

MISSOURI

Soybean Farmer

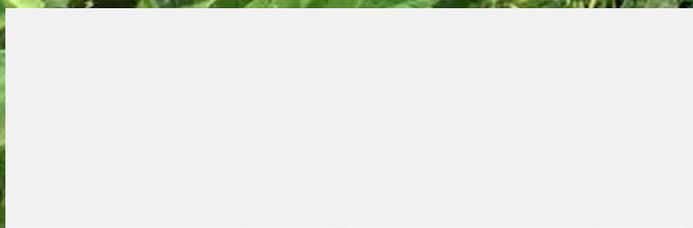
FEBRUARY
2018

Dicamba Debacle

Missouri's soybean breeding research in the Bootheel took a hit in 2017.

The Big Yields

Triple digits topped Missouri's 2017 soybean yield contest.



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MISSOURI Soybean Farmer

FEBRUARY 2018 | VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 1

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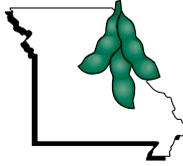
« Cover Shot

Dicamba availability and damage continues to be a polarizing topic. These soybean plots at the MU Fisher Delta Research Center show some of the damage affecting Missouri's soybean breeding program.

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 for advertising information and with story ideas.

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From The Field

Notes from Missouri Soybeans' leadership team

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This is my final magazine column as president of your Missouri Soybean Association. In some ways, it's hard to believe two terms have passed so quickly. As I've been on the Association's executive board - and most recently in the 'hot seat' of leadership - there's been absolutely no doubt that in everything we do on behalf of farmers across Missouri, it's a team effort. That's what it takes. It takes us all to get things done, to make a difference. We are far stronger together than any of us are on our own.



With that in mind, I want to thank those who have most tirelessly supported me - my wife, Alice, our children, my brothers and their families with whom I farm. And I want to let the many others who made this opportunity a possibility for me - including those of you in District 7 who elected me to represent you in the first place - know how much I appreciate and value the trust you placed in me. I'm glad to have been able to serve, and have really enjoyed it.

If you haven't already, I challenge you to stand with your fellow soybean farmers - join the Missouri Soybean Association, help make a difference at the state, national and international levels for our livelihood and for our families.

Thank you!
Matt

Matt McCrate - Missouri Soybean Association President

Dicamba. In this issue, you'll find an article sharing what your Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's research program has gone through with herbicide damage in the Bootheel. The research you support with your soybean checkoff dollars was hit hard, and it's going to take time to recover. Yes, we have a plan to move forward. And, yes, it's still hard to not be angry about the losses - every soybean farmer in Missouri took a hit on our watch with this one. That stings regardless of your feelings about the new dicamba formulations.



More than a few people have asked me - and others on the board - why we haven't said much with respect to the new dicamba technologies over the past couple years. Your Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council is charged with investing your checkoff dollars into research, promotion and education programs that benefit your bottom line. Lobbying is out of bounds, and as such it would be inappropriate for your checkoff organization to take a policy position for or against dicamba formulations, trait technologies, and so on.

If you have questions about how we invest your checkoff dollars and how those investments benefit you, or if you just want to learn more, please let us know.
Sincerely,
John

John Kelley - Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman

Letter from the Executive Director

The beginning of a new year is a natural time for a fresh start - whether you make New Year's resolutions, revisit your long-term goals, or otherwise take stock of where you are, where your family is, and where you're going. For me, it's all of the above. With so many weighty things ahead, from regulatory and policy decisions to research and 2018 crops and markets, preparing for the coming year requires taking stock of our priorities.

Coming out of the holiday season and the heightened priority on family time that comes with those celebrations, I'm especially aware of where I want my family to be on my priority list for 2018.

Professionally, I look toward our strategic plans for the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and Mid-America Research and Development Foundation as part of taking stock and helping me focus on raising the bar for the year ahead.

When it comes to raising the bar, the vision and mission for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council capture it:

Empowering Missouri Soybean farmers through innovation.

We are committed to promoting and advancing innovative research, production and marketing solutions to maximize Missouri soybean farmer profitability.

We start each year reaffirming our commitment to transparency with how the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board of directors invests your soybean checkoff dollars into research, promotion and educational programs. On pages 15-17 of this issue, you'll find audited financials from last year, as well as a summary of key programs implemented thanks to your checkoff.

We use the strategic plans, including the vision and mission established by farmers, to direct that work. That includes protecting the ROI for your checkoff dollars - \$5.20 for every dollar contributed. It also includes growing demand for your value-added products, like biodiesel (which provides a 15 percent price support for soybean) and high-oleic soybean oil, and helping make implementing soil health and conservation practices as cost-effective as possible. I'm especially proud of how we've continued to move forward with innovation, bringing new methods, ideas and varieties to soybean farmers.

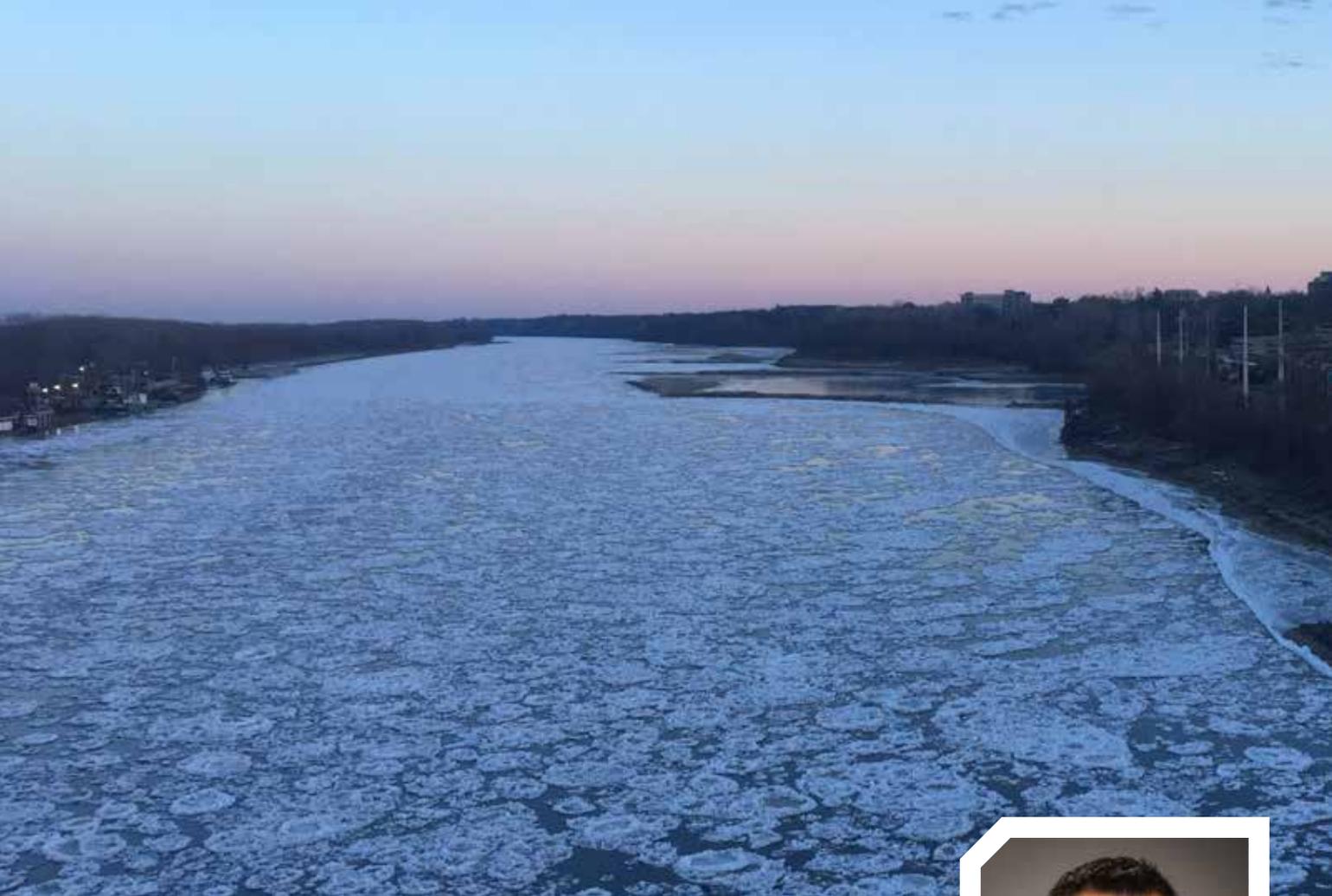
As you set your course for 2018, I hope you'll take the time to look at how the soybean checkoff affects you, what it means in Missouri and for your peers across the U.S. If you have questions or would like to learn more, I hope you'll let us know.

Here's to a happy, healthy, prosperous 2018 for all!



Gary Wheeler
Executive Director / CEO
Missouri Soybean Association
Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council
Mid-America Research and Development Foundation





Soybean Policy Update

from Casey Wasser

Under Missouri law, the New Year is quickly followed by a new state legislative session. For 2018, that was January 3 – the first Wednesday after the first Monday of the year, as set in Missouri’s Constitution.

With that fast start, key legislation affecting farmers’ freedom to operate is top of mind. A leading priority for the Missouri Soybean Association is bringing certainty to Missouri’s Clean Water Law. This session, SB 823, filed by Senator Dave Schatz, and HB 1973, filed by Representative John Wiemann, aim to make clear and solidify long-held and understood regulatory exemptions for “nonpoint sources” in the Missouri Clean Water Law. We’ve already seen the uncertainty brought by a broad,

overreaching Waters of the United States plan. The burdensome regulations also create massive spending increases to state and federal governments. Missouri Soybean Association members prioritized voluntary programs aimed at increasing awareness and education about reducing pollution in their policy resolutions, as well offering grant and cost-share programs to implement best management practices. We’ll be carrying those resolutions throughout this session.

Taxes are also shaping up to be a hot topic this session. Following the passage of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we’ve already seen several state-level tax packages proposed. Farmers fought hard to ensure they would not

be lost in the tax overhaul recently signed into law by President Trump, and as your policy organization we’re watching state-level proposals closely. Missouri’s tax code is very complex, with hundreds of deductions, subtractions



Casey Wasser serves as the Director of Policy for the Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council. He represents Missouri soybean farmers on policy issues at the state and federal levels.



Christine Tew

Missouri's Capitol building, as seen from the bridge over the Missouri River, on a frigid January afternoon.

weight restrictions, the lacking inland waterways investments, and the need to improve I-70. The task force proposes an “immediate investment package” that would “address immediate needs in the highway system”—Missouri currently has the 4th lowest fuel tax in the nation. However, recognizing that the transportation landscape has been changing and will only continue to shift away from motor fuel consumption, the report states “We need to anticipate the future landscape and decide how best to address the challenges and opportunities present by increasing fuel efficiency and the emergence of automated, connected, electric, and shared-use vehicles...”. The committee has looked at increasing motor vehicle registration and driver licensing fees, some of which have not been increased for 30 years, as an alternative or

consideration as SB 548. Currently, the State Tax Commission could propose a 50 percent increase without any statutory cap, subject to approval by the General Assembly – which stands to create considerable uncertainty for farmers if left unchecked.

The State Tax Commission and Public Service Commission have recently received new appointment confirmations. Governor Greitens appointed Senator Will Kraus to the State Tax Commission and Senator Ryan Silvey to the Public Service Commission. Senator Kraus served the Senate Ways and Means Committee, generally responsible to handle tax legislation, and Senator Silvey was chair of the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee. The first week of session

the Senate confirmed both nominations.

The Missouri Qualified Biodiesel

Producer Incentive Fund, which continues to be deprived final payment, will again be an issue this session. With the new tax cuts going into effect January 1 that reduce the top income tax rate in Missouri, and the Governor already withholding \$250 million due to revenue concerns, the General Assembly will be working to pass an agreeable 2019 Fiscal Year budget. We aim to secure full funding once again, and continue to work with the Governor and his team to fulfill the full appropriation from last session.

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and exemptions, some of which benefit agricultural production and some that should be changed. As the legislature begins to work through the committee process, we will be providing more specific updates to our membership on the details of those proposals.

The 21st Century Missouri Transportation System Task Force released its detailed report after months of public hearings across the state. The 67-page report details current funding streams, possible new funding opportunities and innovative construction possibilities, our current budget shortfalls, and legislative action that can address these issues. When we focus on transportation, we look at the hundreds of bridge closures or

“ A leading priority for the Missouri Soybean Association is bringing certainty to Missouri's Clean Water Law. ”

additional source of funding. We will be sending a survey to our Association members soon to pull their thoughts on the transportation funding proposals.

You may remember Senator Munzlinger's bill capping how much agricultural productive land values can be increased every two years, introduced last winter and highlighted by your Missouri Soybean staff during district meetings. That bill was among the proposed legislation that didn't make it across the finish line in 2017. Senator Munzlinger has revisited the proposal for 2018, and it is under

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Federal Policy

Congress finished 2017 strong with passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and bipartisan agreement on a funding bill ahead of the holiday break. With the start of the new year, focus has largely shifted to what needs to be accomplished in 2018, with transportation funding, high-speed internet access, tax credits and trade all in the lineup. The Farm Bill is also going to be front and center.

President Trump has signaled that one of the largest legislative priorities for 2018 will be a massive infrastructure package. It's not yet clear exactly how the \$200 billion of federal funding will be obtained under the proposal, or what

requirements will be placed on states to match federal spending. Your Missouri Soybean Association will be working with Congress to secure funds for rural infrastructure within that transportation funding package. Generally, spending is 20 percent at the state level and 80 percent from federal sources, and we're currently hearing that more details for this package will be available following President Trump's State of the Union address. What we do know is Missouri's 34,000 miles of roadways and 10,000 bridges are in dire need of attention - especially in rural Missouri - and this could provide additional revenue for Missouri to put into those projects.

Broadband infrastructure and access have been a key issue gaining traction over the past several years. On January 9, President Trump signed an Executive Order to instruct the General Services Administration and other agencies to get involved in the fight to bring broadband access to rural America.

Your Missouri Soybean Association, along with many of our ag industry partners, is encouraging both chambers of Congress to quickly pass a tax extenders package that would include the biodiesel blender's tax credit. The blender's tax credit provides a near-level playing field with the oil industry's breaks and is key to continued expansion of the industry.

One of the many reasons strong, comprehensive infrastructure is so important to Missouri soybean producers is the fact that we have a thriving export market. As we continue to fight for market share, we must improve our ability to transport bushels by rail, road and waterways. We've been working to ensure our federal leaders understand how vitally important trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement are to the livelihood of not only Missouri farmers, but farmers all across our nation. By improving our infrastructure, both broadband and transportation, we can move soybean more efficiently and more safely, strengthening Missouri's position as a hub for the soybean value chain.

MSA has been strongly engaged on the Farm Bill. We've submitted priorities on behalf of our members that will improve funds that match checkoff spending in market development, as well as direct suggestions to improve the effectiveness of Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. A draft bill has been submitted to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for review, but has not officially been released at this time. With fiscal constraints being a major issue, this is an important step in the process that could drive negotiations moving forward. ■



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Protecting the Program

New plan seeks to prevent further dicamba-related setbacks to soybean breeding research.

By Jason Jenkins, Mill Creek Communications

Photos by Jason Jenkins, Pengyin Chen and Greg Luce

For Pengyin Chen, the 2017 growing season began with both promise and optimism. As leader of the Southern Missouri Soybean Breeding Program at the University of Missouri Fisher Delta Research Center in Portageville, he was looking forward to continuing the quest for “better beans,” seeking out new lines with novel traits to benefit soybean producers in the Show-Me State and beyond.

Chen planted his first research plots, known as “breeding blocks,” on April 12. Within those blocks of conventional soybean, the next variety expressing superior yield, soybean cyst nematode tolerance, drought resistance or even greater high-oleic oil content may have been waiting to be discovered.

But Chen wouldn’t get an opportunity to find it in 2017.

The first signs that something wasn’t right were noticed at the beginning

of May, then two weeks later, more symptoms appeared. By the second week of June, it was clear to Chen what had happened: Off-target dicamba exposure had compromised the research, evident by the fact that

“Every single plant was affected.”

-Dr. Pengyin Chen

dicamba-tolerant beans planted in the block were flourishing.

“We had symptoms in all of our breeding blocks,” says Delta Center Director Trent Haggard. “Not just one or three of 10 but all of them. Symptoms were routinely fieldwide.”

For Chen, the result was devastating.

“2017 was pretty much a wasted year,” says Chen, the David M. Haggard Endowed Professor of Soybean Breeding, with a defeated tone. “Every single plant was affected. Nothing escaped. The data is not usable because there’s no way to tell if there are genetic



Soybean plots at the Fisher Delta Research Center in 2017.



Trent Haggard, photographed at the Fisher Delta Research Center

differences or differences caused by dicamba injury.”

The dicamba debacle

Of course, Chen wasn’t alone in dealing with issues with dicamba in 2017. Across Missouri, officials estimated that more than 325,000 soybean acres were injured by off-target movement of the herbicide during the growing season. In southeast Missouri, where both dicamba-tolerant soybean and cotton were planted, the impacts were most pronounced.

Soybean producers who planted conventional varieties or varieties only tolerant to other chemistries found their crops vulnerable to injury and potential yield loss. Researchers across Missouri raced to determine the reasons

for the off-target movement as the season progressed. As injury reports began to mount, regulators responded. In mid-July, the Missouri Department of Agriculture issued a statewide order to stop the sale and use of herbicides containing dicamba in an effort to stem further troubles.

For soybean producers who experienced dicamba-induced symptoms, the true extent of injury or actual yield loss varied by when the off-target movement impacted the crop. However, for Chen’s soybean-breeding program, which is supported by checkoff dollars through the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, the cost went well beyond unrealized bushels, totaling more than

\$500,000 in lost research effort and valuable genetic material.

“Disappointment. That’s probably the best word to use,” says MSMC chairman John Kelley of what transpired in 2017. “There was a lot of money spent for research on which we’re not getting any results, and that’s a real disappointment. You hate to see checkoff dollars get spent with no return.”

Chen says the impact of dicamba exposure on non-tolerant conventional soybean varieties in his breeding blocks went far beyond the cupped leaves that producers likely observed in their fields.

“The dicamba forced the plant to grow a trifoliate leaf at the first node, which is not normal. The first node is supposed to be two leaves, two cotyledon leaves,” he explains. “The plants were forced to branch out sideways, and then the branches were very brittle. You shake it, and they just bent over. The dicamba

“There was a lot of money spent for research on which we’re not getting any results, and that’s a real disappointment. You hate to see checkoff dollars get spent with no return.”

-John Kelley, MSMC Chairman

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changed the biology of the plant.”

Chen estimated his yields to be reduced by an average of eight to 12 bushels. But the real loss is yet to be fully realized. Previous research at other universities has found that seed from dicamba-affected soybean plants is likely to show dicamba symptoms when planted the following growing season. Such negative impacts on progeny would spell disaster for the soybean-breeding program.

“If I’m a farmer raising beans to deliver to the elevator, I’m not worried about progeny impacts,” Haggard says. “But if I’m raising soybeans for seed to plant, and the progeny can be impacted negatively, then I am definitely worried about that.”

Plotting protections

As the new growing season approaches, concerns still abound regarding dicamba use and avoiding the issues that impacted some Missouri soybean producers in 2017.

There’s no question that those who used the system found it effective at controlling weeds, especially troublesome pigweed, so there is strong desire within the industry to maintain the technology. At the same time, until questions can be answered as to why off-target movement occurred, dicamba



Dr. Pengyin Chen walking his soybean research plots at the Fisher Delta Research Center during the summer of 2017.

Some agricultural supply companies have announced internal policies that could be even more strict than the state’s guideline. For example, MFA Incorporated will not spray dicamba after soybean fields reach the R1 growth stage, even if it’s prior to the calendar cutoff dates.

The state agriculture department also instituted a new training requirement.

of any products,” says Jason Bean, a soybean producer from Peach Orchard, Mo., and chairman of the Fisher Delta Research Center’s Advisory Board.

Haggard says that at the research center, additional steps will be taken to protect the soybean-breeding blocks and the investment of soybean checkoff dollars. The first step is increased communication with neighbors.

““ We want to support our farmers while also protecting their breeding program because it is the farmers’ breeding program. ””

-Jason Bean

will continue to face increased scrutiny.

To help avoid a repeat of last season, the Missouri Department of Agriculture set state-specific restrictions on dicamba use in 2018. While herbicide formulations containing dicamba will be allowed, their use will be prohibited after June 1 in 10 southeast Missouri counties and after July 15 for the remainder of the state.

Both certified private and commercial applicators applying synthetic auxin herbicides such as dicamba or 2,4-D in 2018 must complete mandatory training provided by University of Missouri Extension.

“We hope that the education and certification program that is to be required for applicators works like it should to help reduce the movement

“We’re going to be working more closely with the farmers and landowners who surround the two farms where we host the breeding blocks,” he explains. “We’re going to have in-person meetings to share more information about the breeding program.

“If there’s an assumption that our breeding program is of little benefit because we’re breeding conventional varieties, we want to share that the varieties being planted today with all these technology enhancements began with a conventional variety,” he continues. “Our program has released phenomenal lines that have been yield and revenue enhancers for Missouri

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soybean growers. We have a track record of producing lines that have been picked up by industry and crossed with traits that are in the field today.”

As is becoming standard practice in the industry, the Fisher Delta Research Center will employ the “Flag the Technology” program created by the University of Arkansas. This will provide a visual signal to all passers-by, conspicuously marking plots that contain conventional soybean with multiple red triangular flags.

“Any applicator on any given day will have a visual reminder,” Haggard says. “Hopefully, it’ll get them to think, ‘Oh yeah, what I’m about to spray could potentially affect that field negatively.’”

The research center will also plant a series of conventional soybean sentinel plots along the peripheral boundaries of farms where breeding blocks are present. These sentinel plots will be planted over the course of six weeks.

“The staggered planting dates will give us different growth stages throughout the season,” Haggard explains. “We will check these plots daily and look for any visual symptoms. Not only will we be able to see if symptoms exist, but we’ll also be able to see if symptoms are more prevalent at different stages.”

Chen also is making changes to his research protocol to avoid the catastrophic loss that occurred in 2017. First, rather than planting breeding blocks on one date, he will stagger planting for six to eight weeks to avoid — or at least reduce — any potential impacts.

“I’m also reaching out to my collaborators at universities in other states and asking for their help to grow some of the advanced lines, the most



Jason Bean

important genetic materials,” Chen says. “The hope is they don’t have any issues so that I have some seeds left to continue on the research. We’re talking about survival.”

All these measures will add cost, but it’s an insurance policy required to ensure the viability of one of the most successful university soybean-breeding programs in the nation.

“We’re not just planting beans, we’re breeding beans,” Haggard says. “I’m trying to guard the long-term investment in this breeding program, both by the university and by the Missouri’s soybean producers through the soybean checkoff.

“At the same time, I’m also a family farm

owner who planted dicamba-tolerant soybean in 2017 and benefitted from effective weed control. I understand the need for the technology. We have to figure out a way to coexist.”

Bean echoes those sentiments, noting that he, too, planted dicamba-tolerant soybean last year.

“We raised the best bean crop we’ve ever raised because of three factors: genetics, environment and weed control,” he says. “I am a supporter of new technology and being progressive. The Delta Center is a supporter of new technology and being progressive. Being progressive can equal profitability.

“We work hard to improve the profitability of farmers worldwide as well as here in the Bootheel. We want to support our farmers while also protecting their breeding program because it is the farmers’ breeding program,” Bean says. ■

“We’re going to have in-person meetings to share more information about the breeding program.”

-Trent Haggard



Where the Money Goes

The checkoff soybean farmers pay when selling their beans contributes to research, promotion and education programs. The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council ensures that the half of those funds that stay in Missouri are put to work, return measurably on soybean farmers' behalf.

By Christine Tew

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council works to improve the bottom line for soybean farmers and support innovation across the soybean value chain. Specifically, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, under the guidance of elected, volunteer farmer leaders and with the support of professional staff, invests Missouri farmers' soybean checkoff dollars to improve the bottom line and future for soybean and soybean farmers.

For most, success is measured by the dollars and cents of return on investment. Soybean farmers have a return on their checkoff dollars they can be proud of – a \$5.20 return, coming back to growers in the form of higher prices for their soybeans than if they were without the research, promotion and market development efforts made possible through the checkoff.

The soybean checkoff amounts to just one-half of one percent of the net sale prices of soybeans at the time of first purchase. Of the funds collected, half stay within the state and half are directed to national programs. Those funds must be invested toward improving the overall profitability for soybean farmers. Funds may be used for research, promotion and education efforts; soybean checkoff dollars may not be used for lobbying, membership or similar efforts and are watched closely by the USDA to ensure compliance with the Soybean Promotion, Research and

Consumer Information Act and the USDA Soybean Promotion and Research Order.

In Missouri, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council oversees those state checkoff funds. The Council is comprised of a board of thirteen farmers elected by their peers. Board members represent seven districts across Missouri and are elected to three-year terms. That board of directors of takes the charge to invest farmers' checkoff dollars very seriously and works throughout the year to make decisions that most positively impact farmers' bottom line in both the near and distant future. The board is currently led by chairman John Kelley of Faucett, vice-chairman Robert Alpers of Prairie Home, and secretary/treasurer Kyle Durham of Norborne.

Investing checkoff dollars wisely to ensure growers continue to benefit from such a strong return on their checkoff investment is key to long-term success, and the farmer leaders of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council are looking at the long view. That long view includes past investments now paying dividends, like biodiesel's 15 percent price support for commodity soybean, and support for thousands of Missouri jobs.

During the 2017 fiscal year, which ran July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council invested in both ongoing and new programs with the goal of increasing the profitability of Missouri



John Kelley



Robert Alpers



Kyle Durham

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**Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council
Statement of Activities
Fiscal Year 2017**

REVENUES

Assessment Revenues Collected From		
First Purchasers		\$14,064,324
Other States		<u>\$2,193,178</u>
		\$16,257,502
Less Assessment Revenues Remitted to :		
Other States		\$3,202,251
United Soybean Board		\$6,504,463
Less Collection Fees Prescribed by State Law Prior to 11/30/90		<u>\$30,360</u>
		\$9,737,074
Net Assessment Revenues		\$6,520,428
Contract Revenue		\$53,003
Royalty & Licensing Fee Income		\$91,813
Grant Income		\$152,773
Other Income		\$10,655
Investment Income		<u>\$59,556</u>
Total Revenues		\$6,888,228

EXPENSES

Program Expenses		
Promotion		\$549,066
Research		\$4,338,640
Consumer Information		\$308,012
Industry Information		\$334,815
Producer Communications		\$1,031,407
Administration Expense		<u>\$1,615,144</u>
Total Expenses		\$8,177,084

Decrease in Net Assets		\$1,288,856
Net Assets, Beginning of Year		\$11,099,332
Net Assets, End of Year		\$9,810,476

soybean growers. Each year, those investments, as well as the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's internal management of checkoff funds, are audited by an outside, accredited accounting firm. The Statement of Activities accompanying this report includes those audited financials.

Providing transparency in how those dollars are spent is a top priority for the farmer leaders and staff in Missouri. New with this set of financials, notice a category under Revenues identifying collection fees paid. Those fees paid for collection and auditing services, previously included in the Administration category, have been separated to provide even greater clarity in reporting.

Beyond revenues and expenses, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's budget is summarized in this report using the following categories: Promotion, Research, Consumer Information, Industry Information, Producer Communications and Administration.

Promotion
Promoting Missouri-grown soybeans to stakeholder groups is a key component of investing the soybean checkoff. This budget area includes those general efforts to raise awareness within the market for Missouri soybeans, working with buyers along the soybean value chain – from grain elevators and processors, to retailers and end users – like livestock producers. This

budget area also includes efforts to build demand for Missouri soybeans and soy products around the world in partnership with organizations like the U.S. Meat Export Federation, USA Poultry & Egg Export Council and the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health.

Research
The largest portion of Missouri farmers' checkoff dollars goes to support research projects directly benefitting soybean farmers. Each year, the board of directors solicits, reviews and selects research proposals for funding. Selected projects are subject to strict reporting and are posted online at mosoy.org and printed in the Annual Research Report. This budget area also provides for work

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at the Missouri Soybean Association's Bay Farm Research Facility, soybean variety testing through the University of Missouri Cooperative Extension Service and participation in the North Central Soybean Research Program.

Consumer Information

The Consumer Information budget area is the home for efforts to connect the vast majority of Missourians not living on a farm or ranch to the importance of agriculture. This area encompasses helping consumers understand how their food is grown and raised, as well as the meanings of food labels and marketing. Missouri's Ag Education on the Move program for elementary school students and school administrators, the CommonGround program for women, as well as participation in the Missouri State Fair and other large public events all are part of this category.

Industry Information

Initiatives in this budget area include working with feed, seed and chemical companies, as well as manufacturers, to identify new management practices and uses for soybeans and soy products. This area encompasses business development and relationship building programs as well.

Producer Communications

This budget area includes the many ways checkoff funds are used to connect with soybean growers, including providing support for youth in agriculture programs, like partnerships with the Missouri FFA Association, Missouri 4-H, Agriculture Future of America and Missouri's Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow program. Farmers who hear soybean news on their local farm radio network, the Brownfield Ag Network or other radio stations are benefitting from the work done under this budget area, as are producers who participate in grower meetings, field days, educational tours or who learn about new practices through this magazine.

Administration

This budget area includes the cost of overseeing and investing Missouri's soybean checkoff dollars, including management, personnel and facilitating elections and meetings of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's board of directors.

Within each of these budget areas, staff of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council coordinate with the Council's board of directors in Missouri, and with national directors and staff of the United Soybean Board and many other partners ensuring the value of every dollar is maximized and duplication of effort is limited. Headquartered in St. Louis, the United Soybean Board and its affiliates are charged with investing half the soybean checkoff funds collected in national-level programs.

To learn more about the United Soybean Board and national-level soybean checkoff investments, visit unitedsoybean.org. To learn more about the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and investments made on behalf of Missouri's soybean farmers, visit mosoy.org or call (573) 635-3819. ■



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Bringing in the Big Yields



Missouri's soybean yield contest results are in - with two growers breaking 100 bu/ac.

By **Christine Tew**

Photos courtesy of
Jerry Cox

It took triple digits to win the Missouri Soybean Association's annual yield contest this year. Two farmers, both from southeastern Missouri, surpassed the 100-bushel mark with yields of 101.17 and 100.30 bushels per acre, respectively. All six of Missouri's statewide honorees had soybean yields above 90 bushels per acre, and 28 different entries topped 80 bushels per acre.

"Innovation and stewardship are key to success in the field, and it is great to see the results of those commitments among the growers in Missouri's annual soybean yield contest," said Matt McCrate, a southeast Missouri farmer and president of the Missouri Soybean Association. "The emphasis on friendly competition at the district and statewide levels is outstanding, as are these yields. Thank you to all our participants, contest officials and partners who make this annual event possible."

The contest's top honors go to Jerry Cox, of Delta, who raised 101.17 bushel per acre soybean in Cape Girardeau County. Cox's outstanding yield came Pioneer P48A60X soybean seed under irrigation.

"It's been a goal of mine to raise 100-bushel beans," Cox said. "I've gotten close before - to the 100 - but this is the first time we got there. I gave the beans every opportunity I could."

Giving his soybean every opportunity meant foliar feeding, and applying fungicide and insecticide. Cox also credits the weather with helping hit his goal.

"We had a lot of sunshine this year, and these were irrigated, so we had the moisture," he said.

Cox also reduced his planting rate from 130,000 to 110,000 for the contest.

The other triple-digit yield, also grown under irrigation, was entered by Rick and Cody Branch of Gideon. The New Madrid County farmers used Asgrow AG38X6 to reach their 100.30 bushels per acre harvest.

The top yield for non-irrigated soybean was the 98.02 bushel per acre entry from Bradley Gillum of Green Castle. Gillum attributes a combination of preparation and ideal weather conditions for getting to such high yields.

"Last fall we put a lot of lime on, trying to get our pH right," he said. "We foliar fed and applied fungicide, and I think seed treatments and early planted beans are really important."

For 2017, Gillum also lowered his planting rate from 160,000 to 140,000. He credits that change, as well as managing pest pressure, for making a difference at harvest.



Jerry Cox with his helper, granddaughter Estella, during harvest.

Statewide Winners – Irrigated Soybeans

	Entry	Community	County	Variety	Yield (bu/ac)
1 st	Jerry Cox	Delta	Cape Girardeau	Pioneer P48A60X	101.17
2 nd	Rick & Cody Branch	Gideon	New Madrid	Asgrow AG38X6	100.30
3 rd	Kent Kellenberger	Lamar	Barton	Pioneer P38T20X	98.48

Statewide Winners – Non-Irrigated Soybeans

	Entry	Community	County	Variety	Yield (bu/ac)
1 st	Bradley Gillum	Green Castle	Putnam	Stine 36LE32	98.02
2 nd	Curt Kellenberger	Lamar	Barton	Pioneer P37T32X	95.42
3 rd	Thomas White III	Norborne	Carroll	Pioneer P45T48R	92.97

District Winners – Conventional Till Soybeans

	Entry	Community	County	Variety	Yield (bu/ac)
1	Stanley Bird	Maysville	DeKalb	Pioneer P37T09L	80.60
2	Bradley Gillum	Green Castle	Putnam	Stine 36LE32	98.02
3	Christy Nelson	Vandalia	Ralls	Credenz CZ 3841 LL	78.43
4	Curt Kellenberger	Lamar	Barton	Pioneer P37T32X	95.42
5	Brian D. Martin	Centralia	Boone	Asgrow AG45X6	73.62
6	Adam Bonderer	West Alton	St. Charles	Asgrow AG38X6	77.20
7	Hinkebein Farms C&G	Chaffee	Cape Girardeau	Asgrow AG4835	90.82

District Winners - No-Till Soybeans

	Entry	Community	County	Variety	Yield (bu/ac)
1	Gary Waller	Faucett	Buchanan	Asgrow AG38X6	72.31
2	Bradley Gillum	Green Castle	Putnam	Stine 42LI32	89.70
3	David Wiggins	Memphis	Scotland	Lewis 3872X	73.91
4	Jeremy Thomas	Rocky Comfort	McDonald	Asgrow AG48X7	88.14
5	Brian D. Martin	Centralia	Boone	Asgrow AG4135	61.74
7	Carl Landewee	Chaffee	Cape Girardeau	Asgrow AG47X6	86.75

“Any time the rig went over the field, I put insecticide on as well,” Gillum added. “We had a really mild winter and I knew insect pressure would be pretty high.”

Grid sampling for the past 15 years has also helped Gillum, as he’s developed a deeper understanding of his soils and how they impact yields. “The last several years have been too wet for our kind of ground,” he said. “The good Lord blessed us this year.”

The Missouri Soybean Association’s yield contest is made possible by generous contributions from the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and soybean checkoff, Asgrow, Baker Implement Company, Beck’s Hybrids,

Legacy Equipment, Lewis Hybrids, Merschman Seeds, Missouri Crop Improvement Association, NuTech Seed, ProHarvest Seeds, DuPont Pioneer, and Sydenstricker John Deere.

Thanks to the partnership of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, and industry partners, prizes including a trip to the 2018 Commodity Classic in Anaheim, their own UAV – drone – and accessories, and gift cards to Cabela’s and for biodiesel, will be awarded to statewide winners. District winners in each category will also receive their choice of \$750 in biodiesel or in Cabela’s gift cards.

There was not a no-till winner for district 6, as no entries met all

requirements for that category for the 2017 competition.

Participants in the Missouri Soybean Yield Contest were required to enter their fields into the competition prior to harvest. The 2017 entry deadline was September 1. At harvest, participants were required to have a designated judge verify their yield results for the competition and to submit their verified results no later than November 15.

Contest rules are posted online at mosoy.org. Details for the Missouri Soybean Association’s 2018 Yield Contest will be posted online at mosoy.org and announced in this magazine in spring 2018. 



MISSOURI SOYBEANS

The mission of the Missouri Soybean Association is 'Leading Missouri soybean producers into the future through legislative advocacy, communication and outreach.' Soybean farmers' membership in the Missouri Soybean Association makes it possible to fulfill that mission, coming together as one voice in policy and advocacy, and by funding efforts to elected candidates supportive of agriculture.

We thank our members for their dedication, and for their service to their fellow farmers as advocates and supporters of all Missouri soybean growers.

Below, we recognize annual members of the Missouri Soybean Association.

Molly Alexander	Jessica Catron	Tom Fenner	Brandon Holcomb
Larry Amthor	Jo D. Chevalier	Melvin Fick	Dale Hopke
John Arington	Mike Childers	Alex Fife	Steve Howe
Phil Aylward	Charles E. Cobb	Joseph Fischer	Eric Hoyt
James R. Bethmann	David Copeland	Cara Fordyce	Charles Hurst
Brent Billings	John Corbin	Lanny Frakes	Bill Jackson
Betty Bock	Neil Corbin	Rick Francis	William Johnson
David Boland	Jeff Cox	Kenneth Fricke	Gilbert Kaiser
Donald Boland	Rex Cragen	David Gann	Emily Kampeter
Clint Boone	Reigge L. Crose	Ron Garber	Paul V. Kamphoefner
Anthony W. Brackman	Tyler Cuppy	Charles M. Garst	Mary Kever
Tim Brand	James Daniels	Rowland Gengelbach	Jacob Kircher
Lester L. Brandt	Dan Daugherty	Ryan Gill	John Klueppel
Ronald Brandt	Bryan Dehn	Brad Gillum	Virgil Koechner
Tom Brillhart	Bud Delisle	John Goode	Tom Kolb
Laddie Briscoe	Joe Delisle	Charlie Grable	Colby Kruse
Larry Britt	Dane Diehl	Richard Grebe	Spencer Lampe
Cody Brock	John P. Dobson	Ron Haas	Carl Landewee
Delano Brown	Adam P. Dohrman	Brent Haden	Paul Lepage
Jeff Bruemmer	Jim Donoho	Jordan Harmon	Leslie Limback
Wayne Buck	Larry Douglas	Mike Harper	Lincoln County Farmers Coop
Floyd Buckman	David Dudeck	Steve Harrington	Mike Linthacum
Brady Burgess	Dennis G. Dunkmann	Harry F. Hayen	John Liter
Colli Burgess	Patrick Dyer	Bill Heitman	Thomas Loida
Gary Burgess	Stanley Egbert	Kim Hill	Kenneth W. Lucas
John Busch	Brian Ehrich	Charles W. Hinkebein	Don Lucietta
Nelson Byrd	Dan Engemann	Glenda Hinkebein	Robert Malan
James Campbell	Denis Engemann	Patrick Hobbs	

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J. Clark Medlin
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Amber Meyer
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Melvin E. Miles
James L. Miller
Randall Miller
Philip K. Moore
Glen Morris
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Kaleb Newham
Ed Nierman
Jacob Nuelker
Dennis Oser
Pat Oswald
Jim Palmer
Gregory Peasel
Clyde Peters
Charles Peterson
Matt Pierce
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Allen Rowland
Tony Russell
Jacob Schlitt
Clem Schlueter
Dennis Schneider
Ray Schroeder
Bruce Shilharvey
Dale Shilharvey
Michelle Siegel
Bill Slaughter
John Smith
Paul Steele
Darrick Steen
Jeff Stehle
Wesley Stemme
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Are you interested in becoming a member of the Missouri Soybean Association? Visit mosoy.org, or call (573) 635-3819 to learn more.

MISSOURI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

HONOR WALL

Good news from those working on behalf of Missouri soybean farmers

NCSRP Milestone, DeMott is 2018 VP

In December, the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) celebrated 25 years of collaborating to improve farmer profitability through research. Rock Port soybean farmer Cecil DeMott represents Missouri on the NCSRP board of directors and executive committee. Special congratulations are in order for him as well. For 2018, DeMott will again serve as vice-president of the group.

NCSRP is a farmer-led organization that invests soybean checkoff dollars in regional research. Twelve state soybean boards actively participate and fund NCSRP including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The group meets three times a year to discuss research proposals, the progress of current projects, common issues among the states and the direction of future research.

“It seems like just yesterday that we formed NCSRP,” said Dave Schmidt, NCSRP’s first president and farmer from Iowa City, Iowa. “The states weren’t talking to each other about research, researchers weren’t talking to each other about projects and that’s how NCSRP came about; with a common goal and passion for basic research.”

Over the past 25 years the board has funded more than \$45 million in soybean research. The 12 NCSRP-member states grow nearly 85 percent of the soybeans produced in the United States and represent more than 350,000 farmers. The farmers representing these states on the NCSRP board have a shared vision and commitment to regionally coordinated research and communication efforts. From pest management to farmer communication, the group has had a major impact on the soybean industry at the state, national and regional level.

To learn more about NCSRP, visit ncsrp.com.

Allie Arp with the Iowa Soybean Association and NCSRP contributed to this piece.



Cecil DeMott

Mertz is Member of the Year

Denny Mertz, a farmer from Chesterfield, was named the St. Louis Agribusiness Club’s Member of the Year for 2017.

Mertz, who raises soybean and corn with his wife, Valerie, is a lifetime member of the Missouri Soybean Association, serves on the board of directors for the Missouri Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow program and has long been active in Farm Bureau – serving on the state board and chairing the soybean committee, among other roles. Mertz represented Missouri in the 2006 class of the American Soybean Association / DuPont Young Leader program.

Club president Shane Jones presented the award.



Kaiser Elected to USB Executive Committee

During its December board of directors meeting in St. Louis, the farmer leaders of the United Soybean Board (USB) elected their USB Executive Committee for the coming year. Among those elected was Meagan Kaiser, USB director from Bowling Green, Missouri. This is Kaiser's first term on the USB Executive Committee.

Also serving on the committee are: Lewis Bainbridge, Chair – South Dakota; Keith Tapp, Vice Chair – Kentucky; Jim Carroll, Secretary – Arkansas; Dan Farney, Treasurer – Illinois; John Dodson – Tennessee; Gregg Fujan – Nebraska; Woody Green – South Carolina; Rochelle Krusemark – Minnesota; and Mark Seib – Indiana.

The farmers also selected members to serve on the Strategic Management Committee. Those farmers are: Jacob Parker, North Carolina; Ray Schexnayder, Louisiana; and Doug Winter, Illinois.

USB's 73 farmer-directors work on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers to achieve maximum value for their soy checkoff investments. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds in programs and partnerships to drive soybean innovation beyond the bushel and increase preference for U.S. soy. That preference is based on U.S. soybean meal and oil composition and the sustainability of U.S. soybean farmers. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff.

For more information on the United Soybean Board, visit unitedsoybean.org.



Meagan Kaiser

Missouri Farmers Care Hall of Fame

Missouri Farmers Care, the statewide coalition of agriculture groups formed to promote modern agriculture, food production and farm life, honored the inaugural class of its Hall of Fame in January. The Missouri Farmers Care Hall of Fame honorees are: Congressman Jason Smith, Lt. Gov. Mike Parson, Sen. Brian Munzlinger, Rep. Bill Rieboldt and Forrest Lucas, founder of Protect the Harvest.

The inaugural class of the Missouri Farmers Care Hall of Fame was inducted during the evening banquet at the Missouri Cattle Industry Convention held in Columbia. The distinction was bestowed on key leaders who dedicated time, talent and resources to craft and promote Amendment 1, the Missouri Farming Rights Amendment. Passed in 2014, state agriculture groups united under Missouri Farmers Care to endorse the constitutional amendment that protects farmers from harmful, misleading, and unnecessary legislation driven by out-of-state activist groups.

"This honor pays tribute and presents a measure of Missouri agriculture's gratitude to these five outstanding individuals for their lasting contribution to freedom and prosperity of Missouri agriculture now and in generations to come," said Alan Wessler, D.V.M, chairman of Missouri Farmers Care.

Missouri Farmers Care is a joint effort by more than 45 leading Missouri agricultural groups. Learn more at MOFarmersCare.com.



Inaugural Missouri Farmers Care Hall of Fame recipients: Congressman Jason Smith, Lt. Governor Mike Parson, Mr. Forrest Lucas, and Representative Bill Rieboldt, with Missouri Farmers Care Chairman Dr. Alan Wessler (right) and Mike Deering (left) of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association at the Missouri Cattle Industry Convention.



Water & Wisdom

As Mid-Valley Irrigation celebrates 40 years of service to the Bootheel, Elot Raffety reflects on starting the business and the lessons learned while bringing new technology to Missouri's top soybean-producing region.

**By Jason Jenkins,
Mill Creek Communications**

Photos by Jason Jenkins and
Christine Tew

On a landscape where the touch of human hands is evident around every corner, it's hard to pinpoint any one individual's contributions to progress. Yet amongst the levees, ditches and canals that drained the swamps of southeast Missouri and created one of the nation's most productive agricultural regions, one contribution does rise above.

While seemingly ubiquitous now, center-pivot irrigation systems were once a novelty in the Bootheel. That is, until

the spring of 1977, when Elot Raffety, along with business partner Fred Ferrell, launched Mid-Valley Irrigation Inc. and brought this technology to the region. Today, the company based in Charleston, Mo., has installed roughly 2,400 pivot systems, placing nearly 300,000 acres under irrigation in southeast Missouri, southern Illinois and western Kentucky.

"There were a few pivots here at the time, but they were the old water-drive pivots," Raffety says. "Most all irrigation then was flood irrigation. You had to



level the ground. Where I farmed near the river, the ground had a lot of slews and ridges. You had to move a lot of dirt to get it level enough to move water. It really wasn't a viable alternative."

The pair saw opportunity and began researching ways to bring electrically driven pivots to the Bootheel. They decided to become a dealer for Valmont Industries Inc., makers of Valley irrigation systems.

“We could show guys that they only needed to grow a certain number of extra bushels to make the payment, and it was a reasonable figure. The differences between irrigated and non-irrigated can be dramatic.”

-Ellot Raffety

"When we first started, we had to teach people about pivots, explain how they work," Raffety says. "We had to sell the concept, and then we could sell the equipment."

Putting their money where their mouths were, Raffety and Ferrell bought systems and installed them on their own farms. "We wanted to show folks that we had confidence in the product we were selling," Raffety adds.

Such an investment might have been too steep for some, but Valmont offered a lease program that would allow a producer to finance a system and amortize it just like the crop they were growing, spreading out the cost over 10 years. This made the pivots more attractive.

"We could show guys that they only needed to grow a certain number of extra bushels to make the payment, and it was reasonable figure," Raffety says. "The differences between irrigated and non-irrigated can be dramatic. We've seen cornfields where the corners didn't produce more than 30 bushels but inside the pivot, the crop would yield 180 to 200 bushels."

When they began, Raffety and Ferrell assumed pivot purchasers would be those farming lighter, sandier soils because having water on demand would



guarantee production. They quickly realized farmers with heavier soils also benefited as irrigation allowed those fields to reach their top potential as well. It also made double-cropping soybean behind wheat more reliable as producers would ensure themselves a bean crop, even if Mother Nature turned off the tap.

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“There wasn’t a lot of research out there, so we did our best to gather information and keep records,” Raffety says. “We actually gave the MU Delta Center a pivot so they could do irrigation research.”

Over the course of 40 years, the center-pivot irrigation industry has made steady improvements. Systems went from using high pressure to low pressure, dramatically reducing horsepower requirements and fuel consumption. Drops and improved nozzles have been developed to lower evaporation rates and enhance water use efficiency.

“We’ve had a lot of changes but not a lot of change,” Raffety says. “Changes have been evolutionary rather than revolutionary.”

He says over the years, his company has conducted experiments for Valmont as they looked for other ways that pivots could benefit producers. Mid-Valley ran trials using the irrigation system to deliver fertilizer and herbicide, which became common practice. Other ideas didn’t fare as well.

“We actually planted wheat through a

system,” Raffety says, shaking his head at the notion. “It worked, but the fact that you had to move the equipment from one pivot to the next, it was too expensive.”

While a pivot irrigation system can’t go far, it can go where it’s not supposed to go. Over the years, Raffety says he’s seen spans run into trees and fences, even once out on the highway. The biggest problem is people leaving equipment in the field.

“We’ve had a lot of changes, but not a lot of change. Changes have been evolutionary rather than revolutionary.”

-Ellot Raffety

“The gear ratios [on a pivot] are like 50-to-1, so it’ll climb right up in the back of a pickup truck,” he says. “They’ve got a lot of torque and can practically go up a wall!”

Not only are the systems powerful, but they also are durable. The first system Raffety installed in 1977 is still in the field today.

“We have good water here. It doesn’t attack the metal,” he explains. “Our water does have iron in it. You see these systems up and down the road that will be turned all red. You think they’re old rusty systems, but scrape off that rust and it’s nice shiny galvanized underneath.”

Reflecting back on 40 years in the industry, Raffety is proud of the economic development that Mid-Valley brought to the Bootheel region. By now

means is the company alone in selling pivot irrigation systems today, but he says he believes timely service helps set them apart.

“Pivots have become a commodity, just another piece of farm equipment,” Raffety says. “So we make sure we take care of our customers and make sure our pivots work for them all season long.”

While Raffety and Ferrell are still involved, longtime manager Jerry Whittington oversees Mid-Valley’s day-to-day operations.

Raffety and his wife, Karen, celebrated 54 years of marriage in 2017. They have three sons — Hunter, Bill and Tom — and seven grandchildren. Both Hunter and Tom still live in Mississippi County and work the farm with their father, growing corn, soybean and wheat. Bill lives in Los Angeles and works in the agriculture division of a cargo inspection company.

“It’s been fun,” Raffety says of the irrigation business. “We really believed in the product. Both me and Fred had farms, so we didn’t need to take any money out of the irrigation business. We just nurtured it and watched it and the crops under it grow.”





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Homage to Heritage

C. Brooks Hurst follows family tradition in farming, service to the industry.

**By Jason Jenkins,
Mill Creek Communications**

Photos by Scott Biggerstaff,
High 5 Communications, and
Captured by Julie Photography.

How does a northwest Missouri farm boy become an avid St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan when Busch Stadium is nearly 400 miles from home?

Family tradition.

“My loyalty goes all the way back to my great-grandmother,” explains Charles Brooks Hurst, an Atchison County row-crop producer and member of the Missouri Soybean Association Board of Directors. “She was a big baseball fan, and in those days, the only team west of the Mississippi River was the St. Louis Cardinals. She could get the games on KMOX radio because it broadcast all over the Midwest. I get a lot of grief around here for being a Cardinals fan. Most of my friends are Royals fans.”

His baseball team allegiance is just one example of how family tradition has shaped nearly all aspects of this fifth-generation farmer’s life. Brooks’ name, his profession and his service to the agricultural industry are all an homage to his heritage.

His first name was handed down from his great-grandfather, Charles, a moniker that Brooks’ grandfather and uncle also share. The eldest Hurst lost his Nodaway County farm during the Great Depression and moved his family west to share-crop near Tarkio. That’s where Brooks, his two younger brothers and their father, Kevin, farm today, raising 6,000 acres of corn and soybean.

Encouraged by his father to go to college, Brooks attended the University of Missouri, earning a bachelor’s degree in

agricultural education with an emphasis on business in 2002. He knew exactly where his path would lead.

“I came right back home and farmed,” Brooks says. “It’s basically the only thing I’ve ever known, and I knew it very well, so it’s what I decided to do.”

In the 15 years he’s been farming full time, the 38-year-old says he’s seen equipment and technology help producers get bigger and more efficient.

“We’ve added a lot of acres, but we can now do more work with fewer people,” Brooks says. “We don’t have to work from can’t-see to can’t-see every day to get the same job done. When Dad and I plant now, we get all our acres done in less time than Grandpa could plant his acres 20 years ago.”

With his role on the MSA board, Brooks also is following a family legacy of service to the industry. His uncle, Blake Hurst, who partners in the family operation, is president of the Missouri Farm Bureau. Brooks’ dad and grandfather previously served on the Missouri Corn Growers Association. Another uncle, Brooks, served on the MSA board and convinced his nephew to run for the position after his term ended.

The younger Brooks was elected in 2010 and now serves as MSA vice president and District 1 director. He has also served on the American Soybean Association board of directors since 2014.

“My family has been involved, so I always assumed I would do it, too,” Brooks says. “It came with the territory.”

Next in line to be MSA president, Brooks says he is excited about the opportunity to lead the organization that has served



C. Brooks Hurst transfers soybean into a grain bin on his family’s northwestern Missouri farm.

his family for generations. Boosting biofuel demand and expanding and promoting soybean specialty markets are among his first concerns.

“Missouri has always been right up front in biodiesel, and I’m really looking forward to continuing that fight to make sure we have that market for soybean growers,” Brooks says. “The high-oleic market is another exciting opportunity that I want to keep pursuing. I’m just trying not to fumble the football that my predecessors have carried so successfully. I want to move forward.”

He also is keeping a close eye on progress of the upcoming Farm Bill, especially its crop insurance provisions.

“If I don’t get a crop because of the weather or something I can’t control, then my family doesn’t eat,” Brooks says. “So crop insurance is a big, big deal, and I’d like the people in Washington and Jeff City to understand that we need that safety net to continue farming and feeding people.”

Like most Missouri soybean growers, Brooks anticipates dicamba to be a big issue during the 2018 growing season, and he’s advocating for judicious stewardship of the technology.

“You have to look at what’s best for the majority of soybean growers, no matter what decisions you make,” Brooks says.

“I hate to lose this technology because we have so few options to control weeds anymore. This one does a good job when used properly, so we’ve got to be really careful to keep it, and I think that comes down to education.”

Building demand for soybeans—both domestically and internationally—is also an ongoing priority for the association, he emphasizes.

“We’re always looking out for ways to open up more markets in other countries,” Brooks says. “For example, India has a huge population with a growing middle class, and they want choices in their food. They may not buy soybeans straight out, but they want beef or they want chicken, and that helps create demand for our product.”

Farming, board responsibilities and family life keep Brooks busy with little time to spare for hobbies. He and his wife, Amy, have four children—Finn, 8; Tucker, 6; Landry, 5; and Elliott, 1. And while Brooks says he remains loyal to his Cardinals, he spends more time coaching baseball than watching it these days.

“My oldest son is a huge baseball fan, and he loves playing the game,” Brooks says. “As soon as I get done planting, I start coaching. That takes up a lot of my time. With four little ones, we don’t do much else but raise kids. Crops and kids. It’s a full-time job.” ■



MISSOURI
SOYBEANS

Upcoming Events & Activities

- January 29** *Missouri Soybean Association Annual Meeting - Jefferson City*
- February 6** *District Soybean Meeting - St. Joseph*
- February 7** *District Soybean Meeting - Chillicothe*
- February 8** *District Soybean Meeting - Canton*
District Soybean Meeting - St. Louis
- February 12** *District Soybean Meeting - Higginsville*
- February 13** *District Soybean Meeting - Columbia*
- February 14** *District Soybean Meeting - Portageville*
- February 27 - March 1** *Commodity Classic - Anaheim, CA*
- April 7** *The Farmers' Table Wine Trail - Hermann*

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Plan to join your Missouri Soybean Association board of directors January 29 for the annual meeting at 4:00 p.m., followed by a reception at 5:30. The meeting will be held at 516 S. Country Club Dr. in Jefferson City.

The following day, January 30, Missouri Soybean Association members will head to the Capitol to highlight the economic contributions of soybean and biodiesel in Missouri.

To learn more or RSVP, call (573) 635-3819.

WINTER MEETINGS

Join your Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council for a district meeting to hear from yield champion Randy Dowdy and for the latest on your soybean checkoff investments - including research and education programs.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Pre-registration is free and available until three days prior to each event. *Registration at the door is \$25.*

RSVP Online at
mosoy.org/DistrictMeetings
or by calling (573) 635-3819.

February 6

Location: Stoney Creek Inn
Time: 11am
Address: 1201 N. Woodbine Rd
St. Joseph, MO 64506

February 7

Location: Litton Agri-Science Learning Center
Time: 11am
Address: 10780 Liv 235
Chillicothe, MO 64601

February 8

Location: Ursa Farmers Co-op
Time: 11am
Address: 307 Oak St
Canton, MO 63435

Location: Warren Stemme Farms
Time: 6pm
Address: 165 River Valley Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146

February 12

Location: Higginsville American Legion
Time: 11am
Address: 1001 W 22nd
Higginsville, MO 64037

February 13

Location: Bradford Research Farm
Time: 11am
Address: 4968 S. Rangeline
Columbia, MO 65203

February 14

Location: Fisher Delta Research Center
(Rone Hall)
Time: 11am
Address: CR 308
Portageville, MO 63873

The 2018 district soybean meetings will feature yield champion Randy Dowdy. Dowdy, a first-generation farmer in Georgia, holds the soybean yield record with 171.7 bushels per acre in 2016, passing Missouri's Kip Cullers' previous record of 160.6 bu/ac. Prior to breaking the soybean yield record, Dowdy broke the 500-mark with 503 bushels per acre on his corn.



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