

# MISSOURI

## Soybean Farmer

AUGUST  
2020





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# MISSOURI Soybean Farmer

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*Governor Mike Parson is a strong supporter of Missouri agriculture and a champion for farmers and rural communities. Learn more on page 7.*

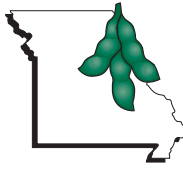
### Missouri Soybean Association

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# From The Field

*Notes from Missouri Soybeans' leadership team*

## MSA Board Members:

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Meagan Kaiser, Bowling Green  
Lewis Rone, Portageville

## ASA Board Members:

C. Brooks Hurst, Tarkio  
Matt McCrate, Cape Girardeau  
Ronnie Russell, Richmond

One of Missouri's competitive advantages in agriculture is that we have the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The transportation opportunities those river systems create have helped us capitalize on export markets, supported basis and spurred development of elevators and other infrastructure we rely on year-round. The Missouri Soybean Association watches legislation affecting river systems closely, including the Water Resources Development Act for their impact on navigation, transportation and other areas directly affecting agriculture's use of the rivers.



When issues arise, we prioritize action. This spring, when a West-coast court decision threatened to limit farmers' freedom to operate and force them to absorb the loss on already purchased Dicamba formulations, your Association stepped in, advocating for clear direction from regulators and ensuring farmers weren't stuck holding yet another bill. Our team got developments to you in nearly real-time too.

While that's been going on, MSA has also kept an eye toward our partners across agriculture. Pigs are one of the top consumers of our soybean meal, and when meat processors were struggling, your Association and our farmer-owned biodiesel plants were among the first to step forward with Missouri Farmers Care to launch the Pork Partnership (more on page 24). That's a program that's really made a difference.

I'm proud of the work our Association team does to carry out the vision of advancing and protecting the interests of Missouri soybean producers. If you have questions about the work or the Association's priorities, I hope you won't hesitate to reach out.

**Ronnie Russell** - Missouri Soybean Association President

Serving as your Merchandising Council chairman the past two years has really been something. I so appreciate the trust each of you put in me, as well as the support from my fellow board members. Looking back on the time and thinking about what to say here, it's tough to pinpoint any one thing. The Center for Soy Innovation shows what's possible through teamwork and a big focus on priorities. Work with SOYLEIC™ and getting the results of checkoff research back into farmers' hands is a top priority, and our steps forward with education programs are so important for the next generation.



It's been an honor to serve, and I'm so proud of the work we've done together. More than anything, I want to close this out by saying how important it is to give back. We all love agriculture and want to ensure its bright future here. To make that happen, we all have to stay active, especially in such a quickly changing and challenging time. Now is the time to step up and show your support of agriculture. Don't wait for someone else. There is no better time.

Thank you for the opportunities, and I look forward to continuing to work with each of you.

**Robert Alpers** - Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman



# Letter from the Executive Director

It's been two years since we broke ground on the Center for Soy Innovation in Jefferson City. For a good two years before that, we were planning it – identifying opportunities and needs, and looking at potential locations. It was a serious process centered around seeking input, truly listening to those folks who took the time to share their thoughts, and then setting priorities.

Talking with so many of you throughout that process was truly energizing for me and I want to thank each of you for your frankness in those discussions. From the beginning of this lengthy process, priority was given through the listening process to create something that would go beyond the current generation. That open, direct communication is huge and something I really value. When we talk about the soy family, or the Missouri agriculture family, I think of that willingness to have the important, deep conversations – even the tough ones. The Center for Soy Innovation is the product of that effort. Together, we made the Center better than any one of us could have done on our own. What you see of the Center in these pages and online is truly the tip of the iceberg. The end result is tough to put into words and an educational tool driven by soybean farmers, staff and all of our partners.

Family, at home and in the bigger picture of our industry, drives so much of what we do. Today is Liz and my 20th wedding anniversary, we didn't get here today by not communicating and working together as a team raising two wonderful – and sometimes a pain in the hind-end - children. It's built on trust and compromise. Like marriage and our team, every one of us are building from that base and on the work of those who came before us in some way. Know that we are working hard to create the best of everything for you, our industry, our people now and creating a brighter future and new opportunities for those coming behind us.

With all of the challenges at our doorstep now, from uncertain markets and weather conditions to the changes amid COVID-19 and divisiveness across our country, let's make a point to keep God and family at the forefront. There's room for everyone at the dinner table and everyone is welcome at ours. More unites us than divides us, and we can accomplish a lot more focusing on the 95 percent where we agree than we can by hammering on our differences – whether it's online, or at the coffee shop or dinner table.

Thank you all for being the family I choose. We are all so blessed! The entire Missouri Soybean team and I look forward to seeing you at the Center for Soy Innovation again soon.

God Bless.



**Gary Wheeler**  
Executive Director / CEO  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council  
Foundation for Soy Innovation





*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.*

# Soybean Policy Update

**I**t may not look exactly the same as in past years, but we are seeing the summer rhythm returning to campaigns and outreach following spring's COVID-19 pause - those important conversations and connections are happening. At the State level, bill reviews and signings are moving forward, and Federal issues are top of mind.

## **State Policy**

### **Primary Elections**

Missouri primary elections take place August 4, 2020 and will have a significant impact in both the Missouri House and Senate. Many seats are a solid red or blue, so once the primary is over, the general election means next to nothing. The Missouri Soybean Association has spent time with candidates running in these contested primary races hoping to determine their priorities and values as state legislators. The Association supports candidates who have an appreciation and understanding of agriculture. Members with questions about the Association's work and races in their area are encouraged to contact staff for more information.

### **Legislative Action by Governor Parson**

House Bill 1768: Sponsored by Rep. Louis Riggs, this bill extends the Missouri Broadband Grant Program through June 30, 2027. The current grant program was set to expire August 28, 2021.

*...continued on page 8.*



# Missouri Soybean Association ENDORSEMENT Governor Mike Parson

**H**ard work and a commitment to helping others have been the driving force for Governor Mike Parson's public service. Sworn in as Missouri's 57th Governor on June 1, 2018, Governor Parson pledged to move Missouri forward with common sense, trust, honor, and integrity.

Raised on a small farm in Hickory County, it was here that Governor Parson first learned the value of hard work, being a good neighbor, and being a good steward of the land. As a third-generation farmer, Governor Parson is a strong advocate for Missouri farm families. Governor Parson continues to work hard to make sure that the agriculture industry remains strong in our state.

Missouri is moving forward under the leadership of Governor Parson. Since Day One, Governor Parson has been focused on improving our state's economy, workforce development, and infrastructure. Missourians were experiencing a historic and booming economy prior to COVID-19. Unemployment was at a record low and wages were on the rise. Governor Parson signed the largest income-tax cut in Missouri history and knows that training our workforce is key to securing great jobs for all Missourians.

Even in challenging times, Missourians across the state have shown resilience to move forward. Governor Parson is working hard to get Missouri back to work and lead our state through the greatest economic comeback that we've ever seen in Missouri history. Our state's future is bright, and Governor Parson works every day to make sure that the Show-Me State stays on the right path.



--Courtesy Parson for Missouri

## Endorsement Announcement

The Missouri Soybean Association announced its endorsement of Gov. Mike Parson for re-election in September 2019, as the campaign kicked off. Sharp-eyed readers will remember the announcement in the October 2019 issue of Missouri Soybean Farmer outlining the board of directors' endorsement process and decision.

For more information about endorsements, and to contact a member of the board of directors or policy team, visit [mosoy.org](https://mosoy.org).



...continued from page 6.

This legislation builds on Missouri's efforts to mend the digital gap and expand access to broadband to all areas of the state. Under this legislation, grant recipients who fail to meet speed requirements of 25 megabits per second are required to repay any funds awarded to them. MSA believes this is a great step toward meeting the goal of connecting all Missourians.

House Bill 2120: Sponsored by Rep. Bill Kidd, this bill relates in part to House Bill 1768, regarding broadband utility services to extend access funding to June 30, 2027. In addition to broadband funding, House Bill 2120 also introduces the "Water Safety and Security Act," which requires the establishment of policies and procedures for identifying and alleviating cyber risk within community water systems. Under this legislation are permits, subject to appropriations, that each school district will test potable water samples in a public-school facility serving students under first grade and constructed before 1996 for lead contamination. This is a positive step toward ensuring Missourians have access to quality water.

Governor Parson signed both House Bill 1768 and House Bill 2120 July 2, 2020.

Senate Bill 631: Sponsored by Sen. Hegeman, this bill allows expansion of absentee voting with provisions for notarized ballots and includes a sunset clause. Under Senate Bill 631, mail-in absentee ballots will only be an option for voters who specifically request one. This bill aims to allow that option by requiring signature verification to prevent fraudulent actions and preserve the effectiveness of elections, while protecting Missourians. Governor Parson signed it June 4, 2020.

## **Federal Policy**

### **USMCA**

The United States, Mexico and Canada Trade Agreement became effective on July 1, 2020. The U.S. is starting to see progress since the agreement took effect. The U.S. is maintaining zero tariffs with Mexico, seeing increases in dairy,

poultry and egg market access, and modernizing biotechnology protections. While the agriculture sector is expected to benefit overall, farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses should especially see the benefits of this agreement. We are hopeful this type of win starts a trend of U.S. trade deals moving forward, notwithstanding the China agreement fiasco.

### **Phase 1 Trade Deal**

With what seemed like progress on the implementation of the "Phase One" trade deal with China, U.S. Trade Adviser Peter Navarro was quoted in a news report saying the trade pact with China was over. That was contradicted with a tweet from President Trump confirming the deal is "fully intact." China has purchased 25-30 percent of its \$37.5 billion commitment to the U.S. farm sector. Despite pandemic-related strains, efforts are expected from both countries to fulfill their quotas. Clauses in the agreement allow for concessions due to unforeseen issues, including COVID-19.

### **Financing Rural Broadband**

Missouri Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler introduced a bipartisan bill that aims to provide relief to rural broadband providers. The "Flexible Financing for Rural America Act" would allow certain rural utility service borrowers to take advantage of current low interest rates without the heavy fines and penalties, and allow telecommunication providers to refinance their debt to stay solvent in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **USGSA**

The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee recently advanced Senate Bill 4054 to reauthorize the Grains Standard Act, which sets the structure of the Federal Grain Inspection Service. The reauthorization process is vital, as the current USGSA expires at the end of September. The Senate Agriculture Committee finds this bill under consideration to be a key element of success in export markets for U.S. commodities. The U.S. grain inspection system provides stability for trade markets. The Missouri Soybean Association expresses its support of the

bill and expects to see it reauthorized, as a properly functioning grain inspection system for producers is a priority for MSA and is crucial for the efficiency of U.S. grain export markets.


### **SRE Gap**

In January, the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals struck down three small refinery exemption (SRE) petitions that EPA could not extend exemptions to small refineries whose temporary exemptions had expired. The ruling prevented EPA from allowing these gap fillings and provided relief to soybean producers who rely on Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) to sell surplus soy oil to biodiesel producers. The National Biodiesel Board has emphasized the EPA's duty to ensure RFS volumes are being met, following the exemptions. Protecting the RFS is crucial to future markets, as the biodiesel market is important for soybean prices.

### **Climate Crisis Action Plan**

Recently, Democrats serving on the U.S. House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis released their action plan proposal, which is a structured report detailing policy recommendations to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and reach net-zero emissions in the U.S. by 2050. Of specific interest to the Missouri Soybean Association is one of the pillars focused on domestic agriculture production. The plan proposes an increase in federal investment in sustainable climate practices such as planting cover crops, low and no-till farming, and improving soil management. It suggests leveraging existing crop insurance plans to incentivize more climate-friendly farming practices through adjusted rates.

### **Want to know more?**

Members of the Missouri Soybean Association receive regular email updates on policy and regulatory movement in Jefferson City, Washington D.C., and elsewhere Missouri soybean farmers' bottom line stands to be affected. Visit [mosoy.org](https://mosoy.org) for details. 






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# Getting Hands-On with Soy

*The Center for Soy Innovation is home to demonstrations and opportunities to see soy-based building materials in use. Visitors truly get a hands-on experience with the possibilities for soy both in their homes and throughout their lives.*

**By Christine Tew**

Photos by Jason Jenkins,  
Mill Creek Communications

Tours of the Center for Soy Innovation focus on more than interactive educational exhibits and sustainability. For many visitors to the Center, especially farmers, a tour is a chance to see their soybeans in action.

That action begins even before entering the building. At the Center for Soy Innovation, the parking lot is part of the tour.

“Bringing folks in, it’s so important that we show them all the ways soy impacts their lives,” says Gary Wheeler, CEO and executive director for Missouri’s soybean organizations. “That’s at the heart of the mission for the Center.”

In the parking lot, Cargill’s Anova Asphalt Rejuvenator uses soy to extend the life of asphalt.





***The Center for Soy Innovation is a hub for innovation and a show-place for soy products that have come to the marketplace, from paints and resins to heating systems and insulation. Visitors have the opportunity to see the products in action firsthand.***

Soybean oil replaces petroleum in the rejuvenator, which incorporates recycled materials and improves cold weather performance.

Once on the sidewalk, visitors have another opportunity to experience soy in action.

The team from SYNlawn® in Kansas City partnered with the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council to highlight soy-based artificial turf outside the grain-bin entryway and inside the Center.

The Jefferson City installation of SYNlawn® makes for more than 70 million square feet of the soy-backed turf, which is recognized by the USDA BioPreferred program as a renewable choice because of its soy content.

Visitors can get a closer look at the soybased-turf inside, where SYNlawn® also donated a putting green – perfect for visitors to see how a soy option might fit into activities they already enjoy.

Many of the soy-based products were sourced through the USDA BioPreferred program, which is focused on market development and expansion for biobased products, including those made with soy.

“For the Center, we worked with partners across industry – from companies like Cargill to USDA and USB, along with our architects, to source the renewable and soy-based materials,” Wheeler says. “It was important to our mission for the Merchandising

Council and for the project to showcase what is available in the marketplace now, and to give farmers and the community a chance to see the products firsthand.”

Research played a significant role in sourcing, both in evaluating products available through the BioPreferred program and in identifying Missouri-based options for as many of the soy-based products as possible.

The Soy Products Guide, a searchable online database from the United Soybean Board and soy checkoff proved helpful for business development and building staff in that work. The guide categorizes products by use and by company location, putting the list of Missouri-based businesses working with soy close at hand. The database is available via [soynewuses.org](http://soynewuses.org).

One of the Missouri-based soy options was for countertops. Eco-Tech, located in south-central Missouri’s St. James, produced the highly durable solid surface material that includes soy resin. The material is resistant to flame, staining, impact and other damage, and is lighter weight than both acrylic and polyester-based options. The countertops have a minimum 53 percent renewable/recycled content, including recycled glass from automobile windshields.



***Soy-based biodiesel is part of the facility's educational space as well, where visitors have the opportunity to experience fueling up with biodiesel at a real pump.***

While not widely available, the Eco-Tech product is installed throughout the Center for Soy Innovation.

Several of the soy-based materials used in the Center for Soy Innovation are more widely available for home use, including paints, carpet and insulation.

Sherwin Williams' ProMar 200 acrylic soy-based paint is put to the test at the Center, used on surface metal structural steel, columns, beams, bracing and the roof joist trusses.

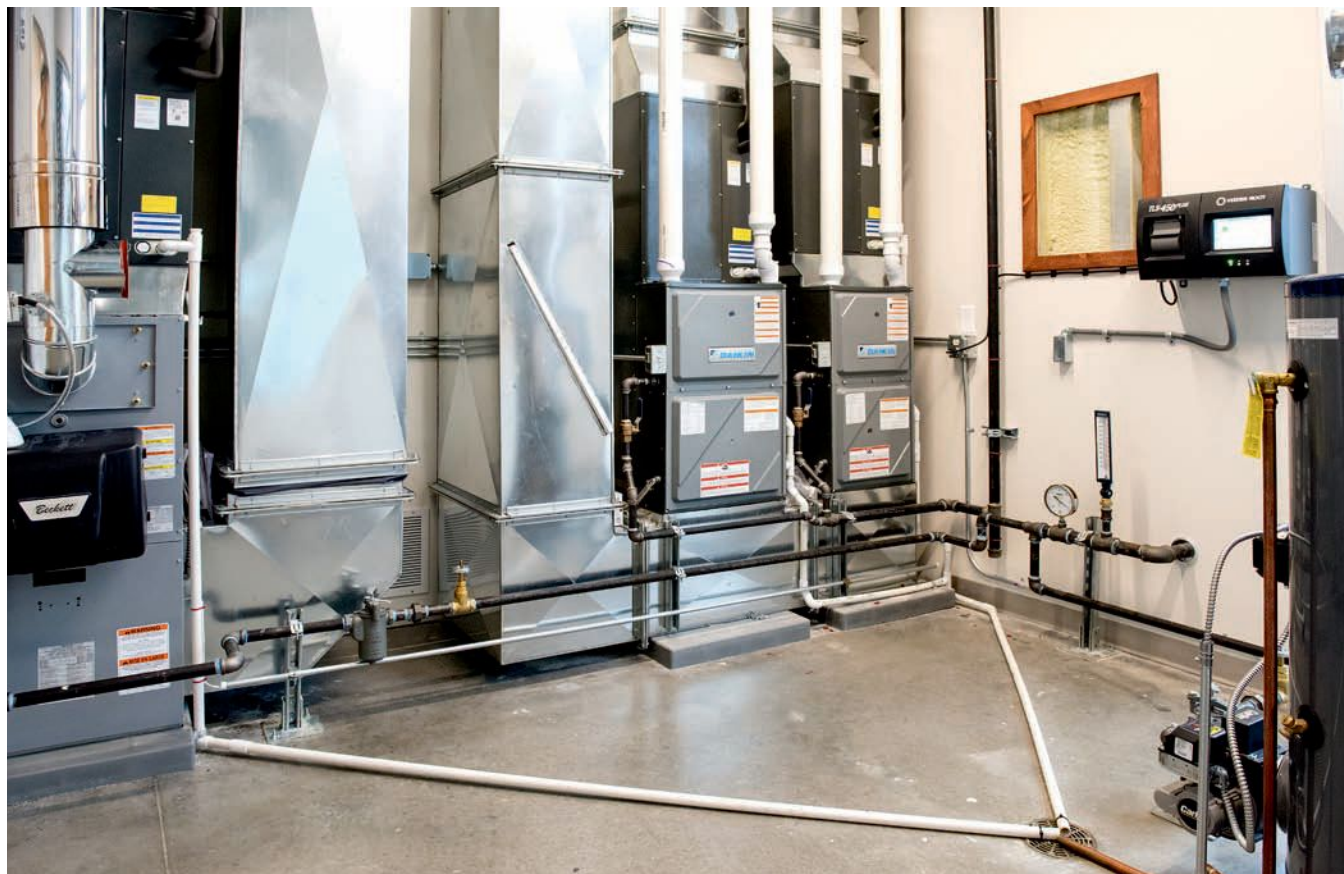
Similarly, the Center's ADM conference room features soy-based carpet backing. The BioCel by Signature carpet is made for commercial, high-traffic areas with backing made from natural oils, including soybean oil, rather than petroleum. The carpet also includes recycled plastic water bottles and is recognized for emitting lower VOC levels for improved indoor air quality.

Keeping staff and guests comfortable within the Center was a top priority in  
*...continued on next page.*

***“Bringing folks in, it's so important that we show them all the ways soy impacts their lives. That's at the heart of the mission for the Center.”***

—Gary Wheeler

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*Visitors have the opportunity to see soy-based insulation and heating during their time at the Center, and are encouraged to get 'up close and personal' with the materials and systems.*



*The tank on the front of the building, made possible in part by the MFA Oil Foundation, fuels the Center's heating system with soy-based biodiesel.*

the design process, Wheeler explains.

"We knew we wanted to use the soy-based insulation," he said. "Working with the company and our architects, we put the Heatlok in all our exterior walls. It's been a good experience, from installation to day-to-day operations."

The Heatlok Soy 200 insulation is a rigid spray foam made from soybean oil and recycled plastic. It's recognized for moisture protection and vapor retardant properties, as well as its resistance to thermal transfer.

One place it wasn't used: interior walls.

"The rigid spray foam doesn't give us the sound dampening we need in the office and for meeting rooms," Wheeler says.

Putting the soy spin on comfort within the Center didn't stop there. The facility also gets its warmth from soybean oil. Specifically, the furnace brings technology from colder climates, especially the Northeastern U.S., to the Midwest.

The variable-speed furnace runs on biodiesel, sourced locally from MFA Oil. An integrated monitoring system shows tank conditions for the fuel.

For more information about soy-based products and to learn more about Missouri's soybean organizations and the Center for Soy Innovation, visit [mosoy.org](http://mosoy.org).

You can also schedule your tour of the new Center through the Contact Us tab.



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# Field Days Going Virtual

*Late-summer and early-fall field days are a staple across Missouri's agricultural communities. This year, technology is allowing many of those to go virtual amid concerns surrounding COVID-19. While one in-person field day is planned, both the virtual and in-person events will be re-evaluated if conditions change.*

**By Logan Jackson**

Photos courtesy of  
University of Missouri  
College of Agriculture, Food  
and Natural Resources

Following discussions with local health departments and advisory boards, all educational field days offered by the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) Agricultural Research Centers, except one, will be hosted virtually this year. The Graves-Chapple Research Center, located near Rock Port, Mo., is the only Research Center that will host an in-person field day and will follow all CDC guidelines for social distancing. These decisions were made locally at each Research Center.

"These were incredibly tough decisions that we did not take lightly," said CAFNR Vice Chancellor and Dean Christopher Daubert. "We understand how important our Research Centers are to their respective communities, which is why instead of completely cancelling our field day season we are offering virtual presentations. This will allow our outstanding faculty and researchers an opportunity to still interact with Missourians across the state."

Each year, the Research Centers offer educational presentations and demonstrations through a variety of field days throughout the state. Those events offer regionally specific data and information that farmers and producers use to improve their own operations.



The field day schedule will remain the same; however, most Research Centers will offer a schedule of prerecorded presentations on a variety of topics debuting the day of the scheduled field day. Those topics range from cover crops to industrial hemp to rotational grazing. The recordings can be found through each Center's website and Facebook page, as well as a special CAFNR webpage. All presentations are free and open to any member of the public.

"While we understand the disappointment in not gathering for our in-person field days, we are excited to be able to offer timely information through virtual means," said Shibu Jose, associate dean in the CAFNR Office of Research. "Our faculty and researchers are still committed to serving Missourians during this trying time."

The decision for the Graves-Chapple Research Center to host an in-person field day came after much discussion

with local health officials and its advisory board. That event is slated for Tuesday, Aug. 25. As with any event during the pandemic, it is subject to cancellation if conditions change.

"Safety is paramount, and the Graves-Chapple Research Center will follow all CDC, state and local recommendations for social distancing during its event," Jose said.

Additionally, other large in-person events, such as the South Farm Showcase, held in Columbia, Mo., and the Missouri Chestnut Roast, held at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) in New Franklin, Mo., have been cancelled for 2020. Both the South Farm Research Center and HARC will have virtual offerings instead.

Jose added that if conditions improve later this year, there could be opportunities for the Research Centers to offer an in-person gathering to watch the



**Shibu Jose**

presentations together, as well as hear live speakers. Those types of decisions will come at a later date.

"We do understand the concern related to rural Internet issues," Jose said. "We are going to do our best to get this important information into the hands on anyone who wants it."

For more information and the latest calendar of events, visit [cafnr.missouri.edu](http://cafnr.missouri.edu).

## 2020 Field Day Schedule

<b>August 4</b> <i>Greenley Research Center</i>	<b>September 15</b> <i>Forage Systems Research Center</i>
<b>August 11</b> <i>Hundley-Whaley Research Center</i>	<b>September 24</b> <i>Thompson Research Center</i>
<b>August 25</b> <i>Graves-Chapple Research Center</i>	<b>October 2</b> <i>Wurdack Research Center</i>
<b>August 28</b> <i>Fisher Delta Research Center</i>	<b>October 3</b> <i>Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center</i>
<b>September 3</b> <i>Bradford Research Center</i>	<b>October 13</b> <i>Baskett Research Center</i>
<b>September 10</b> <i>Southwest Research Center</i>	<b>October 20</b> <i>South Farm Research Center</i>

*"While we understand the disappointment in not gathering for our in-person field days, we are excited to be able to offer timely information through virtual means."*

-Shibu Jose

# New Leadership for Biodiesel Coalition

*Jefferson City's Matt Amick to lead education and development work as executive director.*

*By Christine Tew*

## BIODIESEL Coalition of Missouri

The Biodiesel Coalition of Missouri is moving into its third year with new leadership, naming Matt Amick of Jefferson City the executive director. Amick, a well-known figure among those working with renewable fuels in Missouri, brings grassroots experience and strong relationships across industry, along with a passion for education.

"We're really at a crossroads for biodiesel in the Show-Me State. There are great opportunities ahead, and the Biodiesel Coalition of Missouri is well positioned to help Missouri move from being an exporter of biodiesel, to using what we produce – capturing those economic and environmental benefits for all Missourians," Amick said. "It's exciting to look toward that bright future, and I greatly appreciate the Coalition members' support as we move forward."

The Biodiesel Coalition of Missouri provides technical support and educational resources for all involved with biodiesel, from guidance on on-farm and retail fuel storage to in-person and virtual trainings for distributors and drivers.

Amick currently serves as the Missouri Soybean Association's director of biofuels and new uses. He previously worked with farmers and industry leaders on behalf of the Missouri Corn Growers Association. Tony Stafford, who has guided the Coalition as its executive director since its formation in 2018, will continue to work with the group, serving in an advisory role.

"The Biodiesel Coalition of Missouri began as a working group, focused on raising awareness of biodiesel and its opportunities for Missouri," said James Greer, the Coalition's chairman. "As we've grown, biodiesel education has been our top priority. We look forward to continuing that work with producers, industry and policymakers through new, interactive resources and partnerships to grow biodiesel infrastructure and demand across Missouri."

Missouri currently produces roughly 200 million gallons of biodiesel each year, supporting more than 2,600 jobs.



**Matt Amick**

Compared to petroleum-based diesel fuel, biodiesel has lower emissions – 86 percent fewer lifecycle greenhouse gases, 47 percent less particulate matter and 67 percent less hydrocarbon emissions. It is the only renewable fuel to have fully completed the health effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act. Biodiesel also offers consumers a less toxic choice at the pump. Consumers with diesel vehicles can not only contribute to increased air quality by choosing biodiesel, they can also take comfort in knowing biodiesel is less toxic than table salt, and if spilled, biodegrades as fast as sugar.

The Biodiesel Coalition of Missouri works to support the commercial success of biodiesel across Missouri, growing opportunities for all involved in production and distribution, as well as those who use biodiesel, from farmers and biodiesel producers, to fuel distributors and drivers. Learn more online at [missouribiodiesel.org](http://missouribiodiesel.org). ■

*“We’re really at a crossroads for biodiesel in the Show-Me State.”*

*-Matt Amick*



# CONTROLLING YOUR PROBLEM WEEDS? DON'T WORRY. WE'RE ON IT.

Herbicide-resistant weeds cost soybean farmers time and money, impacting profitability. Fortunately, your state soybean checkoff is on the job with research projects to help you adopt the best management practices to preserve crop-protection technologies and enhance the overall sustainability of your U.S. soy crop.



The Soybean Research & Information Network provides you with information to work smarter and more efficiently. **Visit [soybeanresearchinfo.com](http://soybeanresearchinfo.com) and check out the hard work behind your hard work.**



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# Soybean Research: Online & Searchable

*The Soybean Research Information Network is a collaboration among those working with soy checkoff-funded research that functions much like a search engine, ensuring farmers have access to the results and other guidance, and that they can find what they need when it's time to make decisions.*

**By Brandelyn Twellman**

**S**oybean gall midge, a newer soybean pest originally found in Nebraska, has entered northwest Missouri. Previously, farmers in the area would have to spend days searching for relevant research to create prevention plans for their operations. Today, they can visit one website that makes accessing, understanding and applying soybean research on the farm easier than ever.

“To promote checkoff-funded production research, the United Soybean Board (USB) has partnered with the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) to create the Soybean Research & Information Network (SRIN),” said Cate Newberg, USB/NCSRP program manager leading the effort. “The site is dynamic, easy to consume and offers farmers one place with past and present checkoff-funded research projects.”

Greg Luce, director of research for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising

Council, said the site has become a resource for soybean research information.

“It provides a tremendous amount of information geared toward farmers about soybean research and management of all kinds,” he said. “The network is particularly strong in agronomic information, including crop management, cover crops, weed management, soybean diseases, soybean insect pests, growing markets and more.”

Luce said SRIN is a one-stop shop for farmers. In addition to sharing soybean research, farmers can find direct links to the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database, NCSRP, USB and Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs) actively participating in research, like the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC).

“We work closely as a participant and

sponsor in NCSRP, and we work very closely with USB, and they both have excellent resources that are linked on the SRIN site,” Luce said. “Many projects that come from Missouri and with Missouri funding are featured there – including projects we’ve worked closely on with partners at the University of Missouri. We feel it’s a network that should be well known amongst the soybean farming community, and this is a way to make that happen.”

## **Research At Your Fingertips**

Newberg said the SRIN site was developed to be the communications arm of the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database – [www.soybeanresearchdata.com](http://www.soybeanresearchdata.com) – a database that has been built up during the past several years and serves as a deeper dive into research. The site contains state and national research funded by various checkoff programs. It is accessible by all soybean organization staff, farmers, university and company

The Illinois Soybean Association contributed to this article.



*SRIN offers growers the tools to explore soybean research online, when it suits their schedules and without needing to travel to events.*

researchers, agronomists and others interested in study results.

“The research database is essentially a warehouse of all the production research nationwide dating back to 2008,” said Newberg. “There is a lot of data for researchers to compare and contrast, see what has been done on various topics and find collaboration. It’s highly technical.”

Complementing the database with the new SRIN site provides the opportunity to present research in a digestible fashion. Newberg said users can mine the site for projects of interest by entering their state and/or subject area. The research articles on the SRIN site also link back to original research in the database as well as to related research from other states and regions.

Luce said the database could act as a tailored search engine for those looking into soybean research.

“This is a site our farmers should know about,” he said. “A lot of times, people will Google<sup>®</sup> search a particular topic around research, and that can be good, but it can also be hit or miss. If farmers use SRIN, they have that hub of agronomic information they can rely on. The information is well documented, it’s researched and it’s high-quality information. Farmers can really rely on the network for background research and finding more detailed information.”

He added the benefits of SRIN reach beyond soybean farmers.

“It’s a resource that can be used by anyone looking for more research information,” Luce said. “For researchers, I think it helps us to prioritize. One of the things we know with a biological product like soybeans is that things change, for example, a new pest like gall midge. SRIN is a great place to go for current and new information. The network is nothing but growing, so more research will be added, and it

will become a more sophisticated and broader web into the future.”

Newberg is also sharing some of the research found through the SRIN site on social media and other outlets.

“We promote articles so we can get real-world management ideas out there that impact farmer production and conservation efforts. It is this research knowledge and information sharing that will help advance the soybean industry,” she said.

“Between the research on the SRIN site and the articles it shares, that network is taking soybean farmers outside of their own state,” Luce said. “It broadens the scope of soybean research and creates the missing link among all soybean research resources.”

Visit [soybeanresearchinfo.com](http://soybeanresearchinfo.com) to learn more about SRIN and checkoff-supported soybean research. ■

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# Working with Waterhemp

*Studying herbicide resistance requires patience and persistence.*

**By Jason Jenkins**

Mill Creek Communications

Tucked safely inside greenhouses on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, thousands of waterhemp seedlings grow in black plastic flats, roughly 2 feet long and 1 foot wide, filled with soil to a depth of about 2 inches.

Like a gardener expertly tending to rare orchids, MU graduate student Travis Winans sowed these seeds about six weeks ago. Every day since, he's checked on them. He's fertilized them, watered them three times a day and ensured they had abundant light. There's a reason behind this constant and consistent care, Winans explains.

"We want to eliminate any reason for mortality," he says, "except for the herbicide we spray them with, that is."

Winans is working under the guidance of MU Extension weed scientist Kevin Bradley to identify populations of herbicide-resistant waterhemp, widely considered the weed of greatest concern for soybean producers in the Show-Me State. He is treating suspected populations with two of today's most popular "over-the-top" herbicides — glufosinate and dicamba, the herbicides employed in the LibertyLink and Xtend soybean systems, respectively.

"We're seeing some failures at the field level, and we're worried about resistance," Bradley says. "We're worried about losing Liberty because we use Liberty a lot."



## Waterhemp in the greenhouse.

The work is just one component of a collaboration with weed scientists at land-grant universities in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee where other weed species — such as Palmer amaranth, marestail and giant ragweed — also are being evaluated for their ability to survive applications of today's post-emergence herbicides. The work is primarily supported by checkoff funds directed by the United Soybean Board.

### Hampered Herbicides

According to the International Survey of Herbicide Resistant Weeds, there were 514 unique cases of herbicide-resistant weeds worldwide as of July 2020. Resistance was reported in 262 different species and in 93 crops across 70 countries. Of the 26 known herbicide sites of action, weeds have evolved resistance to 23 of them and to 167 different herbicides. Winans' work could add to the list.

"We're working with 137 different waterhemp populations from five states," says Winans, who received his bachelor's degree in crop sciences from the University of Illinois. "They're all suspected to be resistant populations. In some cases, we're growing it out to see if it's truly resistant or if there wasn't control because of an application issue."

Herbicide-resistant waterhemp is already problematic for soybean producers. The small-seeded weed is one of the toughest to control. A single plant can produce a quarter-million seeds, which can remain viable for up to four years in the soil. Multiple flushes of waterhemp can emerge throughout a growing season. When the plants appear, they can grow quickly — more than an inch per day.

"We planted our flats during the last week of May, and by the first week in July, we had some plants that were 12

*"We're working with 137 different waterhemp populations from five states. They're all suspected to be resistant populations."*

-Travis Winans

to 16 inches tall growing in just 2 inches of soil," Winans says. "Waterhemp has really good developmental plasticity, which means it's able to adapt to a changing environment. It can grow with hardly any water or in just a little soil. It's able to outcompete other plants for water and nutrients and survive, producing seed to keep the population

going. It has different resistance mechanisms and can metabolize herbicides, which makes it tough to control. That's why the size of the plants and the timing of application are so important."

Bradley says overall, season-long competition with waterhemp can reduce



*Waterhemp is terminated at a 4-inch height for the resistance study.*

*...continued on next page.*

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*This is the fourth article in a yearlong series examining the past, present and future of weed control in the production of soybeans in the Show-Me State. This issue, we take a look at the science behind determining herbicide resistance in troublesome weeds.*

...continued from previous page.



*Graduate student Travis Winans grows, then terminates, waterhemp under the guidance of MU Extension Weed Specialist Kevin Bradley.*

soybean yields by 44 percent. In the past decade and a half, almost every waterhemp population has developed two-, three- or even four-way herbicide resistance.

In 2018, a population in Randolph County was identified that couldn't be controlled with six different herbicides, including 2,4-D, atrazine, chlorimuron, fomesafen, glyphosate and mesotrione. Should waterhemp develop resistance to Group 4 dicamba or Group 10 glufosinate, it would severely limit producers' ability to achieve chemical weed control.

#### **Weed Workup**

For his weed survey, Winans recreates a burn-down herbicide application scenario. Each of the suspected resistant waterhemp populations is grown in its own plastic flat. Once they reach a height of 4 inches, they are sprayed. Winans is repeating the survey four times at two rates.

"We'll do four reps at a full 1x rate and four reps at a 1/2x rate," he explains. Fourteen days after we spray, I take a rating, looking at percent control of the flat. We also do ratings at 21 and 28

days. At 21 days, we do percent survival. I count how many plants were in a given flat and then how many are going to survive. We'll do it for dicamba and then we'll do all over again for glufosinate."

While some plants may curl up and die after application, others will curl up but remain green and grow out of the herbicide injury. Plants that do survive will be allowed to grow to maturity. Then, Winans will collect the seed and repeat the entire process. Should those plants survive, they are considered truly herbicide resistant.

After having his project delayed a few months due to COVID-19, Winans hopes to complete the trials within the next year. The graduate student wants to give producers better knowledge about what's growing in their fields. He says watching the waterhemp in the greenhouse has given him better appreciation for the need for weed management strategies that go beyond a

*“...it really does pay to put down a pre-emergent herbicide at planting to hold down that first flush of waterhemp until you can come back with your post application.”*

-Travis Winans



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*Controlled herbicide application.*

single herbicide.

“Even though the different populations were all planted at the same time and given the same treatment, they didn’t all germinate at the same time, even in the same flat,” Winans says. “So, that shows you why it really does pay to put down a pre-emergent herbicide at planting to hold down that first flush of waterhemp until you can come back with your post application.”

The project also has reemphasized the need to rotate modes of action whenever possible — and to combine chemical control with mechanical control and other techniques, such as tillage, weed seed management and planting cover crops to suppress weeds.

In addition to his work in the greenhouse, Winans has another component to his graduate project — helping to study the effectiveness of a weed seed destruction implement called the Seed Terminator. The device

is attached to the rear of a combine and uses multistage hammer mills to pulverize weed seeds present in the crop residue as it passes out of the rear of the machine.

Initial results indicate the Seed Terminator could be a powerful tool against herbicide-resistant weeds. When tested in four fields in 2019, more than 98 percent of the waterhemp seed was destroyed or damaged to the point that germination was unlikely. The research is funded in part by the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council.

“Honestly, I never thought I would ever be planting waterhemp,” says Winans, who grew up in central Illinois and comes from a farming family. “But that’s just what I did. I think this project is pretty needed to give us better knowledge of weeds, the mechanisms of resistance and finding new solutions that go beyond herbicides.”

# HONOR WALL

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

## Pork Partnership

**M**issouri pig farmers in coalition with local processors have now donated more than 200 hogs to feed Missouri families. By the end of June, donations yielded 20,590 pounds of ground pork, the equivalent of more than 93,000 servings of high-quality protein for hungry Missourians. The program added another 7,500 pounds, nearly 40,000 servings, to that total the first week of July.

This spring, as several of Missouri's pork processors suspended operations or reduced capacity due to COVID-19 and related regulations, Missouri Farmers Care launched the program. According to Feeding Missouri, 1.2 million Missourians faced food insecurity before the COVID-19 crisis, including 1 in 5 people in rural areas.

"This is a proactive step to give farmers options to cut food waste and support their communities," said Don Nikodim, executive director of the Missouri Pork Association.

Missouri's agricultural organizations and businesses, including Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, Missouri Farm Bureau Insurance, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Missouri Soybean Association, FCS Financial, MFA Incorporated, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Forrest and Charlotte Lucas, founders of Protect the Harvest, Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, Paseo Biofuels, LLC, and Biofuels, LLC have donated to cover processing and transportation costs in partnership with Feeding Missouri and its network of food banks across the state.

Pig farmers and meat processors can take part by contacting the Missouri Pork Association. Individuals and companies can donate funds to support the effort at [MOFarmersCare.com/drive](https://MOFarmersCare.com/drive). ■



*Lt. Governor Kehoe (left) joined the partners for a donation pickup July 8.*



## Miles Receives 2020 Thomas Jefferson Award

**R**andall Miles, associate professor emeritus of soil science in the School of Natural Resources, received the 2020 Thomas Jefferson Award as part of the UM System President's Awards. The Thomas Jefferson Award is reserved for faculty who rise above excellence and demonstrate clear distinction, not only in their career, but also in service to the University of Missouri and humankind.

Over his career as a beloved instructor at MU, Miles has made a major impact on student education. Beyond that, his profound passions for soil science, human health and community wellbeing have led him to make fundamental contributions to the development of small rural towns. He has leveraged his expertise in wastewater treatment to help smaller municipalities to recycle water back into the local watershed while recycling nutrients for onsite crop utilization and generate income through the installation of low-cost irrigation systems that promote biofuel production. He has also elevated the reputation of the university by establishing the Missouri Onsite Wastewater Training and Research Center, which has served as a major educational resource for regulators, soil scientists, installers, engineers, designers, land-use planners, home inspectors, and homeowners. He served as the director of Sanborn Field for several years as well. ■



*Randy Miles*





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# Vision and Commitment

*For Lewis and Justin Rone, farming and volunteering go hand in hand. The father-son team share a commitment to both continuously learning and sharing their experience - improving opportunities for their community and for their fellow soybean growers.*

**By Brandelyn Twellman**

Photos courtesy of the Rone family and Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council

Farming is a family affair on the Rone's farm, Rone Farm Partnership. Lewis and his son, Justin, work side by side, full time on the farm. Coming from a long line of farmers, their appreciation for the agricultural industry runs deep.

"I come from farm families on both sides," Justin said. "It's not just growing up on a family farm that sparked my interest in agriculture. It's growing up in the Bootheel. It's a very ag-centric economy down here. I don't even consider the farm my first job - it was just part of growing up. When I did get my first jobs off the farm, they were at the Delta Center and Bunge. So, even if I wasn't on the farm, I was doing something else in agriculture."

In addition to growing soybeans, corn, cotton, rice and wheat in New Madrid and Pemiscot counties, the pair is heavily involved in volunteer and leadership roles throughout agriculture. Justin said while they farm other commodities, he and his dad are primarily soybean farmers. Their passion for the crop is made evident through their dedication to the soybean industry and its organizations.

Lewis began serving on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC) Board of Directors in 2008, representing growers in District 7. He retired from the board this summer after serving the maximum 12-year term.

Coming back to the farm in the late '70s after obtaining a master's degree in agricultural



**Justin (left) and Lewis Rone farm across New Madrid and Pemiscot counties as the Rone Farm Partnership. Their vision for the future commitment to their community and industry goes far beyond those boundaries.**

economics from the University of Missouri (MU), Lewis has been farming in the Bootheel ever since. His roots in production agriculture have helped shape his involvement in MSMC.

“The highlights of my time on the board include supporting a robust public variety breeding program with the hiring of Dr. Chen and Dr. Scaboo, and the roll out of the high oleic program,” Lewis said. “Soybean-based biodiesel also has its roots in MSMC checkoff dollars. And, high oleic soybean oil, with its roots in MSMC, has the potential to grow into a significant demand opportunity.”

This progress made throughout his 12 years of service were his motivation to continue.

“I stayed on the board the full four terms because I felt that every year the board was improving upon itself in terms of accomplishing the goals they set to benefit the Missouri farmer,” he said. “With MSMC, our checkoff dollars are being invested to both grow demand and provide opportunities to keep costs down. We are truly working to grow our farmers’ bottom line.”

Lewis believes this growth will continue, benefitting Missouri soybean farmers.

“I only see positives for the future of MSMC,” he said, “especially with the new building built to help educate the public about the soybean.”

He said getting involved in the work



***In addition to his service on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board of directors, Lewis Rone represents his fellow Missouri growers on the United Soybean Board. His attention to research and business development opportunities has led many to recognize him as an advocate for both innovation and practical solutions on-farm and across industry.***

of the Merchandising Council and speaking up are important aspects of its continuous growth.

#### **Big Shoes to Fill**

Growing up on the family farm in Portageville, Mo, Justin continuously found himself following in his father’s footsteps.

Whether it was a passion for farming or a heart for volunteerism throughout the industry, Justin saw the example his father set and was inspired to pursue a similar lifestyle. This is shown in the way Justin gets involved the agricultural industry today, including replacing his father on the MSMC board to oversee

soybean checkoff investments.

Justin made his way back to the farm in 2012. He and his wife, Lesley, are now raising their two young children on the farm.

Before returning home, Justin had been working as the legislative director and counsel for Jo Ann Emerson, a former member of Congress for eastern Missouri, after graduating from MU with a degree in agricultural economics and from the Washington and Lee School of Law. His involvement in both the agricultural industry and his community took off upon his return to the Bootheel and farming full-time.

“I’m involved in Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, the Pemiscot Port Authority, my county Farm Bureau board and the local Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative,” Justin said.

He was also a member of Agricultural

***“When we organize, we have the opportunity to talk through issues amongst ourselves and, in turn, advocate for the agricultural industry with a more united voice.”***

-Justin Rone

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Leaders of Tomorrow Class XV and is currently a member of the Bar in Missouri and Virginia. He's excited to add the MSMC board of directors to that list.

"I see a lot of value in the Merchandising Council and the MSMC board," he said. "I see a lot of value in the work they're doing to help farmers grow their bottom line. But, it wasn't until I saw my dad serving on the board that I had a real knowledge of the things the Merchandising Council does, and how it contributes to the economy and supports Missouri soybean farmers."

The value Justin sees in the work of MSMC, combined with the opportunity to follow in his father's footsteps, made stepping into Lewis' spot on the Board an easy "yes." He believes the other individuals involved will help shape his experience.

*"With MSMC, our checkoff dollars are being invested to both grow demand and provide opportunities to keep costs down. We are truly working to grow our farmers' bottom line."*

-Lewis Rone

"I am most looking forward to learning from the other board members," Justin said. "Learning from how they see the soybean industry progressing in the future, and how we can work together to bring about great things for soybean growers. It's the people on the board and the staff on the Missouri Soybean team that will be one of the most exciting parts about this experience."

He is looking forward to learning more about all aspects of MSMC and its work, including education, research, new uses, market development and more.

Justin added that he believes getting involved in roles like serving on the MSMC board is important to move the agricultural industry forward as a whole.

"When we organize, we have the opportunity to talk through issues amongst ourselves and, in turn, advocate for the agricultural industry with a more united voice."

He looks forward to doing just that on the MSMC board. ■



+



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## Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council

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