

MISSOURI

Soybean Farmer

AUGUST
2021

Investing in Research

Farmer-selected projects to grow demand for soy and address on-farm challenges are central to the checkoff.

Biodiesel Education

Hands-on learning keeps biodiesel top of mind for students at Fenton's Rockwood Summit High School.

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26 Leon Busdieker is headed back to the farm after retiring from a career in service to Missouri FFA, ag teachers and students.



« Cover Shot

The Bay Farm Research Facility is home to many of soybean farmers' research programs and educational events - and a great place to visit, as seen in this photo by Jason Jenkins of Mill Creek Communications.

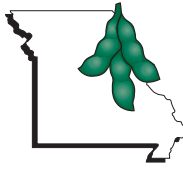


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From The Field

Notes from Missouri Soybeans' leadership team

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ASA Board Members:

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

By now, the year's crops are planted, and depending on where in Missouri you are, replanted. Flooding has been a big challenge this year in my area, and maybe yours, too. Meanwhile, other parts of the state couldn't get a rain. It makes me think of the second paragraph of the FFA Creed:

"I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny."



Unfortunately, if you farm long in Missouri, you've probably been on both sides of that coin. In some years, you might have even gotten the opportunity to see both those sides.

This time of the year, this window before harvest, is a good time to reflect on the important priorities that can get pushed aside in the rush of planting: Faith. Family. We often focus on the immediate need of planting, spraying, marketing and the multitude of other farm and business decisions that hit during the growing season. Looking ahead, I know I'll count on my faith and time with family to fortify me for the marathon of harvest, and I encourage each of you to make the time to spend with those closest to you, and to focus on your top long-term priorities during this window. I wish each of you a safe, bountiful harvest.

Ronnie Russell - Missouri Soybean Association President

In this issue of *Missouri Soybean Farmer*, you'll find the list of projects we selected for funding through your soybean checkoff for the coming year. Managing the research portfolio is one of the central roles for every farmer you send to serve on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board of directors and committees. We truly view it as investing farmers' dollars, addressing those issues and opportunities we see on the farm and in the marketplace now, and those we anticipate facing in the future. As such, we also view it as the farmers' research portfolio, and our responsibility is to steward it with the utmost care.



Research is a cornerstone of our pursuit of innovative solutions to the challenges we face as farmers. Without knowledge as our foundation, work to strengthen our state's soybean farmers to weather whatever storms may appear on the horizon would be for naught. Collaboration and partnerships are vital to maximizing the effectiveness of that work, raising the walls upon that strong foundation. It's exciting to see how work slated for the year ahead integrates with the knowledge previously gained and propels us forward with ever-greater resources to face what may come. I hope you'll join us in drawing from the portfolio to strengthen yourself, your farm and your future, and know that we look forward to your feedback now, and at field days and meetings in the weeks and months ahead.

Kyle Durham - Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman



Letter from the Executive Director

“Most of us spend too much time on what is urgent and not enough time on what is important.”

There are a lot of variations to that saying, but the meaning is the same. Time is our most precious resource. What seems ‘on fire’ in the moment, often turns out to be more of a candle than an inferno in hindsight. I know I’ve been my own worst enemy from time to time, falling into the trap of “too busy” and realizing later that I let priorities for being productive and being present for those most important to me fall aside.

I’d like to think I’ve improved in my ability to see those situations before relying on hindsight over the years. It’s a work in progress, but I’m really trying taking my own advice:

Set your priorities, then delegate or hire out what truly needs to be done and drop the rest.

It sounds harsh, but it applies in just about every area of our lives. Whether it’s on the farm, in business or at home, the odds that each of us can do every single thing we, and others, think we should do, are so slim they may as well not exist. Not everything can be a priority, and that means we have to get very clear on what truly is a priority. For me, it’s my faith, my family and service to the farmers and staff of Missouri’s soybean organizations. Beyond that, if something has to give, it gives.

Part of that is also knowing when your operation has grown to a point that it’s time for a strategic change. Over the past seven and a half years, your soybean organizations have gone through incredible change. From new priorities around biodiesel, SOYLEIC® and growing demand for Missouri-grown soy, to raising the bar on education and outreach to previously unimaginable levels, the team of farmers and staff have pushed forward in incredible ways.

That growth also means it was time for a structural change. Earlier this summer, we announced a new role within Missouri Soybean and the promotion of Casey Wasser to serve as chief operating officer (learn more about Casey on page 24).

This is an important and exciting step forward for our ability to grow in service to Missouri farmers and with the opportunities and challenges across the soy value chain. Casey has accomplished great things within our policy efforts, and he is truly seen as a leader and friend to our industry. He has proven himself time and time again to help manage our organizations, and this is a strong fit with his leadership on policy efforts at the state and federal levels.

I’m thrilled for the opportunities ahead, and for the incredible trajectory this allows us to follow in new partnerships, new markets and continuing to grow our impact through the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Foundation for Soy Innovation and partner organizations.

Thank you, and God Bless.



Gary Wheeler

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



Meeting with Governor Parson, discussing farmers’ priorities for investment in Missouri agriculture



Casey Wasser serves as the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Policy Director 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

It's been two months since the Missouri Legislature adjourned the regular session of the 101st General Assembly. Since then, Governor Mike Parson has acted on a long list of bills with provisions important to Missourians, as well as called a special session that focused on extending the Federal Reimbursement Allowances (FRA). We will dive into these issues in this update as well as some important developments in Washington, D.C. and internationally.

Below is a list of legislation signed by the Governor and each piece of legislation's relation to Missouri soybean producers:

- HB 271, sponsored by Representative John Wiemann and handled through the Senate by Senator Sandy Crawford, made changes to local government. Specifically related to Missouri soybean producers, it clarified that a county health board shall not be able to enforce unilateral restrictions on agricultural operations that are inconsistent with, in addition to, different from, or more stringent than any state law or regulation concerning agricultural operations.
- SB 262, sponsored by Senator Dave Schatz and handled through the house by Representative Becky Ruth, increases the fuel tax over the next five years for a total increase of \$0.125 per gallon. This increase is refundable for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000

pounds or less. The first increase of \$0.025 is scheduled to be enacted on October 1, 2021.

- HB 574, sponsored by Representative Kent Hayden and handled through the Senate by Senator Jeanie Riddle, specifies which agencies and entities have exclusive authority to inspect the grounds or facilities in Missouri used for the production of eggs, milk or other dairy products, or the raising of livestock. Unless requested by the owner of the facility, no other entity may inspect the grounds or facilities to enforce or carry out the laws or administrative rules of the state or that of another state.

- HB 369, sponsored by Representative Tim Taylor and handled through the Senate by Senator Mike Bernskoetter, clarifies that any person who recklessly or knowingly releases any swine to live in a wild or feral state may be sentenced to pay a fine up to \$2,000. This shall not apply to releases authorized through a Department of Conservation permit or prohibit or hinder the ability to transport domestic swine to market or slaughter.

On June 22, 2021, Governor Mike Parson issued a proclamation that convened the Missouri General Assembly to address a list of issues surrounding health care, including abortifacient drugs or devices, but key to the general state budgetary operation is the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA). FRA is a fee assessed to hospitals relating to their ability to provide inpatient health care in Missouri. This fee provides a substantial amount of revenue to the state, but more importantly, Missouri's MO HealthNet uses these funds to pull down federal matching dollars that exceed \$1 billion in revenue, annually. During this Special Session, the legislature did answer the



Missouri Soybean Association CEO/Executive Director Gary Wheeler (third from right) was on hand for Governor Mike Parson's signing of HB 271, protecting farmers' freedom to operate and Missouri's livestock industry.

Governor's call and renewed the FRA for three years. They also addressed a host of issues related to the health care practices linked to Right to Life policies. Prior to the proclamation and the renewal of the FRA, the Governor restricted \$800 million in state spending for a wide array of issues due to the possibility of losing the FRA draw-down money. Since the renewal of the FRA, the Governor released those funds and their programs were funded starting July 1, 2021.

Included in the funding restrictions but subsequently released and approved was \$2 million for biofuel infrastructure projects. This funding was secured by the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) with the help of Appropriations Chairman Senator Dan Hageman and Vice-Chairman Senator Lincoln Hough. These funds will be administered by the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA).

We've met with MASBDA to provide details on how we'd prefer the funds be prioritized. These funds will be awarded to applicants who can show the investment will result in more biodiesel usage and sales in the state of Missouri. This investment is key to creating more demand for locally made biofuels to the benefit of our biodiesel producers and soybean farmers. Once the program is officially announced and applications are available, MSA will be working with our industry partners to ensure this program is well utilized.

What is not yet so black and white are the ongoing negotiations in Washington, D.C., to come to agreement on how the federal government should prioritize and fund a wide list of infrastructure projects. President Biden and the Democratic-led Congress have presented many different priorities that include climate-based infrastructure projects and fiscal estimates exceeding \$2 trillion. MSA supports investment into roads, rail, waterways and broadband infrastructure. As these negotiations continue, MSA has communicated several key points to Congress.

“Our farmer members strongly supported changes... in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and oppose reversing those changes to pay for infrastructure proposals.”

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As climate priorities continue to be discussed, biofuels must be considered a priority. Biodiesel can provide significant greenhouse gas reductions, and it's ready and available now. Just like the state of Missouri, Congress should prioritize biofuels infrastructure to help meet demands to address climate issues. As they look to pay for these proposals, we have not let your voices go unheard.

On July 2, MSA President Ronnie Russell, in partnership with Missouri Cattlemen's Association President Patty Wood, sent a letter to Congress asking them to prevent any reduction in the estate tax exemption, modification to the step-up in basis, and increase in the Capital Gains Tax and payment due date. Our farmer members strongly supported changes made to these statutory provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and oppose reversing those changes to pay for infrastructure

proposals. Specifically, we support traditional pay-fors – including user fees and transportation-related taxes. Using tax provisions, including increasing the Capital Gains Tax and changing the stepped-up-basis consideration, as additional revenue generators threaten the long-term viability of family farms. User fees and transportation-focused taxes are a far more responsible path forward than adding to the burdens already on farm and ranch families.

President Biden signed an executive order that pledges to address the corporate consolidation, which includes the agricultural industry. At this time, it's not clear how exactly the U.S. Department of Agriculture will regulate this order. At face value, this is a welcomed discussion that needs to be had with good faith and true intentions. Just recently, MSA provided input to the U.S. Department of Justice and worked with producers in southeast

Missouri to provide on-site expertise regarding the possible purchase by Zen-Noh Grain Corp. (ZGC) of Bunge North America's grain terminals along the lower Mississippi River. Specifically, these soybean producers wanted to bring attention to the fact that for 140 miles, from Dorena, Missouri, past the state line to Osceola, Arkansas, 12 of the 19 elevators purchasing grain would have been owned by ZGC's subsidiary, Consolidated Grain and Barge (CGB). Rightfully, thanks to the hard work of many farmers, ZGC was required to divest nine grain elevators in nine geographic areas located along the Mississippi River to prevent a reduction in competitiveness.

Want to know more?

MSA members receive regular email updates on policy and regulatory movement. Visit mosoy.org for more. ■



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American Soybean Association

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- Engage in leadership training that will enhance your farming operation as well as your service in other organizations
- Gain tools to better enable you to tell your story
- Meet and learn from agriculture industry leaders
- Connect with soybean farmers from the U.S. and Canada, creating valuable new agricultural relationships



Program information:

PHASE I

Tuesday, Nov. 30 – Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, in Johnston, Iowa

PHASE II

Tuesday, March 8 – Saturday, March 12, 2022, in New Orleans, Louisiana, in conjunction with Commodity Classic

For more information about the Young Leader Program and to apply for membership in the class of 2022, go to SoyGrowers.com.



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Iowa-Missouri Policy Leaders Fellowship (PLF)

2021-2022



Program Overview

The IA-MO Policy Leaders Fellowship (PLF) is a collaborative, one-year experience for young soybean farmers from Iowa and Missouri who possess a desire to learn more about government and the legislative process, all while improving their core leadership and advocacy skills. The PLF will give participants a deep understanding of the policies, laws, and regulations that affect agriculture, the soybean industry, and rural America. Weaving travel and social interaction into the program curriculum, participants will learn the role policymaker education and a unified voice play in the legislative process.

Questions in Iowa? Call Whitley Frieden,
Producer Services Coordinator, 563-260-3200.

Questions in Missouri? Call Baylee Siegel,
External Relations Liaison, 660-473-4299.

Who Should Apply & Participate

Talented young men and women who are involved in production agriculture. One applicant in good membership standing will be selected from each crop reporting or organizational district in Iowa (9) and Missouri (7).

How to Apply

The process is easy. To complete the online application, visit mosoy.org/fellow

What to Expect

The unique program offering will allow participants to explore and better understand changing U.S. agricultural policy/regulation and how it intersects with production agriculture and the value chain. Designed to empower farmer-to-farmer learning, the offering will equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skillset to effectively advocate on behalf of agriculture and the soybean industry. The following are the core tenets of the experience:

- Network and socialize with fellow producers, industry professionals, and key decision makers;
- Build a foundational understanding of the legislative and regulatory process;
- Engage policymakers to advocate on behalf of the agriculture/soybean industry; and
- Develop and strengthen personal leadership skills.

Why IA-MO Policy Leaders Fellowship

Politics/governance is not a spectator sport. A single ill-conceived bill or regulation can significantly impact a farmer's freedom to operate and their bottom line. Through a learn hard, play hard approach, the PLF will give participants the opportunity to network with Midwestern farmers, Fortune 500 leaders, industry professionals, and state and federal policymakers. The future of American agriculture depends on sound public policy and the development of leaders who share an appreciation for the legislative and regulatory process.

Partially funded by the soybean checkoff.




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MAINTAINING OUR REPUTATION TO DELIVER

Whether shipping by river, road or rail, the soy checkoff is committed to ensuring America's infrastructure is a significant advantage for U.S. soybean farmers. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at unitedsoybean.org



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Get with the (Biodiesel) Program

In Fenton, Missouri, Rockwood Summit High School's biodiesel education program teaches kids much more than just how to make renewable fuel.

By Ron Kotrba

RonKo Media Productions

One fateful day, after a lecture to his high school chemistry students on alkanes nearly 15 years ago, one of Darrin Peters' students at Rockwood Summit High School in Fenton, Missouri, outside of St. Louis—where Peters teaches organic chemistry and qualitative analysis—asked whether they could make biodiesel in the lab. “Biodiesel was on the news the night before,” Peters says, adding that the story was about making biodiesel from restaurant grease. “That’s all I knew about it—this was the first time I heard about biodiesel. So, I mentioned it in class the next day because it dovetailed nicely with my lecture.”

After that lesson and in-passing mention of biodiesel, one of Peters' students went home, researched the topic and brought in a trove of information the next day on how to make biodiesel.

“She asked whether we could do it as a lab, and we did,” Peters says. “That was how it started, and our program just grew from there.”

Now, Rockwood Summit High School's biodiesel education program has its own production unit in a dedicated building funded by a grant from Monsanto, an oilseed press provided by Missouri Soybean Association, various vehicles with diesel engines fueled by the biodiesel made on-site by students, and a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education trailer, made possible through a partnership with Ranken Technical College, which Peters and students take on tour throughout the community to demonstrate the biodiesel manufacturing process to others.

The diesel vehicles fueled by RSHS's biodiesel include a Volkswagen, a school bus, lawn mowers, a tractor and two pickup trucks — one of which is “Old Brownie,” a 1992 Ford F250 that was one

of the very first biodiesel demonstration vehicles owned by Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. MSMC donated the beloved truck to RSHS.

"I'm in Old Brownie right now," Peters says. "It's not brown anymore, it's been wrapped in our school colors." The National Biodiesel Board provides matching funds once a year for select vehicle wraps to help promote America's advanced biofuel. "She's a good-running truck," he says.

Getting Involved

If kids sign up for qualitative analysis at RSHS, then the second semester is organic chemistry, and biodiesel is a large lab component of the class. They do research starting with virgin oil, and then used cooking oil (UCO) from a variety of sources, including fish fries from local Catholic churches held by the Knights of Columbus, he says.

RSHS has stopped frying food in its cafeteria, but before this, the students used to turn UCO generated from the frying of their own lunch meals into biodiesel. This is no longer an option though, as the school is trying to offer students healthier meal options. But UCO still makes its way to Peters and the crew.

"People know about us," he says. "We're kind of a known but unknown grease-collection center, so sometimes when I come to work there may be 20 or 30 gallons sitting on the loading dock for us to use."

The biodiesel fuel made by the students must pass a series of tests to ensure it meets all the relevant fuel standards under ASTM D6751, the prevailing

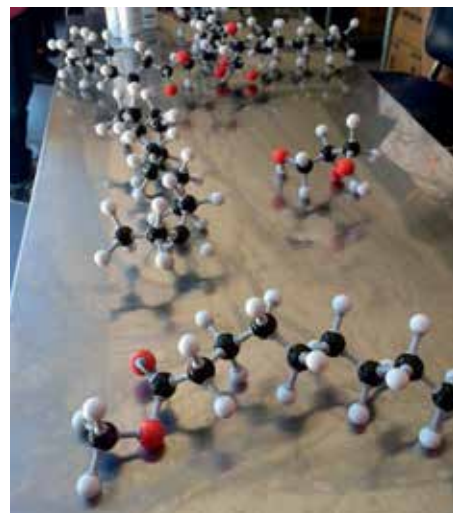
quality specification. Then the pupils present their information in a PowerPoint to other area schools in and out of the district.

"The kids present their data and the teacher uses a scoring guide to grade them on their presentation, and that goes back to me," Peters says. "That's the educational aspect in and during school." While this is an important part of the comprehensive biodiesel program, it is just one feature of the overall experience.

Not all students interested in biodiesel at Rockwood Summit High School desire to take or have the aptitude for organic chemistry. For these more hands-on learners, Peters and the school offer the opportunity to participate in the afterschool renewable fuel experience through the weekly Biodiesel Club meetings on Mondays.

"Here, we teach them whatever they want," Peters says. "We ask them what they want to do." If they're interested in agriculture, then the students can help grow feedstocks. If they are more mechanically inclined, then they may want to help maintain the vehicles. And for those students who are intrigued by chemistry and want to learn the subject in a more kinesthetic fashion, they can be part of producing and testing fuel, and manufacturing soap from glycerin—a byproduct of the transesterification process.

Peters says the program has evolved over the years, not just from being relegated to a small corner of an athletic shed for a makeshift processor to now having its own building and more sophisticated production unit, but also



When possible, the RSHS students and educators welcome the public for educational events, highlighting biodiesel vehicles and the chemistry students learn through their participation in the club. Students present their work, often using models to explain concepts.

from an educational standpoint and processing knowhow.

"When we first started, we had to learn what could go wrong — and everything that could go wrong did," Peters says with a slight laugh. "We messed up a lot of stuff, which enabled us to really understand how not to do things."

For instance, Peters says making sure all the water is out of feedstock — particularly waste vegetable oil — is critical. "That turned into a very educational experience," he says. "Just a quarter of a percent of water in the oil will lower yield, make unwanted soap and you'll spend a tremendous amount of time cleaning it up, when all you had to do is get the water out of there to begin with."

Peters adds that he used to rely on an air bubbler to dry oil and fuel, but this caused problems with oxidation. The school bought a nitrogen generator, and now the oil and fuel are dried with nitrogen, leaving only 0.05 percent water behind. "At that level, our tests can't even tell water is in it," he says.

“When we first started, we had to learn what could go wrong - and everything that could go wrong, did. We messed up a lot of stuff, which enabled us to really understand how not to do things.”

-Darrin Peters

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Life Lessons Learned

Failure is an important part of learning. Peters instructs the students to research the biodiesel process and develop a written procedure on how to do it. “I allow them to do their own experiment, but I also allow them to fail and fix it,” he says. “I don’t tell them what to do.”

Corey Meyer, a former RSHS student who graduated in 2020 and now attends Georgia Institute of Technology, says the club excels at catering to all kids. “Mr. Peters does a great job letting kids try what they want to try, experimenting and learning on their own, while also being there to help when they get stuck,” he says. “That’s part of what makes it so good. It doesn’t feel like you’re just doing what some teacher wants you to do, or reading from a textbook. We can actually learn from our mistakes — that’s one of the most appealing things about the club.”

Meyer joined the club his freshman year after his older brother was a member and really into it. “I heard a lot from him, and it sounded super interesting,” he says. Meyer stayed with the biodiesel club for the entire four years at RSHS. “In my senior year, I was employed by the nonprofit, so I was doing work for [the club] more often.” The biodiesel education program at RSHS has nonprofit status, which is the most effective way to secure grant money, according to Peters.

The biodiesel program teaches students how to think critically, solve problems and persevere, Peters says. “They have to keep trying and doing it until they’re successful,” he says. “They get a level of confidence from going through it. If something happens and they mess up, hopefully they learn the world’s not going to end and they can fix it — that it’ll be okay.”

Tommy Potteiger, an associate principal at Rockwood Summit High School and Peters’ supervising administrator, says the biodiesel program is a point of pride for the students.



The 2014 groundbreaking for the biodiesel program’s facilities at Rockwood Summit High School brought together educators, students and industry.

“They can show what they’re learning, and what they’re doing with their knowledge,” Potteiger says. “It’s not just learning to do well on a test. This is about learning life skills, and being able to demonstrate that knowledge in public. It really brings a lot to learning. It’s about teamwork. Working with a lab partner and other students. Making sure you don’t let your teammates down. And with Mr. Peters, getting and accepting support and instruction. Skills used in the workforce. Quality control. It all really adds to their learning.”

The biodiesel program helps translate otherwise abstract chemistry lessons into practical, tangible terms, Potteiger says. “It’s like the food chain,” he says. “Food doesn’t just show up on your plate out of nowhere. Well, the same is true for fuel. This program helps them see the interconnectedness of the world, and what they can maybe do differently to help support people in the area and to be more environmentally sound—that’s all part of the program.”

One student, a junior who prefers to go only by their last name, Fyle, says they first heard about the biodiesel club in Peters’ honors chemistry class the year before.

“He invited some of the kids interested in chemistry down to the biodiesel

shed,” Fyle says. “That’s how I first heard of it. I thought it was fun and interesting, so I kept going.”

Fyle plans on going to college and doing medical research when older, so naturally taking science classes will be part of that. “I’m definitely learning more about chemistry, organic chemistry, and the environment,” Fyle says. “I’m learning basic lab skills, and science communication, which are very valuable things to know.”

Fyle adds that skills learned in the club helped when beginning Peters’ qualitative analysis and organic chemistry classes. “It made them easier,” Fyle says. “Being able to get practical experience in the world of science and chemistry will give me better opportunities in the future, as well.”

Meyer says the biodiesel club opened his eyes to how the world works. “The club helped me realize, for one, what it takes to run a business — people making product, then trying to find people to buy or use the fuel and soap, and others yet performing the marketing for fundraisers,” he says. “It acts like its own company. It also helped expand my knowledge base in chemistry and engineering. And it let me try a lot of different things to find what I like, which helped me find a path toward something

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I will enjoy doing for the rest of my life.”

Meyer is majoring in computer engineering at GIT and wants to design and engineer embedded systems for satellites — creating sensor networks to collect data in space. “I’ve always liked space,” he says. “I always knew I’d be some sort of engineer because I really enjoy math and science.”

The updated, more sophisticated biodiesel processing unit at RSHS, which can make 200- to 250-gallon batches, was designed and built by Peters and the students with help from a volunteer engineer who donated a tremendous amount of time.

“It is all stainless steel, and to pass code we got all pneumatic pumps, spark-proof pneumatic valves, a 3-foot radius around [the system] with spark-proofing around it,” Peters says. “And it’s all controlled by PLC (programmable logic controller). The kids programmed the

“*...being able to sell the fuel with the tax credit can help us get out of debt and build up some cash to provide scholarships to kids. That’s what we really want to do.*”

—Darrin Peters

PLC.” Meyer says he enjoyed working on the PLC, to no surprise given his college major. Peters adds that some kids got presidential scholarships as a result of this work.

During his senior year, as an employed assistant, Meyer says he enjoyed the leadership role, helping to teach new students about the biodiesel process, how it works and how the club ran.

“I really enjoyed that — teaching them, seeing them learn and understand,” he says. “It was super fun.” His least favorite part was having to clean up grease when a 5-gallon bucket of oil spilled.

Although Meyer enjoyed driving Old Brownie, he says he preferred driving the other truck more.

“The history behind Old Brownie is really cool though,” he says. “Being able to keep it up and running, just being a student organization, is super cool. I got to drive it around my senior year when I was employed by the nonprofit.”



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Washington University

A while back, RSHS was approached by Washington University, which was inquiring about the high school selling biodiesel blends to the college. RSHS has been approved by the U.S. EPA to sell fuel to the community and, in the fall of 2020, the nonprofit got a greenlight from the Internal Revenue Service to claim the \$1 per gallon biodiesel blenders tax credit — a huge win for the program's budget.

Peters says he was prepared to begin implementing the Fuel Wash U program late this spring. How much? That depends on the volume of grease they can pull from the university.

"About 200 gallons a week is as good as we can do," he says, referring to RSHS's ability to collect grease and crank out fuel.

"More realistically, 200 gallons every other week. They have two or three catering trucks the fuel will go into. The problem is, there's been no catering due to COVID--19, so I think we'll start small."

Peters says Washington University wants higher blends like B50. "They'd like B100, but I don't want to risk that, especially in wintertime," he says. "I think the agreement will be anywhere from B20 to B50."

When COVID-19 hit, all that could go wrong did, Peters says. "We got into a lot of debt, so being able to sell fuel with the tax credit can help us get out of debt and build up some cash to provide scholarships to kids," he explains. "That's what we really want to do."

Washington University is "such a respected institution," Potteiger says. "This connection will help our students see that what they're doing is pretty special."



While Old Brownie no longer wears the familiar brown and tan two-tone paint, the truck continues to serve in its new home with the Rockwood Summit Biodiesel Program.

The Pandemic

Outside of selling fuel to Washington University, the students participate in a number of fundraising activities such as car shows, air shows, and parade-style floats with the biodiesel-powered trucks. "It was always a lot of fun," Meyer says. Potteiger says the pandemic put a damper on these types of fundraising events during the past year.



In spring 2020, RSHS "didn't even do biodiesel," Peters says. "Well, we did — we had just gotten started and then had to shut the whole thing down. We didn't go to presentations, we didn't go into the community, and then this year, because we still have quite a few people that are learning online and schools just don't want other people in their buildings, we're still not doing our presentations. So, it's still not back to normal yet. Touring the community and doing presentations is the highlight for everyone in the spring. That didn't happen last spring or this one, but hopefully it will in spring 2022."

Meyer says the pandemic changed a lot about how he envisioned his final year in high school. "I missed out on a lot," he

says. "Even the club went remote — it was weird. Something I spent a lot of time doing, going a few times a week to do whatever, got cut out in a moment's notice. It was strange."

In the end, however, whether remote or in person, science continues to ask questions, provide answers and generate new questions. "The club gives kids a way to do this outside of a textbook," Potteiger says. "I can't give Darrin enough credit in getting kids involved in science. This is a great example of that. They get involved in the community and in the state — and it's a bonus that they take pride in their school and area. That's the goal, to leave here and be proud of the learning they took with them."

And for those students thinking about getting with the biodiesel program, here is some advice from a fellow club member: "Don't be afraid to get involved," Fyle says. "Ask questions. The whole thing is a learning experience."

"You're not supposed to know everything," they added. "It's okay to mess up — I've done it several times. We're there to learn. That's what the club is for." ■

Deadline: Missouri Soybean Yield Contest

Submit entry forms by September 10, 2021

Missouri farmers have consistently brought big numbers on soybeans in the annual yield contest, combining innovation and expertise throughout the growing season that pays off at harvest. The time to show those big yields is coming up quickly, with the deadline to enter the 2021 competition set for September 10.



Entry forms are available online at mosoy.org and by contacting the Missouri Soybean office at (573) 635-3819. Each entrant will also be provided a 2021 Harvest Form. Harvest forms will be due no later than November 30, 2021.

For the 2021 Soybean Yield Contest, the Missouri Soybean Association has made two changes to the rules to reflect the adoption of on-farm practices across the state:

New Category for District Competition – Cover Crop

To qualify for this new category, soybean must be planted without tillage into a cover crop. There is no restriction on the type of cover crop used or on the termination timing of the cover crop. Irrigation is not allowed for this category. The Cover Crop category will be added to the existing District categories of No-tillage (dryland) and Tilled (dryland). Each district will have the opportunity to recognize winners in each of the three categories.

Recheck Yield Moved to 90 bu/acre

For many years, a recheck has been required at 75 bu/acre. With yields continuing to climb, it is appropriate to raise that to 90 bu/acre. Weigh wagons may be used for yields up to 90 bushels per acre. Any contest yield in excess of 90 bu/acre must be rechecked, and the recheck results will be the official contest yield. State-certified scales and moisture testers must be used for measuring and weighing processes for recheck yields in excess of 90 bu/acre. On-farm scales may be used if they are state certified.

The higher recheck requirement is in keeping with the ever-increasing yields. Missouri's statewide average soybean yield was nearly 50 bu/ac in 2020.

The Missouri Soybean Association yield includes regional competitions in addition to the statewide contest. Growers in each of the Association's seven districts compete against one another for top yield. The regional competition allows farmers the opportunity to show their skills against others' growing in similar soils and under similar weather conditions. Thanks to the partnership of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and industry, top growers receive cash prizes. Winners in the district-level competitions go on to compete for statewide recognition and additional prizes. Growers with yields of 100 bushels per acre or more receive additional prizes as well. ■



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Checkoff Investments: Looking Forward

Missouri's soybean checkoff investments are farmer directed, and for the 2022 funding year, the farmer leaders selected 31 projects, totaling nearly \$2.5 million, addressing challenges affecting soybean farmers and markets.

By Christine Tew and Greg Luce

Missouri's soybean farmers are investing in their future, funding nearly \$2.5 million in soybean research, development and education projects this year. Projects selected for funding address challenges directly affecting Missouri's soybean farmers, soybean markets and future opportunities.

"Research is a cornerstone of our pursuit of innovative solutions to the challenges we face as farmers," said Kyle Durham, a farmer and chairman of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board of directors.

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council funded 31 projects, ranging in value from \$16,375 to \$460,000. Projects selected for funding include Missouri's northern and southern soybean breeding programs, as well as work on soy-based golf balls, disease resistance and herbicide tolerance, and soil health. Biodiesel-focused education projects with the Rockwood School District and Three Rivers College were also selected for funding.

"Farmers' support of this work remains focused on addressing barriers and strengthening our state's soybean farmers to weather any storms on the horizon," Durham said. "Collaboration and partnerships are vital to maximizing the effectiveness of our research dollars, and it's exciting to see the work slated for the year."

Funding decisions are made by the 13-member Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board of directors, following review by staff and outside consultants. The work is funded through the soy checkoff program, in which farmers contribute one-half of one percent of the sale price of their soybeans to research, promotion and education. Each project is evaluated individually and by a committee of farmers elected by their peers to serve on the statewide soy checkoff board.



Summaries and preliminary results from funded projects are shared each spring in the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's annual research report and in Missouri Soybean Farmer magazine.

“Collaboration and partnerships are vital to maximizing the effectiveness of our research dollars, and it's exciting to see the work slated for the year ahead.”

-Kyle Durham

Funded Projects

Understanding the Impacts of Soybean Cyst Nematode Seed Treatments on SCN and Sudden Death Syndrome in Missouri
Kaitlyn Bissonnette, University of Missouri
\$29,000

Foliar fungicides and disease management: a strip-trial study
Kaitlyn Bissonnette, John Lory, Kent Shannon, University of Missouri
\$42,000

“MU Certified” Strip Trial Initiative: Cover Crop Trials
John Lory, Katlyn Bissonnette, Kent Shannon, University of Missouri
\$70,000

Monsanto Education Center for Sustainable Solutions (MECSS) Project Coordinator/ Research Assistant
Darrin Peters, Mihira Wijeweera, Rockwood Summit High School
\$21,600

Protecting Soil After Soybean
Peter Scharf, University of Missouri
\$25,000

Evaluating Electrocutation as a Viable Method of Preventing Weed Seed Production in Missouri Soybean Systems
Kevin Bradley, Mandy Bish, University of Missouri
\$70,000

A comparison of two seed treatments for SCN and SDS efficacy in MU strip trials
Kaitlyn Bissonnette, John Lory, Anthony Ohmes, University of Missouri
\$45,000

Biodiesel Technology
Will Cooper, Three Rivers College
\$25,000

In Pond Raceway System Development to Enhance Aquaculture Feed Sector Intensification in Cambodia Phase II
Alan Poock, World Initiative for Soy in Human Health
\$50,000

Taking Soy to the Greens

Missouri's soybean farmers are seeing new opportunities on the greens with their investment into the future of a soy-based golf ball. Among the checkoff-supported research projects announced recently by the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council is an effort to put soybeans to work as part of a popular summer pastime: golf.



The project, led by Ram Gupta at Pittsburg State University, is titled: Value-added applications of soybean for golf industries.

The work is dually focused on developing golf balls' core material from soy meal and other soy-based materials, and developing soy-based polyurethanes for the balls' outer layer. The project also includes testing the materials to ensure optimal performance and preparing products for commercialization.

It is too soon to estimate a timeline for the availability of a soy-based golf ball. The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council will work with its partners to share that information as soon as possible.

For the latest on this and other projects growing demand through research into new uses for soy, explore mosoy.org.

Soy Aquaculture Alliance Membership
Kenlon Johannes, Ginny Tauer, Soy Aquaculture Alliance
\$25,000

Optimization of food process engineering process parameters for shelf stable SOYLEIC™ milk, SOYLEIC™ yogurt, SOYLEIC™ tofu and SOYLEIC™ extruded okara products fortified with Vitamin B12
Kiruba Krishnaswamy, Azlin Mustapha, University of Missouri
\$58,701

Industrial applications of soybean hulls/meals for rechargeable batteries
Ram Gupta, Pittsburg State University
\$55,484

Explosives and Soybeans: Meeting the Need for a More Environmentally Friendly Exposure
Phillip Mulligan, Missouri University of Science and Technology
\$90,927

OEM's: Maintain and Secure Approvals for B20 and Higher Blends
Brad Shimmens, Scott Fenwick, National Biodiesel Board
\$25,000

Evaluating and optimizing the use of high oleic low linolenic (HOLL) soybean oil in ice cream
Bongkosh Vardhanabhuti, Andrew Scaboo, University of Missouri
\$34,161

Biodiesel Market Expansion Drive
Brad Shimmens, Floyd Vergara, National Biodiesel Board
\$25,000

Quality Assurance Programs
Brad Shimmens, Scott Fenwick, National Biodiesel Board
\$25,000

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Commercial application of soybean oil for flame-retardant polyurethanes
Ram Gupta, Pittsburg State University
\$56,982

Creating Demand for U.S. Poultry in the Philippines' Foodservice Sector
Shelby Watson, U.S. Poultry and Egg Export Council
\$36,500

Value-added applications of soybean for golf industries
Ram Gupta, Pittsburg State
\$58,622

SEI – State Regulatory and Environmental Support
Brad Shimmens, Floyd Vergara, National Biodiesel Board
\$25,000

North Missouri Soybean Breeding Program
Andrew Scaboo, Mariola Usovsky, Eduardo Beche, University of Missouri
\$450,000

Fisher Delta Research Center Soybean Breeding Program
Pengyin Chen, Andrew Scaboo, University of Missouri
\$460,000



“Research is a cornerstone of our pursuit of innovative solutions to the challenges we face as farmers.”

-Kyle Durham

Screening Soybean Germplasm and Breeding for Flood Tolerance
Pengyin Chen, University of Missouri
\$60,000

North Central Soybean Research Program Member State FY21/22 Funding Proposal
Ed Anderson, North-Central Soybean Research Program
\$175,000

Utilizing Molecular Markers for Soybean Variety Development
Andrew Scaboo, Mariola Usovsky, Pengyin Chen, University of Missouri
\$109,000

SCN Screening for MO Breeding Programs
Andrew Scaboo, Pengyin Chen, University of Missouri
\$120,000

Screening and Selecting Non-Xtend Soybeans for Dicamba Tolerance
Pengyin Chen, University of Missouri
\$16,375

Leveraging Stable Isotope Traits to Improve Soybean Water Use Efficiency and Yield Under Drought
Felix Fritschi, Andrew Scaboo, University of Missouri
\$75,000

HOLL plus soybean variety development
Andrew Scaboo, Kristin Bilyeu, University of Missouri
\$95,000

Enhanced Pest Control Systems for Midsouth Soybean Production
Trey Price, Mid-South Soybean Board
\$40,000

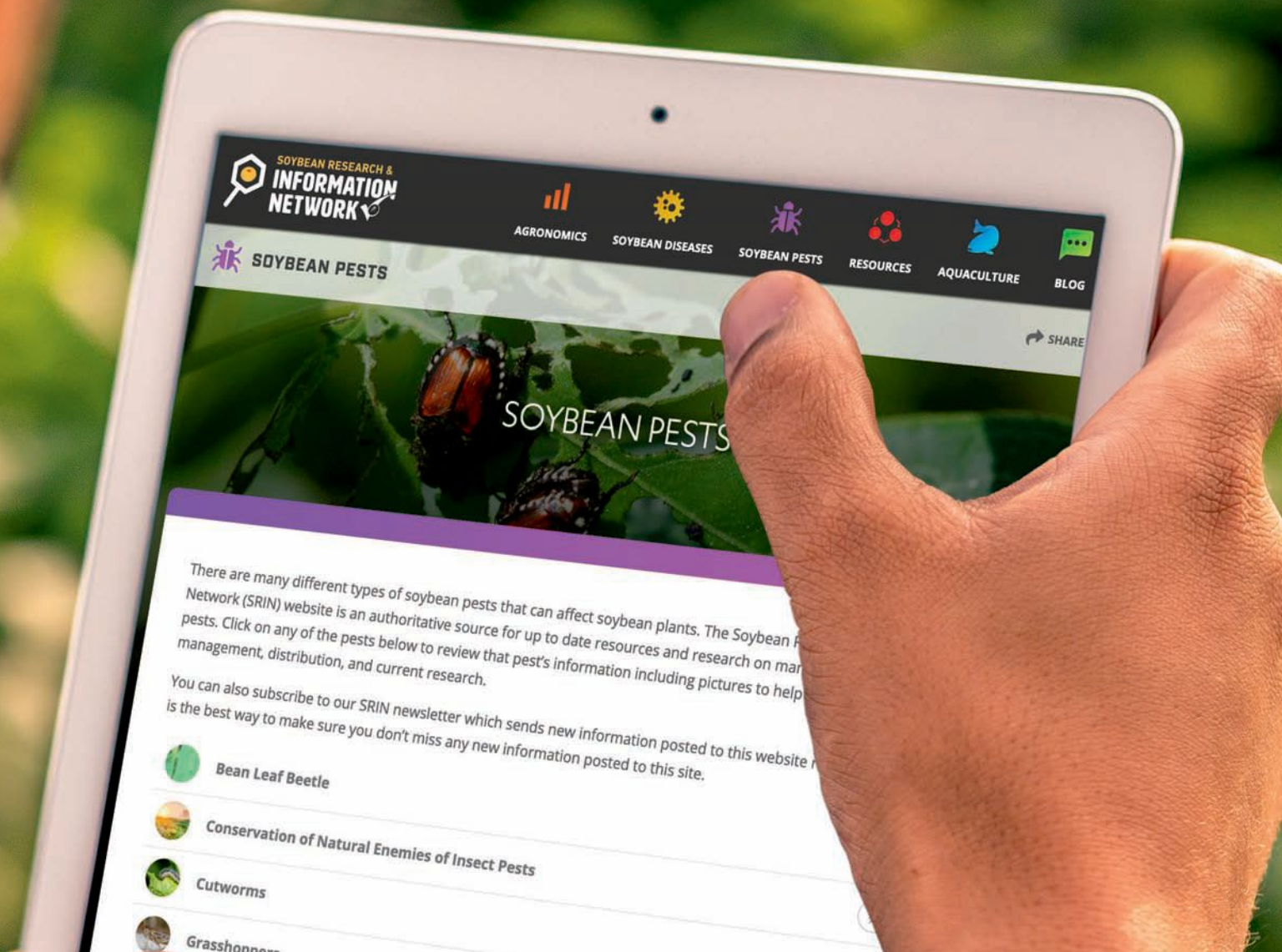
The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council solicits proposals each fall, and project evaluations for new and ongoing projects are completed during the winter and spring. Funding for selected projects generally begins July 1, with progress and results shared each spring in the Annual Research Report.

The application process is aligned with the Merchandising Council's strategic plan, prioritizing work in soybean research and growing demand for soy, as well as education and outreach projects.

Research projects include soybean breeding, solving specific problems within soybean production and multi-state partnerships. Funding for work to grow soy demand is focused on increasing soybean use, primarily through advances in livestock feeding, food production and new uses for soy. Outreach and education projects demonstrate solutions to on-farm challenges and support future generations' work with soy.

Previous years' funded projects have made possible key advances, including commercialization of SOYLEIC[®] non-gmo high oleic trait technology; developing soybean varieties tailored to regional growing conditions, including flooding and drought tolerance; and growing market opportunities around soy-based biodiesel. Projects have also directly supported training and education opportunities around cover crops, soil health, herbicide resistant weeds and other on-farm challenges, all supported by farmers' soy checkoff investments. ■

Do you want to know more about Missouri farmers' research portfolio?
Visit mosoy.org to explore the annual research report and other project summaries and updates.



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HONOR WALL

Good news from those working on behalf of Missouri soybean farmers

Wasser Promoted to Chief Operating Officer for Missouri Soybean Organizations

Missouri's leading voice for soybean farmers has a new addition to its leadership team as Casey Wasser is promoted to Chief Operating Officer. The promotion to serve as COO for the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and Foundation for Soy Innovation took effect July 1.

"This is an important and exciting step forward for our ability to grow in service to Missouri farmers and with the opportunities and challenges across the soy value chain," said Gary Wheeler, executive director/CEO. "Casey has accomplished great things within our policy efforts, and he is truly seen as a leader and friend to our industry. He has proven himself time and time again to help manage our organizations, and this is a strong fit with his leadership on policy efforts at the state and federal levels."

Wasser has served as the director of policy for the Missouri Soybean Association and Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council since late 2016. In that role, he has guided the Association through legislative work directly affecting Missouri farmers, including assessments of agricultural land values, proposed increases to on-farm regulation and taxation of disaster payments. Wasser also led the effort to secure repayment of the Missouri Qualified Biodiesel Producer Incentive Fund.

"It's an honor to work for Missouri's farmers," Wasser said, "and I appreciate the opportunity to grow in service to our growers and partners. Missouri Soybean has a strong track record of success, and the future is bright for Missouri's number one crop."

The COO role is new within Missouri Soybean. Wasser continues to lead the Association's policy work, with the joint title Senior Policy Director, in addition to serving as the COO.

Prior to joining the team at Missouri Soybean, Wasser served as the legislative liaison for the Missouri Department of Revenue. He is a lifelong member of Annunciation Catholic Church and resident of California, Missouri, where he lives with his wife, Brooklyn, and children, Boden and Calyn. ■



Casey Wasser

Schumacher Recognized for Leadership

Congratulations are in order for one of Missouri's original biodiesel champions: Dr. Leon Schumacher. Schumacher, professor and agricultural systems technology program coordinator, received the 2021 Provost's Award for Leadership in International Education. This award recognizes MU faculty who have provided outstanding leadership in strengthening MU's international dimension.

Schumacher's research focuses on topics such as precision agriculture, smart farm initiative, Internet of Things (IOT), automated farming systems and energy conservation including biodiesel, biomass and ethanol, as well as curriculum-related issues associated with agricultural systems technology. ■



Dietzschold, Missouri FFA

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently named Keith Dietzschold Agricultural Education director and Missouri FFA Association state advisor, effective July 1, 2021. Dietzschold was previously northwest district supervisor and state FFA executive secretary.

Dietzschold received a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1982. After returning home to farm with his father in the family's row-crop and swine operation, Dietzschold returned to MU to complete a Master's in Education, Agriculture Education emphasis, and graduated in December 1984.

Dietzschold and his wife, Linda, reside in Boonville. They have two grown children and one granddaughter.

As director of agricultural education and state FFA advisor, Dietzschold will oversee Missouri's agricultural education program, including the state's 351 FFA chapters and 25,662 members. ■

Basnet Honored

Pawan Basnet, a graduate student (PhD) studying plant breeding, statistics, genetics and plant pathology with Dr. Scaboo has recently been selected to the 2021 Class of Borlaug Scholars. He is one of only 24 students selected.

With this high honor, Basnet joins an elite group within the MU Soybean breeding team:

Elizabeth Prenger (staff) and Elizabeth De Meyer (PhD student) in Dr. Scaboo's program, and Caio Canella Vieira (PhD student) in Dr. Chen's program, are also former Borlaug Scholars.

Learn more about the Borlaug Scholars program online at www.plantbreeding.org/borlaug-scholars. ■



Welcome Summer Interns, Spargo and Anderson

Please join us in welcoming Missouri Soybeans' summer interns: Ricanna 'Ricki' Spargo and Dylan Anderson. Ricki is prioritizing outreach projects, dividing her time between southeastern Missouri and the Center for Soy Innovation in Jefferson City. Dylan is primarily focused on research and demonstration work at the Bay Farm Research Facility outside Columbia, and spending some time with the staff in Jefferson City.

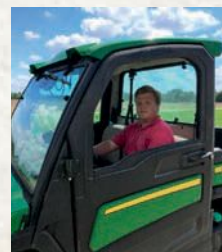
Learn more about Ricki and Dylan

Ricki Spargo is from Naylor, Missouri, in the southeast corner of the state. She was raised on her family farm where they grow rice, corn, and soybeans. She graduated from Naylor High School in 2020 and is currently attending Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. In December 2021 she will complete her Associate's Degree in Agriculture and transfer to the University of Missouri to study Agriculture Education (Communication and Leadership). Ricki served as a Missouri FFA State Officer last year and is a member of the Three Rivers Aggie Club. In her free time, Ricki enjoys hiking, baking, and spending time on the farm.



Ricki Spargo

Dylan Anderson was born and raised in Centertown, Missouri, a small town just west of Jefferson City. Growing up, Dylan worked on his family's produce farm where they grow tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupe, cucumbers and many other types of vegetables. He attended State Fair Community College where he received an associate's degree. Dylan is currently a senior at the University of Missouri, studying agriculture business and will graduate in December 2021. Dylan is a member of the MU Agribusiness Club. He was a recipient of the American Degree with the National FFA Organization. Dylan also was awarded the Pete and Lorraine Adkins Scholarship from Jefferson City High School, recognizing a football player who exhibits honor, toughness, discipline and effort. Dylan's hobbies include hunting, fishing and watching football. ■



Dylan Anderson

Do you have good news to share about people working with soybeans and on behalf of soybean farmers across Missouri? Visit mosoy.org and Contact Us to send those stories our way to be considered for the Honor Wall in the future.

The Rewards of Service

Leon Busdieker followed in his mother's footsteps as an educator, combining service with his passion for agriculture thanks to an encouraging FFA advisor. Nearly 30 years later, he is headed back to the farm.

By Brandelyn Twellman



Lisa Evans

“Here’s the thing about education, there are tremendous rewards to being a teacher. The challenge is, a lot of times, those rewards don’t come until later in life. You don’t see it while you’ve got them in the classroom, you don’t see it upon their graduation, but ten years after a student graduates and you cross paths, you hear the story about something that happened while they were in FFA or an ag class.”

-Leon Busdieker

From the responsibility of carrying 5-gallon feed buckets on his family farm to hanging up his hat on a 43-year career in agricultural education, Leon Busdieker made quite the impact in the ag industry. Involved in agriculture his entire life, he remembers driving tractors by the age of 10 and owning and caring for his own livestock through 4-H.

“I was born and raised on a small family farm in western St. Charles County,” he said. “We were a diversified crop and livestock, multi-generational operation.”

Although he was a member of the Francis Howell FFA Chapter in high school, Busdieker didn’t expect ag education would be his path. But after further evaluation, the career choice made sense.

“Being in St. Charles County and knowing that the crop rotation was corn, soybeans and subdivisions, I anticipated that I would have to find another way to make a living. I just wasn’t sure what that was yet,” he said.

His FFA advisor gave him a push in the right direction.

“Just after I graduated high school in 1974, my ag teacher stopped by to visit,” Busdieker explained. “He had set up an appointment for me with the college of agriculture enrollment folks at the University of Missouri, and they were expecting to see me. He convinced me to invest in MU, take some classes and see where that would lead me.”

Once at the appointment, a major in agricultural education fell into Busdieker’s lap.

“They suggested I major in ag ed and take some agriculture classes and some general education classes, which I knew were beneficial no matter what your profession is,” he said. “I always had a passion for agriculture, and I like to learn things, so education seemed to really fit, especially ag education. Once I got into teaching, I really found out how rewarding it can be and how impactful a single person can be as a teacher.”

Taking after his mother who previously taught in a one-room schoolhouse, Busdieker taught agricultural education in Warrenton for two years, Francis Howell for four years, then back to Warrenton for 22 years, finishing out his time as an ag teacher. Fondly nicknamed “Mr. B” by his students, Busdieker said his 28 years in the classroom were transformative.

“At National FFA Convention several years ago, Laila Ali shared a quote from

her dad, Mohammad,” he said. “It says ‘Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.’ I know that’s not part of the ag teachers’ creed, but it could easily be. If you think about what ag teachers do with respect to their students, with respect to their schools, to their communities, even the ag industry across the state, ag teachers serve Missouri.”

As in any profession, ag teachers have good days and bad days, but Busdieker said his good typically outnumbered the bad.

“How you serve other people and the rewards in doing so make you feel really good about what you do as an ag teacher,” he said. “I felt like I was truly making a difference in my profession.”

He explained some of the best rewards come to the ag teachers who wait.

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“Mr. B” served as a mentor and advisor to Missouri’s state FFA officer team, and to FFA members statewide.

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"Here's the thing about education, there are tremendous rewards to being a teacher," he said. "The challenge is, a lot of times, those rewards don't come until later in life. You don't see it while you've got them in the classroom, you don't see it upon their graduation, but 10 years after a student graduates and you cross paths, you hear the story about something that happened while they were in FFA or in an ag class.

"Something you said that you didn't even think about at the time might have been impactful to them and provided them some direction to end up where they're at today," he said. "I don't know what other profession provides that opportunity."

By serving their students in this way, agricultural education teachers serve the industry as a whole.

"If you're an ag teacher, and you're given the opportunity to teach students, expectations are high," he said. "The ag industry is depending upon Missouri ag education teachers to help recruit and then begin helping students get started down a pathway to successful careers in agriculture."

With more than 150 careers in agriculture and no two students walking into the classroom with the same skillset, an agriculture education teacher's main job is to help students



A regular at Missouri FFA's Camp Rising Sun at the Lake of the Ozarks, Busdieker shared his experience with countless FFA members, including this group of participants in the Helping Youth Maximize their Agricultural eXperience (HYMAX) Academy.

recognize that the sky is the limit in the industry. Ag teachers provide them with the right support to find a career path in agriculture, whether it be as a lobbyist, soybean farmer, seed salesman, mechanic or other important careers throughout the industry.

After his time serving students in this way in the classroom, Busdieker stepped into the role of Missouri FFA Northeast District Supervisor, touching the lives of even more FFA members across the state. He traveled the

northeast portion of Missouri for five years, visiting small communities and FFA chapters, before taking on greater responsibility. Busdieker became the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Agricultural Education Director and Missouri FFA Association State Advisor in 2011.

For 10 years, Busdieker supported more than 25,000 Missouri FFA members behind the scenes, working on programming, industry relations, organizational development and more.



In celebration of his retirement, Busdieker's friends and coworkers on the state staff team at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education gifted him this caricature.

It includes an owl to represent his time as a chapter advisor and the state advisor, a sheep for his years of service running the sheep show at the Missouri State Fair, a bright blue doghouse, his latest woodworking project made for his grandson, the many hats he has worn and a new honey-do list for retirement.

The original is hanging in his dining room.

Car vs. Pole

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“Something you said that you didn’t even think about at the time might have been impactful to them and provided them some direction to end up where they’re at today. I don’t know what other profession provides that opportunity.”

-Leon Busdieker

He retired from the role on June 30, 2021, closing out 43 years of service in agricultural education. The bittersweet end of that chapter brings many plans for retirement, including staying involved in Missouri FFA, Missouri agricultural education and the agriculture industry through new capacities.

“We are in the process of starting a Missouri FFA Foundation,” Busdieker said. “I plan to maintain a leadership role in that. Through my job as director, I’ve gotten involved in other boards throughout the industry, so I plan to maintain a leadership role on those boards as well.”

He also plans to continue his responsibilities running the sheep shows at the Missouri State Fair. He looks forward to spending additional time with his wife, Pam, and daughters, Nicki and Stephanie, including time spent traveling. Busdieker has a passion for woodworking and plans to spend more time in his shop, working on projects like his latest, a bright blue dog house for his grandson.

In addition, Busdieker plans to pick up a 5-gallon feed bucket and head back to his roots, Busdieker Farms, run by his brother and nephew in Laddonia, Missouri. He looks forward to spending a bit more time on the family farm,

helping where he can and reconnecting with the very thing that fueled his passion for agricultural and involvement in the industry years ago. ■

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has named Keith Dietzschold Agricultural Education director and Missouri FFA Association state advisor.

Dietzschold previously served as the northwest district supervisor and state FFA executive secretary. Learn more about him on page 25.



Upcoming Events

August 4 *University of Missouri Greenley Research Center Field Day - Novelty*

August 6 *SOYPAC Golf Tournament - Dexter*

August 12 *Crops and Conservation Field Day at the Bay Farm Research Facility - Columbia*

August 12-22 *Missouri State Fair - Sedalia*

August 24 *University of Missouri Graves-Chapple Research Center Field Day - Rock Port*

August 31 *University of Missouri Fisher Delta Research Center Field Day - Portageville*

August 31- September 2 *Farm Progress Show - Decatur, IL*

September 11 *University of Missouri Hundley-Whaley Research Center Field Day - Albany*

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Consumer Protection Alert: Pipeline Foods LLC

The Missouri Department of Agriculture's Grain Regulatory Services Program suspended the Missouri grain dealer license for Pipeline Foods, LLC. Effective immediately, Pipeline Foods, LLC is not licensed to operate as a grain dealer in the state of Missouri.

Please contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture if you or your business have any unsettled obligations with Pipeline Foods, LLC. You may call Grain Regulatory Services Program Manager Eric Berwanger at (573) 751-4112.

The Department's Grain Regulatory Services Program licenses and regulates grain warehouses and grain dealers in Missouri, offering a means of protection to Missouri's grain producers in case of warehouse or grain dealer insolvency. Any person or business purchasing grain from producers must have a valid grain dealer license.

To learn more about the Missouri Department of Agriculture, please visit Agriculture.Mo.Gov.



Love, Trust & Pixie Dust

From Mike Deering

The most overused word in the English language may very well be “love.” People use it loosely. Trust is a key component to love and without it, there is no foundation to build on. More often than not, it is all just a bunch of pixie dust with Peter Pan and Tinker Bell calling the shots. Eventually, the magical effect wears off and reality takes its place.

The working relationship among Missouri’s mainstream agricultural organizations is so much more than love, trust and pixie dust. The solidarity of these organizations in this state is solid and should set the example for many national organizations to follow. Too often, agriculture is really good at circling the wagons and shooting inward. The divisiveness does nothing but empower those who truly do want to put you out of business. That crap weakens the farm and ranch families we proclaim to represent.



The Deering Family

The united front in Missouri was not always the case, but a common enemy, the Humane Society of the United States, united the organizations about a decade ago into a force to be reckoned with known as Missouri Farmers Care. We are united and we stand together, come hell or high water. Does this mean we always agree? Of course not, but it is no different than a healthy marriage. We stay together no matter the setbacks, and we come away from challenges stronger. We do not throw mud at one another or chase credit.

The corner post of these relationships is trust. Take the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association and the Missouri Soybean Association for example. No two organizations work more closely together – period. Leaders with Missouri Soybean understand who their customers are and truly are dedicated to advancing Missouri’s livestock sectors. When we are in trouble, we know who has our back.

A good example was our quest to require marketing with integrity when it comes to plant-based and laboratory-grown alternative protein products. While we are not opposed to alternative proteins, we are opposed to companies misleading consumers and using traditional meat nomenclature to describe their products. Elected leaders were surprised to see Missouri Soybean supporting our efforts because they very much promote soy-based food products as well. The message the soybean association delivered was clear. “We stand with our cattle farmers.” Leaders of the soybean association knew we were simply wanting companies to be honest in the labeling of these products.

This is no different than MCA supporting efforts to provide more opportunities for soybean farmers by expanding the state’s biodiesel industry. MCA and Missouri Pork Producers Association surprised many by supporting the legislative effort to add more Missouri-made biodiesel to the supply chain in the state. Our message was clear. We stand with our fellow farmers and we see the big picture.

We can hang out in our silos, throw out potshots and engage in the all-too-common game of mudslinging, or we can set egos aside and work together to take Missouri agriculture to the next level. That is exactly what the leadership of MCA and Missouri Soybean have done together for many years and will continue to do. Agriculture is one family, and commodity does not really matter all that much. We are in this together, and we must stand together or face defeat. This industry needs to be united as one agriculture. Leave the love, trust and pixie dust for the fairytales and let us focus on moving forward together. That is how we will transform challenges into opportunities for the farm and ranch families we proudly represent. ■

Mike Deering serves as the executive vice president of the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association, the oldest and largest state organization solely representing Missouri’s cattlemen and cattlegwomen.
He makes his home in central Missouri, with his wife, Julie, and sons, Charley and Henry.



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