

MISSOURI

Soybean Farmer

OCTOBER
2020

Weeds at the Elevator

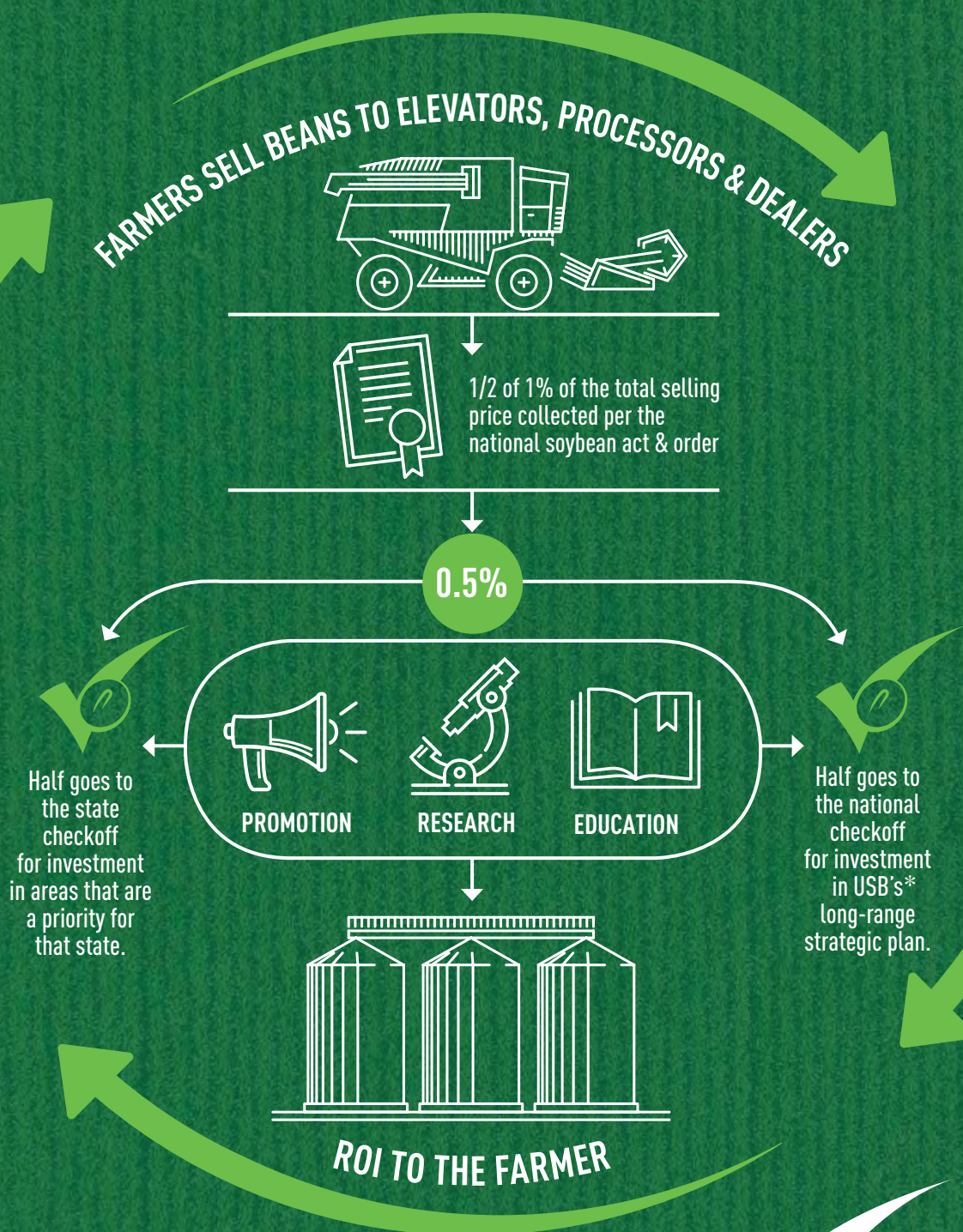
Pressure from weed seeds doesn't stop in the field. They can cause pain at the elevator, too.

Dredging the River

A project to take the lower Mississippi River depth to 50 feet is underway, improving transportation options.

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



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

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27 *Soybean farmers' efforts to improve their market position through dredging along the lower Mississippi River are moving forward with action this fall.*



« Cover Shot

Cooler days and evenings are as sure a sign of harvest as any other across Missouri. This frosty shot was captured by Brian Martin, a farmer from Centralia, Mo.

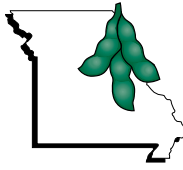
Missouri Soybean Association

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.

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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

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Mark Lehenbauer, Palmyra
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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

Harvest is a time when the mechanics and logistics of getting the job done demand such a majority of our mental and physical energy, there's just not much left for issues beyond getting the crop where it needs to go. The challenge in that, of course, is that this is also when we stress-test our systems, from infrastructure to markets, and their underlying policy.

Heading into this season, we've seen a bit of a bump in the market – and we want to hang on to that. We're watching carryover numbers, and keeping a close eye on movement and purchases, knowing we have a large crop on the horizon. The U.S. is a key carrier of grain because we have the capability to do so. Likewise, in Missouri, we have infrastructure in the form of our river system, roads and railways to support our ability to take the crop from field to markets around the world. Part of capturing as much of that market bump as possible is ensuring our infrastructure is ready to carry Missouri's top crop. Rest assured that your Missouri Soybean Association team is laser-focused on those systems and on the work in Washington, D.C., and Jefferson City, while you're hands-on with harvest.

More than anything, as we look toward harvest, I wish for you, to please remain vigilant that the long and trying days don't chip away at the priority of staying safe. Thank you, and take care.

Ronnie Russell - Missouri Soybean Association President



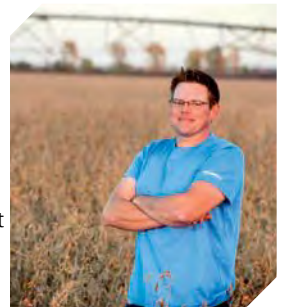
Our soybean family has been an innovator in so many ways, from forming one of the early grower organizations to driving the birth of biodiesel. Missouri led the way, and the history is both rich and still being written.

The concept of the soybean family is one we speak of often, and today it feels especially big. It's incredible to come to you here as your chairman, and I deeply appreciate the trust each of you has placed in me. The board's collective focus on fulfilling our mission of empowering through innovation, and dedication to achieving that vision, is energizing.

Today, we're continuing to innovate, bringing together so many of those working with our bean to solve problems facing farmers, industry and consumers, within the Center for Soy Innovation. And as we look forward, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council is poised to launch again, bringing the non-GMO high oleic trait technology to the marketplace with the strength of partnerships across our soybean-producing states and engaging the entire value chain.

The legacy of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, and opportunities ahead, are top of mind. Thank you for the opportunity. I look forward to hearing how we can best serve you through your checkoff.

Kyle Durham - Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman



Letter from the Executive Director

At Missouri Soybean, whether we're talking about the Association, the Foundation or the Merchandising Council, how we connect with our partners is a huge part of how we serve farmers. Whether we're building relationships to grow demand for soy, sharing the recommendations from on-farm research, or protecting farmers' freedom to operate, collaboration is what makes it all go.

And in those collaborations, what we bring to the table makes a difference. It's not only a matter of getting involved, it's a matter of engaging the right way.

Over the past few weeks, we've had campaign signs in Jefferson City vandalized several times – kicked or kneed in, smeared with mud, and sprayed with several colors of paint. The signs weren't stolen, and weren't damaged to be unreadable. The result: We know someone's not happy with that candidate, and they're willing to come onto private property to show that. What we don't know, is what they've experienced or how they'd like change to look. And for the signs vandalized on the Missouri Soybean Association's ground in Jefferson City, we don't know what the Association has to do with their feelings, if anything. That's not the way to communicate your issues.

The vast majority of people who disagree with the Association's decisions in the policy space don't take that approach, and I'm glad for that.

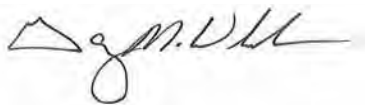
I really value the people who take the time to call, to share their experience (good or bad) and who ask how we came to a decision to endorse a candidate, support a campaign or otherwise engage. We may not agree at the end of the conversation, but we sure do understand one another better for listening. Again, the right way to engage.

The frankness that comes in those conversations makes us all better. And that frankness goes beyond policy work. For those who know me personally, I truly appreciate those frank conversations with no sugar added - just telling me like it is. When we ask for input on priorities for future research projects and for the challenges you're facing on your farms, your responses make the difference. That communication helps us serve you better.

Your Missouri Soybean organizations are truly farmer-led, and each farmer leader brings feedback from their fellow growers. Your staff team operates the same way – we're here to serve you, ready to listen and looking forward to hearing from you. It makes us all stronger, and the future for our industry that much brighter.

Thanks for the frankness you've shown, and for the conversations yet to come.

God Bless.



Gary Wheeler

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





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

Soybean Policy Update

The Missouri soybean team often reflects on our mission and vision to ensure our actions are aligned with our words. Our mission is leading Missouri soybean producers into the future through legislative advocacy, communication and outreach, and our vision is advancing and protecting the interests of Missouri soybean producers. These are great guiding principles when it comes to crafting both state and federal policy. As we look toward future needs and protecting the interests of Missouri soybean producers, MSA recognizes the past investment that started the biodiesel industry and the impact it has had on rural communities, Missouri's economy and the added value to row-crop and livestock producers.

As many of us have recently read, major petroleum producers have begun transforming oil refiners into biodiesel and renewable diesel plants. You must ask yourself how this will impact Missouri soybean producers who started the industry and how we protect their investment in building the Missouri biodiesel industry. Who buys Missouri biodiesel today? How does the petroleum get to Missouri, and what happens if that fuel is blended as it comes up the pipeline system? How many jobs and much state tax revenue could be lost if we don't actively engage in legislative advocacy, communication and outreach? These are all questions we've researched and developed studies that have guided the decision-making process for our farmer leaders.

...continued on page 8.

Missouri Soybean Association Endorsement

Eric Schmitt for Attorney General

By Christine Tew

The Missouri Soybean Association, the statewide voice for soybean farmers in Jefferson City, announced its endorsement of Eric Schmitt for Missouri Attorney General August 31.

“Eric Schmitt is a tireless advocate for Missouri’s farmers, and one of the leading state attorneys general on agriculture issues,” said Ronnie Russell, a farmer from Richmond and president of the Missouri Soybean Association.

“He stands with agriculture on key issues, including pushing back against frivolous lawsuits and federal overreach. Attorney General Schmitt has also been a champion for common sense as he fought to uphold the state law that restricts county health departments from imposing needless and costly regulations.”

Schmitt, Missouri’s 43rd Attorney General, previously served as State Treasurer and as a Missouri State Senator. He also served as an alderman in the community of Glendale.

“I’m proud to have earned the endorsement of Missouri Soybean,” Schmitt said. “I’m committed to the fight against overregulation and will always stand tall for our farming communities.”

The Missouri Soybean Association’s policy committee and board of directors voted to endorse on the basis of Eric Schmitt’s demonstrated commitment to and understanding of Missouri agriculture. They recognized his position as a go-to leader among his peers in the United States when it comes to defending farmers and their freedom to operate, and protecting



Attorney General Eric Schmitt

“He stands with agriculture on key issues, including pushing back against frivolous lawsuits and federal overreach. Attorney General Schmitt has also been a champion for common sense as he fought to uphold the state law that restricts county health departments from imposing needless and costly regulations.”

-Ronnie Russell

Missouri’s rural communities and economic opportunities, as well.

Russell, as president of the Missouri Soybean Association, notified Schmitt of the endorsement decision via letter. The Association announced the endorsement shortly thereafter.

The Missouri Soybean Association has been soybean growers’ voice on policy for more than 50 years. To learn more about how the Missouri Soybean Association works on behalf of Missouri soybean farmers, visit [mosoy.org](https://www.mosoysoy.org).

...continued from page 6.

It's our goal to continue to educate our policymakers on these important points. In today's politics, we see added focus on bringing back jobs that may have been outsourced and adding focus to building our rural communities that have been abandoned - or so it seems. You think, "locally produced fuel, cleaner burning, better lubricity, adds value to agricultural products and readily available right here in the Show-Me State," heck this should be an easy piece of legislation to support. Well, keep in mind that there is always someone getting paid to represent the interests of opposing groups. I'm calling on all of us to support our legislators that are often chastised for making these difficult decisions (even when they're a win-win like this) and let them know you support them. The Missouri-Made Fuels Act was a hard-fought piece of legislation last year that almost made it to the finish line, and it will take all of our voices to make it a reality this upcoming year. We're here to represent our soybean

producers so please reach out to discuss these issues and learn how you can help.

Another issue facing us now and in the foreseeable future is the lack of broadband in our rural communities. In addition to several programs pushed by Governor Parson and his team, the Department of Economic Development announced the opening of a second application cycle for the Governor's Emergency Broadband Investment Program which will provide \$2 million in funding to broadband providers. The application cycle opened September 8, 2020, and closed September 17, 2020. Grant funds may be used to pay for costs associated with deployment of broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the state.

That program was announced in July as part of Governor Parson's Show Me Strong Recovery strategy, including a broadband expansion initiative using the state's CARES Act funding. The

Emergency Broadband Investment Program was designed to reimburse providers for the cost of broadband expansion to qualified households supporting students, teleworkers and vulnerable populations. We're hopeful with continued emphasis on the need to connect virtually that Missouri and Congress will continue to push for priority funding to rural areas across Missouri.

Federal Policy

Phase 1 Trade Deal

Recently during a six-month review call evaluating the program, trade officials from the United States and China reiterated their commitment to ensuring the success of the trade deal. The parties have discussed increasing the purchase of U.S. goods by China and future efforts needed to fulfill the terms of the agreement. China is set to purchase a record number of soybeans from the U.S. at competitive pricing for the 2020 - 2021 marketing year. Soy futures in

...continued on page 10.

Where's your sign?

With Election Day approaching quickly, campaign signs are becoming a regular sight across Missouri. Farmer leaders and members of the Missouri Soybean Association are among those supporting candidates with signage.

Are you showing support for a candidate endorsed by the Missouri Soybean Association on your farm, at your home or another property you own? We want to see your signs!

Snap a photo (selfies are fine!) of your family, your friends or other supporters with your campaign sign or signs, and send it to ctew@mosoy.org.

The Missouri Soybean Association will share selected photos on social media in the coming weeks.



Matt Wright, Emden



Tim Lichte, Lexington

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...continued from page 8.

China have climbed to a seven-month high, and we're hopeful the recent announcement of additional purchases keep the trend climbing.

Dredging of the Lower Mississippi
The Mississippi River is critical for transporting U.S. soybeans worldwide, making it an essential element for trade. U.S. vessels are currently unable to operate at full capacity without hitting the bottom of the river. This makes depth expansion crucial to maintain efficient soybean trade along this major waterway. An extensive study was completed to evaluate the opportunities if the lower Mississippi was dredged from 45 to 50 feet.

The results showed that dredging would allow U.S. vessels to increase their load capacity from 2.4 million bushels of soybeans to 2.9 million bushels. The externalities of the dredging could significantly improve market values, as the cash basis could increase by 13 cents per bushel in certain areas along the river. In addition, it creates a more competitive market between rail and barge rates, benefitting soybean producers who are not located near the river and generating nearly \$461 million of additional revenue for soybean producers.

The soybean checkoff was a critical partner in assisting with the production of data necessary to take a plan to the Army Corps and Congress. We're very pleased to announce the multi-million-dollar project was approved and is underway.

Midwest to 'Make or Break' Presidential Election

There are a few Midwest states that could be the deciding factor for the presidential election. President Trump needs to hold Iowa and will most likely need to win Wisconsin or Minnesota for a chance to win re-election. At the Republican convention, there were speakers from both Wisconsin and Minnesota who spoke highly of President Trump's trade policy and regulatory rollbacks.



Democratic candidate Joe Biden recently announced the planning of trips to Wisconsin and Minnesota for his presidential campaign. The tension is rising between the two opponents, as Wisconsin and Minnesota become major battle grounds for the presidency.

CFAP Round 2

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced that the USDA is moving forward with a second round of CFAP payments. Within this second round of payments comes \$14 billion of funds leftover from the CARES Act, which passed in March.

CFAP-2 is intended to focus on

compensating farmers for losses after April 15 and will include commodities that were recently added to the program. Many producers expressed their financial losses that resulted after April 15, as a repercussion of the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants are expected to receive the additional funds throughout September.

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. ■

THANK YOU!

TO THE MISSOURI FARMER-INVESTORS WHO CHOSE TO JOIN OUR CAUSE
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MNC expects to be operational this winter. We still have a limited number of shares available for purchase that will receive a 50% state tax credit beginning in 2020. If interested, **call Pat Conners at 314-809-9499.**

Again, thank you for joining Our Cause!



For more information, go to our website at moberlynaturalcrush.com.

Missouri Soybean Now Accepting 2021 Project Proposals

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council is now accepting proposals for work to improve the future for soy beginning in 2021. All project plans should address opportunities for research, education or growing demand for soy, and directly impact Missouri soybean growers.

Missouri's soybean farmers have supported research and education work through their checkoff for more than 30 years. Previously funded work includes research into biodiesel, flood and drought-tolerance in soybeans and high oleic soybean oil, as well as herbicide-resistant soybean varieties.

Interested principal investigators should complete the online application. Funding decisions are expected during Spring 2021. To learn more about previously funded projects, review the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's Annual Research Report. Files are accessible online at mosoy.org and by contacting the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council at (573) 635-3819.

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 through the soybean checkoff. Learn more online at mosoy.org.



Pork Partnership Hits 50,000

The program launched this spring to ensure Missouri farmers' hogs didn't go to waste amid a nearly nationwide processor slowdown has hit a new milestone for donations.

Since the first donation was picked up by the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri on May 26, the Pork Partnership has distributed more than 50,000 pounds of ground pork statewide to Missouri's regional food banks.

In early September, the St. Louis Area Foodbank received a donation of 8,600 pounds of ground pork from Missouri Farmers Care's Drive to Feed Kids, pushing the program past that milestone. Governor Mike Parson, Senator Roy Blunt and Missouri Department of Agriculture Director Chris Chinn joined Missouri agricultural partners and farmers to deliver the more than 39,000 servings of much needed, high-quality protein for hungry Missourians. The 41 hogs behind that donation were donated by Two Mile Pork and JBS, including providing the hogs' transportation to Central Missouri Meat and Sausage in Fulton for processing.

"We are thankful that Missouri agriculture has been one of the many industries in the Show-Me State to step up and be part of the solution during COVID-19," Governor Mike Parson said. "As a lifelong Missourian, I know how thoughtful and giving the farming community is, especially when we face tough times. I want to thank my fellow farmers for stepping up, creating such a meaningful program, and doing their part to feed hungry families in our state."

As part of Missouri Farmers Care, the Drive to Feed Kids program works to reduce food insecurity across Missouri in partnership with Feeding Missouri and its network of food banks. As coronavirus-related slowdowns among major pork processors strained the processing chain in May and June, the Drive to Feed Kids Pork Partnership



Pork Partnership delegation at the St. Louis Area Food Bank

was developed to help bridge the gap between Missourians in need and pork producers who faced a temporary reduction in processing availability.

"Since it launched in 2017, the Drive to Feed Kids has focused on addressing food insecurity in children across Missouri," said Don Nikodim, executive director of the Missouri Pork Association. "We're proud to see how our partners across agriculture have again stepped up to address the needs during these challenging times. Missouri agriculture has a track record of coming together to solve problems, and this is one way to help in today's tough situation. We thank pork producers who have donated their hogs so food banks can meet the needs of our neighbors facing hunger."

More than \$100,000 has been raised for the effort. Missouri's agricultural organizations and businesses, including Brownfield Ag News, Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, Missouri Farm Bureau Insurance, American Family Insurance, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Missouri Soybean Association, FCS Financial, MFA Incorporated, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Forrester and Charlotte Lucas, founders of Protect the Harvest, Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, Paseo Biofuels, LLC, Biofuels, LLC, and

many individuals have donated to cover processing and transportation costs in this partnership.

According to Feeding America, before COVID-19 more than 368,000 Missourians faced food insecurity in the 26-county region St. Louis Area Foodbank serves. With increased unemployment and the challenges of this year, Feeding America projects that number has increased by 43 percent to 527,280 Missourians, including 159,220 children.

The program will continue to accept donations of hogs as processing space and funds are available. 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. Contributions will be recognized as part of the 2020 Drive to Feed Kids.

Through Missouri Farmers Care, a coalition of more than 40 Missouri agricultural groups, the Drive to Feed Kids donated 4.3 million meals to hungry Missouri families in 2019. Feeding Missouri's six regional partner food banks distributed the food statewide. Learn more about Missouri Farmers Care and the 2020 Drive to Feed Kids at MOFarmersCare.com/drive. ■

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Soy Education Gone Digital

With ongoing concerns around the spread of COVID-19 necessitating a pivot away from plans to welcome school and community groups into the Center for Soy Innovation this fall, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council has taken education to the Internet.

By Christine Tew

Photos by Jason Jenkins,
Mill Creek Communications

The vision for the Center for Soy Innovation at the time of the grand opening in March was of a bustling hub for groups of all ages to experience the ways soy impacts their lives – first-hand and hands-on. As the uncertainty and the ever-evolving situation around COVID-19 continued throughout the spring and summer, it became clear that school field trips and similar groups of visitors were unlikely for fall.

The theme for so much during the past six months has been “Pivot!,” whether transitioning a beloved event to a new format or restructuring days to account for new roles at home. For the Missouri Soybean team, service became the central point for that redirection. Rather than focus on the plans that were laid aside, the leaders behind the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and Missouri Soybean Association focused their energy on meeting partners where they were – largely virtually, and occasionally outdoors.


Virtually, the resources are rolling. And new partnerships, including an expanded program effort with Ag Education on the Move, mean even more flexible online resources are coming this winter.

Online, people interested in learning more about the Center have a new web hub to explore: mosoy.org/innovation. The page is home to the Center's virtual tour and a photo stream. It also links to Missouri Soybeans' YouTube page, where the same videos about farming, biodiesel and other uses for soy visitors could previously only see within the Center are now accessible from any connected device.

A summertime partnership with Missouri State Parks made for even more videos, including a fun session where children and parents may join "Professor Legume" making soy plastic and exploring different items in their homes that may be made from soy. A fun story time partnership with Missouri Farmers Care saw teachers and parents across Missouri get their own copies of the book "Henry Ford: Full of Beans" this summer as well.

The "Learn About Soybeans" tab on mosoy.org has new resources, too, including Simon the Soybean activity pages suitable for elementary school ages. Activities range from coloring sheets to puzzles and word searches and can be printed or downloaded for personal use.

Have questions about food or farming you'd planned to ask during a visit to the Center for Soy Innovation? That page has options for connecting with Missouri farmers through the CommonGround program and reaching out to Missouri Soybean staff, too.

To learn more, explore mosoy.org or reach out to the Center directly. 



Allison and Maier Amick checking out the digital exhibits and the take-home activities from the Center for Soy Innovation.

Online Resources

While the Center for Soy Innovation is closed to visitors, there are plenty of activities online for learners of all ages.

mosoy.org/innovation

Start with a virtual tour of the Center for Soy Innovation to learn about the different soy-based building materials throughout the building and how soy can help you make greener choices in your own home. Then, check out more detailed photos of the things you're most interested in seeing inside the Center. Use the Contact Us button to let us know you'd like to visit when the Center reopens.

mosoy.org → Learn About Soybeans

Download puzzles, activity guides and coloring sheets featuring Simon the Soybean, and connect with farmers across Missouri who can answer your questions about food and farming, especially growing soybeans in the Show-Me State. Click over to YouTube, too, for soybean farming videos.

Foundation for Soy Innovation

Foundation for Soy Innovation Doubles Scholarship Investment

The program bridges resource gaps for the next generation of problem-solvers working along the soy value chain. Applications for the cash awards are due October 15, 2020.

By Christine Tew

The Foundation for Soy Innovation scholarship program is back for 2021, and it is expanding for its second year. The scholarships, made possible by contributions from Missouri's farmers, support students and early-career faculty who are working along the soy value chain, from agronomic research to developing new soy-based products.

"We often talk about there being a bright future for soy, from its uses in livestock nutrition to building materials and biodiesel, especially in Missouri," said Matt McCrate, chairman of the Foundation. "Through the Foundation for Soy Innovation, we're bringing together those who need to be at the table to really raise the bar on the work farmers have been doing, and to ensure that we're taking full advantage of the opportunities ahead. This scholarship is one step in that effort."

Students and young professionals working with soy have until October 15, 2020 to apply for one of the \$1,000 awards. Scholarship funds may be used for coursework, supplies, specialty training and/or participation in a professional conference.

The scholarship program was launched in 2019. Eric Oseland of Columbia, Mo., a doctoral candidate studying weed pressure and control in soybean, received the inaugural award.


The Foundation for Soy Innovation exists to advance the technology, ingenuity and partnerships integral to the future for soy, at every stage in the process. From innovation in how farmers produce soy to elevating the ways we put soy to work, to developing environmentally friendly soy-based products, there are great opportunities ahead.

Through this scholarship program and other efforts, the Foundation and its partners support academic and professional development of the next generation of leaders for the soy value



Eric Oseland was the inaugural Foundation scholarship recipient.

chain. The Foundation is led by soybean farmer and longtime seedsman Matt McCrate of Cape Girardeau.

To learn more about the Foundation for Soy Innovation, explore soyfoundation.org. 

“Through the Foundation for Soy Innovation, we’re bringing together those who need to be at the table to really raise the bar on the work farmers have been doing, and to ensure that we’re taking full advantage of the opportunities ahead. This scholarship is one step in that effort.”

-Matt McCrate

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MDA

Making the Grade

Ensuring soybean quality begins in the field, and weed pressure plays into far more than yield.

By Jason Jenkins

Mill Creek Communications

Additional photo courtesy
of Missouri Department of
Agriculture

The steady grind of steel on steel fills the evening air as a Kansas City Southern freight train comes to a lumbering stop at Central Missouri AGRIService's shuttle-loader facility on the outskirts of Marshall. It's 2 a.m. on a summer Saturday, and during the next eight to 10 hours, nearly 420,000 bushels of Missouri-grown soybeans destined for export will be loaded into 110 railcars.

The shuttle-loader is extremely efficient. It can fill a railcar with nearly 3,800 bushels in roughly 4 minutes. Just as efficient are the Missouri Department of Agriculture's licensed grain inspectors, who can grade the quality of that grain before it's time to fill the next car.

"Grain inspection definitely isn't a 9-to-5, Monday through Friday kind of job," says Jimmy Williams, program administrator for Missouri Grain Inspection Services. "Our inspectors are required to provide service to grain elevators any time, seven days a week, 24 hours day. We have 10 shuttle-loading facilities across the state, and when those trains arrive, whether day or night, weekend or holiday, it doesn't matter. We're expected to be there. Fortunately, we have a very dedicated team."

Williams says that in any given year, the program's staff of just 35 full-time grain inspectors grades the contents of nearly 2,000 barges, more than 4,000 shipping containers and 40,000 railcars. While the vast majority of those shipments contain corn and soybeans, other crops such as wheat, rice, oats and sorghum also are inspected.



"Typically, grain is officially inspected when either the buyer

has requested it or when it's a shipment headed for export. Those shipments are mandated to be inspected," he says, noting that soybeans make up the largest volume of officially inspected grain in the Show-Me State. "We inspect grain on behalf of USDA and adhere to federal standards, and it's those high standards that help ensure that buyers receive what they're paying for."

American producers have provided the world with safe, abundant and high-quality grains and oilseeds by following guidelines outlined in the U.S. Grain Standards Act for more than a century. Missouri's soybean growers can maintain and even enhance the value of their crop by eliminating elements that reduce quality. At harvest, this includes weed seeds that find their way into the combine's grain tank.

Soybean Grading 101

Soybeans that are officially inspected receive one of five grades: U.S. No. 1, U.S. No. 2, U.S. No. 3, U.S. No. 4 or U.S. Sample Grade. Where the commodity falls along this spectrum is determined by a set of five factors that are assessed during the inspection process, which begins by taking a sample.

"The grading process is only as good as the sample taken," says Doug Riley, quality assurance specialist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture and a licensed grain inspector based in the Marshall field office. "We want to make sure that the sample is representative of the entire railcar or barge or whatever we're sampling from."

Hand probes, mechanical probes, Pelican grain samplers and truck tailgate samplers are all approved sampling devices. For soybeans, as well as corn, a sample of 1,000 grams is required.



Doug Riley, quality assurance specialist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, evaluates a soybean sample.

"They'll load a railcar with 225,000 pounds of soybeans, and we need just 2.2 pounds to grade it," Riley adds. "The system is pretty efficient."

To begin grading a soybean sample, the inspector first passes it through a rotary divider. This device partitions the grain while maintaining the representativeness of the original sample, leaving the inspector with a work portion and a file sample, which is stored at the inspection office should retesting be requested.

The inspector takes the work portion of the sample and determines its moisture content. Test weight is evaluated next.

The beans are placed in a small hopper, and a quart cup is placed below. When the hopper valve is opened, grain flows into the quart cup, overflowing it. The inspector uses a striker to level the grain in the cup, which is then placed on the

test weight scale to measure pounds per bushel.

"Moisture content and test weight are inversely related," Williams explains. "The higher the moisture, the lower the test weight. While neither measure is a grading factor, both are essential to the soybean's storability and overall value."

The inspector's next step is evaluating the sample for foreign material, which is anything other than soybeans. The work portion is first hand-picked for coarse foreign material. This includes whole kernels of corn, cockleburrs, sticks, soybean pods or other material larger than a soybean.

Once coarse foreign material is removed, the cleaned sample is cut down to 125 grams using a Boerner divider, then placed in a 10/64-by-3/4-inch oblong-hole sieve pan atop a 1/8-inch round-hole sieve pan and shaken five times. Whole

...continued on next page.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the fifth article in a yearlong series examining the past, present and future of weed control in the production of soybeans in the Show-Me State. In this issue, we take a look at the impact weeds can have on grain quality.

...continued from previous page.

soybeans remain in the oblong-hole sieve; most split soybeans fall into the round-hole sieve. The majority of fine foreign material, including weed seeds, finds its way into the bottom pan. The inspector's trained eyes now get put to the test.

The inspector sits at a desk with a top of a specific off-white color. The lights above, which are required to be in a precise range of brightness, now illuminate the task at hand: analyzing the soybeans for damage.

The causes of damage in soybeans are many. They include green damage, weather damage, heat damage, frost damage, mold damage, sprout damage and various types of insect damage. Discolored or stained soybeans are also separated.

"You can't mistake ugly for damage," Riley says with a laugh. "Beans that are immature, we call those wafers, are still considered sound as long as there's some meat on the inside."

Once the analysis is complete, the soybean's grade is determined by calculating the total percent of damaged beans as well as the percent of heat-damaged beans, along with foreign material, splits and soybeans of other colors.

Maintain Your Grade

Factors that impact the grade occur at various stages along the crop production cycle. While some in-field damage during the growing season can't be remedied, producers can take steps to ensure the best beans at harvest and during storage.



While test weight isn't a factor in grading soybeans, it is part of the analysis because of its role in storage for the crop.

"Soybeans can have up to 1 percent foreign material and still be graded as a U.S. No. 1 yellow soybean, but anything over that, the grade falls to a No. 2," Williams says. "Producers and elevators alike are paid more for No. 1 beans than No. 2, so it's a big deal. One way to help ensure you keep a No. 1 grade is to reduce weed seeds."

According to the USDA, 80 percent of all intercepted weed seed in soybeans comes from four types: rag weed, cocklebur, Johnson grass and pigweed, which in Missouri would include waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. To minimize weed seed and other foreign material in harvested soybeans, the USDA recommends that producers adjust combine cutting heights and other settings; clean out their combines

regularly to prevent both weed spread and cross-crop contamination; and avoid harvesting weeds when possible. It's also recommended that bins and conveyances are cleaned regularly and that soybeans with low foreign material are segregated from those with higher volumes.

At a time when commodity prices are low and margins are razor-thin, paying attention to the details can potentially have a large impact on the bottom line.

"Based on my experience with Missouri Grain Inspection Services during the past 10 years, most of the grain we inspect is very good quality," Williams says. "Most is No. 1 or No. 2, so I think that speaks well for Missouri farmers."

“Producers and elevators alike are paid more for No. 1 beans than No. 2, so it's a big deal. One way to help ensure you keep a No. 1 grade is to reduce weed seeds.”

-Jimmy Williams

To learn more about Missouri Grain Inspection Services, visit agriculture.mo.gov/grains/inspections.




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INVESTING IN NEW MARKETS FOR U.S. SOY

From promoting the profitability of using high-quality soybean meal in India to training animal producers on nutrition in Colombia, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to develop more market opportunities for U.S. soy. 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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HONOR WALL

Good news from those working on behalf of Missouri soybean farmers

Boeckman to Lead Soil & Water in Missouri

Congratulations are in order for Kurt Boeckman. In August, he was named the new director for Missouri's Soil and Water Conservation Program within the state's Department of Natural Resources.

This Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program supports a soil and water conservation district in each of Missouri's 114 counties. Each district provides technical and financial assistance, education and best practices to local farmers and landowners.

Boeckman previously served as the agricultural liaison for the department, working with farmers and landowners, as well as agricultural organizations and other agencies. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. He is also a graduate of Missouri's Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow program.



Kurt Boeckman

To learn more about the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program, explore dnr.mo.gov. ■

Massey Receives Prestigious Fellowship

Ray Massey, Extension professor of agricultural and applied economics in the Division of Applied Social Sciences, received the 2020 C. Brice Ratchford Memorial Fellowship Award as part of the UM System President's Awards. The C. Brice Ratchford Memorial Fellowship Award recognizes a University of Missouri faculty member who demonstrates commitment, dedication and effectiveness in advancing the land-grant mission through Extension, international education and agricultural economics programs.

Learn more about Massey and the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources online at cafnr.missouri.edu. ■

SCN Coalition wins NAMA Best of Show

The SCN Coalition – a public/checkoff/private partnership launched in 2018 to increase the number of growers who are actively managing soybean cyst nematode (SCN) – won the Best of Show National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) Award in Public Relations for its media relations campaign. NAMA is the largest U.S. association for marketing and agribusiness, and the Best of NAMA Awards honor the nation's best work in agricultural communications.

The SCN Coalition includes university scientists in 28 states and Ontario, grower checkoff organizations such as the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP), United Soybean Board (USB) and state soybean promotion boards, as well as partners in the private sector, including BASF, Bayer, Growmark, Nufarm, Pioneer (Corteva), Syngenta, Valent and Winfield United.

Kaitlyn Bissonnette, plant pathologist at the University of Missouri, says the Coalition's media relations strategy helps tell the SCN story to soybean growers in her state, where more generations of the pest can reproduce compared to northern soybean-growing states. "This is a longevity issue. We're not just managing SCN now; we're encouraging soybean growers to manage it for the long run," she says. "I like to talk to growers about how SCN fits into their management strategies. It starts with splitting off their fall soil fertility test for an SCN egg count." ■

Lueck Reappointed to WISHH Board

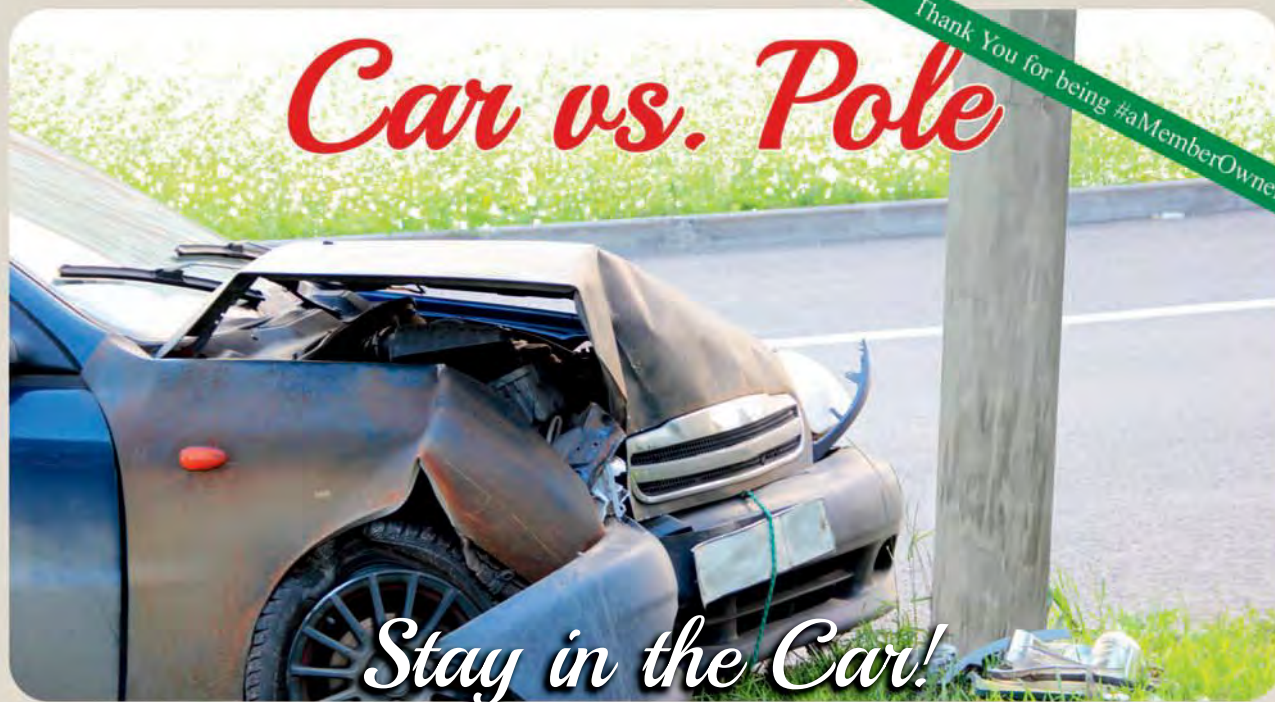
Missouri farmer David Lueck, of Alma, was reappointed to serve on the board of directors for the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH). Lueck is a past-chairman of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. He also served as district director for his fellow farmers in District 4.

WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association that works with driven leaders and supply chain partners within countries to build networks and connect value chains for new products or services for soyfoods, as well as feeds for livestock, poultry and aquaculture. Since its founding in 2000, WISHH has worked with local business leaders, governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as academic institutions to increase demand for soy and drive economic growth around the world. WISHH has leveraged farmer checkoff dollars at a six-to-one ratio over the last seven consecutive years.

To learn more about the WISHH program, visit soygrowers.com.



David Lueck



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.



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WISHH: Catching On In Cambodia

The aquaculture raceway project made possible with support from Missouri soybean farmers is catching more than attention in Cambodia as soy-based rations show success with the in-pond model.

By Karen Edwards

Past Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman David Lueck cut the ribbon on Cambodia's first in-pond aquaculture raceway system in January as he joined an ASA World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) trade team to the country. WISHH's ongoing MSMC-supported work with the raceway continues as a Show-Me State success for Cambodia's top officials, fish farmers and university officials to learn how soy-based fish feed contributes to their goals for growing Cambodia's aquaculture industry.

"Our Missouri checkoff investment in WISHH has made it possible for more than 100 key Cambodian aquaculture leaders, ranging from hatchery owners to high-level government leaders, to see the benefits of soy-based feed in the raceway technology," said Lueck, who serves on the WISHH Program Committee. "WISHH's trainings and the raceway showcase how healthy fish are growing faster than fish produced with traditional Cambodian aquaculture feeding practices."

The hatchery owners report they had never seen red tilapia grow as quickly as the ones in the raceway. Their Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) was 1.7 during the 102-day production period. The lessons learned from the inaugural use of the raceway with all-male tilapia offer important insights to achieve a much lower FCR as the hatchery staff fine tune their feed management, aeration, and other techniques.

Another compelling finding for Cambodian farmers was the 15 percent ROI over 10 years on a \$10,548 investment in the raceway equipment, electricity, fingerlings, and soy-based

WISHH technical consultant Leonard Rodgers, Ph.D., feeds a U.S. soy-based feed to fish inside Cambodia's first aquaculture raceway that WISHH is using to introduce the raceway technology to Cambodia where it can help grow their aquaculture capacity.

feed. WISHH's analysis of the raceway also yields valuable feedback for the U.S. soy customer, AgriMaster, that manufactured the 30 percent-protein feed used in the demonstration. AgriMaster's Cambodian-made feed was not only high quality, but it cost about half the amount of imported feed from Vietnam.

WISHH now advises they produce fish feed pellets that are larger than 3 mm to improve the FCR in the raceway.

MSMC funding has supported WISHH having an expert consultant, Leonard Rodgers, Ph.D., supervise construction for the raceway and design the feeding protocols of the small, portable floating unit that offers flexibility as well as an economical option for Cambodian farmer use. The raceway system is estimated to have a serviceable life of 10 years. It allows Cambodian producers to utilize smaller ponds, seasonal water supplies, and addresses the common challenge of limited capital.

While following social distancing guidelines, WISHH convened a field day that covered topics, such as feeding demonstration protocols, cost analysis, and fish growth rates. Missouri farmers' soybean checkoff funds supported the field day, as well as WISHH technical assistance in the planning and construction of the raceway system.

In addition to the farmer field day attendees, approximately 100 aquaculture farmers and distributors have visited Rathada Farms to purchase fingerlings, creating an opportunity for them to view the raceway and feeding demonstration. These visitors received a WISHH fact sheet on how the raceway works and the many benefits of using this technology. The feeding demonstration proved that a raceway



His Excellency Has Sareth of the Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries visited the raceway.

system can be profitable for aquaculture farmers.

The Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has partnered with WISHH to elevate the importance of aquaculture for COVID-19 economic recovery, as well as promote farm-raised fish as a protein-rich food for the health of Cambodia's growing population.

WISHH leveraged the Missouri soybean checkoff investment by integrating Rathada's strengthened fish-production capacity into WISHH's USDA-funded Commercialization of Aquaculture for Sustainable Trade (CAST) – Cambodia project.

To learn more about programs from the American Soybean Association, including WISHH, explore [soygrowers.com](https://www.soygrowers.com).

“ WISHH's trainings and the raceway showcase how healthy fish are growing faster than fish produced with traditional Cambodian aquaculture feeding practices. ”

-David Lueck

HERE'S HOW THE SOY CHECKOFF WORKS

The national soy checkoff was created as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The federal legislation 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.

*FARMERS SELL BEANS TO ELEVATORS,
PROCESSORS AND GRAIN DEALERS.*



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selling price.



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Missouri Soybean
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investment* in
areas that are a
priority for Missouri
soybean farmers.

ROI TO THE FARMER



Half goes to the
national checkoff
for investment in
USB's Long-Range
Strategic Plan.

CHECKOFF MATH: RETURNING \$12.34/\$1 INVESTED

Source: Cornell University (2019)

*Led by 13 volunteer soybean farmers, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council invests and leverages soy checkoff dollars to MAXIMIZE PROFIT OPPORTUNITIES for all Missouri soybean farmers.

For more information on how your soy checkoff dollars are invested, visit mosoy.org or unitedsoybean.org.

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Dredging the Mississippi

Soybean farmers' leadership on the Mississippi River is translating into action this fall, directly benefiting trade - and soybean prices.

By Brandelyn Twellman

Photo courtesy of the United Soybean Board and soy checkoff

The Mississippi River plays an essential role in delivering Missouri soybeans to export markets around the world. Checkoff-funded research executed by the United Soybean Board (USB) and Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) exposed the need to deepen a 256-mile stretch of the river between Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the Gulf of Mexico.

At the Mississippi River's current depth of 45 feet, standard Panamax vessels are loaded to around 66,000 metric tons. On occasion, the river is dredged to 47 feet so vessels don't hit the bottom. At this depth, larger Panamax vessels can still only be loaded to 77,000 metric tons.

"The effort has been to see the river depth increase to 50 feet," said Mike Steenhoek, executive director of STC. "That will allow you to load more revenue-producing freight per vessel. If you have a deeper channel, you have less of a likelihood of scraping the bottom so you can handle more freight. You can use larger ships, as well."

At a depth 50 feet, vessels could be loaded to 80,000 metric tons. STC emphasized the importance of this particular 256-mile stretch of the river, as it accounts for 60 percent of U.S. soy exports.



Mike Steenhoek

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On July 31, the project was officially kicked off in a ceremony between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the governor of Louisiana. The dredging is to be completed by USACE and the Louisiana Department of Transportation.

Steenhoek said soybean farmers played a key role in taking this project from research to implementation through both advocating for the dredging and supporting it financially with checkoff dollars.

“The United Soybean Board and soybean farmers really stepped up to the plate and put their money where their mouth is to help improve the supply chain for the industry,” he explained.

The involvement and support of soybean farmers helped generate enthusiasm to push the project forward. Farmer leaders like Missouri’s Megan Kaiser were essential in showing both the interest in and need for deepening the river.

“The soybean industry made for a great case study and reason to deepen the Mississippi River,” said Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards during the project’s kickoff ceremony. “Once this project is completed, the deepening of the Mississippi River will improve the global import and export of goods, and in turn, improve jobs, business and the quality of life for thousands of Louisianans and others who depend on the Mississippi River. I am grateful for our partnership and the commitment of time and money from the farming leaders of the United Soybean Board,

“If you make that transportation more cost-effective, that will reflect well on the price that farmers receive.”

-Mike Steenhoek

“Soybean farmers really stepped up to the plate and put their money where their mouth is to help improve the supply chain for the industry.”

-Mike Steenhoek

the Soy Transportation Coalition, and countless others who have made this project possible.”

The Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) also participated as a catalyst in garnering support for the dredging. From participating in Capitol Hill visits to securing a letter of support from Governor Parson, MSA and other state soybean associations helped move the needle forward on the policy side of the project.

Farmers can expect to see their efforts pay off in the near future.

“By fall of this year, we’ll see some of these vessels in the Mississippi River actually executing that project and actually scooping up dirt and depositing it off to the side, doing that channel deepening,” Steenhoek said.

This deepening is the first of three phases to be completed throughout the project. Phase one is anticipated to be complete by fall of 2021.

“This first phase involves deepening certain areas of the channel where sediment builds up,” Steenhoek explained. “Once they do that, we’ll have 154 miles of lower Mississippi River that is at a 50-foot water depth or greater.”

Since eleven of the fourteen soybean and grain export terminals are located within that 154-mile stretch, the majority of export facilities could benefit within the first year of the project.

Phases two and three tackle the river between mile marker 154 and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Steenhoek said oil pipelines buried underneath the river complicate this portion of the project, which is projected to take two to three years.

Once complete, the new river depth will unlock long-term benefits for soybeans and other U.S. agricultural exports, according to USB.

How much of an impact can 5 feet make? The benefit of larger loads and lower freight costs touches many along the soy value chain, including farmers. USB and STC projected that dredging the river by 5 feet would save up to 13 cents per bushel of freight while increasing loads by 21 percent, or 500,000 bushels per ocean vessel.

“That improves the economics of our supply chain and makes U.S. soybeans more price competitive with other countries,” Steenhoek explained.

Projected savings estimate an additional \$461 million in revenue to U.S. soybean farmers. Of that additional revenue, Missouri farmers are expected to experience a boost of \$34.9 million annually.

“One of the concepts our research highlighted is that when farmers make a delivery of soybeans to a barge-loading facility on the Mississippi River, say

The United Soybean Board contributed to this article.

near Hannibal, Missouri, that price is significantly impacted by how efficient transportation is after the delivery is made,” Steenhoek said. “If you make that transportation more cost-effective, that will reflect well on the price that farmers receive.”

Dredging the lower Mississippi River also increases global competitiveness by expanding its draw area, the geographic area around a river supplying soybeans for export.

“There are three transportation steps from a Missouri farm to a customer overseas,” Steenhoek explained. “There is first a truck movement, then there’s a barge movement down to the New Orleans area, and then there’s an ocean vessel movement.”

The thought is when step number three, the ocean vessel movement, becomes more economical, farmers will be

more willing to incur costs on the first step, traveling further to market their soybeans. After the dredging, the draw area of the lower Mississippi River could extend from 150 miles to 247 miles.

Steenhoek believes investments like this project are necessary for growth.

“When you’re talking about a supply chain or transportation infrastructure, investment should not just be a one-time activity, it should be a perpetual activity,” he explained. “Great industries

continue to invest in themselves.”

In this case, investment is helping to make the supply chain more cost-effective and reliable. The dredging will enhance access to customers and the competitive advantage of the export region as a whole.

Those interested in learning more about the dredging project and its benefits can visit unitedsoybean.org or soytransportation.org. ■

“The first phase involves deepening certain areas of the channel where sediment builds up. Once they do that, we’ll have 154 miles of lower Mississippi River that is at a 50-foot water depth or greater.”

-Mike Steenhoek

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Coalition of Missouri

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✓ **Fact:** Biodiesel can be used effectively in any existing diesel engine and offers superior lubricity and higher cetane.

✗ **Myth:** Biodiesel use voids manufacturers’ engine warranty.

✓ **Fact:** All major engine companies now specify that biodiesel blends up to B20, meeting ASTM specifications, can be used.

✗ **Myth:** Biodiesel is harmful to our health.

✓ **Fact:** In addition to the numerous air quality benefits, biodiesel is less toxic than table salt, and biodegrades as fast as sugar if spilled.

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Upcoming Events & Activities

October 2 *MU Wurdack Research Center Virtual Field Day*

October 3 *MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center Virtual Field Day*

October 13 *MU Baskett Research Center Virtual Field Day*

October 20 *MU South Farm Research Center Virtual Field Day*

November 7 *ALOT Annual Meeting - Virtually and in Sedalia, Mo.*

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2020 Missouri Farm Land Value Survey

The University of Missouri Cooperative Extension Service has launched the annual Missouri Farm Land Value Survey.

Anyone who has bought or sold land in the past year is encouraged to participate in the University of Missouri Farm Land Values Survey. This five-question survey is used to understand land value trends in Missouri. This survey has been collected for the past 20 years and is a popular source of information for Missouri farmers and others interested in land values.

Survey questions include a county-level breakdown for value estimates, as well as an assessment of the quality of cropland and suitability for other uses. Participants in the survey are also asked to estimate the July 2021 values as compared to July 2020.

Access the survey through mosoy.org or extension.missouri.edu. Results from previous years' surveys are available online now at extension.missouri.edu/g401. 



New Leadership for the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council

Kyle Durham is the third generation in his family to serve his fellow soybean farmers in the state organization.

By Christine Tew

A Carroll County soybean farmer has been selected by a group of his peers to lead the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. Kyle Durham of Norborne, Mo. was named the organization's chairman following a vote by the board of directors. He began his term during the late-July board of directors meeting.

"The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council exists to drive innovation in all things soy, and this is an exciting time to move forward with soybean research, new uses and new markets," Durham said. "As a farmer-led organization, we take our responsibilities to heart, ensuring Missouri soybean farmers are continually benefiting from market opportunities and have the most up-to-date research information at their fingertips. It's an honor to have the support of the board as chairman, and I'm looking forward to growing our partnerships in education, research and increasing demand for soy together."



Kyle Durham

Durham's election took place during the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council summer meetings, where board members also reviewed ongoing research and education efforts and collaborated with leadership from the Missouri Soybean Association on joint efforts to grow opportunities for Missouri soybean farmers.

Durham will serve a one-year term as the Council's chairman, leading Missouri's soybean checkoff efforts on behalf of farmers statewide. He is eligible to be re-elected to a second year as chairman during the board of directors' summer 2021 meeting.

Durham's leadership team includes newly elected vice-chairman Aaron Porter, a soybean farmer from Dexter, Mo., and secretary/treasurer Mark Lehenbauer of Palmyra, Mo. The outgoing chairman, Robert Alpers of Prairie Home, Mo., will continue to serve on the 13-member board of directors in a term ending in 2023. Soybean farmer Baughn Merideth of Caruthersville, Mo., served as the chairman of the nominating committee.

Prior to being named chairman, Durham served as the Council's vice-chairman and represented the soybean farmers of District 2 on the board of directors.

In addition to his farm and service to the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Durham serves as treasurer of the Carroll County Farm Bureau Board and has recently been a part of the Missouri Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers board. Within his community, Durham stays active with the Norborne Interested Citizens (NICS) program, Norborne Soybean Festival and serves on the MFA Regional Advisory Committee representing the River Valley area. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri and the Missouri Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) Class XV, and owner of The Slaboratory in Norborne.

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 through the soybean checkoff. To learn more, visit the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council online at mosoy.org. ■



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