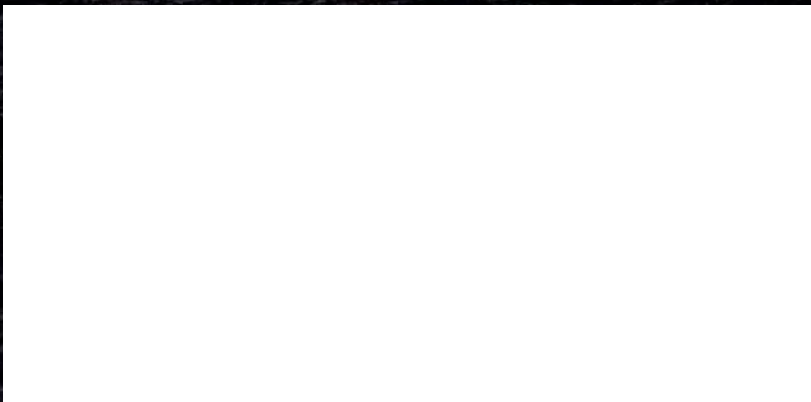


MISSOURI

Soybean Farmer

JUNE
2020



Enlist[™] Ahead

REWARDS PROGRAM



Stop Weeds, Save \$

Buy Enlist E3[™]
Soybeans

Apply Enlist[™] herbicides in
Burndown, Pre and Post

Apply Qualified
Corteva Residual

Bonus: Apply Liberty
Herbicide

\$2 PER ACRE
REWARD

\$0.50 PER ACRE
REWARD
(ADDITIONAL)

Qualifying residual products include:

HERBICIDE

Afforia[®]

Canopy[®] DF

Elevore[®]

Arylex[™] active

Enlite[®]

Envive[®]

EverpreX[®]

Sonic[®]

Surveil[®]

Trivence[®]

For a potential earning of **\$2.50** PER ACRE

1. Purchase Enlist[™] herbicides for burndown use, and/or use pre-emergence through post-emergence.
2. Purchase one or more eligible Corteva soybean residual herbicides.
3. For additional earnings, after purchasing a Corteva soybean residual herbicide and Enlist One[®] or Enlist Duo[®] herbicide apply Liberty[®] herbicide.

If you are located in Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and the Missouri bootheel, please go to www.enlist.com for rewards specific to your area.



®/™ Trademarks of Dow AgroSciences, DuPont or Pioneer and their affiliated companies or respective owners. Herbicides are not registered for sale or use in all states. Contact your state pesticide regulatory agency to determine if a product is registered for sale or use in your state. Always read and follow label directions. Enlist herbicides are the only 2,4-D products authorized for use in Enlist crops. [®]Liberty herbicide is a registered trademark of BASF SE.
©2020 CORTEVA. (03/20)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF

Staff Contacts

Executive Director / CEO

Gary Wheeler
gwheeler@mosoy.org

Chief Financial Officer

Kim Hill
khill@mosoy.org

Director of Communications

Christine Tew
ctew@mosoy.org

Director of Policy

Casey Wasser
cwasser@mosoy.org

Director of Business Development & New Markets

Tony Stafford
tstafford@mosoy.org

Director of Biofuels & New Uses

Matt Amick
mamick@mosoy.org

Director of Research

Greg Luce
gluce@mosoy.org

Director of Licensing

Bryan Stobaugh
bstobaugh@mosoy.org

Director of Environmental Programs

Darrick Steen
dsteen@mosoy.org

Director of Compliance & Research Administration

Ebby Neuner
eneuner@mosoy.org

Office Manager

Mary Kever
mkever@mosoy.org

Accounting Manager

Jeff Bruemmer
jbruemmer@mosoy.org

External Relations Liaison

Baylee Siegel
bsiegel@mosoy.org

Executive Assistant

Amber Meyer
ameyer@mosoy.org

MISSOURI Soybean Farmer

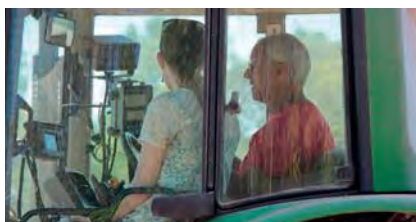
JUNE 2020 | VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 3



6 *Native plantings are going in at the Center for Soy Innovation to create a sustainability and pollinator-focused demonstration area.*



22 *The Honor Wall in this issue highlights Missouri FFA Association members building a future through soy with their Supervised Agricultural Experience programs.*



26 *Denny Mertz is focused on the future as he shares his love of farming with people in the St. Louis area and across Missouri.*



« **Cover Shot**
This planting season view comes from Nathan White of Norborne.

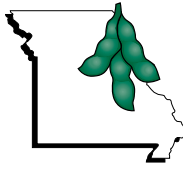
Missouri Soybean Association

734 S. Country Club Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 | Phone: (573) 635-3819 | www.mosoy.org

Missouri Soybean Farmer is published six times annually and is an excellent opportunity to reach row-crop farmers. Contact Dave Larson at (515) 440-2810 or dave@larsonentllc.com for advertising information.

Copyright Missouri Soybean Association, 2020. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use of any content without the express written permission of the publisher is prohibited.





From The Field

Notes from Missouri Soybeans' leadership team

MSA Board Members:

Cody Brock, Norborne
Dan Brunjes, Labadie
Dane Diehl, Butler
Renee Fordyce, Bethany
John Hunter, Dexter
C. Brooks Hurst, Tarkio
Andrew Lance, Barnard
Matt McCrate, Cape Girardeau
Tom Raffety, Wyatt
Garrett Riekhof, Higginsville
Peter Rost Jr., New Madrid
Ronnie Russell, Richmond
Kate Lambert, Laclede
Bruce Wilson, Mexico
Matt Wright, Emden
Russell Wolf, Tipton

MSMC Board Members:

Robert Alpers, Prairie Home
Kevin Mainord, East Prairie
Cecil DeMott, Rock Port
Kyle Durham, Norborne
Harold Gloe, Hermann
Tim Gottman, Monroe City
John Kelley, Faucett
Mark Lehenbauer, Palmyra
Bob Littleton, Dalton
Tim Lichte, Lexington
Baughn Merideth, Caruthersville
Aaron Porter, Dexter
Lewis Rone, Portageville

USB Board Members:

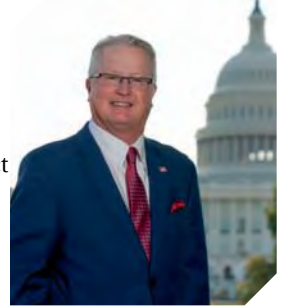
Neal Bredehoeft, Alma
Pat Hobbs, Dudley
Meagan Kaiser, Bowling Green
Lewis Rone, Portageville

ASA Board Members:

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



Proactive versus reactive. Most of us know which mindset helps us make better decisions and where things start to feel uneasy and even stressful. The complexity of policy work, both at the state level and with our leaders in Washington, D.C. all but demands careful analysis and thoughtful discussions. That's what we expect of our policymakers.



And the last few months, if these challenges have shown us nothing else, have made it very clear: We have to demand more of our policymakers. In tough times, our first reaction is to say every one of our voices matter, and to highlight the values of being engaged in policy work. Those things are still true – and there's great value in communicating exactly what you're facing yourself and through organizations like your Missouri Soybean Association.

What we've seen the last few months is different. We've seen strong policy laid aside (biodiesel) and major legislation implemented without time to be fully looked through. Those impacts domino across every link in the value chain. Unintended consequences are still consequences. This is our call to not only share our ag story, but also our expectations of proactive leadership, with policymakers.

Ronnie Russell - Missouri Soybean Association President

What we've seen play out across agriculture over the last few months has been a real-time lesson in just how interconnected we all are. From the farm to the grocery store shelves, slowdowns at a few large meat-processing plants have had a dual domino effect hitting both farmers and consumers. On the farm, livestock suddenly had no viable markets. In the grocery store, consumers found empty meat cases.



As soybean farmers, it spurs some reflection, too. Livestock are the number one user of our soybean meal. If our poultry and pig head counts decline, the outlook for soy demand would follow. That's not a hit we can afford.

We've also gotten a look at what consumers see and their frustrations throughout all this. It's clear that understanding the process of going from live animal on the farm to cuts in the meat case isn't universal. While there's a lot we cannot control about the last few months and the months ahead, it's taught us that we need to do more with consumers.

Standing with Missouri Farmers Care and the Drive to Feed Kids' Pork Partnership (see page 28) is not only the right thing to do for people in need – it's also an investment in relationships across the entire value chain. And it all goes back to education.

Robert Alpers - Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman

Letter from the Executive Director

The last few weeks of Missouri's legislative session are always a mad dash to bring bills across the finish line. It's high energy, a little chaotic, and truly a rush to be part of each year. Like so many things about 2020, this year was different.

We started strong with focus on biodiesel, our priority legislation and good conversations each time farmers headed to the Capitol.

Come mid-March, COVID-19 was top of mind. We saw an extended legislative spring break, new processes for going to the Capitol and for legislative work. There was a lot of uncertainty. There were also legislators that had priorities to focus on key legislation – the budget, CARES Act funding and other recovery measures for our state. As expected, great leadership to help in these recovery efforts.

By early May, it was clear more than coronavirus was disrupting important work in the statehouse.

The final weeks of Missouri's legislative session didn't see much leadership. Instead, legislation was pushed through with hidden provisions. Hammerschmidt was thrown out the window. Legislative proceedings were compared to everything from a dumpster fire to rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic. We saw respect for the legislative body cast aside, and blatant manipulation of both the situation and the legislative process.

And why? This wasn't just about our priorities; this was about the disfunctional process that occurred. It was different this session than any other.


And what leadership we did see, we thank those members. We'll remember you. We'll continue to support our supporters - especially those legislators who are champions for agriculture and don't play schoolyard politics.

We're coming up on 200 years of statehood here in Missouri. There's no reason for our legislative session to devolve into amateur hour.

My ask to you, as a farmer and supporter of agriculture, personally, go thank your representative and senator if they support agriculture. Thank them for their long, hard hours away from their families and homes during session. If they don't vote for and support agriculture, take the time to educate them, invite them to see your operation. Let them know how important agriculture is to their respective district and this great state. We need them now and it's extremely important for our industry and livelihoods. NOW IS THE TIME!

Like so many things, "This too shall pass." While coronavirus has had a significant impact, we will come through this stronger. Thanks for your continued support.

God Bless.



Gary Wheeler

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





Soy Innovation & Sustainability

The Center for Soy Innovation is home to demonstrations and opportunities to see soy-based building materials in use. It's also a hub for demonstrations of soybean farmers' investments in sustainability, from native plantings to soil management and water quality work.

By Christine Tew

Bringing soybean farmers' work through their checkoff to life at the Center for Soy Innovation has been a top priority throughout the development process. During the Center's grand opening, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council chairman Robert Alpers of Prairie Home shared that the Center is the answer to 'Who and What' the Merchandising Council will be to farmers for many years to come.

The commitment to education and hands-on learning goes beyond the Center for Soy Innovation's walls. Sustainability is a key part of that, and with the new plantings and educational area at the Center, the Council is growing the footprint of its environmental stewardship program. In addition to the indoor showcase and activities, the Center has outdoor spaces for visitors to explore.

The Center is situated on nearly five acres, nearly all of which is dedicated to native plantings, pollinators and demonstration areas highlighting soil health and water quality.

The Center for Soy Innovation is closed to visitors through the month of June. Please call (573) 635-3819 for information about setting up your tour.

When work is complete at the Center for Soy Innovation, the biobasin and backslope will have more than a dozen native species and about 1400 plantings for visitors to explore, along with a water quality monitoring station. A mulched walking trail and benches will serve tour groups and individual visitors.

Behind the Center, a series of terraces create a biobasin – the centerpiece for conversations about erosion, sediment and other recognized on-farm challenges. Missouri Soybean's staff volunteered to assist with finishing out the area with plantings of native species.

"On our first day, we planted about 600 container grown plants in the biobasin area," said Darrick Steen, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's director of environmental programs. "On the second day, we planted about 300 container grown plants and shrubs to create a landscape buffer."

Just past that landscape buffer and the property line, is a steep grade toward a creek – making this work and conversations about managing runoff especially fitting.

At the bottom of that backslope, a water quality monitoring station has been installed.

With slopes ranging from 10 to 30 percent on the property, minimizing soil loss from erosion is especially important. And in line with a challenge farmers might face on their land across Missouri's varied topography.

The water quality monitoring station allows staff and researchers to collect stormwater runoff samples after treatment by the biobasin, allowing measurements of sediment and other contaminants in the runoff – showing the effectiveness of the biobasin and native plant species.

The project also has a third planting phase yet to come, according to Steen.

"We also have about 500 bareroot seedlings to plant on the backslope of the basin."

A mulched walking path and series of benches are also going in, installed

by Boulder Creek Landscaping of Jefferson City, to make exploring the demonstration area more comfortable for visitors to the Center for Soy Innovation, including landowner and student groups.

The Missouri Department of Conservation was instrumental in the design and implementation of the vision for this area. In addition to a grant that went toward materials, including plants, the Department's community conservation planner, Ronda Burnett, provided the landscape design.

"Each native plant included in the design was selected based on a service it will provide," Burnett said. "The resulting working landscape will not only benefit natural resources, but it will also become a showplace for the cultural benefits people obtain from ecosystems including reflection, recreation, social relations that lead to partnership- and community-building, and an enhanced sense of place as visitors experience the unique beauty of Missouri."

The Department's agriculture liaison, Brent Vandeloecht, oversaw the partnership and the project.

"This is an opportunity to show landowners how steep grades, terraces and other areas that can be challenging to farm, play an important role in conservation and provide much-needed habitat," Vandeloecht said. "Incorporating soil health, native plantings and attention to water quality into the design at the Center for Soy Innovation creates a lot of educational value. It's a great partnership, and we're glad to be part of creating the hands-on demonstration."

Missouri's Finest

The plants for the design all come from Missouri-based nurseries.

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, located



Staff volunteered to assist with plantings this spring. These American Hazelnut shrubs were planted near the bottom of the backslope.

just south of Jefferson City, was the source for the largest number of plants. Hazelnut and Indiangrass plants came from Forrest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, and the Fragrant Sumac came from both Missouri Wildflowers Nursery and the George O. White State Forest Nursery in Licking.

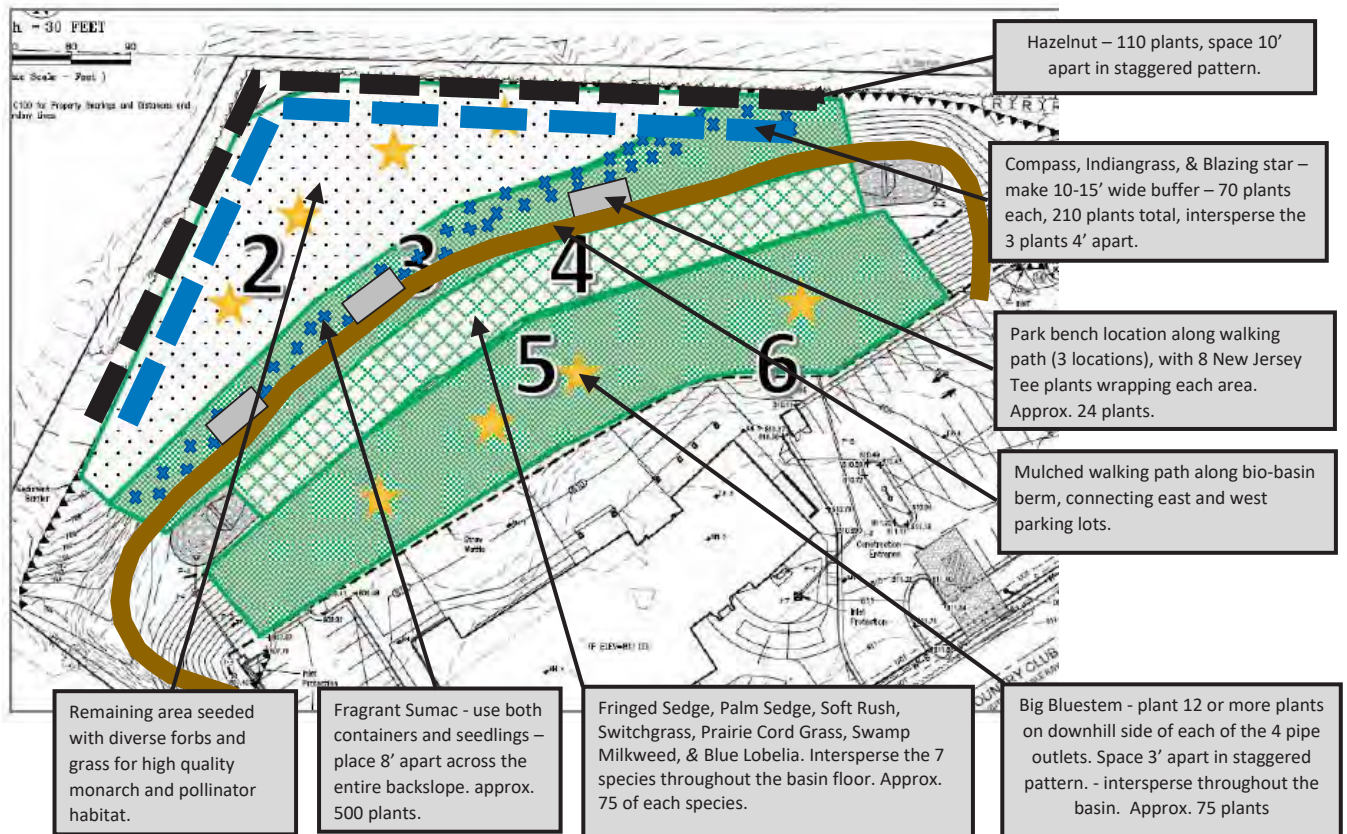
The Missouri Department of Conservation's partnership really helped with the selections and sourcing, Steen said. The George O. White State Forest Nursery is operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Plant species selected for the Center for Soy Innovation backslope and biobasin include:

- *Corylus americana* – Hazelnut
- *Silphium laciniatum* – Compass Plant
- *Sorghastrum Nutans* – Indiangrass
- *Liatris pycnostachya* – Prairie Blazing Star
- *Rhus aromatica* – Fragrant Sumac
- *Ceanothus americanus* – New Jersey Tea
- *Carex crinita* – Fringed Sedge
- *Carex muskingumensis* - Palm Sedge
- *Juncus effusus* - Soft Rush
- *Panicum virgatum* – Switchgrass
- *Spartina pectinate* – Prairie Cord Grass
- *Asclepias incarnata* – Swamp Milkweed
- *Lobelia siphilitica* – Blue Lobelia
- *Andropogon gerardii* – Big Bluestem

...continued on next page.

...continued from previous page.



A water quality monitoring station at the base of the slope allows researchers to measure the effectiveness of sustainability practices on the property.

Putting Mission into Action

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council was an early member of Missourians for Monarchs, a coalition of conservation and agricultural organizations committed to pollinators. Established about five years ago, the group set a goal for creating and maintaining 19,000 acres of pollinator habitat annually – for 20 years.

The plantings, and their designation as a demonstration area, at the Center for Soy Innovation are part of that goal. They join the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's pollinator areas at the Missouri Soybean Association's Bay Farm Research Facility.

The Council partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation on those pollinator plots as well.

Beyond using native plants to support pollinators, this effort supports the Missouri Soybean Merchandising

Council's overall strategic plan for investing farmers' soybean checkoff dollars in Missouri through addressing on-farm challenges like water quality and soil management. The area also provides for educational demonstrations for visitors of all ages, which is a key component of the organization's environmental stewardship efforts.

Bringing the project to life took almost two years, from breaking ground summer 2018 to plantings and trail construction in 2020.

The area will continue to evolve, supporting new species and conversations as the plantings mature – and encouraging repeat visits from farmers, youth, partners across agriculture and the local community.

To learn more about Missouri's soybean organizations and the Center for Soy Innovation, and to schedule your tour of the new Center, visit mosoy.org.

We didn't just give them a loan, we invested in rural Missouri.



Young, Beginning or Small Farmers

If you're a farmer age thirty-five years or younger, a beginning farmer or a small farm operator, we have a loan program to fit your needs. Most of us grew up on farms or in rural communities, and many of us still live on farms today. Our passion for rural Missouri drives us but our experience and knowledge of rural financing sets us apart from other lenders.

- ✓ You may be eligible for lower percentage down payment in partnership with Farm Service Agency loans
- ✓ We can help coordinate with federal and state loan guarantee programs
- ✓ Loans available for real estate, operating expenses, machinery and equipment purchases, capital improvements
- ✓ Experienced staff to help you through the financing process

Find an office near you:

1.800.444.3276

WWW.FARMCREDITSEMO.COM

WWW.MYFCSFINANCIAL.COM



FARM CREDIT
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI



FCS FINANCIAL

FCS Financial and Farm Credit Southeast Missouri are equal opportunity providers.





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

Spring is prime time for ag policy, and this year has been no different. The final weeks of Missouri's legislative session were fast, and dual priorities of economic recovery and long-time trade and environmental legislation have kept Congress rolling.

State Policy

Missouri's legislative session is always a grueling process. From a fast start in January to an extended break mid-session, followed by new protocols to protect legislators and staff from the threat of COVID-19, the 2020 session wasn't like any year before. While the Missouri General Assembly successfully passed a budget and several other priorities, key legislation was also left unsettled when session ended May 15.

The Missouri-Made Fuels Act was the Missouri Soybean Association's priority legislation for the 2020 session. This legislation was written to ensure every gallon of diesel sold in Missouri would be a biodiesel blend, capturing the environmental and economic benefits for Missourians.

We started fast with a hearing the second week of session, and by February the legislation was voted out of both the House and the Senate agriculture committees. Just days before the

General Assembly adjourned for its extended spring break due to COVID-19, the House perfected the Missouri-Made Fuels Act, carried by Representative Mike Haffner.

When the legislature resumed work in Jefferson City the week of April 24, the push continued. With the leadership of Rep. Haffner, Speaker Elijah Haahr, and many others, the Missouri-Made Fuels Act was amended onto SB 618 by a vote of 94-36, with several abstaining. However, staunch opposition from several senators prevented the legislation from making it to the Governor's desk this session.

Federal Policy

Federal policy work is focused pandemic recovery, in addition to ongoing issues.

USMCA

Canada and Mexico have joined the U.S. in taking the necessary measures to comply with the commitments under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). All three parties have now ratified and taken the final steps to implement the agreement, which goes into effect July 1. Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. is optimistic in predicting the implementation of USMCA will assist with economic recovery, expecting to increase U.S. agricultural exports by \$2 billion.

CFAP

On April 17, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the establishment of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), funded through the CARES Act. The program aims to provide immediate relief to critical sectors of the U.S. food supply chain: food banks, distributors, restaurants, and especially those who have borne the majority of the risk – farmers and ranchers. In the initial funding authority provided to USDA, \$19 billion was allocated towards CFAP, however, the agency has access to an additional \$1.7 billion for agricultural purchases and distribution, as well as food bank administrative costs. Of the initial \$19 billion, \$16 billion is slated for direct payments, and \$3 billion is allocated for product purchases.

USDA has disclosed that payments will be determined in two parts. The first part is determined by price losses incurred from January 1, 2020 to approximately April 15-17. The second part is derived from losses from April 15-17 through the subsequent two quarters. Under this program, producers will be compensated for 85 percent of the price loss during the first period and 3 percent of expected losses for the second time period. Expected direct payments by commodity include: \$5.1 billion for cattle, \$3.9 billion for row crops, \$2.9 billion for dairy, \$2.1 billion for specialty crops, \$1.6 billion for hogs, and \$500 million for "other." While the application process has not started, details are available at farmers.gov/cfap.

Livestock groups, lawmakers, and trade organizations have been pressuring the USDA to lift the \$125,000 per-producer payment cap for pork, cattle, and poultry producers, as their losses will exceed this limit. The Missouri Soybean Association supports raising the payment cap.

Biofuels

Biofuel producers aim to meet production requirements, amidst the COVID-19 crisis. While the biodiesel industry has been fortunate not to feel the sharp decline in demand experienced with other biofuels, there is still concern of meeting industry standards. Fuel demand is expected to rise as many areas begin to reopen across the nation.

Ethanol and oil groups have expressed concerns on meeting the Renewable Fuel Standard blending requirement for 2020. Forty-nine of 204 U.S. ethanol plants were running at full capacity, as of May 6, and 82 plants were running at a reduced rate. More than 70 reported halting production. Biodiesel producers have continued to produce at steady volumes, largely through continued demand from trucking.

A coalition of 24 organizations have applied pressure to the Trump administration to waive the RFS requirements this year. Biofuel-state senators combat this request, sending a letter of their own asking



the administration to immediately reject the waiver request. Renewable fuel advocates believe the volume requirements should be easily achievable for refiners to meet, as obligation projections are expressed in percentages not total volume.

WRDA

On May 6, The Senate Environment & Public Works Committee passed Americas Water Infrastructure Act, the Committees version of the Water Resources Development Act. The Senate EPW Committee's provision adjusted the cost-share from 50 percent from Inland Waterways Trust Fund/50 percent General Revenue to 35 percent Inland Waterways Trust Fund/65 percent General Revenue. The Missouri Soybean Association, along with many other agriculture advocacy groups, supported this provision.

Passage of this bill is a significant step toward ensuring inland waterways construction and major rehabilitation projects are advancing more efficiently by providing \$1 billion in additional construction funds over 10 years. It is expected to be a stand-alone bill, however, there has been a proposal to merge it with a drinking water bill and the highway reauthorization bill.

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 for details. ■



Learning the Label Lingo

Herbicide applicators need to review and maintain chemical compliance to ensure safe and effective use, even amid COVID-19 concerns

By Jason Jenkins

Mill Creek Communications

“**W**e’re all in this together.”

This simple statement has become a resounding rallying cry as our state, nation and world contends with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As communities cope with the virus’s various impacts on daily life, the sentiment of strength in numbers is intended to help combat the feelings of isolation and helplessness that can come with quarantine and stay-at-home orders.

Yet, in the world of production agriculture — especially among row-crop producers — the idea that “we’re all in this together” is not a new concept. If you’ve attended a winter meeting or training seminar in the past few years, you’ve likely heard an iteration of this theme as it pertains to the timely and proper application of post-emergent herbicides.

With each new herbicide-tolerant seed technology that comes to market, the directive goes something like this:

“Follow the herbicide label precisely to ensure the most effective weed control and to prevent off-target movement that could potentially result in injury to neighboring fields. Applying the correct rate at the optimum time in the optimum conditions protects you and the technology’s efficacy. It’s up to us, and we’re all in this together.”

Such advice may seem overbearing, but proper stewardship of today’s trait and chemistry

Herbicide damaged soybean plants.

combinations requires it.

“This isn’t 1997 or 1998 with the Roundup Ready system when you could spray one thing and the size of the weeds didn’t matter because it killed them all regardless,” says MU Extension Weed Scientist Kevin Bradley. “Some translate those ‘glory days’ to today and expect the same from the first years of the Xtend system or the Enlist system. But it’s not the same at all. Failures with these new traits are usually because of that mindset.”

Bradley says that more than ever, growers and custom applicators must remain vigilant when applying post-emergent herbicide in soybeans.

“All these traits can be tools, but you have to pay more attention to detail and you’ve got to follow the label,” he says. “I wish it could be simpler, but it’s not. It’s more complex.”

Xtend Experiences

While the labels for the four dicamba products — Engenia, XtendiMax, Fexapan and Tavium — approved to spray “over the top” on Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans remain unchanged from 2019, a training certificate is now required to purchase and apply them in 2020. Bradley and MU Extension created an online course that will satisfy this requirement. Presented in three modules, the training covers the problems with improper application, common methods of off-target movement and practices to prevent it, as well as best management practices to ensure proper application.

“Probably the No. 1 thing I see that goes wrong is that we’re spraying weeds that are too tall, and we don’t control them,” Bradley says. “At the end of the

“If you look at historical weather data and figure how many days and hours you actually have to be on label and do this correctly with all the restrictions, it’s not very many... It means our growers are relying on custom applicators more and more.”

—Kevin Bradley

season, you can actually see evidence of late sprays that weren’t effective on waterhemp still in the field. At six or eight inches up, you’ll see that plant was injured and burnt back, but it just grew out of that.”

As was the case in 2019, only two over-the-top applications of dicamba are allowed, and the products are prohibited 45 days after planting or until the crop begins to flower (R1 growth stage). Spraying may only occur from one hour after sunrise to two hours before sunset to avoid application during a temperature inversion. A 110-foot downwind buffer is still required, as are the use of approved, low-drift spray nozzles.

“With all the training, I think it’s pretty well drilled in that you’ve got to use particular nozzles for this herbicide,” Bradley adds. “I know that was all new a couple years ago, but we need to be experts at it by now.”

Perhaps the most confounding factor for application is one that producers and applicators can’t control: the weather.

“It boils down to not enough time for the acres,” Bradley explains. “If you look at historical weather data and figure how many days and hours that you actually

have to be on label and do this correctly with all the restrictions, it’s not very many. So, it’s easy to say and hard to do. It means our growers are relying on custom applicators more and more.”

Enlist Expectations

For many soybean producers, 2020 will be the first year they plant acreage to the Enlist E3 system with soybeans that have a trait conferring tolerance to glyphosate, glufosinate (Liberty) and 2,4-D choline. As is the case with other herbicide systems, Enlist is most effective when weeds are no taller than four inches.

Federal restrictions for Enlist One and Enlist Duo, the two over-the-top 2,4-D products labeled for use on Enlist soybeans, will sound familiar to those who’ve planted dicamba-tolerant varieties. Low-drift nozzles are required, and a downwind buffer is required. Application should not occur during a temperature inversion, when winds surpass 15 mph, or when the wind is blowing toward a sensitive crop such as grapes, tomatoes or trees.

Bradley says one of the appealing attributes of the Enlist system is that it allows Liberty and 2,4-D to be sprayed simultaneously, providing two effective modes against waterhemp, the No. 1

...continued on next page.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

This is the third 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 importance of timely and proper post-emergence herbicide application.

...continued from previous page.

herbicide-resistant weed issue in the Show-Me State. Good coverage is paramount for contact herbicides to be effective, and Bradley recommends a higher application rate.

“I’d love for people to go to 20 gallons per acre with Liberty, but we say at least 15,” he explains. “You’re only going to increase your chances of getting good weed control by increasing those gallons per acre.”

Liberty can legally be tank-mixed with Enlist One, but not with Enlist Duo. Should a grower choose to mix Enlist One with a glyphosate herbicide, it’s important not to use a potassium-salt glyphosate formulation, Bradley says, as some settling out can occur, plugging filters and compromising the efficacy of the tank mix. Increasing carrier volume will help the situation by producing better spray coverage.

Deciphering Damage

In recent years, herbicide damage complaints have centered on the off-target movement of dicamba. Complaints did decrease slightly from 2018 to 2019, says Paul Bailey, director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industries Division.

While it’s hard to predict the future, Bailey anticipates a similar number of complaints in 2020. He acknowledges some cases from previous years are still awaiting adjudication, adding that the Bureau of Pesticide Control is working diligently to clear the backlog.

“There’s not a backlog on the investigations. It’s after the investigation is completed,” he says. “We don’t have enough office staff to review cases.”

Ensuring that complaints are assessed in a timely manner has been prioritized, Bailey says. This year, two additional pesticide use investigator positions have been created, increasing the statewide total to 10. Bailey says that when a complaint is received by the bureau, it is immediately assigned to an investigator,



An aerial view of soybeans showing herbicide damage at the University of Missouri’s Fisher Delta Research Center.

...continued on page 16.

COVID Compromises

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of industries have had rules and regulations suspended or relaxed, and agriculture is no exception. Within the Missouri Pesticide Program, a one-year recertification extension was granted to all commercial and noncommercial applicators and public operators with an expiring recertification date during the emergency period. Two remote options were developed for private pesticide applicator training.

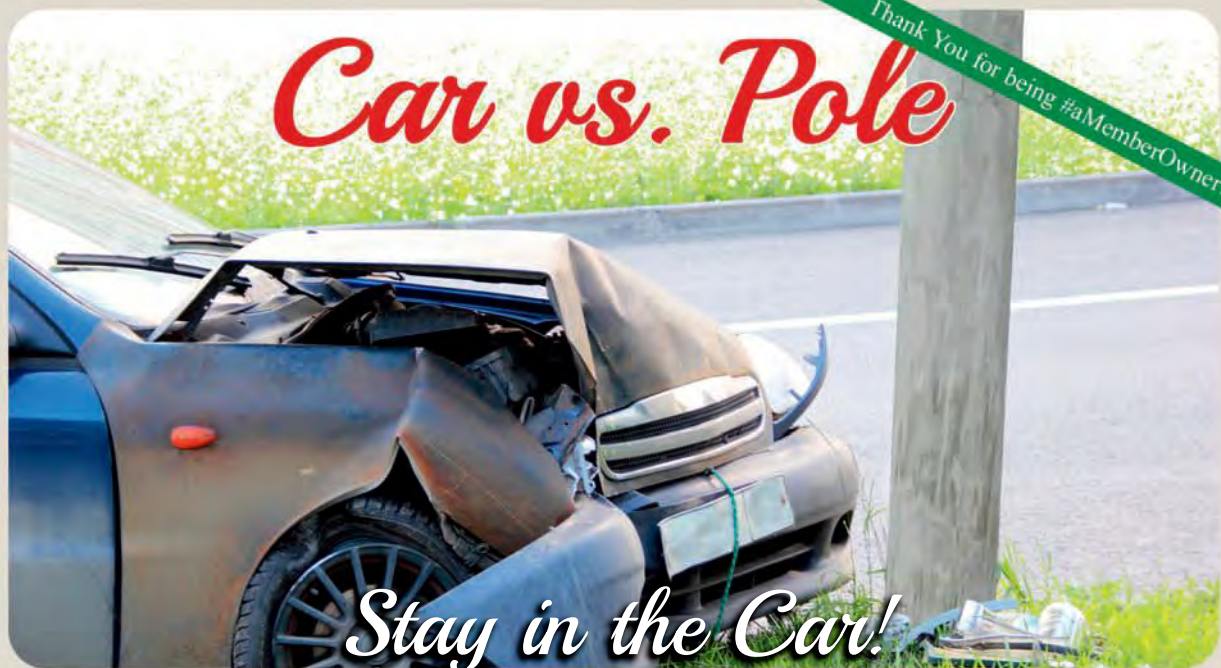
According to Paul Bailey, director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Plant Industries Division, it's been "business as usual" for most activities within the Bureau of Pesticide Control.

"We had some staff teleworking from home, but most of our field staff were still out conducting routine inspections with commercial applicators," Bailey says. "We did have a period when our testing centers weren't operating, but as of mid-May, most of those are open again."

As the growing season progresses, investigators and inspectors will continue their work while adhering to social distancing guidelines and utilizing means of preventing illness such as wearing face coverings, washing hands and using hand sanitizer.



Paul Bailey



If you are in a car accident with a power pole, do not leave the car until utility professionals tell you it is safe. If the car is in contact with electrical equipment or power lines, it could remain energized. Stepping outside could be deadly if your body becomes the path to ground for electricity.



MoElectricCoops.com

...continued from page 14.

who will contact the complainant within the first 48 hours.

“Most times, it’s within 24 hours to set up a date and time to visit the farm or property,” he adds.

While there are other options — from conventional varieties to older herbicide-tolerant varieties to even the new Credenz soybean with tolerance to isoxaflutole — a majority of Missouri’s 2020 soybean acres are likely planted to the Xtend and Enlist systems, and there is no cross-tolerance, Bradley says. So, even if weed control shifts from spraying dicamba to 2,4-D, injury from off-target movement is still a concern.

“You get a little bit of dicamba on Enlist soybeans, it’s going to injure them just like anything else — and vice versa,” he says. “It’s critical that sprayers are properly cleaned and labels are followed.”

Bailey echoes the importance of following labels.

“Become acquainted with that label. Read it before you buy it, read it before you use it, read it before you mix and load it,” he says. “Don’t assume one herbicide is going to have the same requirements as another. You need to do your homework.”

Espousing the notion that something didn’t happen if it isn’t written down, both Bradley and Bailey also emphasize the need for thorough and detailed record-keeping.

“Just looking at the trees to see if they’re blowing or sticking your finger up in the air is not what we’re supposed to be doing,” Bradley says. “We’re supposed to be going to boom height with an anemometer, look at what the wind is doing and write it down.”

Bailey adds that using a resource such



as DriftWatch® can help ensure that any sensitive crops around your fields are identified before you spray, further reducing potential injury. He, too, says record-keeping is essential.

“It can save you,” he says. “Proper record-keeping could actually rule your application out as being a possible source of crop damage. It can keep your hind end out of the proverbial sling.”

ARE YOUR WEEDS DECEIVING YOU?



You stand the best chance of killing weeds when they’re **four inches tall or less**—a lot smaller than you think.



Brought to you by the soy checkoff.

www.IWillTakeAction.com

To learn more about herbicide-resistance management, visit iwilltakeaction.com



unitedsoybean.org


SOY



RESEARCHING A BETTER BEAN

Whether you're dealing with drought, flood, heat or other climate-related stress, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to diversify U.S. soybean genetics and increase stress tolerance. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

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

Brought to you by the soy checkoff. 

©2018 United Soybean Board. Our Soy Checkoff and the Our Soy Checkoff mark are trademarks of United Soybean Board. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.



Deadline to Enter - September 10, 2020.

Missouri Soybean Association Soybean Yield Contest

2020

Entry Form

The deadline to enter the Missouri Soybean Yield Contest is September 10, 2020. Entry forms must be received by that date at the Missouri Soybean office in Jefferson City.

Growers must designate the district (map at right) in which their entry originated.

Harvest Report forms will be provided to each contest entrant and are due to the Missouri Soybean office in Jefferson City no later than November 15, 2020.



Please type or print.

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
County: _____ Telephone: _____
Email: _____
District: _____

Entry Information

Entry _____ of _____

Category: (select one) ☐ Conventional Till (Dryland) ☐ No-Till (Dryland) ☐ Irrigated

Variety Name and Number: _____

Plant Date: _____ Seeds/Acre: _____

Row Spacing: _____ Soil Type: _____

I hereby certify the information provided on this entry form to be accurate to the best of my knowledge and agree all contest information shall become the property of the Missouri Soybean Association and can be used at the discretion of the Missouri Soybean Association.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

To enter, please mail this form to:
Missouri Soybean Association 734 S. Country Club Dr. Jefferson City, MO 65109

Questions? Contact Greg Luce at gluce@mosoy.org or (573) 473-7079.



Missouri's 2020 Soybean Yield Contest

Soybean farmers have until September 10 to get their entry forms in for the annual yield contest. Planting season is a great time to identify contest fields in preparation for the competition.

By Christine Tew

The Missouri Soybean Association's yield contest is back for 2020 with one big change in response to grower feedback. In addition to previously dropping the entry fee and requirements for membership in the Missouri Soybean Association and for crop rotation on contest fields, the Association is switching to all cash prizes for 2020.

The annual competition recognizes those producers across the state who truly excel in soybean production based on their crop yields. Growers have until September 10 to complete their entry forms.

The tradition of great prizes is continuing, with expanded honors - including automatic recognition for growers with triple-digit yields.

The 2020 contest will again include regional competitions in addition to the statewide contest. Growers in each of

the Association's seven districts will be competing against one another on yields - giving farmers the opportunity to show their skills against other farmers growing in similar soils and under similar weather conditions.

All contest entries must use soybean varieties available in the marketplace for Missouri. No experimental line(s) are eligible for Missouri's soybean yield contest.

Winners in the district-level contests will then go on to compete for statewide recognition and additional prizes. The prizes are made possible by the partnership of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, including the soybean checkoff, and industry.

The contest will continue to recognize winners in separate categories for irrigated and no-till growing methods. Entries must be from fields 10 acres or larger in size and located within the

State of Missouri, and all participants must be at least 18 years of age. Each entry must be submitted on a separate entry form.

The overall winner of the irrigated contest will be selected from all entrants who used irrigation on their crop, regardless of tillage practice. The overall winner of the non-irrigated contest will be selected from among district winner(s) of the No-tillage and Tilled categories combined.

Prizes will be awarded during the Missouri Soybean Association's district meetings and annual meeting in early 2021. Winners will also be recognized online and in *Missouri Soybean Farmer* magazine.

Entry forms, rules and prize details are available online at mosoy.org, or growers can request copies by calling the Missouri Soybean office at (573) 635-3819. ■

USDA Final Rule on Biotech Crop Approvals

The American Soybean Association announced their approval of the final rule, which is the first major update in decades.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is pleased to see the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announce a final rule updating and modernizing its biotechnology regulations under the Plant Protection Act. The Sustainable, Ecological, Consistent, Uniform, Responsible, Efficient (SECURE) rule significantly updates USDA's plant biotechnology regulations for the first time in three decades, according to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

The new process established by this rule is expected to lead to lower regulatory costs and timeframes for the development of new plant varieties for developers, significantly granting soybean growers quicker access to more

affordable bean varieties incorporating a broader array of innovations.

"We are pleased with USDA's final rule streamlining the regulatory process for low-risk biotech crops to come to market," said Magnolia, Kentucky soy grower Caleb Ragland, who chairs ASA's Regulatory Committee.

"By establishing a common-sense regulatory process to ensure new biotech plants varieties are reviewed quickly with predictable timelines and allowed to go to market if they pose no risk, soybean growers can remain efficient and competitive through this continued access to innovation," he added.



USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) stated in the announcement of the

final rule that it, "provides a clear, predictable, and efficient regulatory pathway for innovators, facilitating the development of genetically engineered organisms that are unlikely to pose plant pest risks."

ASA has advocated for improvements to make the regulatory process transparent, less cumbersome, based in sound science, and in a way that helps farmers do their jobs more efficiently and sustainably. ■

4 REASONS TO BUY AG PRODUCTS ONLINE

Advertorial

Millions of people shop online every day. While the farm community has been slower to adopt online purchasing for farm products, enhanced digital technologies and companies dedicated to providing outstanding online customer service are creating new buying streams for farmers. For those who may hesitate to make the leap to e-commerce, there are several benefits to consider:

1. CONVENIENCE

With 24/7 "store" hours, farmers can enjoy the convenience of purchasing farm products when they need them from anywhere.

2. COMPETITIVE PRICING

Farmers can take advantage of price variation when shopping for their ag products online. When comparing online sites, always search for the best value and special offers.

3. EASE OF USE

With a few clicks, farmers can purchase exactly what they need in minutes and have items shipped directly to their farms. Repeat orders also offer farmers a simplified and consistent ordering process.

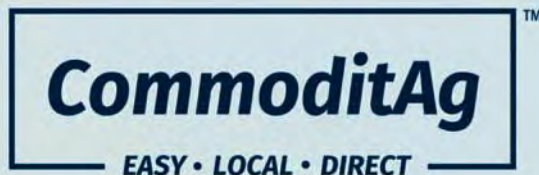
4. SELECTION

Buying online offers farmers more product availability, ease in comparison shopping and the opportunity to purchase a variety of ag products all from one site.

The efficiency and convenience of purchasing needed ag products online is clear, and farmers will benefit from working with a trusted online partner. Many online sites offer the agriculture expertise and capabilities farmers need, combined with a top-notch customer experience and even better value.



CommoditAg.com | 217-690-5100



THE LEADER IN CONVENIENT AG INPUT PURCHASES

CommoditAg leverages our farm roots with e-commerce expertise to offer the selection, convenience and accessibility you need.

Visit CommoditAg.com to order today.



EASY

An easy online customer experience that you can trust



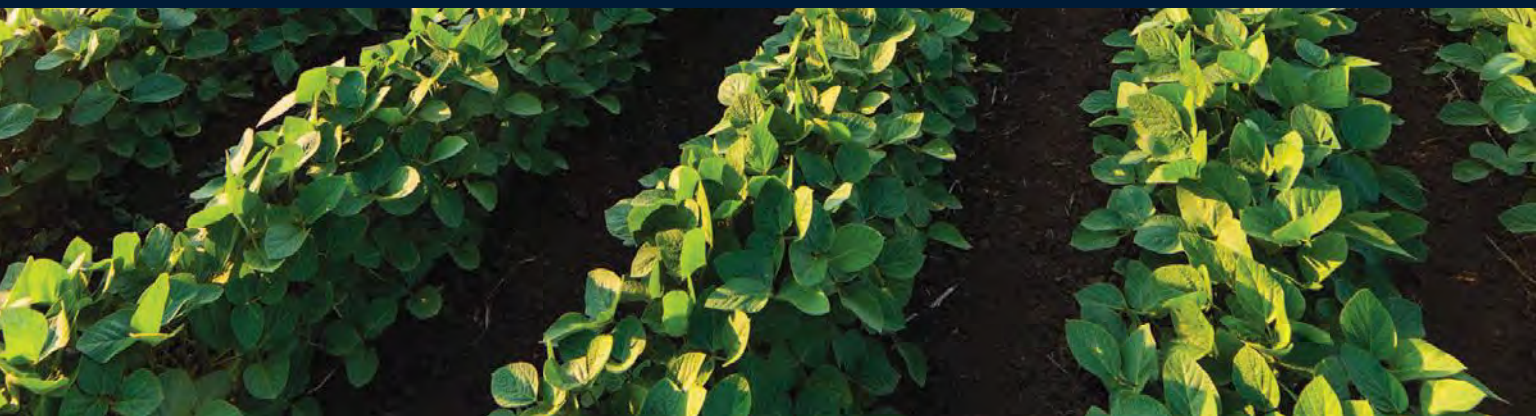
LOCAL

A part of your community with access where you need it



DIRECT

Same-day pick up or delivery options



HONOR WALL

Good news from those working on behalf of Missouri soybean farmers

Missouri FFA Awards

The Missouri FFA Association postponed the 92nd State FFA Convention, typically held in Columbia in April, announcing many award winners virtually instead.

During the week of April 20, 2020, the 2019-2020 State FFA Officers announced Proficiency and National Chapter award winners, as well as the top four members in each of the four Star State categories - Placement, Agribusiness, Agriscience and Farmer – via video on Facebook and at missouriffa.org.

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and soybean checkoff have a long history of support for several of the proficiency awards.

Diversified Crop Production Placement, Logan Finke of New Florence

Logan Finke of New Florence won the Missouri FFA Diversified Crop Production Placement Proficiency Award. Finke, a senior at Montgomery County R-II School District, is a member of the Montgomery County R-II FFA Chapter. His FFA advisors are Mary Leykamp and Amanda Sullivan.

Finke's supervised agricultural experience program is working for Ridgely Farm and Seed, High Hill. Ridgely Farm cultivates 3,800 acres of corn, soybeans and milo. Finke's duties on the farm include planting; harvesting; record keeping; and treating, cleaning and selling seed. He learned the software and process for mixing seed treatment chemicals, and is the primary chemical mixer for Ridgely's seed treatment. Finke said his experience; operating and maintaining the farm's air seeder, combine and excavation equipment; inspired his future career path as a mechanical engineer.

In FFA, Finke competed at the district level in the livestock evaluation career development event. He has participated in the area and district level trapshooting competitions. He has attended Washington Leadership Conference, National FFA Convention & Expo, and state FFA convention.

In addition to FFA, Finke is a member of the National Honor Society and A+ Program. Outside of school, he is a member of the Bellflower Boosters 4-H Club and the 4-H Shooting Sports Team. He also is a member of the High Hill Church of St. John.

After graduating high school, Finke's plans include attending the University of Missouri to study mechanical engineering.

Diversified Crop Production - Placement is one of 46 proficiency award areas recognized at the state level. The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Jefferson City, sponsored this award.



Logan Finke of New Florence

Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production, Kamryn Voris of Halfway

Kamryn Lynn Voris of Halfway won the Missouri FFA Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency Award.

Voris, a graduate of Halfway High School, is the daughter of Randy and Shae Voris. She is a member of the Halfway FFA Chapter. Her FFA advisor is Jeff Voris.

Voris' supervised agricultural experience program started by coordinating with her local MFA to create a six-acre soybean test plot. The next year, she rented 100 acres and planted GMO and non-GMO soybeans. As her SAE progressed, Voris re-evaluated her operation each year. In her second year, she added white peas as a cover crop. Last year, Voris planted exclusively non-GMO soybeans. Each year, she worked to increase yield per acre.

In FFA, Voris served as chapter president. She competed at the state level in FFA knowledge, floriculture, soils and farm management career development events. In 2019, Voris was a finalist for the State Star Farmer and won the state diversified crop production entrepreneurship proficiency award. She is a graduate of the Helping Youth Maximize Agricultural eXperiences Academy and attended Washington Leadership Conference and National FFA Convention & Expo.

In addition to FFA, Voris participated in softball, basketball, and track and field. She was a member of the National Honor Society and student council.

Voris currently is studying nursing at Missouri State University, Springfield. After graduating college, Voris said she plans to continue her studies at St. Louis Children's Hospital to become a pediatric nurse.

The award was sponsored by the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council.



Kamryn Voris of Halfway

Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship, Jacob Dierking of Blackburn

Jacob Daniel Dierking of Blackburn won the Missouri FFA Diversified Crop-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award. Dierking, a graduate of Santa Fe High School, is the son of Joel and Marla Dierking. He is a member of the Santa Fe FFA Chapter. His FFA advisor is Martha Scheriman.

Dierking's supervised agricultural experience program started with 29 rented acres for corn production. In 2016, Dierking rented 35 acres to grow corn. That year, his family also started a vegetable-growing business where they grew sweet corn. As of 2019, Dierking cultivated 195 acres of corn, 111 acres of soybeans and 25 acres of sweet corn.

In FFA, Dierking competed at the state level in the agricultural mechanics and farm management career development events. He won the 2018 Missouri FFA Grain Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award. Dierking attended Washington Leadership Conference and National FFA Convention & Expo. At state and national conventions, he was a member of courtesy corps. Dierking has exhibited at the Missouri State Fair.

In school, Dierking is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization. Outside of school, he serves as the vice-president of Walkenezzer 4-H Club and an usher for the Zion Lutheran Church.

Dierking is currently studying agronomy at State Fair Community College, Sedalia. After graduating college, Dierking's plans include expanding his row-crop operation and farming full-time.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while gaining hands-on career experience. The Missouri FFA has 25,945 members representing 348 chapters. The national organization has more than 700,000 members representing 8,612 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. ■

Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council District Director Election Results

By Brandelyn Twellman

Soybean growers showed their support for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC) board of directors throughout the annual election of farmers to lead the organization. Denny Mertz of Chesterfield and Justin Rone of Portageville were elected to represent districts 6 and 7, respectively. They will join their fellow board members in overseeing soybean checkoff investments in Missouri.

“The board is committed to its mission of supporting Missouri soybean farmers’ bottom line,” said Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council chairman Robert Alpers. “As a farmer-led organization, our priorities are ensuring Missouri growers have access to the most up-to-date research and market opportunities, and that they continue to benefit from new uses for soy and the added value those new uses create.”

Three current farmer leaders were also elected to additional three-year terms on the board. Tim Lichte of Lexington was re-elected to represent District 4, Robert Alpers of Prairie Home was re-elected by District 5, and Baughn Merideth of Caruthersville was re-elected to represent his fellow District 7 growers.

District elections for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council are overseen by the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Committee assignments for Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board members will be announced following the summer board of directors meeting, currently being planned for late July.

Mertz replaces board member Harold Gloe of Hermann, and Justin Rone replaces Lewis Rone of Portageville. Harold Gloe and Lewis Rone were both elected to the MSMC board of directors



in 2008 and retire after serving the maximum of 12 consecutive years.

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council is a statewide, farmer-led organization working to improve opportunities for Missouri soybean farmers through a combination of research, outreach, education and market development efforts supported by the soy checkoff.

Learn more online at mosoy.org.

DeMott Re-Elected NCSRP President

The North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) board of directors has shown their support for Missouri farmer Cecil DeMott of Rock Port by re-electing him as the organization’s president.

The NCSRP is a coalition of 12 state soybean associations, led by farmers from those states. The group is focused on investing soy checkoff funds to improve yields and profitability for soybean farmers via university research and Extension outreach. NCSRP serves as a bridge between state and national soybean organizations working on production research. The state partners behind NCSRP are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

DeMott is a long-time advocate for soybean research and also serves on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board of directors.



Cecil DeMott

Soy Protein for Livestock Rations

Checkoff investments include helping producers navigate changes in feedstock availability, and partners at the University of Missouri Cooperative Extension Service have a new tool ready to go.

By Christine Tew

Livestock are the No. 1 user of Missouri's soybean crop. More than 90 percent of soybean meal goes to feed poultry, hogs and cattle. Their consumption drives demand domestically, and in the global market for soy.

Soybean meal is one of many protein sources available to livestock producers. Distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) are also a common choice for Missouri producers, recognized as affordable and accessible across much of the state.

"We've heard from producers that idling ethanol plants has, rather quickly, led to a reduction in availability of DDGS," says Matt Amick, director of biofuels and new uses for Missouri Soybean. "For producers using DDGS as a feed ingredient, limited availability can create quite a challenge and require both research into other protein and energy sources."

Cost is one of many factors.

"Feeding livestock and poultry is a balancing act," says Sean Cornelius of Best Axis Consulting. "As a dairy nutritionist, I am always focused on providing a diet that is healthy for the animal with a goal of providing a positive return for the producer."

The University of Missouri Cooperative Extension Service created a feed calculator to provide guidance on using soybean meal, soybean hulls or other soy products in livestock rations. With options assuming 44 and 48 percent crude protein soybean meal, the calculator offers flexibility for comparisons with DDGS and other corn and wheat feedstocks.

"The protein that we miss from one feed source can be made up from another," Cornelius says. "In the dairy industry, we are using more soybean meal and heat-treated soy products, along with extra corn grain and other byproducts, to make up the protein and energy space left by ingredients that are hard to get or priced out of line at the moment."



Photo courtesy of Midwest Dairy

Soybean meal remains highly competitive with DDGS, synthetic amino acids and other feedstocks.

U.S. livestock and poultry production were a 36.9 million metric ton market for domestic soybean meal in 2019, according to the American Soybean Association's SoyStats. That demand represents the meal from roughly 1.5 billion bushels of soybeans. Internationally, work to grow preference and demand for U.S. soy continues to push those numbers upward.

The ideal diet is normally a blend of forages and feedstuffs that brings the needed fiber, protein, energy, vitamins and minerals into a ration that animals thrive on," Cornelius says.

He encourages working with a nutritionist to tailor rations, especially when facing challenging market conditions.

For more information and to access the feed calculator, visit mosoy.org/check-off-at-work/domestic-marketing/. ■



Role Models

Denny Mertz found a passion for farming and kept it a part of his life thanks to outstanding mentors and friends. Now, he works to share that connection with others.

By Brandelyn Twellman

**Photos courtesy of
Valerie Mertz**

Having spent many years working as both a full-time engineer and a row-crop farmer, Denny Mertz, of Chesterfield, truly knows what it means to burn the midnight oil.

“I do everything myself,” Mertz said. “I don’t have any help on my farm, so there were many years I farmed solely in the evenings because of my engineering job.”

A deeply rooted passion for agriculture, instilled by an important role model in his life, fueled Mertz’s dedication to these long hours on the farm.

“I kind of learned the farmer traits from my grandfather,” Mertz said. “I would go over and help him on the farm all the time after school and during the summers growing up.”

Mertz learned about more than the row crops he farms today during this time.

“During the mid-1950s, most farms had a handful of pigs and chickens and cows,” he said. “You had fruit trees and strawberries, and you planted potatoes and sweet corn. My grandfather also had a farmer’s truck route in Clayton and Ladue where he would take his produce and his eggs. I would help him with that.”

Those experiences, along with the half-acre plot his grandfather let him call his own, fuel Mertz’s passion for the industry.

After high school, he attended the University of Missouri – Rolla and obtained both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering. Mertz worked full time as an engineering supervisor for Alco Controls – Division of Emerson Electric for 26 years and was awarded 5 patents, while farming part time on the side. In 2003, he decided to leave

Denny Mertz was elected to represent his fellow growers on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council board of directors this spring.

his engineering career to pursue his true passion: his farm. Today, he owns and operates Mertz Farms in Elsberry.

“My operation is basically a first-generation farm because my father didn’t farm, and I acquired all my own land and everything else from scratch,” Mertz said. “I farm in Elsberry, which is about an hour drive from where I live in Chesterfield, so I commute to my farm.”

When Mertz decided to pursue farming full time, he also began working for another farmer in Chesterfield.

“At the time I quit my engineering career, Warren Stemme and I were serving on the St. Louis County Farm Bureau board together,” Mertz said. “At that same time, Warren was hunting for some help on his farm. He knew I had experience and would have some time, so he asked if I would consider helping him.”

Mertz worked for Stemme until 2018 when Stemme’s son was able to come back to the farm. It was during this period Mertz discovered his passion for both advocacy and outreach.

“During those 15 years Warren and I worked together on his farm, we established a really good partnership working on outreach for urban audiences in the St. Louis area,” he said. “We became a really good team working on advocacy for agriculture in St. Louis.”

Mertz’s advocacy and outreach pair well with his heavy involvement in the agricultural industry.

Participation in the Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) program encouraged Mertz to pursue his passion for farming full time and share his story with others. Today, he serves on the ALOT Board of Directors as

the past president. He is involved with the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club. Mertz is also an active member of Missouri Farm Bureau, previously serving on the state board and currently acting as the St. Louis County Farm Bureau Board president.

Mertz is no stranger to the soybean family. He was named the 2006 American Soybean Association DuPont Young Leader for Missouri and serves on the board of directors for Paseo Biofuels, LLC. Most recently, he was elected to represent District 6 growers on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Board.

His tie to urban communities drives his industry involvement.

“I think being from an urban area and also in the ag industry, I see the importance of communicating about agriculture,” Mertz said. “Farmers, in general, in times past have been happy to just stay on the farm and produce crops. But, the ever-increasing influence from the outside world on how farmers should farm made me see the importance and need to become involved, as I was able, and to speak up.”

It is important to show up in those conversations, he added.

“If you aren’t at the table, you’re going to be on the menu,” Mertz said. “So, it’s important to show up at meetings, to participate, to listen and to provide input.”

Mertz is looking forward to showing up in the soybean industry through his role on the MSMC board.

“I see this role as an opportunity to learn more about where the checkoff funds are being directed in order to help provide, for the Missouri soybean



Mertz, and Warren Stemme, right, hosting a special guest on the farm.

farmers, an opportunity to invest in items that would bring returns to our checkoff money,” he said. “I enjoy getting in the details of things and researching them, so I look forward to working with the other members of the board to make the best decisions to benefit the soybean growers of Missouri.”

He believes his engineering background will help him analyze issues and ask the right questions while serving on the board. While Mertz is excited to dive into the soybean industry as a whole, there are several topics he is most looking forward to.

“I’m really interested in the breeding program,” he said. “There are so many things happening in genetics and breeding right now, which are absolutely amazing. I also think it’s important to work on products for new uses of soybeans to produce new markets. We’ve seen things like biofuels, insulation, construction materials and more designed from soybeans. I think we’ll always need to pursue those new end-use products our soybeans are able to go into.”

Market development, as seen in the livestock and aquaculture industries, is also an important focus, he added. Mertz feels that being involved in the soybean industry during this time is a privilege.

“I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve Missouri soybean farmers in this role,” he said. “I will do my best to find as many opportunities as I can to promote markets and uses for soybeans grown in our state.” ■

“If you aren’t at the table, you’re going to be on the menu.”

-Denny Mertz



Missouri Farmers Care

PORK PARTNERSHIP

WITH MISSOURI FARMERS CARE DRIVE TO FEED KIDS

Pork Partnership

with the Drive to Feed Kids to deliver high-quality protein to food-insecure Missourians

The Missouri Pork Association and Missouri Farmers Care are teaming up to provide high-quality protein to families in need. These groups are helping Missouri pig farmers connect with local processors to donate pork to the state's food banks. Each hog processed into ground pork yields over 200 pounds of high-quality protein. This equates to more than 900 servings of food for hungry children and families across Missouri.



According to Feeding Missouri, 1.2 million Missourians faced food insecurity before the COVID-19 crisis, including 1 in 5 people in rural areas.

The situation has only worsened with recent job losses. The Drive to Feed Kids works to reduce food insecurity across Missouri.

Several pork processors have suspended operations or reduced capacity due to COVID-19 and related regulations. This is straining the pork supply chain and making it harder for food-insecure children and families to find affordable protein. The slowdowns and closures have caused a backlog of market-ready animals on Missouri farms. Without processors to harvest and process the pork, consumer-ready cuts cannot be delivered to grocery stores.

Missouri's agriculture community is stepping up to help through Missouri Farmers Care's annual Drive to Feed Kids. The Missouri Pork Association and Missouri Farmers Care are seeking out local meat processors willing to help reduce the backlog. Farmers are donating these backlogged pigs to be processed and given to needy families.

"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. "Our partners across agriculture are raising funds to cover processing and transportation costs. It's encouraging to see farmers working together to help in a time of need."

More than \$100,000 has already been raised for the effort. 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.

In 2019, the Drive to Feed Kids donated 4.3 million meals through Feeding Missouri's six regional partner food banks. To learn more about Missouri Farmers Care and members' work, visit MOFarmersCare.com.

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 and check out the hard work behind your hard work.**



FUNDED WITH SOYBEAN
CHECKOFF DOLLARS THROUGH
THE UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD
AND NORTH CENTRAL SOYBEAN
RESEARCH PROGRAM



Upcoming Events & Activities

July 16 *SOYPAC Golf Tournament - Richmond*

August 7 *SOYPAC Golf Tournament - Dexter*

September 25 *Foundation for Soy Innovation Golf Tournament - Jefferson City*



The 2020 Farmers' Table Wine Trail event has been canceled. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

For more information, visit hermannwinetrail.com.

Want More?

Visit us at mosoy.org!

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

SAVE THE DATE
for the 30th annual
tournament benefiting
SOYPAC

July 16, 2020
Shirkey Golf Course
Richmond, MO

Details and Registration
online at
mosoy.org/golf

 **MISSOURI
SOYBEANS**



mosoy.org

Stress and #SOYHELP

From Ronnie Russell

In many ways, stress is a way of life on the farm – that pressure can come from any number of places, from running our small businesses, to family and community, to weather and market conditions largely out of our control. What happens, though, when everything hits at once... When those pressures add up to stress that's too much, or when struggles like depression pile on and threaten to derail the day-to-day?

It's easy to feel like there are no good options. I've learned that's not the case.

And more than that, with all the conversations we've been having about stress and mental health this past year, the clearer it's become that sometimes you need the help – and sometimes you are the help for someone in need.

In May, we recognized National Mental Health Month. And when I say we recognized it, I mean we really did something. The entire soybean family – the American Soybean Association, United Soybean Board, and state soybean organizations like the Missouri Soybean Association and Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, stood up and launched #SOYHELP.

#SOYHELP isn't just a hashtag or a catchy tagline. It's a package of resources aimed at stress and mental health in agriculture and our farm communities.

Top of mind: the stress we know about. Spring is already an intense time, then add COVID-19 and recovery from last year's flooding. The year has just begun, and the weight is already stacked.

One of the great things about the #SOYHELP effort is the list. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking there aren't resources available where we are, or that the folks giving advice don't understand farming. #SOYHELP includes a state-by-state list of resources is vetted by our ag partners, from Missouri Soybean to Extension and our Missouri Department of Agriculture, who have been working with those folks in a real partnership. In Missouri, we're fortunate to have Show-Me Hope with county-by-county resources too.



They were a great resource at our district soybean meetings this winter, and they continue to serve our rural counties affected by disasters.

If you haven't already, I hope you'll take a look at #SOYHELP, whether by following the American Soybean Association and MoSoy on social media, or by clicking the #SOYHELP logo on mosoy.org.

Wendy Brannen, ASA Sr. Director of Marketing & Communications and C-19 Task Force member, said it well in the initial announcement:

"Emotional struggles are not one-size-fits-all. We are hopeful this campaign can melt away a bit of the stigma that sometimes still exists in talking openly about the tolls of stress and seeking help."

One of the things we do really well in agriculture, and in our rural communities, is looking out for one another. Keeping an eye out for folks who might be going through a tough time, and knowing that it's more than okay to ask for help when we're struggling, is a big part of that.

While May and Mental Health Month are behind us, I hope you'll join me in keeping this in mind for the months to come.

Ronnie Russell is a farmer from Richmond, Mo. He currently serves as president of the Missouri Soybean Association and represents his fellow growers on the American Soybean Association board of directors.

FULL-CIRCLE RETURN

HERE'S HOW THE SOY CHECKOFF WORKS. The national soy checkoff was created as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The Act & Order that created the soy checkoff requires that all soybean farmers pay into the soy checkoff at the first point of purchase. These funds are then used for promotion, research and education at both the state and national level.



* Led by 73 volunteer soybean farmers, the United Soybean Board (USB) invests and leverages soy checkoff dollars to MAXIMIZE PROFIT OPPORTUNITIES for all U.S. soybean farmers.

unitedsoybean.org

