**M**SA is entering its 50th year of ensuring that your interests are represented in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. Whether you raise soybeans or livestock, or if you're simply interested in the industry, the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) invites you to join our efforts. Membership dues are just \$60 per year, \$160 for three years or \$1,000 for a lifetime membership. You can join online at <https://mosoy.org/online-membership-application/>, by calling the office at (573) 635-3819 or by visiting with your Soybean Association staff at an upcoming event.

Your membership dues assist us in conducting important policy work that checkoff dollars cannot be used for. Membership in MSA also makes you a member of the American Soybean Association (ASA).

In this era of increased government regulation at every turn, MSA works closely with our federal and state elected officials to continually protect your freedom to operate and to protect your bottom line. Specifically, MSA has worked hard to push back against EPA's onerous Waters of the U.S. rule that will bring nothing but uncertainty and confusion to your operation. On the Renewable Fuel Standard, we have urged EPA to set targets for biodiesel at a favorable level that closely mirrors actual production. In Jefferson City, we at MSA are doing everything we can to ensure final payments toward the Missouri Qualified Biodiesel Producer Incentive Fund are appropriated as soon as possible. We fought hard for a 10 percent weight limit increase during harvest on state highways, allowing you to more efficiently transport your crop.

We're excited to recognize our lifetime members this year with an attractive metal sign, personalized with their name or farm name on it. The signs make a great addition to

## Save the Date

### Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration

Missouri soybean farmers' annual gathering at the Capitol has been set for 2016. In addition to celebrating 50 years of the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri soybean farmers will meet with industry representatives, legislators and one another for the Missouri Soybean Association's annual meeting February 1-2 in Jefferson City.

The Missouri Soybean Association's annual meeting will include an evening reception, business meeting and keynote address, as well as an opportunity for Missouri soybean farmers to schedule personal visits with their legislators.

In addition to those activities, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council will be hosting a breakfast in the Capitol and will be featuring biodiesel-fueled vehicles.

The annual meeting is open to the public and free to members of the Missouri Soybean Association.

To learn more about the Missouri Soybean Association's annual meeting, or learn how to RSVP, visit [mosoy.org](http://mosoy.org) or call the Missouri Soybean office at (573) 635-3819.

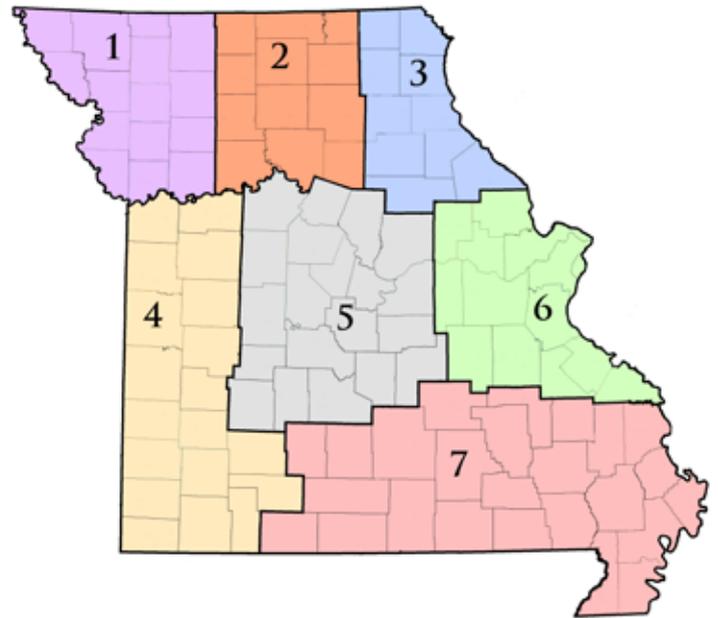
*...continued on page 10*

# Legal Notice To Missouri Soybean Producers

An election will be held to elect four (4) soybean producers to the 13 member Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, which manages the funds collected through the soybean checkoff program. The terms of office will be for three (3) years and the election will be as follows: four (4) members are to be elected; one (1) each from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7. Ballots will be mailed by the Missouri Department of Agriculture March 4, 2016, to each registered producer in the four (4) Districts. Ballots must be returned to the Missouri Department of Agriculture in Jefferson City, by mail, postmarked no later than April 1, 2016.

Any duly registered commercial producer of soybeans is eligible to vote for the Council candidates from his/her District. Producers must be registered to vote. Current registered producers whose address has changed in the last five (5) years should re-register or contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture at (573) 751-5633 or P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102 by February 3, 2016, in order to receive a ballot. Non-registered producers must register prior to February 3, 2016, at the USDA County FSA Office or online at: [www.agriculture.mo.gov/councils/](http://www.agriculture.mo.gov/councils/) to receive a ballot for this election.

Any qualified producer may be nominated and have his/her name placed on the ballot, provided he/she presents the Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture a nominating petition signed by at least 100 soybean producers prior to February 3, 2016. Such petitions are available at the Missouri Department of Agriculture in Jefferson City, Mo. Please direct any questions to Missouri Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or (573) 751-5633.



**The soy checkoff is looking for farmers** from diverse backgrounds to get involved in the United Soybean Board or Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. There are a variety of opportunities to serve, and your talent and input can make a difference.

**Help to lead the U.S. soybean industry into the future. Contact the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council at [www.MOsoy.org](http://www.MOsoy.org) and get involved today, or visit [www.UnitedSoybean.org/GetInvolved](http://www.UnitedSoybean.org/GetInvolved).**

**YOUR PERSPECTIVE IS WORTH GROWING**



# DISTRICT SOYBEAN MEETINGS

any farm entrance, shop or office wall. Lifetime members should expect to receive their sign this winter.

Beyond the benefits of representation on state and national issues affecting soybean producers, membership in MSA and ASA provides a broad range of direct benefits. Members receive regular updates on industry and policy news through the weekly Leader Letters e-newsletter, as well as opportunities for technical, leadership and other professional development training. Members receive monthly email updates filled with the latest legislative happenings, agronomic information and upcoming events. Members also receive subscriptions to American Soybean and Missouri Soybean Farmer magazines and direct contact from state and national staff, as well as special discounts with industry partners.

Because ASA is a member of the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), all ASA members may take advantage of special savings on vehicle purchases through the GM Supplier Discount, Chrysler Affiliate Rewards and Ford Partner Recognition X-Plan Pricing programs, made possible through partnerships between NBB and the automakers.

MSA and ASA members have the opportunity to take advantage of other discounts as well. One popular benefit is the option to purchase Cabela's gift cards at a 10 percent discount as well as a \$100 savings when registering for Commodity Classic. Commodity Classic is the annual convention and trade show for five leading commodity membership associations: American Soybean Association, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers and National Sorghum Producers.

Members also receive a 20 percent discount on an annual subscription to eLegacyConnect, a subscription-based succession planning web community for succession planning. Future generations further benefit from a national scholarship program. Children and grandchildren of ASA members who are pursuing degrees in agriculture are eligible to compete for the \$5,000 Secure Optimal Yield (SOY) Scholarship. The ASA SOY scholarship is made possible by an educational grant by BASF Corporation.

MSA met its membership goal for last year and we're planning to do that again this year. Our goal is to add 500 new members and retain 90 percent of current membership. To do that, we need your help. Now is the time to join or renew your existing membership. Beyond that, we need you to join us in sharing those benefits - a great way is to ask your neighbors to join MSA as well.

Choosing to be part of the MSA means joining a successful team that is making a difference for agriculture in Missouri, in the U.S. and around the world. Whether it's keeping watch on regulations affecting agriculture or supporting home-grown biodiesel, MSA is making a difference in soybean farmers' bottom line.

## **District 1**

Jan. 13 – Winter Soybean & Corn Regional Meeting, Fulkerson Center, Missouri Western, St. Joseph

Feb. 19 – Winter Soybean & Corn Regional Meeting, Mo. Dept. of Ag Director Richard Fordyce Farm, Bethany

## **District 2**

Feb. 18 – Winter Soybean & Corn Regional Meeting in conjunction with Young Farmers, Litton Center, Chilli-cothe

## **District 3**

Jan. 6 – Winter Soybean & Corn Regional Meeting, Knox Co. Community Center, Edina

Jan. 25 – Audrain Co. Soils & Crops Conference, sponsored by Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council & Missouri Soybean Association, Mexico High School

## **District 4**

Feb. 9 – Barton Co. Soils & Crops Conference, sponsored by Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council & Missouri Soybean Association, Thiebaut Auditorium, Lamar

Feb. 11 – Winter Soybean & Corn Regional Meeting, Brice Fischer Farm, Rockville

## **District 5**

Jan. 5 – Winter Soybean Regional Meeting, Robert Alpers Farm, Prairie Home

## **District 6**

Jan. 11 – Perry Co. Farm Bureau Legislative & Commodity Conference, sponsored by Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Missouri Soybean Association & Missouri Corn, Perryville

Jan. 21 – University Extension Winter Regional Soybean & Corn Meeting, sponsored by Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Missouri Soybean Association & Missouri Corn, Knights of Columbus, Union

## **District 7**

Jan. 12 – University Extension Winter Regional Soybean Meeting, sponsored by Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council & Missouri Soybean Association, Miner Convention Center, Sikeston

*Additional meetings are being planned for March 2016, and will be announced online at [mosoy.org](http://mosoy.org) and in the February 2016 issue of Missouri Soybean Farmer magazine.*



**Make soybean cyst nematodes useful.  
Turn them into fertilizer.**

While other seed treatments claim to be effective against soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), Clariva® Complete Beans seed treatment, a combination of separate products, is the only broad-spectrum seed treatment proven to kill them all season long. As it acts to destroy SCN, it also reduces damage from sudden death syndrome (SDS). All this lethal power comes from a tough nematicide paired with the unbeaten insect and disease protection of CruiserMaxx® Beans with Vibrance® seed treatment, a combination of separately registered products. So contact your Syngenta representative or visit [ClarivaCompleteBeans.com](http://ClarivaCompleteBeans.com). And take back your fields.

 **Clariva® Complete  
Beans**

**syngenta®**

© 2015 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Some crop protection products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status. Clariva Complete Beans is an on-seed application of Clariva pn and CruiserMaxx Vibrance. CruiserMaxx Beans with Vibrance is an on-seed application of CruiserMaxx Vibrance and Apron XL. Clariva®, CruiserMaxx®, Vibrance®, the Alliance Frame, the Purpose Icon and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. MW 17175010-P1-V1 06/15

®

# SOYBEAN MANAGEMENT PREPARING FOR 2016



*Mark Twain said "If you don't like the weather in New England now, wait a few minutes."*

By Bill Wiebold

I have lived in five states and every one of those states uses some form of his quote. I've used it myself to describe Missouri weather.

In 2015 we seemed to have 3-month long periods of similar weather with major swings between the periods. For example, the University of Missouri Cooperative Extension Service weather station in Audrain County recorded 25.5 inches of rain May through July and only 2.6 inches August through October.

Frequent rains in spring and early summer prevented the planting of nearly one million acres of soybean in Missouri and caused another million acres to be planted after July 1. In early August the spigot closed and bright sun with few opportunities for rain occurred. The University of Missouri has two of the world's best plant breeders, but even they can't select for varieties that would be unharmed by this weather pattern.

Many reported soybean yields were good and some have been outstanding. The MU Variety Testing Program planted 127 Maturity Group 3 and 4 varieties near Henrietta on June 4 and average yield was 68 bushels per acre. We planted 104 varieties near Craig on June 24 and average yield was 59 bushels per acre. Not every location was this good – we had several location averages in the low 40 bushels per acre. Some Missouri fields planted in mid-July produced too few soybeans to pay for harvest. We know that delayed planting reduces yield when averaged over several years. But, every year produces a unique response to planting date.

High soybean yields in 2015 came from areas with soils with high water holding capacity – deep soils and loam textures. Stored water nourished the plants in August. We also experience greater sunlight to drive photosynthesis and lower August temperatures so more sugar was made into yield. Not all areas were blessed. Ultra-late planted soybeans needed normal rain amounts in Septem-

ber, but that did not occur in most areas of the state. As we plan for 2016, several consequences from the 2015 season may affect soybean management. Trying to plant fields during wet weather resulted in ruts and soil compaction. Fortunately, soils were dry during harvest, so heavy combines and wagons did not add additional damage. Tillage to improve compaction works best with dry soil. Our soils are still dry because below normal rain amounts continue so fall tillage to close ruts and reduce compaction is possible.

There may be some concern with what is often called "fallow syndrome." This results in crops performing poorly when planted in fields that had not been planted in the previous year and kept fallow. Crop plant roots are infected by fungi called vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizae (VAM). These are beneficial fungi and help plants absorb nutrients. VAM populations decline when plants are not grown, so in fallow fields VAM populations may be too low in spring 2016. Although soybean is less sensitive to reduced VAM than corn, it would be prudent to test soil for phosphorous and add fertilizer according to test results.

A somewhat related issue is whether inoculating soybean seed in 2016 will be necessary. The active ingredients of an inoculant are bacteria, not fungi. These bacteria form a relationship with soybean roots to produce nodules and to perform nitrogen fixation. Rhizobia bacteria can live without soybean plants as free-living bacteria in soils. Their numbers drop slowly over several years without soybeans in the field, but one year even with the unusual weather of 2015 would not be enough to reduce population below a critical level. I'm not opposed to inoculation, but the reasons would be other than the 2015 weather.

Some farmers may have planted cover crops on prevented planted acres. These will help reduce erosion and may contribute to VAM. Many cover crops species, such as ce-

*Bill Wiebold is Missouri's State Soybean Specialist for the University of Missouri's Cooperative Extension Service, and is based in Columbia. His work is partially funded by Missouri's soybean farmers and their checkoff.*



**Late-June 2015 soybeans on a farm in mid-Missouri**

real rye or wheat, survive winter and grow in early spring. The effectiveness of cover crop control decreases as plants become large, so timely burndown application and planting of the soybean or corn is in order.

Weed control in 2015 was an issue in both planted and unplanted fields. Some weeds grew large and produced many seeds, so seed banks in many fields are large. For this reason, weed populations in 2016 may be larger than normal and timely control even more important.

Some of the 2015 weeds resulted from poor control by glyphosate. Not every large weed in 2015 was resistant to glyphosate, but attempted control through several glyphosate applications increased the selection pressure. Resistant weeds will be difficult or impossible to control with glyphosate in 2016. A mixture of herbicides with more than one mode of action will offer you the best control.

I've focused on issues related to the wet spring and early summer because those are issues most likely to affect 2016 soybean management.

Dry weather can also have lasting effects on soybean, but these effects are usually from season-long droughts – not just late summer and fall. In fact, a dry fall may help us correct some of the problems resulting from the wet spring.

## **Additional Resources: SOIL TESTING**

If soil testing is in your management plan for this winter, the University of Missouri offers those services. The Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory operates in partnership between the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and Extension. Growers may submit samples of soil, plant, water, manure, compost and greenhouse media for analysis by mail and walk-in. The laboratory provides clients unbiased, research-based recommendations based on their test results.

Soil test reports for samples processed through the laboratory are available online, where the test reports can be accessed with a password. Reports are also delivered via U.S. mail and email upon request.

A full listing of fees and contacts for the Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory is online at <http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/soil/>.

The laboratory analyzes about 25,000 to 35,000 field crop (farm) soil samples, plus thousands of samples from fruit, vegetable and ornamental plant facilities each year.

Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory  
23 Mumford Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
Phone - (573) 882-0623  
Email - [soiltestingservices@missouri.edu](mailto:soiltestingservices@missouri.edu)

Soil Testing Laboratory Delta Research Center  
P.O. Box 160  
Portageville, MO 63873  
Phone - (573) 379-5431

The Missouri Soil Testing Association Accreditation Program (MSTA), recognizes private soil testing facilities using the same processes as the Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory. For 2015, two additional Missouri-based laboratories were recognized – Perry Agricultural Lab in Bowling Green, and Custom Laboratory, Inc. in Golden City. Contact information for those facilities is available on the Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory as well.

To learn more, visit the Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory online at <http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/soil/>, or visit the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources online at [cafnr.missouri.edu](http://cafnr.missouri.edu).

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
 **Extension**

# MAKING THE GRADE

*The grain inspection program at the Missouri Department of Agriculture helps Missouri-grown soybeans and other crops move smoothly into the international marketplace - a key transition given that more than half our soybeans are exported.*

By Sarah Alsager and Jimmy Williams

Missouri soybean farmers understand the importance of the export market. Missouri is a national leader in the production of soybeans and approximately half of those soybeans leave the state, destined for foreign countries including China, Mexico and Canada. What many soybean farmers may not be aware of is how the Grain Inspection Services program, within the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA), assists with the export of this extremely important commodity.

Missouri's Grain Inspection program serves as an official service provider for USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). Official grain inspection agencies are sanctioned by FGIS to sample, inspect and grade grain, in accordance with the United States Grain Standards Act. Grain handlers in our state who export soybeans and other grains depend on the ability of Missouri grain inspectors to recognize defects that impact the market worth of their products.

Official grading of grain provides a credible basis for how the commodity is ultimately marketed and determines the ultimate use of the product by quantifying various quality

*Sarah Alsager and Jimmy Williams work for the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Alsager serves as the Department's public information officer; Williams is the administrator for the Grain Inspection Services program.*



**Sampling a load of soybeans by hand**

factors such as damage, foreign material, odor, etc. The tremendous privilege of serving as Missouri's official grain inspection agency brings with it tremendous responsibilities; MDA is required to adhere to a strict set of rules and regulations when inspecting grain.

Only approved grain inspection equipment can be used by grain inspection staff, and inspectors must be federally licensed before they are allowed to perform the various aspects of the job. FGIS officials closely monitor official grain inspectors routinely by reviewing file samples of previously graded samples to ensure grading accuracy. Official agencies are also required to provide timely service to their grain inspection customers.

Many grain elevators load barges and railcars of grain seven days a week, day and night. Official grain inspectors must be willing to work varied work schedules that are subject to change at a moment's notice. While these strict protocols are demanding, they help ensure that grain handlers throughout the country provide reliable service and accurate measurements of their grain quality that remain consistent as the grain moves from one location to the next.



## Here's a look at a typical inspection job timeline for MDA grain inspector "Mark."

**Sunday, 8:00 p.m.**

### **Pre-inspection Checklist**

Mark reports to work at the grain elevator. The train, comprised of 110 railcars, pulled into the high speed shuttle loading facility about an hour ago. Once inside the on-site lab, which is operated and maintained by the inspection staff, Mark runs through a mental checklist of items to ensure that he is ready when the loading begins. Laboratory scales are checked to make sure they are weighing properly and the stowage camera monitor and moisture machine are both turned on and checked to ensure systems are operating correctly. Copies of the load order and car list are reviewed and pan tickets are pre-filled with requisite information. Grading lights are turned on and checked to ensure the brightness conforms to FGIS guidelines.

**9:00 p.m.**

### **Pelican Preparation**

Once Mark verifies that all inspection equipment is on and working properly, he makes his way to the automatic (diverter-type) sampler located within the grain spout (near the grain scale) where he breaks the security seals and opens an access area to examine the pelican. The pelican is a sampling container that sweeps back and forth across the stream of grain as it flows through the spout. The pelican operates on a timer and delivers a representative sample of grain into a collection box located in the on-site lab. The inspector checks the pelican to ensure that it is operating correctly and that the dust seals, where the pelican rests when not in motion, are free from tears or rips. Once the operation of the automatic sampler has been confirmed, Mark makes his way back down to the on-site lab and prepares for grain loading to commence.

**9:30 p.m.**

### **Railcar Loading and Sampling**

High speed shuttle-loading facilities, which are becoming more common throughout Missouri, have the ability to load a railcar with grain every three minutes. This extremely fast loading results in a high pressure work environment for Mark and his technician crew. When the train begins moving, the stowage camera, mounted above the train, peers down into the individual railcars and provides him with a "birds-eye" view of the inside. Mark carefully views the monitor, ensuring that the railcar is clean and free from any material that could pose a contamination issue. Elevator personnel stop the first railcar under the spout and loading commences. As the grain begins to fall through the spout at an extremely fast rate, the automatic sampler delivers a representative sample to one of the technicians. The tech then runs the soybeans through an approved grain divider which results in two equal portions of grain. One portion is placed in a file sample container and stored on the shelf. The "work" portion is passed to another tech, who performs moisture analyses and prepares the sample for grading.

**10:00 p.m.**

### **Official Inspection**

It's now Mark's turn to take the soybean sample. He carefully pours the work portion onto the grading table and begins inspecting each individual bean. It is tedious work that requires a sharp eye and attention to detail. Quite often, Mark will be required to take a razor blade and cut the bean in half, checking for green damage. He is also studying each bean for extremely small tell-tale signs of stink bug damage. Throughout the thorough examination, Mark is carefully recording percentages of heat damage, total damage, foreign material, splits and soybeans of other colors.

**Monday, 12:00 a.m.**

### **Designating the Grade**

Once all of these percentages have been calculated based on the weight of the separations and the weight of the total sample, Mark refers to the FGIS grading designation for soybeans in order to determine the official grade of the sample. The sample taken from the first railcar will be designated a U.S. Number 1 yellow-soybean. Once the grade has been determined, factor information is entered into the elevator's computer, allowing the grain handler to have real time information. This sampling, inspection and grading process will be repeated 110 times, until the train is completely loaded. It is critical that Mark keeps up with the pace that the elevator is loading, as elevator staff like to be able to monitor grades as the railcars are being loaded. This information can help alert the elevator to any potential problems and allow them to address them before having to dump and reload railcars.

**3:00 a.m.**

### **Wrap Up at Elevator**

On this particular night, things go well. All railcars pass the stowage exam, the quality of the soybeans is extremely good and Mark is able to keep up. The train loading is completed. After Mark cleans up the work area, shuts down all of the sampling and measuring equipment, he heads to the field office.

**3:30 a.m.**

### **Submit Paperwork**

Upon arrival at the office, the pan tickets from the night's work are laid on the manager's desk to be entered into the certification database first thing Monday morning. Once all pan ticket information is entered, official grade certificates are made available to the grain elevator for each railcar of soybeans inspected. These official certificates bear the insignia of FGIS, accurately describe the condition and quality of the grain and are considered legal documents that are admissible in court in the event of a dispute. These certificates are respected by foreign governments around the world.

During the recent fall harvest, Missouri grain elevators throughout the state have been busy shipping soybeans to the export market. Much of this grain leaves the elevator either by rail or by barge. Once the elevator manager knows when the grain is expected to be loaded, the Grain Inspection Services Field Office is contacted. In Missouri, those offices are in New Madrid, Marshall and St. Joseph. Following a Missouri grain inspector around for a day can be an eye-opening experience into how important their job is to a Missouri soybean farmer.

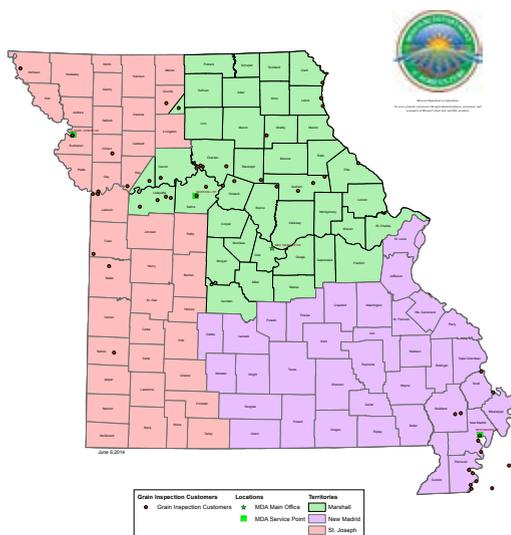
The work of a Missouri grain inspector can be very similar to that of a Missouri soybean farmer. Both are required to ensure that equipment is in good condition and ready to use when the time comes. Both jobs can be extremely demanding, requiring flexibility and the ability to adjust to ever-changing conditions. Both are required to stay up to date on the latest rules and regulations that govern their chosen professions and, most importantly, both are responsible for making sure Missouri remains one of the leading exporters of soybeans in the nation.

While much of the work of an official grain inspector occurs behind the scenes at the grain elevator, these men and women play a pivotal role in the marketing and movement of grain throughout the state. Missouri soybean farmers can take pride in the fact that the official grain inspection system and the Missouri Department of Agriculture are doing their part to ensure delivery of a quality product to the state's grain partners, thus ensuring continued demand for that product.



**Running soybeans through an approved grain divider is one of the first steps in the grain inspection process. The divider results in two equal portions of grain, one of which is placed in a file sample container and stored. The second portion is tested for moisture content and used for determining the grain grade.**

Missouri Grain Inspection Customer Locations



*The Grain Inspection Services Program is designated to officially inspect, grade and weigh all grains that have standards established under the United States Grain Standards Act. The program provides official certification of grades on all major crops grown within the state. While official inspection certificates are only available for samples collected by official personnel, Missouri's Grain Inspection Services program also provides inspection services for submitted samples. Submitted sample certificates are issued for grain samples collected by individuals other than official grain inspection personnel. Every year, thousands of grain samples are submitted to Missouri's Grain Inspection Services program by farmers, grain insurance companies and grain elevators.*

*To learn more about this and other programs of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, visit [agriculture.mo.gov](http://agriculture.mo.gov) or call (573) 751-4211.*



# WORKING GLOBALLY TO MEET DEMAND FOR MEAT TO GROW SOYBEAN MARKETS

**W**e know that the livestock industry is a huge market for the soybeans we grow in Missouri. Soybean meal is a high protein component of feed for cattle, hogs and poultry – last year livestock ate almost one million tons of our soybean meal. A little more than 40 percent of that went to beef cattle and hogs. Representing Missouri Soybean at the U.S. Meat Export Federation meetings has been an incredible experience for me, and I'm looking forward to learning more.

During the past two meetings, I've gotten to see some of the work done by the USMEF board and staff that directly affects us here in Missouri. Specifically, USMEF has done roughly 150 meat seminars around the country. They have also done American-style BBQ in Japan and Korea as well as demonstrations in Mexico to promote U.S. pork as the "center-of-the-plate" in Mexico's hotels and restaurants. That's important knowing that Japan is the top export market for our pork. Mexico takes more than one-third of our pork exports and their demand is growing faster than they can grow their own grain and pork production.

For beef, USMEF has taken diverse groups, from cow/calf operators and feed lot owners to butchers and chefs, to Japan to teach different ways to prepare cuts of meat. Since a lot of Japanese cuisine is quickly prepared, the "low and slow" method was new – but the guests greatly enjoyed the end result. In Japan, U.S. beef has duties of 38.5 percent, which will be lowered to nine percent over the next 15 years. We're looking at Japan because as those duties drop, they'll go from having the highest duties of all major markets to being a very strong market opportunity for our beef.

During the last meeting, we spent time talking about how those livestock markets and stocks of corn and soybeans will impact the prices we see for our crops at market. In the Grain & Livestock Outlook, we heard that soybeans will be at 11.5 percent stocks, rather than the more normal four to six percent carry over. The predicted bean price range for 2015-2016 is \$8.40 to \$9.90. The 2014-15 price was an average of \$10.10.

The next USMEF board of directors meeting is set for May 25-27, 2016, in St. Louis.

--Nathan Alpers

*The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) is a nonprofit trade association representing the many producers involved bringing beef, pork and lamb to markets around the world. Members include livestock producers and processors, processors, grain producers and other industry partners, including the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC).*

*Nathan Alpers, a cattle and row crop farmer from Prairie Home, Mo. voluntarily represents MSMC and Missouri's more than 30,000 soybean checkoff investors with USMEF and in the organization's work to develop international markets for red meat produced in the U.S.*

*Headquartered in Denver, USMEF has offices in Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Mexico City, Monterrey and Brussels. USMEF also has special market representatives covering China, the Middle East, Central and South America and the Caribbean.*



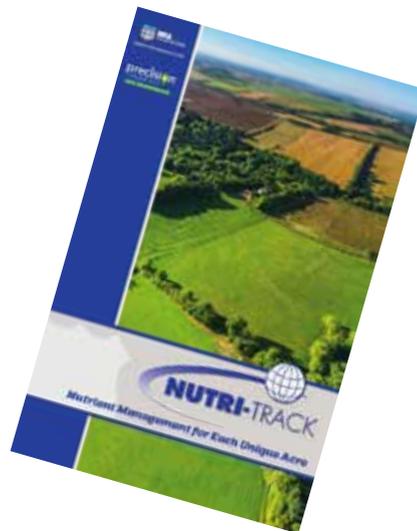
**Nathan Alpers (right), with his father, Robert, during soybean harvest on their farm in central Missouri.**



# PRECISION AG

## GOING BEYOND GPS TO IMPROVE THE BOTTOM LINE

**“We are applying the right amount of fertilizer to the right area instead of over applying in low-producing areas of the field... Our goal is to make sure we are using nutrients to the best of their ability.”**



By Jason Weirich

At MFA, we believe that precision agriculture brings with it one of the best messages commodity farmers can deliver to the general public. Precision agriculture, by its very nature, is proof that we want to be good stewards of the land. We want to deliver just the right amount of nutrients to a crop. We want to conserve. And we want that crop to reach its highest genetic potential.

That's one reason we're happy to partner with the Missouri Soybean Association on the Bay Farm and Smith Farm.

We'll use our Nutri-Track program to get accurate and timely information to the researchers and farm managers. Nutri-Track is MFA's program designed to manage, maintain and track fertility levels across operations by combining GPS-based soil testing and yield monitoring. Whether the crop is corn, soybeans, wheat or forage, the soil's nutrient levels are critical to maximize production. Nutri-Track has three unique stages. Growers from all sizes of operations have found them useful.

### **Stage 1: Intensive Soil Sampling**

This 2.5-acre grid-sampling program will provide a baseline for a field's nutrient levels and soil properties. This is essential to correct any underlying problems so that growers can maximize yield. MFA also uses this program for range and pasture ground to maximizing forage production and grazing capacities.

### **Stage 2: Intensive Soil Sampling with Yield Monitor Crop Removal**

We combine the information we receive from our 2.5-acre grid samples with yield data to provide a tailored recommendation for a field's nutrient removal and build program.

By using yield monitor data we no longer have to use a flat yield removal. Thus, we are applying the right amount of fertilizer to the right area instead of over applying in low-producing areas of the field.

### **Stage 3: Yield Monitor Crop Removal**

This is perfect for fields that already have optimum fertility. The goal is to maintain those levels by replacing exactly what was removed in grain or forage. This program is also popular on rented ground.

The question that I always get is, “Why should I enroll in

*Jason Weirich is the Director of Agronomy for MFA Incorporated based in Columbia. His responsibilities include training of MFA employees, variety testing, applied agronomic research and new product evaluation through field trials. To learn more about the precision agriculture programs featured here, as well as other programs from MFA Incorporated, visit <http://www.mfa-inc.com/>.*



**Mapping nutrient needs is one benefit of the program. This map identifies deficient areas on the Missouri Soybean Association's Bay Farm.**

this program?" We all know that there are areas in crop fields that out yield others. By using precision agriculture, we can apply fertilizer with variable-rate technology. We can get the right amount in the places that need it. It maximizes production and reduces waste of nutrients.

The next question that I get is, "If I sign up in the program, I will spend less money on nutrients, right?"

That is not always the case. What we have seen is a trend to under fertilize highly productive areas of the field and over fertilize less productive areas. The goal is to maximize yield to the ability of the soil and crop genetics. You may increase fertilizer use in some areas. You may reduce it in others.

Last growing season was a tough one. We were subjected to extreme wet and extreme dry in the same year. Understanding what nutrients were removed (or, in many cases, not removed) will help build a successful fertility program for the coming growing year.

I like to remind growers and the general public that at MFA we support the 4 Rs. That's the Right fertilizer source, Right rate, Right time, and Right place. It makes sense for the grower and the environment. Our goal is to make sure we are using nutrients to the best of their ability. We want to minimize excessive application and maximize profit.

# TRANSPORTATION AND THE SOY CHECKOFF



*Congestion at Brazilian ports, U.S. port labor disputes and market access issues impact U.S. soybean farmers*

The U.S. transportation system makes it possible to move soybeans from areas of surplus to areas of deficit, ensuring both domestic and international customers receive a steady supply of U.S. soybeans. U.S. soybean farmers depend on the country's transportation system to be profitable, but third parties involved can either encourage or inhibit the movement of agricultural commodities.

The checkoff continues to monitor a variety of issues that could impact your bottom line, including congestion at Brazilian ports, U.S. port labor disputes and market issues in soy-importing countries.

## **Congestion at Brazilian Ports Worsens**

U.S. soy sales may soon pick up at Brazil's expense. According to Reuters, a perfect storm of wet weather and congestion at Brazilian grain terminals is causing serious delays for Brazilian soy exports. Although Brazil's soybean prices are attractive to buyers in China and other international markets, these delays could cause Brazil to lose business to the U.S.

International soy buyers often say that predictability of delivery is just as important to them as price. In fact, some international buyers prefer U.S. soy because they can count on it reaching them in a timely manner, according to a soy-checkoff-funded study.

Soy buyers pay attention to the timeliness of a shipment delivery in addition to price. Late shipments can be expensive for buyers, as they incur costs in trying to find replacement crop, slowing down crush facilities and other problems that arise when shipments don't arrive in the time frame that was promised.

## **U.S. Port Labor Disputes**

Labor issues that cause disruption at U.S. West Coast ports are an area of concern for the U.S. soy industry. Last year, contract negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association stalled and eventually required government intervention to move forward.

According to the Journal of Commerce (JOC), the risk of disruption is greatest as negotiators get closer to the end of the current contract. The ILWU is bound by a clause in its current contract barring strikes during the life of the contract, but slowdowns are harder to prevent, the JOC says. Slowdowns and strikes affect the exports of U.S. soy to international customers, which hurts U.S. soy's competitive advantage of reliability.

After experiencing issues that heated up in late 2013 through 2014, companies like United Grain Corporation are now back to business as usual. The current agreement between the ILWU and grain groups is now in effect until May 31, 2018.

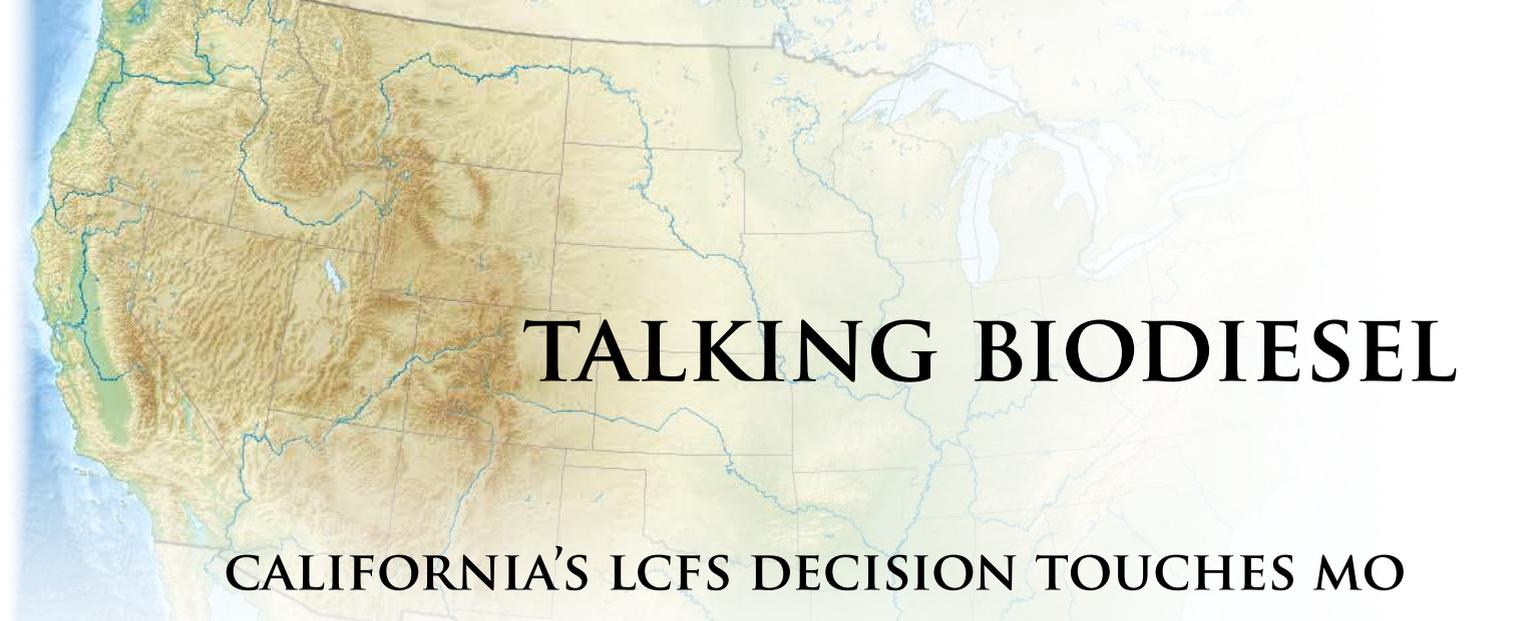
The Agricultural Reauthorizations Act of 2015 included provisions that will help prevent future disruptions at the ports by reauthorizing the Mandatory Price Reporting Act, the U.S. Grain Standards Act and the National Forest Foundation Act. This act was signed into law by President Obama on Sept. 30, 2015. After a period of volatility, business at the ports is coming into balance.

## **Market Issues in Soy-Importing Countries**

Transportation is part of a larger issue: international market access. The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) reports several market access issues that could affect U.S. farmers' ability to get soybeans to their international customers.

- The Philippines Bureau of Customs (BOC) could be reconsidering a regulation governing inspecting shipments to ensure they contain the reported cargo. This regulation is called the Load Port Survey (LPS) program, and the expansion of this legislation could affect container shipments of U.S. soy.
- In China, there are delays in off-loading vessels and longer term warehousing until tests for GM material are concluded. China quarantine officials continue to report finding seed-treated soybeans in shipments, but have not stopped trade due to this presence thus far.
- Taiwan legislature approved a GMO food labeling law in January 2014, and the Taiwan FDA is currently drafting implementation regulations for the new law. This impacts all soy products except soybean oil. This issue could diminish demand for bulk soybeans delivered in containers from the U.S.
- In Japan, the U.S. soy industry has experienced trade disruptions due to detections of chemical residues that exceed the country's tolerances. As U.S. soybean farmers use new herbicide mixes to address glyphosate-tolerant weeds, there is a need to monitor those chemicals and the maximum residue level policies in export markets.
- In the Middle East and North Africa, there is interest from importers in containerized shipments, but the logistics are difficult.
- In Pakistan, there is always interest in soybean oil, but freight charges are a disadvantage.

*This article was prepared by staff of the United Soybean Board and was first published at [unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org).*



# TALKING BIODIESEL

## CALIFORNIA'S LCFS DECISION TOUCHES MO

By Christine Tew

This fall, the California Air Resources Board finalized California's revised Low Carbon Fuels Standard. The new standard affirms America's Advanced Biofuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent and often by as much as 81 percent versus petroleum. This gives biodiesel the best carbon score among all liquid fuels.

The decision in California supports what biodiesel advocates have long declared – not only is biodiesel safer to store, handle and transport than petroleum based diesel fuel, it's also an environmentally friendly choice for diesel engines. That's good news for Missouri.

"Biodiesel is the most sustainable fuel on the planet," said Don Scott, National Biodiesel Board director of sustainability. "Low carbon alternatives can also be low cost alternatives when we use diverse supplies of renewable resources. This validates that California's carbon reduction goals are obtainable."

Missouri is home to nine biodiesel plants and ranks second in the nation for biodiesel production with roughly 200 million gallons per year. Much of Missouri's biodiesel production is exported to coastal states, suggesting that California's decision may support increased demand for biodiesel.

As part of their state's low carbon fuel standard, the California Air Resources Board has refined comprehensive lifecycle analysis to quantify the carbon intensity of conventional and alternative fuels. More than seven years of analysis have gone into addressing questions including indirect land use change. California's lifecycle model incorporates all the impacts for producing a fuel's raw materials including conversion and transportation. The model also includes the indirect economic impacts of growth in global agriculture-making it one of the most thorough and rigorous evaluations ever done to quantify the environmental footprint of biofuels.

The findings echo what the U.S. EPA determined five years ago in establishing the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Under that program, biodiesel qualifies as an

Advanced Biofuel, with the EPA analysis showing that it reduces carbon emissions from 57 percent to 86 percent.

"California's analysis, which has been validated by independent academic review, provides confidence that biodiesel is, without question, a more sustainable alternative for transportation fuel. The commercial success of the growing biodiesel industry suggests goals to further reduce greenhouse gases and displace imported petroleum are appropriate and achievable. With a focus on carbon reduction and the national policy to support it, biodiesel could reduce carbon emission by 40 million tons annually," Scott said.

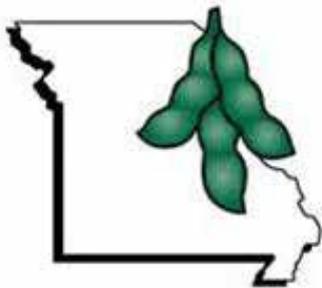
Biodiesel is also an economic driver. Since 2007, the Missouri biodiesel industry has seen \$1.17 billion in value-added benefit to our GDP, and continues to support more than 2500 jobs. Nationally, biodiesel supports more than 62,000 jobs.

Biodiesel is also credited for saving animal agriculture, particularly livestock producers, \$4.8 billion over five years through reduced soybean meal prices - as a result of increased market demand for soybean oil.

In Missouri, the savings direct to livestock producers is estimated at \$21 million, with the bulk of that going to poultry and pork producers - \$11.85 million and \$7.49 million, respectively. Cattle producers also see a savings of just under \$2 million in the cost of soybean meal for their feed rations.



--The National Biodiesel Board contributed to this article.



# HONOR WALL

*Good news from those working on behalf of Missouri soybean farmers*

## LUECK REPRESENTS MISSOURI IN GHANA

Missouri soybean farmer David Lueck, of Alma, recently joined other U.S. soybean grower leaders visiting Ghana to learn about trade relationships and the local poultry sector. Lueck, who serves as chairman of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, joined American Soybean Association (ASA) Director, Bill Wykes (IL) and Illinois Soybean Association Chairman Daryl Cates for the Agribusiness Trade Mission in Accra, Ghana hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The trade contacts met with representatives from six African countries and traveled with the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden to the Kumasi region to visit agribusinesses. The agenda also included a feedmill tour.

While in Kumasi, the delegation met with representatives from national and regional poultry producers associations. They discussed the launch of the USDA Food for Progress Initiative to help enhance the value chain in Ghana's poultry farming industry.

USDA recently signed a contract with ASA's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) program for \$15 million over 5 years to strengthen the feed and poultry sectors in Ghana.



**David Lueck (left), Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden (center) and others tour Ghana's largest feed mill with U.S. soybean grower leaders and Akate Feed Mill manager. The group examines bags of U.S. soybean meal used at the facility.**

---

## MU SOYBEAN RESEARCHER RECOGNIZED

Dr. Henry Nguyen, professor of plant sciences, was recently named a 2015 Curators Professor, the University of Missouri's highest and most prestigious rank.

Nguyen earned his Ph.D. in agronomy (genetics) from MU in 1982. He returned to MU in 2002 as the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Endowed Professor of Genetics and Soybean Biotechnology, Division of Plant Sciences. He has served as the Director of the National Center for Soybean Biotechnology since 2004.

His research emphasizes biotechnology and molecular genetics.

Nguyen is part of numerous professional and honorary societies and serves in many capacities at MU. In 2009, he was named a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2005, he received an Outstanding Research Award from the Missouri Soybean Association. Nguyen is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and Crops Science Society of America.



**Henry Nguyen**

## GIBSON HONORED WITH AG ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Todd Gibson receives his award from Director Fordyce while surrounded by family in November. The visit included a farm tour, which was broadcast on the social media app Periscope.**

**T**odd Gibson, a corn and soybean producer near Norborne, was recognized with a Governor's Award for Agricultural Achievement, which honors outstanding farmers, growers and processors for their work with agricultural commodities and their communities.

The award was presented by Missouri's Director of Agriculture, Richard Fordyce, on behalf of Gov. Jay Nixon.

"Missouri farmers continue to raise the bar to meet demand from consumers locally and globally," Gov. Nixon said.

Todd Gibson and his family operate a corn and soybean farm in Carroll County outside Norborne, which proclaims itself as the "soybean capital of the world." Gibson is one of three Missouri farmers on the United Soybean Board, a national organization made up of 70 farmer-leaders who oversee the investments of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. Gibson also has been a leader in USB's Take Action program, a collaborative effort to increase farmers' awareness of the damage weeds can do, as well as provide some recommended courses of action.

"I have the honor of working on behalf of some of the best men and women in Missouri: our farmers and ranchers," Director Fordyce said.

To learn more about the Governor's Award for Agricultural Achievement and Missouri's agricultural economy, please visit [MO.gov](http://MO.gov).

## ALOT HONOREES



**Louise Bullock and Richard Fordyce**

**T**he Missouri Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow annual meeting made for a great night raising funds to support young professionals in agriculture. It was also an exciting evening for the Missouri Soybean family, as several of our partners were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the organization.

Missouri soybean farmer, director of agriculture and United Soybean Board director Richard Fordyce received the ALOT Alumni of the Year award, also known as the Bullock award after founding member Dr. J. Bruce Bullock. Dr. Bullock's widow, Louise Bullock, presented the award.

Other honorees, including Dr. Dave Baker, who was named Ag Leader of the Year, and Scott Hays, ALOT Workhorse, were recognized as well. Both Baker and Hays have worked on behalf of soybean growers and Missouri agriculture.

Congratulations are also in order for Missouri Soybean Association district three director Greg Sharpe. Sharpe was re-elected to the Agriculture Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) board of directors during that group's annual meeting November 7. Neil Caskey, who works on United Soybean Board projects as an employee of Osborn Barr in St. Louis, was elected to the ALOT board for the first time that evening.



**Greg Sharpe**

Both the Missouri Soybean Association and the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council support Missouri's ALOT program for young professionals working in agriculture. To learn more about Missouri ALOT, visit <http://www.missourialot.org/>.

# THEY STARTED AT SOYBEAN

By Lindsey Robinson

For former Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council intern Allyssa Kennedy, the positive experience she had working for Missouri farmers and telling their story confirmed her dream of working in the public relations industry. During her internship in the fall of 2005, the skills she learned gave her a strong foundation for her future career.

Kennedy grew up with a background in agriculture on her family's diversified farm in Maysville, Mo., where they raised corn, soybeans, and cattle. Highly involved in FFA during high school, she always knew she wanted to work in the agriculture industry.

Kennedy says that attending Mizzou to earn a degree in Science and Agricultural Journalism was the perfect fit for her.

"My parents both attended the University of Missouri so I was raised a Tiger," said Kennedy. "I wanted to go into agriculture communications and Mizzou has one of the best programs in the country, so it was a perfect fit."

At Mizzou, she was highly involved on campus as a member of the professional agriculture sorority Sigma Alpha, served on the CAFNR Week Planning Committee and was a member of Agriculture Communicators of Tomorrow. During the fall of her sophomore year, she worked as an intern under Haley Wansing learning communications and public relations skills.

"The summer before working at Missouri Soybean, I had a really tough experience at my first internship and I questioned if continuing in public relations was what I wanted to do," said Kennedy. "But the positive experience with people in the agriculture industry reassured me that working in communications and telling farmers' stories was the right path for me."

While she was an intern at Missouri Soybean, Kennedy was responsible for writing several articles for the Missouri Farmer magazine including a piece about the recently opened Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis,

Mo. During her internship, she also helped write several press releases and managed the subscriber list for the magazine.

"One of the standout memories from my internship was seeing my name in a byline for the first time," said Kennedy. "While I had written other things before, it was exciting to see something I had written printed."

Internships at Missouri Soybean enable students to receive hands-on experience in an area of the agriculture industry that they are interested in giving them skills for the career they want.

"My internship at the Missouri Soybean Association was a strong precursor to the Pioneer internship I did the following summer because I had experience working with farmers in the crop industry," said Kennedy.

Following graduation, she began a job in public relations working for Bader Rutter, a marketing agency based out of Wisconsin. At Bader Rutter, Kennedy worked on the Dow Agrosiences Mycogen Seeds account. She credits receiving her first job out of college to the knowledge and experience she received during the internships she had working with crops.

After working at Bader Rutter for six years, Kennedy decided to move back to Missouri and closer to home. She currently works as a Senior Account Manager at Crossroads marketing agency in Kansas City, Mo.

At Crossroads, one of the accounts she works on is Cargill Turkey.

"Working at Crossroads, I still get to be involved in the agriculture food industry telling farmers' stories," she said.

Kennedy and her husband Brendan reside in Kansas City, Mo. with their five-month-old daughter Story. She still enjoys returning to the family operation to help her brother Alex who is now the sixth generation in their family to farm in Northwest Missouri.



**Brendan, Allyssa and Story Kennedy**

*Lindsey Robinson is an intern with the Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council. She is from Wellsville, Mo., and is studying science and agriculture journalism at the University of Missouri.*

*Many students have gained valuable experience as college interns with the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and Missouri Soybean Association. This feature follows some of those outstanding people who are now making a difference for agriculture.*

**G**rowing up on his family's farm in the Missouri river bottoms near Norborne, Mo., Kyle Durham always knew he wanted to work in the agriculture industry. The internship he had at the Missouri Soybean Association helped him learn more about the industry while also working with farmers across the state helping them get the most out of their soybeans. The skills and relationships Durham formed as an intern at Missouri Soybean have stayed with him over the years.

After getting experience writing for a paper during high school, Durham became interested in communications and public relations. Growing up a Tiger, Durham says he was pretty set on attending the University of Missouri and the notoriety of the School of Journalism solidified it. Working toward a degree in General Agriculture with emphasis in Agriculture Journalism, Plant Science, and Agriculture Economics, Durham found out about the internship at Missouri Soybean through the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR) Career Services.

During his internship in the summer of 2000, Durham worked under Stephanie Gable in the public relations department writing articles for the Missouri Farmer magazine.

"The best part about the internship was being an advocate and putting a face to farming," said Durham. "That's what we were trying to do at the magazine, write articles that allowed you to paint a realistic picture of the agriculture industry."

Durham also gave presentations on behalf of the Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council. He says that one of his most memorable moments from the internship was giving a presentation at FFA camp.

"I remember Stephanie telling me to go down there and tell them about soybeans," said Durham. "So that's what I did. I really enjoyed telling students about what both the Association and Merchandising Council did and the differences between the two."

Throughout his internship he worked to put together a luncheon and program hosted at the Missouri State Fair for farm broadcasters from across the state to thank them for their work on behalf of agriculture. Durham also worked at the Missouri State Fair helping make soy doughnuts, something he says he still gets asked about.



**Kyle and Courtney Durham, with their sons, Simeon and Elijah**

During his internship, he said one of the biggest things he enjoyed was the freedom he had allowing him to focus on projects he was interested in and develop skills that would be beneficial to his career path.

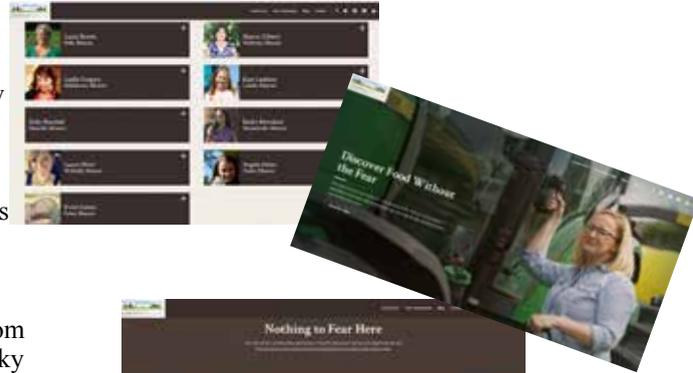
"The internship really helped me develop relationships that are definitely still influencers in my life today," said Durham. "The internship was whatever you wanted to get out of it and I gained a lot of knowledge I still use today such as being conscious of public perception and how you can be a better advocate and you're your story."

After graduating from the University of Missouri, he worked for a small public relations firm in Kansas City before the opportunity to return home and farm became available in September 2003. In his hometown of Norborne, Durham now uses the skills he learned from interning at Missouri Soybean to advocate for agriculture. Currently, he serves as Treasurer and is past president of the Carroll County Farm Bureau Board and has recently been a part of the Missouri Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Board advocating for agriculture across the state. Durham is a member of Class XV of the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) and currently serves on the board of directors for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council.

Within his community, Durham enjoys working with the Norborne Interested Citizens (NICS) to host an annual Soybean Festival, which is a two-day event that was started thirty years ago by a group his grandpa was a part of.

Since coming back to his family's farm in Norborne, Mo., Durham and his wife, Courtney, stay busy with their sons Simeon, 7 and Elijah, 3.

Missouri CommonGround has a new look online, and updated resources for farm women having conversations with consumers about how they raise crops and livestock. Brand new this fall, [findourcommonground.com](http://findourcommonground.com) debuted with a new, more user-friendly look that features photos of women on their farms. The site hosts profiles of the more than 100 program volunteers from across the country, in addition to a detailed Food Facts section that highlights the most frequently asked questions asked of volunteers and common food myths.



The new site also features a blog that includes first-person updates from volunteers. Missouri volunteers Laura Brown, Kate Lambert and Becky Moreland have been featured on the national blog recently, sharing their experiences with farm life ranging from herbicides to cover crops.

Want to know more? Check it out online at [findourcommonground.com](http://findourcommonground.com), on Facebook at Missouri CommonGround or on Twitter by following @MoCommonGround.

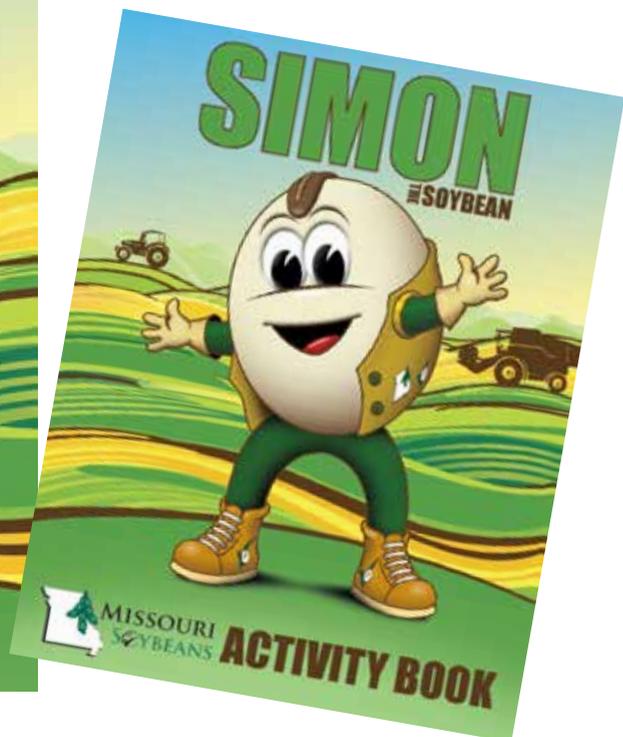


*CommonGround is a grassroots movement made up of farm women, creating conversations about farming and food. Volunteers address animal care, GMOs, farm safety, family farms, food prices, antibiotic use, hormones and more through their experiences, connecting with those who otherwise might not have such a personal experience with agriculture.*

## KIDS' CORNER

- FACTOIDS MISSOURI SOYBEANS THE WHAT'S WHAT**  
Soybeans are legumes. The size of a soybean is 1/4 inch. The soybean is the highest natural source of dietary fiber.
- FACTOIDS MISSOURI SOYBEANS THE WHAT'S WHAT**  
The livestock industry is the largest consumer of soy meal. In fact, 98 percent of U.S. soy meal goes to feed pigs, chickens and cows.
- FACTOIDS MISSOURI SOYBEANS THE WHAT'S WHAT**  
Soybeans grow in pods. Each soybean pod contains three or four soybeans. Each soybean plant can produce more than 240 soybeans/pods.
- FACTOIDS MISSOURI SOYBEANS THE WHAT'S WHAT**  
Farmers in China grew soybeans 5,000 years ago. The first soybeans were planted in the USA in 1765 as feed for animals.
- FACTOIDS MISSOURI SOYBEANS THE WHAT'S WHAT**  
A 60-pound bushel of soybeans yields about 11 pounds of oil. An acre of soybeans will produce 82,368 crayons.
- FACTOIDS MISSOURI SOYBEANS THE WHAT'S WHAT**  
Soybeans are used to make biodiesel fuel for diesel trucks, cars, buses and tractors. Missouri is the top producer of soy biodiesel in America.

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's new activity booklet featuring Simon the Soybean is now available. The booklets are made possible through the soybean checkoff and are geared toward elementary school-aged children. They include a variety of puzzles, games, coloring sheets and facts. Request a copy by calling (573) 635-3819 or via email to [ctew@mosoy.org](mailto:ctew@mosoy.org).



# FROM FIELD TO FOOD

*As Missouri's non-transgenic high oleic soybeans move from the research test plot to growers' hands, the discussion about what farmers can expect at market and how that high oleic soybean oil can be used continues to grow. While it's too early to speculate on what growers' premiums for oil that is both nontransgenic and high oleic may be, industry partners are not at a loss for words about the potential uses.*

In the United States, where gathering around a table for food and conversation is a big part of our culture, it makes sense that food companies are looking for better options for oil. And they are finding a new kind of soybean oil offers them many innovative benefits – high oleic soybean oil, made from high oleic soybeans.

High oleic soybeans grew on nearly 250,000 acres in eight states last season, a number that's expected to rise steadily in the coming years as more and more soybean farmers have the option to grow these varieties that meet this potential customer demand.

"High oleic soybean oil is highly stable and has an extended shelf life," says Cargill's general manager for dressings, sauces and oils Jeff Kazin, who talks regularly to customers of high oleic soybean oil. "We expect steady growth for the oil over the next several years."

The oil is attractive to customers in the food industry because it offers several benefits in commercial food preparation.

"High oleic soybean oil can last two to three times longer in a fryer than traditional soybean oil due to higher heat stability," says Matt Porter, refined-oil sales manager for Perdue Agribusiness. "It also has a neutral flavor. We are confident about future demand for this product."

Demand will continue to rise as end users at food and restaurant companies see that U.S. soybean farmers will provide a steady supply of high oleic soybeans. Doing this will also help U.S. soybean farmers stay competitive and meet the evolving needs of the food industry.

Fortunately, high oleic soybeans yield the same as other top-performing varieties, making them a win for end users and soybean farmers alike, and ensuring that end users can count on a supply chain that delivers a steady flow of this exciting new product.

"High oleic soybean oil will have a low supply-chain risk" due to this steady supply, says Perdue's Porter. "The oilseeds used for other, similar oils are grown in a relatively small area with a lot of weather variability and additional transportation concerns. With high oleic soybeans projected to be grown across the United States in the coming years, customers have better access to the product, which reduces supply-chain risk."



**High oleic soybean oil is shown in this photo from the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's partners at the University of Missouri. Through soybean breeding research funded in part by the soybean checkoff, Missouri is working to scale up non-transgenic soybeans with high oleic acid content from research quantities, making the new technology available to the growers who supported those research efforts.**

*This article was prepared by staff of the United Soybean Board and was first published at [unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org).*



# SOYBEAN POLICY UPDATE

*The latest on federal and state policy, including recent efforts and a look at Missouri's upcoming legislative session.*

The Missouri Soybean Association directors and staff have been busy representing your interests in Washington, D.C. and I thank each and every one of you for the time you have spent contacting your congressional delegation. There's no substitute for growers directly making calls and sending emails regarding soybean priorities.

In October, MSA President Tom Raffety, Executive Director & CEO Gary Wheeler and I headed to our nation's capital to join the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food to thank our Missouri House delegation for their support of HR 1599, the Safe and Affordable Food Labeling Act of 2015. We also visited the offices of Senators McCaskill and Blunt to press for further action on this legislation. Without it, a state-by-state patchwork of laws on this issue could develop. Vermont's mandatory GMO labeling law is set to take effect in July. HR 1599 would preempt such laws from taking effect by creating a national voluntary labeling standard.

Regarding EPA's WOTUS rule, we are pleased with the nationwide injunction issued by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirms a previous North Dakota District Court ruling that only applied to Missouri and 12 other states. The Senate narrowly failed to pass S. 1140 offered by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) by a vote of 57-41. Senators Blunt and McCaskill both supported the measure, which would halt WOTUS and require EPA to start over with a new rule. We appreciate the vote of Senator McCaskill, who was one of only four Democrats to support this legislation. The Senate went on to pass S.J. Res. 22, a Congressional Review Act, offered by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) by a vote of 55-43 and supported by Sen. Blunt. A Congressional Review Act is a rarely used maneuver and if passed would prevent WOTUS from being implemented and prevent EPA from crafting a new rule significantly similar to WOTUS.

In an effort outgoing House Speaker John Boehner called "cleaning the barn", Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015, a two year budget framework that prevents the debt ceiling from needing to be raised again until after the president leaves offices. The closely held deal included \$3 billion in cuts to crop insurance. Together, we all made our concerns known and legislative leaders have promised to make sure the cuts do not take effect when they take up an omnibus spending bill in December. We'll have to rally the troops once more to make sure crop insurance programs are protected.

For the first time in a decade, the House and Senate have both passed long term highway bills. MSA and ASA were very involved in attempting to gain approval of a floor amendment offered by Rep. Reid Ribble (R-WI) that would have allowed states the option to increase truck weights to 91,000 pounds on interstate highways with the addition of a sixth axle. While the amendment failed, we are appreciative of the support we received from Reps. Hartzler, Long, Smith and Wagner. Another amendment beneficial to agri-



**Dan Engemann**

culture, but failing on the House floor was that offered by Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL) that would have allowed states to grant special permits for livestock hauling of 95,000 pounds. This amendment also failed, but again, we appreciate the support from Reps. Cleaver, Hartzler, Long, Smith and Wagner.

In other important news, the Obama administration released the much anticipated text of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement. Getting Congress to approve this landmark agreement will be a huge win for soybean exports and will greatly help our number one customer – the livestock industry. Please contact your member of Congress right away to make sure they support TPP and take it up as soon as possible.

To round out the end of the year, Congress also needs to reauthorize the biodiesel tax credit. MSA board member and National Biodiesel Board (NBB) board member Neal Bredehoeft and Gary Wheeler recently traveled to Washington D.C. with the NBB to advocate for the tax credit as well as changing it to a producer's tax credit to avoid the subsidizing of foreign biodiesel coming in from South America. Thank you again for your involvement. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need more information on any of the happenings in Washington, D.C. August. In conjunction with ASA and our sponsor FMC, we hosted Representatives Hartzler, Graves, Luetkemeyer and Smith at events in their districts designed for growers to interact on issues important to them. These events are designed to highlight the importance of taking an active role in policy issues by becoming a member of MSA.

As I mentioned, Congress will be busy trying to finish up appropriations bills before the fiscal year ends September 30. As I write this, the House has passed 6 of 12 bills. Meanwhile the Senate hasn't passed any appropriations bills and it appears as if a Continuing Resolution is in order to avoid a shutdown.

Again, I want to thank each and every one of you for the contacts you have made to your federal legislators. Whether it's sending an email, calling their offices, or stopping at a local event, it all makes a difference for you and your fellow soybean growers.

*Dan Engemann serves as the Director of Industry and Producer Relations for the Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council. He represents Missouri soybean farmers on policy issues at the state and federal levels.*

# AT THE STATE LEVEL

The second regular session of the 98th Missouri General Assembly's is right around the corner, convening on January 6. We're headed into an election year and your Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) is taking advantage of the campaign season that's well underway to educate candidates on both sides of the aisle about our priority issues.

We have had the great opportunity to host two major candidates for governor at Mid-America Biofuels in Mexico - Republican candidate and former Speaker of the House Catherine Hanaway and Democratic candidate and current Attorney General Chris Koster. At the same location, we've also hosted lieutenant governor Republican candidate Bev Randles and have plans to host another lieutenant governor candidate, Senator Mike Parson (R-Bolivar). The more candidates know about what we do, the better off we all are! Many of you will be asked to be part of candidates' agriculture tours. Please take time to host or attend these events and let them know how important the agriculture industry is to our state.

Speaking of elections and the general assembly, five sitting senators are running for higher office. In addition to previously mentioned Sen. Parson, we have the following: Sen. Bob Dixon for Governor, Sen. Kurt Schaefer for Attorney General, Sen. Eric Schmitt for Treasurer and Sen. Will Kraus for Secretary of State. This dynamic could bring a lot of political decisions to bear during the legislative session.

On November 5, MoDOT announced the hiring of its new director, Patrick McKenna, who previously served as deputy commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. McKenna has operated toll roads in New Hampshire and will have some interesting insight to share. One concept actively being discussed is the formation of "transportation districts" in which stretches of I-70 west of St. Charles County, east of Jackson County and in central Missouri would be expanded to three lanes through public-private partnerships. Under the concept, the state would lease highway right of way to a private company to construct a third passenger vehicle only lane in which users would pay to drive on. But, as noted by Sen. Mike Kehoe (R-Jefferson City) this is only a partial solution to infrastructure needs on I-70 and doesn't address maintenance and improvements needs on other highways around the state.

Missouri's membership in the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) will help us greatly by injecting data into the discussion as it comes to our weight-restricted rural bridges. STC Executive Director Mike Steenhoek and I have begun dialogue with MoDOT's chief bridge engineer about the possibility of using a bridge evaluation tool proven effective in other states. Through the use of this technology, some bridges that were previously closed due to weight restrictions have been re-opened, saving growers precious



Missouri's Capitol Building



transportation time and money. Those conversations will continue and we'll keep pushing for progress on this issue.

MSA is concerned about increases to agricultural land values as proposed by the State Tax Commission. For the Class 1 agricultural soil grade, the proposed value is set to increase by \$50 per acre to \$1,035. We'll be working closely with legislative leaders to find an appropriate solution.

A top priority for MSA again this year is the continued payoff of deferred payments under the Missouri Qualified Biodiesel Producer Incentive Fund, which has a balance owed to the growers of this state of \$14.5 million. In addition, we are actively examining ways we can increase the consumption of biodiesel. Missouri is a national leader in biodiesel production and we have a great story to tell. We'll be working to make sure our legislators know that.

If you're interested in looking at pre-filed legislation or other legislative happenings, please visit: [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov) or [www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov). In addition, MSA will be looking for growers to visit the Capitol each week to help us tell your story. I hope you will join us as we embark on another exciting legislative session in January.



## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MO-AG Annual Meeting  
Columbia  
December 15-16

Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture  
TanTarA, Lake of the Ozarks  
December 16-18

Missouri Cattlemen's Convention  
TanTarA, Lake of the Ozarks  
January 8-10

Missouri Pork Expo  
Columbia  
February 9-10

Commodity Classic  
New Orleans, LA  
March 3-5



Visit us on [mosoy.org](http://mosoy.org) to learn more!

"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



**The Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council will also be hosting district meetings in early 2016. A list of those meetings can be found on page 10.**

---

# SOYBEAN NEWS ON BROWNFIELD

New this fall, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council partnered with Brownfield Ag News to bring a daily update on the soybean industry to their radio family. The Spotlight on Soybeans airs in addition to market reports and news, and focuses on the ways Missouri soybean farmers' checkoff dollars are invested back into the soybean value chain. Recent topics have included exploring market demand for Missouri-made biodiesel, research efforts to address Soybean Cyst Nematode, and ensuring the Missouri River continues to be viewed as key for transportation of our grain crops to export markets.

Longtime Brownfield voice Tom Steever hosts the Spotlight on Soybeans each week. They are also available for streaming online at [mosoy.org](http://mosoy.org) and [brownfieldagnews.com](http://brownfieldagnews.com).



# LOOKING AHEAD: *MILESTONES + CHANGES*

Last year, Missouri Soybean Farmer magazine celebrated 35 years. In recognition of that milestone, we highlighted the ways this publication has, and hasn't, changed over the years – from the way it looks in your mailbox and exploring challenging market prices to pest pressure and innovation in new uses for our soybeans – since that first newsletter hit growers' mailboxes.

Looking ahead, February 2016 will bring us to the golden anniversary of the magazine's parent organization, the Missouri Soybean Association.

With another big milestone on the horizon, the Missouri Soybean Association board of directors and staff came together to reprioritize what you see in this magazine. Over the past year, you may have noticed a renewed focus on our state. Whether it was data or a personal story, our content now keeps its roots within Missouri. Even our international marketing and development content comes back to the Show-Me State. You might have also seen an increase in articles explaining the economic impact soybeans and soy-based products have in our state, and in the amount of coverage devoted to policy efforts and their impacts.

The changes to Missouri Soybean Farmer are rooted in the Association's mission, which is to improve the bottom line for Missouri's soybean growers. The Association is the voice for our industry in policy decisions in Jefferson City and in Washington D.C. and will continue to be. You'll continue to see updates on policy efforts affecting your ability to do business, to operate your farms the way you choose, and to provide for your families.

In 2016, you'll begin receiving Missouri Soybean Farmer magazine six times per year – an extra issue. You can expect to receive a new issue the first week of even months – February, April, June, August, October and December. Subscriptions will continue to be available at no cost, made possible by the soybean checkoff and advertising from our industry partners. The cover and interior pages will look a bit different (check out the examples at right), but the Missouri-centered content focused on improving your bottom line is not changing. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the update!

Thanks for reading!

Christine Tew

Christine Tew is the Director of Communications and Public Relations for the Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council. She also serves as the editor of Missouri Soybean Farmer magazine. To learn more about Missouri Soybean Farmer, including to explore back issues, visit <http://mosoy.org/category/news/mo-soybean-farmer-magazine/>. To subscribe to Missouri Soybean Farmer, suggest articles or advertise, please contact her at [ctew@mosoy.org](mailto:ctew@mosoy.org).



Christine Tew





I WILL  
TAKE ACTION AGAINST  
HERBICIDE-RESISTANT WEEDS.

I will know my weeds. When they grow. When they pollinate. And I will stop them before they go to seed.

I will take action in the field and do whatever it takes to give my crops the upper hand against weeds.

I will take action with careful herbicide management and use multiple herbicide sites of action, because every action counts.

I will take action because life is my bottom line. It's not about this year or the next. It's about the long term.

I will take action. This time. For all time.

Now is the time to take action against herbicide-resistant weeds. Visit [www.TakeActionOnWeeds.com](http://www.TakeActionOnWeeds.com) to learn how you can prevent herbicide-resistant weeds from spreading.

