



Introducing Pioneer® brand A-Series Enlist E3® soybeans. Featuring Pioneer's exclusive high-performance genetics.

Like no other.

Pioneer.com/DNALikeNoOther



Product performance is variable and depends on many factors such as moisture and heat stress, soil type, management practices and environmental stress as well as disease and pest pressures. Individual results may vary.

The transgenic soybean event in Enlist E3® soybeans is jointly developed and owned by Corteva Agriscience and M.S. Technologies L.L.C Pioneer® brand products are provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchase which are part of the labeling and purchase documents ™ ® Trademarks of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. ® 2022 Corteva. 22D-1544





MISSOUTI SOYBEAN FARMER

Staff Contacts

Executive Director / CEO Gary Wheeler gwheeler@mosoy.org

Chief Operating Officer & Senior Policy Dir. Casey Wasser cwasser@mosoy.org

Chief Financial & Information Officer Kim Hill khill@mosoy.org

Director of Communications & Marketing Samantha Turner sturner@mosoy.org

Communications Coordinator Ryan Siegel rsiegel@mosoy.org

Communications Coordinator Madelyn Warren mwarren@mosoy.org

Director of Market Development Matt Amick mamick@mosoy.org

Director of Agronomy & Research Eric Oseland, PhD eoseland@mosoy.org

Director of Licensing & Commercialization Bryan Stobaugh bstobaugh@mosoy.org

Director of Conservation Ag & Farm Operations Clayton Light clight@mosoy.org

Conservation Programs Manager Brady Lichtenberg blichtenberg@mosoy.org

Director of Outreach & Education Baylee Asbury basbury@mosoy.org

Field Services Coordinator Dylan Anderson danderson@mosoy.org

Policy Coordinator Liz Henderson lhenderson@mosoy.org

Accounting Manager Jeff Bruemmer jbruemmer@mosoy.org

Accounting Coordinator Macy Whittenberg mwhittenberg@mosoy.org

Senior Executive Specialist Mary Kever mkever@mosoy.org

Office Manager Amber Meyer ameyer@mosoy.org

Research Administrator Beth McCollum bmccollum@mosoy.org FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 1



understanding the prevelance of climatesmart agriculture and the Missouri soybean farmer's role is vital to the future of agriculture industry.



18 Evaluating soil quality before the planting season begins is important in ensuring a successful growing season.



22 The decisions you made during the offseason will help create a playbook for the planting, growing and harvest seasons to come. Make sure you're making the right investments in inputs.



« Cover Shot

The cover photo of the February issue was provided by USB. Pictured is USB Board Chair Meagan Kaiser, her husband, Marc, and their children, Mak and Norah, of Carrollton, Missouri.



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.

 $Contact \ Samantha \ Turner \ at \ (573) \ 635\text{-}3819 \ or \ \underline{sturner@mosoy.org} \ for \ advertising \ information.$

Copyright Missouri Soybean Association, 2022. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use of any content without the express written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

From The Field

MSA Board Members:

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

MSMC Board Members:

Darrell Aldrich, Excelsior Springs
Nathan White, Norborne
Marc Zell, Meadville
Kyle Durham, Norborne
Mark Lehenbauer, Palmyra
Tim Gottman, Monroe City
Tim Lichte, Lexington
Robert Alpers, Prairie Home
Denny Mertz, Chesterfield
Aaron Porter, Dexter
Baughn Merideth, Caruthersville
Justin Rone, Portageville
Kevin Mainord, East Prairie

USB Board Members:

Meagan Kaiser, Bowling Green Neal Bredehoeft, Alma Lewis Rone, Portageville Robert Alpers, Prairie Home

ASA Board Members:

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



Notes from Missouri Soybeans' Leadership Team



We are well into 2023, and much planning and preparation has already taken place by farmers across the state. Many parts of the state had a great fall to get harvest completed and fields ready for the next season. All over Missouri, I saw producers protecting the soil with cover crops and conservation practices, applying crop nutrition products and being good stewards of the land. Yet, there remains many things to get done before the planters hit the fields.

Soil health and condition is the very foundation that supports a productive farming operation. Producers have a God-given responsibility to do the best they can to care for the land. Adam's job description – the first farmer – is given in Genesis 2:15, "And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

Missouri Soybeans is committed to helping producers do everything they can to "dress and keep" the land with which they are entrusted. We have many resources and experts ready and available to assist everywhere we can in this coming growing season and beyond. With a strong voice in Jefferson City, Missouri Soybeans strives to protect the farmers we serve and ensure our lands remain intact with strong stewards at the forefront.

Matt Wright - Missouri Soybean Association President



s farmers, we wear many different "hats". Agronomist, logistician, veterinarian and fabricator are just a small sampling of the duties farmers perform any given day. However, one that may not come front of mind is that of a conservationist. I believe that being a conservationist becomes almost second nature as we go about our daily responsibilities. Nevertheless, it is arguably the most important job we have — to preserve and protect the assets we manage for our success today and for generations to come.

As farmers, we are blessed with the great responsibility to care for the resources entrusted to us each day. It is a responsibility not to be taken lightly as greater demands are placed upon our soil and water as the population and the standard of living increases globally. So then, doesn't it make sense that farmers are the true conservationists? It's not a talking point. It is our life and our livelihood.

Join with us as we recognize those producers at the forefront of conservation efforts who have been selected for the Leopold Conservation Award. The Leopold Conservation Award is annually awarded to a farmer, rancher or forester who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to caring for the land, water or wildlife habitat under their watch.

Soon, fields and rural roads around the state will come alive with the buzz of famers preparing soil for the coming crop. It's an exciting time with the anticipation of what the next season will bring, and I hope everyone has a successful 2023 growing season.

Aaron Porter - Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman

Letter from the Executive Director



Refreshed. Renewed. Restored. These are all words we typically associate with the New Year. Some people believe in New Year's resolutions, and some go as far as creating a vision for the year. Instead of a vision statement, this year our team decided to strictly focus on a word: "refocus."

It may seem anticlimactic and maybe a little on the nose, but sometimes simplicity leads to a clear, concise path to some big idea. As some of you know, I am a dreamer and futuristic thinker.

At the office, we even implemented a big idea board to foster creativity and content generation.

I highly encourage my staff to spend 90% of their time working hard and the other 10% staring into the trees. What I mean by that is I want them to take time to clear their mind and think about all those big, off-the-wall ideas that can truly impact the farmer at the grassroots level. In fact, some of our greatest ideas have come from staff lunches, meetings on the patio and coffee conversations.

Think about soy successes such as biodiesel, SOYLEIC soybeans and the Center for Soy Innovation. These were all ideas conceived while sitting around a boardroom table that found the light of day through farmer investment and encouragement.

There is already something about 2023 that has me thinking about the next big thing for our soybean farmers. It makes me excited for our growers knowing just how eager, invigorated and intelligent our staff is at Missouri Soybeans. With a little refocusing, a "big idea" can become a strategic plan proving profitable for a farmer's bottom line.

What can you refocus your attention on this year? Is it your engagement with the Missouri Soybean Association? Your investments in the PAC? Your service to the soybean industry? Or maybe it is simply investing in a drone, soil sampling or the new (or new to you) combine you have been eyeing for the past two harvest seasons. A big idea doesn't have to mean "big" investment — it can simply mean a big win for you, your family and your legacy.

Relaxed. Re-energized. Revived. Now I am just listing synonyms, but the sentiment rings true. Let's shift our mindset this season and get into the right framework on the farm.

Spend a little time looking into the trees.

God Bless,

Executive Director/CEO

Gary G) heelen

Missouri Soybean Association Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council

Foundation for Soy Innovation

SOYBEAN POLICY UPDATE



A fter a month back in the halls of our state's capitol building, this

session, while less contentious than last year, will be equally important and perhaps more productive. Although last year's much-needed congressional break was shorter than usual, it provided the perfect opportunity to refocus and prepare to hit the ground running.

Each year, I can't help but welcome the sense of possibility that comes with the new freshman class and congressional session. More than 1,000 bills were filed between both chambers before the gavel dropped on Jan. 4, and already your Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) team is hard at work pushing our No. 1 stakeholder's - the farmers – priorities.

State Legislation

Foreign Land Ownership

The biggest, or most polarizing, issue for agricultural groups this session looks to be foreign ownership. After several congressional members were attacked for so-called "bad votes" during a tumultuous campaign cycle, the topic is certainly top of mind for many policymakers. Several legislators already are looking to make this topic their priority.

The idea would be to further cap the amount of ag land that a foreign entity may own in Missouri. However, the topic gets tricky when we discuss foreign corporations versus foreign governments. For example, several of the leading Fortune 500 agribusiness companies in Missouri are now foreign owned (Bayer, AB InBev, Bunge, etc.).

Right to Repair

Although there has never been a consensus between agricultural groups, equipment manufacturers or legislators for that matter, the right to repair will be addressed by the 102nd Missouri General Assembly. Some pieces of legislation are broad and go way beyond our industry, including the right to repair even cell phones and laptops. It's important to consider the consequences of our actions in Jefferson City and not just the idea of passing a law. We all want the right to repair our equipment, but defining what that really means is the tricky part.

Initiative Petition (IP) Reform

Several versions of initiative petition reform have been filed in both chambers. This idea stems from the growing number of initiatives petitions we have seen on the ballot in recent years to make changes to our constitution. Most recent issues include the passage of both medical and recreational marijuana, Medicaid expansion and Clean Missouri (ethics reform).

The current process to change the Missouri constitution is not particularly stringent. Currently, a petition must receive signatures from 8% of registered voters in 2/3 of the congressional districts. Meaning, you do not need to leave the "city" to get your required signatures. Additionally, you only need a simple majority, meaning 50% of the vote plus one vote for it to pass. As we've noticed in recent years, big money is playing in this process with more than \$8 million spent by pro-marijuana companies to pass recreational marijuana use in Missouri.

It is critical we protect the right to amend the constitution and require more than a simple majority to enshrine laws into our constitution. We will proudly be supporting members of the legislature that push reform forward.

Beginning Farmer Legislation

Rep. Dane Diehl (R-Butler) filed his inaugural piece of legislation, creating new beginning farmer programs. These programs are aimed at incentivizing farmers selling their operations to pass that land or operation to a beginning farmer. For the new operator, this benefit means more opportunity to rent land, develop a relationship with a landowner and build a foundation for a long-term business. For the seller, this will alleviate some of the tax burden associated with the realized gains they might receive from the transfer. In addition to IP reform, we will be strongly supporting this legislation.

Other topics are sure to take up a significant amount of time this session including sports betting and video lottery terminal expansion, addressing critical race theory, transgender sports and various education reform measures. These hot-button topics, along with foreign ownership and IP reform, appear to be the big issues for this upcoming session. However, just as we learned last session, all of this is subject to change.

Federal Legislation

USTR Trade Nominations

After months of delays and negotiations, the Senate confirmed Doug McKalip as the chief agricultural negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. In addition to McKalip, Alexis Taylor was approved as the top trade official at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Biden administration has been unwilling to tackle new trade deals during his first two years in office.

RFS Volume Standards

In December., the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume Standards for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. The 2023 renewable fuels proposal is 20.82 billion gallons, a slight increase from 20.63 billion gallons in 2022. The requirement would be 21.87 billion gallons in 2024 and 22.68 billion gallons in 2025. However, stakeholders, such as the America Soybean Association (ASA), pointed out how "insignificant volume increases for 2023-2025," related to biomass-based diesel, could

adversely impact the industry and

"stifle" growth.

We submitted comments expressing frustration with the lack of vision by the EPA. These volumes hinder pollution reduction at the expense of rural communities.

Separately, EPA finalized a rule to create a canola oil pathway for renewable diesel, jet fuel, naphtha, liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and heating oil. The rule also updates the definition of "canola/ rapeseed oil" under the RFS. And lastly, which depending on how it's implemented may have no impact, the EPA is creating electric Renewable Indentification Numbers, or e-RINs, which will provide more incentives to the electric vehicle industry.

Food and Fuel Study

Purdue University and the United Soybean Board (USB) partnered on a Food and Fuel Study to analyze if the increased use of soybean oil in biofuels has influenced the rising prices of food products for consumers. The study showed that the increase in biofuels production and consumption has had little impact on the inflation consumers are experiencing at the grocery store. In fact, more domestic biofuel production means more soybean meal is available to the livestock industry, which is responsible for providing high-quality protein at an affordable price.

Want to know more?

MSA federal and state PAC contributors gain access to an exclusive newsletter for monthly updates on policy and regulatory movement in Jefferson City, Washington, D.C., and anywhere Missouri sovbean farmers stand to be affected. The newsletter also provides more details on Missouri elections and the role MSA and you can play to impact the outcomes. Visit MoSoy.org or scan the QR Code for more details.





Casey Wasser serves as the Chief Operations Officer and Senior Director of Policy for the Missouri Soybean Association and Merchandising Council. He represents Missouri soybean farmers





Clean fuels are good for farmers, communities, the economy, the country and the planet.



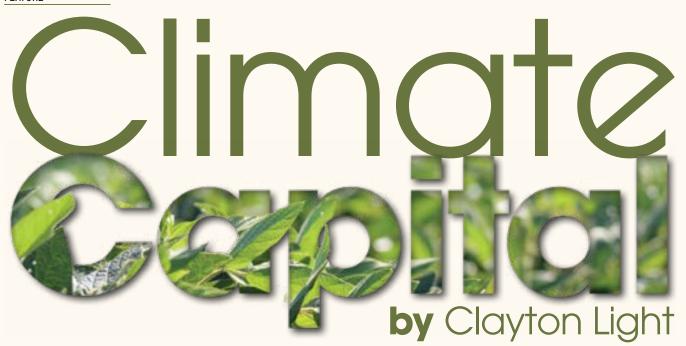


MAINTAINING OUR REPUTATION TO DELIVER

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

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







Climate-smart agriculture: What is it and why do I hear so much about it?

Climate-smart agriculture has been all the craze lately. That's because the world has noticed an immense change in the environment, and they hope that farmers can help. This new term is used to describe any conservation practice or new technology that a farmer can use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or remove carbon from the atmosphere and sequester that carbon back into the soil.

Whether it is something we can see, such as a subdivision being built, or something that we can't, such as increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the environment is changing every day. As people continue to learn more about the ecosystem in which we live, it is important that we use this knowledge to leave the land in better condition for future generations.

Missouri farmers have always understood this concept because they want the ability to pass down the family operation for generations to come. Missouri Soybeans has seen this effort firsthand with farmers' willingness and eagerness to try their hand at new technology and conservation practices. Even as one drives through the countryside, they can see the transformation to modern-day

agricultural practices. For years, a passersby would notice terraces and grass waterways to control soil loss, and now they see an increase in reduced tillage and cover crops.

This brings us back to "climate-smart agriculture." Why is this new term going to be very important to Missouri farmers? Because there has been more money than ever put forward to help incentivize farmers to implement climate-smart agriculture practices on their farms, and farmers will have multiple options if they choose to enroll into these new programs.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it awarded \$3.1 billion in more than 141 projects in the Partnership for Climate-smart Commodities funding opportunity. These projects will be funded during the next five years and focus on providing financial assistance to farmers who would implement climate-smart practices on their working lands. USDA also hopes to standardize the monitoring and quantification of the greenhouse gas benefits of these practices and then see if there would be a marketplace for climate-smart crops. As you can imagine, this level of funding has created many different opportunities for farmers that will make climate-smart farming something that will be at top of mind.



At this time, USDA is still finalizing details with the project leads that were awarded the funding, so it is still too early to know what will be offered. I do know that almost every project that was awarded listed Missouri as a state that could participate. I also know that most Missouri farmers should have the opportunity to plant cover crops, reduce tillage or change nutrient management practices and get an incentive payment through one of these new projects. I have high hopes that these incentive payments can be used with traditional cost-share opportunities that will increase the overall payment to farmers. I also hope that some of these projects will allow farmers to participate if they have been doing these conservation practices for years.

This is a very large amount of funding focused strictly on climate-smart agriculture, but there is even more money available. In 2023, normal state and federal cost-share opportunities that focus on these climate-smart practices will have even more money available to farmers. All of this does not even dive into the private carbon markets and the opportunities that are currently available to farmers.

With all of this being said, it is clear that climate-smart agriculture is going to have a big role for farmers in the near future. As all these different funding opportunities may be overwhelming, I want to let everyone know that Missouri Soybeans staff will continue to dive deep into opportunities

for Missouri farmers, and we will be there to help farmers make educated management decisions. As the growing population looks for ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove carbon from the atmosphere, farmers will always be at the top of mind. Why? Because farmers are good stewards of the land and always try their hardest to leave the land in better shape than they found it.

If you have any questions regarding the latest information on climate-smart agriculture and possible funding for these conservation practices, never hesitate to contact me at:

clight@mosoy.org.











GUARANTEED TO HELP MACHINES WITHOUT HURTING YOUR WALLET.

Sure, Work Horse products are engineered beyond manufacturer recommendations, offer better customer support, and are fairly priced to be a great value. But each one also comes with a guarantee. So when you use one, you don't ever have to think about it.

ON SALE IN MARCH



MFA OIL

WorkHorseLubes.com

HARD-WORKING OIL



Connection, Community and Collaboration

by Whitney Kinne

Whitney Kinne is a career and leadership coach from Clinton, Missouri. She helps professionals and leaders in agriculture establish and accomplish their unique goals to grow. She also speaks and facilitates strengths-based leadership workshops to help businesses and organizations create successful and collaborative teams.

m always excited as the calendar inches closer to spring. As the daylight increases a little each day, I hold hope for the new season waiting on the horizon.

Soon, we will be seeing photos on social media from young leaders in agriculture competing in various 4-H events and FFA contests. These students are already working hard to practice and compete. They will put in many hours and a lot of energy to grow and develop their professional skills in agricultural topics.

Parents of these students will be sharing their own time and energy, offering support and encouragement as these students chase their dreams this contest season.

We know the value of these contest teams extends beyond the opportunity to win a title or award. It's not about competition or comparison — the real lessons are rooted in our innate human need for connection, community and collaboration.

The problem is many of us stop getting involved and making these valuable connections after our time in youth leadership organizations ends. Additionally, the lessons learned in youth organizations are vital; however, at a certain level, they remain in a theoretical stage.

Do we really want to stop engaging with peers in adulthood when we most need insights and connection as we tackle the real-world leadership challenges on our farm and in our workplace?

What if we choose to be involved, continue to grow our network and collaborate with peers now so that we can learn and tackle challenges as we mature in the agriculture industry?

Building your connections and community takes intention. You already know living and working in agriculture takes grit, and not everyone understands the dynamics you face in your pursuit of this agrarian lifestyle.

There are plenty of people who understand and relate to your exact goals and dreams in life. But sometimes, especially in small communities, it feels hard to find those people.

As neighbors who "get" the farm life decrease, it is that much more important to connect with people across the state who understand the joys and frustrations of your life in agriculture.

If you're experiencing this challenge, one great way to make connections with like-minded people is to take a step out of your comfort zone and get involved in industry organizations.

For example, Missouri Soybeans provides a diverse range of opportunities to connect with other farmers while also participating in key conversations that impact your future in agriculture.

Austin Moreland is one of those soybean farmers. He is currently participating in the Iowa-Missouri Policy Leaders Fellowship (PLF) program this year in partnership with the Iowa Soybean Association.

Through his involvement, Moreland has found great value from connecting with like-minded individuals in Missouri and Iowa as they experience growth both individually and on behalf of the entire soybean industry.

In addition to building community among soybean farmers, getting involved in these valuable programs will help you gain insights that are vital to your farm's success.

"From my involvement with PLF, I have gained knowledge of current topics relating to the soybean industry, received training and education on speaking with lawmakers and have made many like-minded friends from both Missouri and Iowa," Moreland says.

Investing in relationships and networking is a long-term value to ensure the viability of agriculture for the next generation, too.

"Industry involvement is a priority to me because no one knows the farming experience better than a farmer," he says. "Getting involved allows farmers a platform to speak with lawmakers and share knowledge about the agriculture industry. It also shows them that farmers truly care about the laws being made that pertain to our industry and that we are willing to speak up for what we believe in."

How have you benefited from connection, community and collaboration on or off the farm? I would love to hear your personal stories and insights: whitney@whitneykinne.com.



LEGAL NOTICE TO MISSOURI SOYBEAN PRODUCERS

An election will be held to elect five (5) soybean producers to the 13-member Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, which manages the funds collected through the soybean checkoff program. The terms of office will be for three (3) years and the election will be as follows: five (5) members are to be elected; one (1) each from Districts 4, 5 and 6; two members are to be elected from District 7. Ballots will be mailed by the Missouri Department of Agriculture on March 3, 2023, to each registered producer in the five (5) Districts. Ballots must be returned to the Missouri Department of Agriculture in Jefferson City, by

mail, postmarked no later than April 7, 2023.

Any duly registered commercial producer of soybeans is eligible to vote for the Council candidates from his/her District. Producers must be registered to vote. Current registered producers whose address has changed in the past five (5) years should re-register or contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture at 573-751-5611 or P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102 by Feb. 2, 2023, to receive a ballot. Nonregistered producers must register prior to Feb. 2, 2023, at the USDA County FSA Office or online at:

www.agriculture.mo.gov/councils/ to receive a ballot for this election.

Any qualified producer may be nominated and have his/her name placed on the ballot, provided he/she presents the Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture a nominating petition signed by at least 100 soybean producers prior to Feb. 2, 2023. Such petitions are available at the Missouri Department of Agriculture in Jefferson City, MO. Please direct any questions to Missouri Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or 573-751-5611.



STEWARDSHIP SHOWCASED

by Taylor Vollin, Missouri Farmers Care

The Britt family, who won the 2022 Missouri Leopold Conservation Award, runs their farm on the foundations of family, faith and environmental stewardship.

A lot has changed since the 1860s: laws, sizes of cities, technological advances and certainly agriculture. Generations of the Britt family have experienced and adapted to the everchanging world, especially when it comes to their stewardship of the land.

A mindset of continual improvement and a dedication to stewardship principles implemented by Britt Farms led to its recent recognition as the 2022 Missouri Leopold Conservation Award Program recipient. In Missouri, this prestigious award is presented by Missouri Farmers Care Foundation, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust. Missouri Corn Merchandising Council and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In his book, "A Sand County Almanac," Aldo Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. That land ethic is thriving at Britt Farms.

In the 1860s, Ryan Britt's great-great-grandfather put down his roots in Macon County, Missouri. Later generations moved across the river to Randolph County where the family currently resides.



Randy Britt, Ryan's father, grew up in a farming family and once he was old enough, he took over the operation. Today, the Britts produce beef cattle, corn, soybeans, wheat and hay on 5,280 acres in Randolph, Chariton and Macon counties. Randy has always had a mindset geared toward improving what they were doing. Ryan said being on the farm helping his father improve their operation was all he ever wanted to do.

"As he was trying to improve it, I was with him all the time," Ryan said. "That's the only place I wanted to be. In fact, I really didn't want to go to college, but when the time came, Mom and Dad insisted that I needed to go somewhere. I wasn't going to go straight to the farm."

Ryan studied agricultural systems management at the University of Missouri (MU) where his classes showed him how technology can maximize efficiency while protecting water and soil. When he returned home in 2000, Ryan adopted grid-based soil testing and variable rate applications of fertilizer. Global positioning system (GPS) and geographic information system (GIS) technologies were used to assist

in applying fertilizer at precise rates only where needed. The Britts soon saw precision agriculture's economic and environmental benefits. Randy credits Ryan's time at college for what was to come

"I think we almost created a monster because everyplace I looked sometimes, we had test plots out for somebody. The connections he made at Mizzou and the education he got there just opened the world up to him," Randy stated.

Ryan's educational experience allowed him to see what new technology was out there and what conservation methods were working well. As they rapidly adopted more and more conservation techniques, the Britts transitioned to a completely no-till system for their corn, soybean and wheat fields.

The Britts regularly worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to build ponds and a few terraces. To continue their efforts in adopting new techniques, the Britts began exploring rotational grazing. Ryan said they worked with both the SWCDs and NRCS to receive assistance to implement a rotational grazing system.

"It was amazing to see how the pastures responded by giving that grass a break and getting the cattle off," Ryan notes. "It was able to recover, and we actually were able to increase our stocking density by quite a bit."

They have built a covered feeding area complete with a deep pack barn designed for zero runoff to minimize nutrient loss and optimize cattle health. The Britts have maximized the efficiency of having cattle and crops by using manure as a natural fertilizer.

Building on the lessons they had learned and the success they had seen, Britt Farms looked to incorporate cover crops. Ryan remembers their minimal success the first year or two, but he knew they needed make it through the learning curve and try different things until they found what worked best for their operation and goals. It turns out he was right. Today, Britt Farms links crop rotations with cover crops to reduce erosion, improve soil health and offer an additional source of forage for their cattle.

The stewardship-centered management the Britts employ made their recognition as the 2022 Missouri Leopold Conservation Award recipients a natural fit. For their recognition, the Britts received a check for \$10,000 and a crystal award. Randy, Ryan and family have long shown their leadership, communication and forward-thinking management in their methods that enhance the farm and clean air, clean water and abundant wildlife habitat. They embody principles implemented across Missouri agriculture.

Randy reflects that farming is a commitment that requires patience and long-term thinking.

"You have to think long term. It's a commitment, and it's a commitment in time, it's a commitment in equipment, and it's a learning process," Randy adds. "We're not finished. We haven't learned everything about this yet. It's just a gradual development, I think."

Britt Farms has researched and tested several different techniques over the years including crop-sensor technology to assess a crop's nitrogen needs and soil health effects from crop diversity and a variety of best management practices. They have participated in water quality research with Missouri Corn and Missouri Soybeans and also tested and implemented new ways to apply fertilizers. With the help of their crop adviser, the Britts are further reducing the use of commercial fertilizers by utilizing biological stimulants to increase use of nutrients already in the soil.

The methods they employ today allow them to apply nutrients in a more efficient, environmentally sustainable way, making it possible for them to give their crops what they need when they need it with little impact on the environment. Ryan said these adaptations all circle back to his father.

"Those types of technologies have made our operation adapt, and I still have to bring that back to my dad," Ryan notes. "He was able to embrace it and be patient with it and then still find the good in what was working and what wasn't."

When Ryan isn't implementing conservation practices on the farm, he is volunteering countless hours. Ryan has recently served on the National Association of Conservation Districts Climate Action Task Force committee.

which submitted comments from the agriculture industry to the administration about the "30x30" plan and climate-smart agriculture practices. Ryan continues working with the group to contribute comments for the 2023 Farm Bill. He has made multiple advocacy trips while serving at all levels of leadership in Soil and Water Conservation District groups.

Britt Farms operates with a "Faith, Family and Farm" mission that roots from Randy and his wife, Karla. Ryan and Randy both believe it is crucial to leave the land in better shape than they found it in.

"We both feel that we're trustees of the land," Randy said. "I think scripturally we're taught that we don't actually own this land; we're here for a short time. And so, when we get finished with it or it's passed on to the next generation, we want it to be in better shape than it was when we took it over, and I feel good about that right now. That's why we do a lot of things we do."

Ryan adds, "Simply, we want to leave it better. We want to do better; we want to do more with less. It takes my entire family to make our operation what it is, and I really hope to provide the opportunity for the next generation to continue to do what we're doing but do it better."



IT STARTS WITH SOIL

By Meagan Kaiser

y Dad always says, "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it." While this applies to a wide array of areas, it's especially true about farm management. This is the time of year, as we prepare for the 2023 growing season, we must start from the ground up – literally. So, we start with the soil.

continued on page 19

Pork sustainability benefits us all.



Growing up on a Georgia farm, I know how much farmers work and how much they care.

That's why I'm proud to share the facts about pig farmers who are committed to bringing safe, nutritious pork to your plate.

> They and other farm employees are trained and certified to provide the best care for pigs, making sure they live in comfortable, clean and carefully controlled environments to keep them safe and healthy. And pig farmers are always finding ways to use less land, water and energy to reduce their environmental impact.

It may be eye-opening to some, but modern pig farms are focused on delivering first-class treatment of people, pigs and the planet.

- Luke Bryan

To learn more visit pork.org/wecare.









If we're being honest, soil testing can be overwhelming. I have taken thousands of soil samples, yet I vividly remember the first time I went to a field by myself to pull a sample. I thought, "Is this representative? Can I repeat this next time to track progress?" It turns out, "Yes." Being consistent on depth, getting 12-20 probings per sample even on grids and returning to the same area leads to consistent tracking of your soil profile.

Any time a scientist sets up an experiment, we have to define our controls in order to isolate our variables. The most important service a lab can offer is to be consistent with its results. Consistency is important because we must be able to set goals and measure again on the same scale to track progress. Results should make sense from one sampling to the next based on applications and removal. Consistency in sampling,

matched with consistency in the lab, serve as the controls in our field experiments.

The issue in farming is that we make hundreds of decisions on management; these are variables. And then, we try to isolate one silver bullet post-harvest. This is unrealistic. Spoiler alert, there is not one silver bullet in soil health either. View your soil test like a health report on the human body. We know that to be a healthy human it takes more than one habit. Exercise, diet and genetics all play a role. In the soil, exercise might be equated to soil physics — the air, water and biological holding capacity of the soil. The human diet might be aligned to the chemical nutrition in the soil for plants. The human genetics might be aligned to the parent material of the soil.

When looking at your soil test, your pH is like body temperature. Like a fever alerting us of illness, when pH is low, it indicates excess hydrogen on the soil colloid. That means that there are exchange sites that could have useful cations such as calcium, magnesium or potassium, but due to a shortage of those elements, hydrogen is on those sites. The soil test will then indicate which element you are lacking and give a recommendation how to fix it. Often lime is the solution: sometimes it is not.

I often think about the biological aspect of the soil similar to "gut health" in the human. When our tummies are working well, it is often a combination of a good diet and physical activity. Similarly in the soil, we need not only to have the chemistry of the soil right for plant health, but we also need to have the physics working. This can be

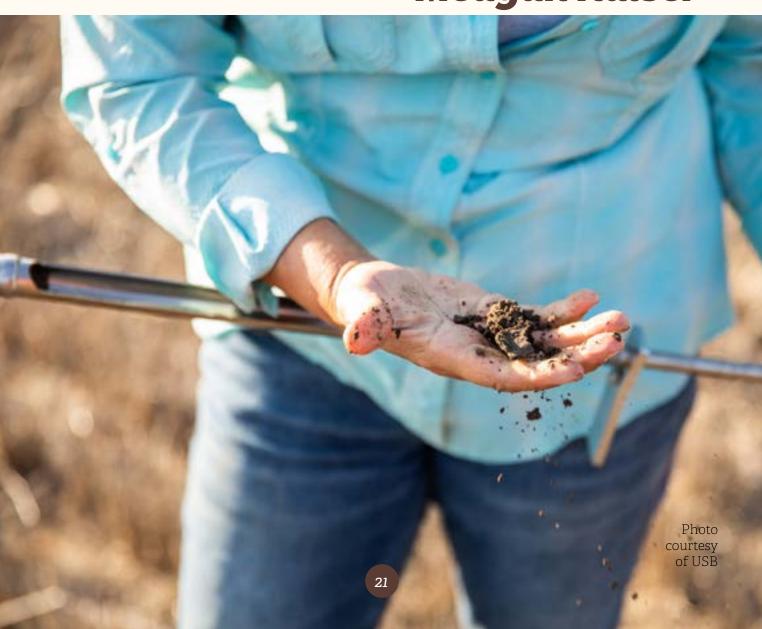
measured in terms of organic matter on the soil test. The organic matter is the work product of the biological faction of the soil. When we see elevated organic matter levels, it shows that the biology has pore space in which to live. Compaction is the enemy of biology and organic matter. On our farm, we see that when calcium and magnesium are in balance, we have an elevated organic matter readings. Then, if a cover crop is added or tillage is reduced, organic matter really improves.

No matter what element you are working to improve, it's important to measure your levels. Try a different management technique and measure again, all the while keeping an eye to ensure your yield is improving with your soil test.

In a time of heightened input costs, testing is important to ensure that you are reaching your highest economic yield. This is also a time, with market prices at these levels, there is opportunity cost for limiting production by neglecting the soil. Keep experimenting, remember to measure and you will be a better manager with data-driven decisions and continuous improvement.

IN A TIME OF
HEIGHTENED INPUT
COSTS, TESTING
IS IMPORTANT TO
ENSURE THAT YOU
ARE REACHING YOUR
HIGHEST ECONOMIC
YIELD.

-Meagan Kaiser





amily, finances and a little bit of faith. These are a few of the things it takes to invest in the next generation of crops and the next generation of farmers. As family farmers themselves, Nate Bloss and Taylor Braungardt know investing in inputs such as fertilizer is essential to maintaining the land and the opportunity for young agriculturalists to return to the operation.

"Fertilizer is as essential as the seed and the soil," said Nate Bloss, farmer from Fulton, Missouri. "You have to be willing to invest in your crops."

Bloss works as an adjuvant and application specialist for Rosens Inc., a wholesale distributor of chemicals servicing retailers throughout the Midwest. Bloss and his wife also operate a generational farm raising cattle, corn and beans.

With a little bit of faith and leveraging smart fertilizer practices, the Bloss family yielded 109.08 bushels per acre in 2022, making them the District 5 Missouri Soybean Association Yield Contest winner and first runner-up in the state.

When starting his fertilizer journey, Bloss had a goal to reach 100 bushels per acre, and through strategic application, he was able to exceed expectations. For Bloss, utilizing foliar fertilizers and energy sources was integral in supplementing his crop and achieving triple-digit yields.

"My main focus with my fertilizer program was to allow soybean acres to generate as much net profit as a corn acre," said Bloss. "My approach was from a profitability standpoint, and I decided to test it out by treating my 50-acre field all at the same time with same amount of fertilizer in each acre."

The objective of fertilizer is to maximize yield, while ensuring a healthy crop by supplying the right balance of nutrients to the soil. Without fertilizers, the soil would be depleted, and crops would struggle to survive. Some of the most common fertilizers include nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K).



Braungardt Ag Services Field Day



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



THE ECONOMICS OF AGRONOMY

In the fall of 2021, farmers saw significant increases in fertilizer prices with some products more than tripling in cost. The fertilizer spike was due to many factors including an international war, limited workforce and infrastructure, high energy costs, increased global demand and agricultural commodity prices, and a lack of competition in the fertilizer industry. Being a major importer of fertilizer, the U.S. is often reliant on foreign fertilizer to meet farmers' needs.

"While prices are increasing, it doesn't change the need for fertilizer. Take the time to do the math and find out what you need to produce the crop you want," said Bloss. "As farmers, we have to figure out how to maximize fertilizer use so we are spending money effectively and efficiently."

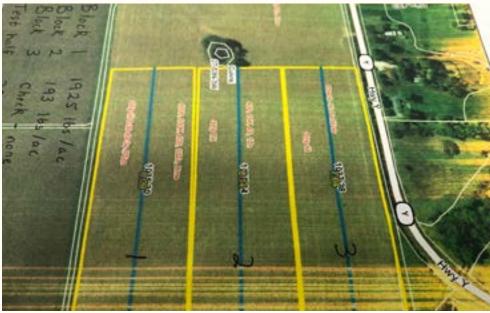
To ensure the investment in fertilizer is financially sound, Bloss often collaborates with Braungardt Ag Services in Bowling Green, Missouri. Braungardt Ag Services is a family-owned business and has served farmers across Missouri and surrounding states for more than 10 years.

Braungardt Ag offers a wide array of agricultural products from crop-protection chemicals, multiple seed brands of corn, soybeans and small seeds. Alongside inputs, the agribusiness also offers fertilizer and custom application services.

Together, the Braungardts address soil needs with various nutrient ratios to increase water infiltration, soil structure and provide a balance of minerals for soil biology to thrive.

"One thing a lot of people miss is the role fertilizer plays in soil health. Most farmers only think of the fertilizer they need based merely on what their grain removes," Taylor Braungardt, co-owner of Braungardt Ag Services. "We address all of the farmer's needs and think about how we can bring the field back to health in an economical way."

Braungardt mentioned there are two the first step is grid sa major implications if a farmer doesn't where the soil is lacking.



Braungardt Ag Services Plot showing the differences in plant health from each block.

invest in fertilizer. The first is that lack of yield leads to lack of income per acre. Secondly, without fertilizer, plant health is poor and more prone to disease and insect pressure. He stated there is a lot more working against the farmer without the investment and will ultimately cost growers more in overall inputs.

Braungardt shared they have most of their planning meetings with farmers during the winter months or at the beginning of the year. The planning process focuses on addressing what issues they had in the summer and what weeds they were having trouble controlling.

"We try to tweak things based on the samples we collected to build a stronger program for the next spring," said Braungardt. "Fertilizer is expensive, so we want to make sure we are only applying what is needed and prioritizing where to spend our fertilizer dollars."

SAMPLING THE SOIL

To test their theories, the Braungardt brothers, along with their dad, Jeff, farm approximately 800 acres and use their land as a research platform to decide what they want to sell to growers. The past several years, the co-owners have invested in evaluating fertilizer and what it can do for yields. For them, the first step is grid sampling to see where the soil is lacking.

"The goal is to see how fast we are getting responses out of our crops," said Braungardt. "Everyone thinks it takes years for soil to break down fertilizer, but we are seeing almost instant responses from our research fields."

Braungardt Ag Services partners with the Perry Agricultural Laboratory Inc., also in Bowling Green, to do soil sampling and help farmers figure out their fertility to make informed decisions based on data.

"Growers want to know what nutrients are lacking," said Braungardt. "Our soil samples help verify that and address the fertilizer needs for next year."

Taking a complete soil sample is the first step to determining how to address soil needs. It's important not only to address N, P and K, but also all the micronutrients.

Braungardt explained it doesn't matter how much P and K a farmer is putting on their field if they have a zinc deficiency. Through their own farm trials, Braungardt has been able to increase yields up to 30 bu/acre in soybeans by simply addressing fertility needs.

"If you don't have your base fertility right, the rest of your program is point-less," stated Bloss. "You won't get the results you want unless you apply the right product."

Often fertilizer is based off a sample on a 2- or 2.5acre grid for a four- to eight-year build. During that time, farmers try to get their overall soil health levels to the recommended rate

Once the soil is balanced and minimum nutrient levels are met, then it's important to maintain the soil's health. Year after year, nutrients are pulled from the soil when growing the year's crop. It is encouraged that farmers at a minimum reapply what was lost from the previous growing season.

"If a farmer is not looking to build his soil, it is at least recommended to apply the removal fertilizer back into the soil," said Bloss. "Supplementing crops with foliar nutritional and energy products can be a good investment as well while building your base fertility levels."

PLANS TO PROSPER

Farmers like Bloss and the Braungardts are setting plans now to invest in 2023 crops. With prices unlikely to stabilize in the near future, a fertilizer program plan is essential to maximize return on investment. Talk to a seed adviser, chemical applicator or agronomist on how fertilizer can impact your operation in the New Year.

Plant health leads to pocket health. To invest in fertilizer is an investment not only in the next generation of crops, but also an investment in the next generation of agriculturalists.



Taylor Braungardt and Family

IF YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR BASE

FERTILITY RIGHT, THE REST OF YOUR

PROGRAM IS POINTLESS. YOU WON'T

GET THE RESULTS YOU WANT UNLESS YOU

APPLY THE RIGHT PRODUCT.

-NATE BLOSS

Nate Bloss and Family







GROW MAKE SERVE THRIVE

Help 4-H provide opportunity for all.

SEED TENDERS



Missouri 4-H programs like Crop Scouting offer young people opportunities to engage in fun, hands-on learning, while they develop the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in their future careers. Youth learn to identify common Missouri crops, insects, diseases, and weeds, as well as pesticide usage and safety.

Support from our donors like the Missouri Soybean Association allow the Missouri 4-H Foundation to enhance the 4-H experience and provide meaningful opportunities for young people to learn, grow, belong and succeed. Your gift could help change a life.





4h.missouri.edu/foundation f /mo4lifoundation

unverferth.com | 419.532.3121



On World Food Day and every day, WISHH'S strategic partners take local action.



Connect with WISHH wishh.org







A Perfect Daina



Miso Mushroom Pasta Paired With Hermannhof Winery 2021 Chambourcin

Sauce:

- 1 pound portobello mushrooms
- 2 tablespoon white miso
- 3 garlic cloves
- ½ onion
- ½ cup Hermannhof Chambourcin
- ½ cup cold butter, cut into tablespoons
- Salt to taste

Noodles:

• Fettucine or Edamame Fettucine

Directions:

- Slice mushrooms, onions and garlic.
- In a large skillet, melt two tablespoons of butter.
- Once butter is melted, sauté onions, mushrooms and garlic over medium heat until soft and caramelized, about 25 minutes. Deglaze with ½ cup of Hermannhof Chambourcin.
- While vegetables are cooking, bring salted water to a boil.
- Once water is boiling, drop in fettucine noodles and cook until
 al danta
- Remove cooked noodles from water and place into vegetable mixture. Reserve pasta water for later.
- Lower heat and add in the rest of the butter into the pasta and vegetables, one tablespoon at a time.
- If needed, add in reserved pasta water ¼ cup at a time until deserved consistency is achieved.
- Serve.



Miso Soup & Pork Dumplings Paired With Noboleis Vineyards 2021 Dry Vignoles

Dumplings:

- 1 pack of wonton wrappers
- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 tablespoon gochujang
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon hoisin
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ginger, minced
- ¼ cup green onion
- ½ teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon honey

Soup Broth:

- 1 ¼ c. Water
- 2 T. Miso Paste
- ¼ c. Stonehill Winery Traminette
- 1 12 oz. block of firm tofu, cubed
- Green Onion sliced

Dumpling Directions:

- Combine pork, gochujang, soy sauce, hoisin, garlic, ginger, green onion, sesame oil and honey.
- Place 2-3 teaspoons of the pork mixture into the wonton wrapper and fold into desired dumpling shape.
- Boil dumplings for 6-7 minutes or until dough is tender and pork is cooked.

Soup Directions:

- Combine water, miso paste and wine in a saucepan and bring to boil. Boil for 5 minutes then reduce to simmer.
- Add in tofu and green onion to warm.
- · Serve with dumplings.



Stone Hill Winery Traminette:

Crisp and spicy Alsatian-style white wine with a lovely floral flower bouquet, lavender with honeysuckle, ripe lychee and candied orange. Interesting hints of anise and oregano with the fresh acidity makes it a great match with seafood and Asian cuisine.

Noboleis Vineyards 2021 Dry Vignoles:

Fruit forward and delicious. Vibrant and enticing wine that opens with aromas of pineapple, green apple and passion fruit. This wine bursts with the flavors of honeydew melons, lychee and banana and has a satisfying long finish.

Hermannhof Winery 2021 Chambourcin:

Light-bodied and smooth on the palate. Notes of cola and black cherry, followed by dark fruits and earth.



Adam Puchta Winery Berry Black:

An old-fashioned style wine reminiscent of Missouri's wine heritage. This wine exhibits the natural sweetness of freshly picked blackberries.

Add 1/3 cup of Berry Black to our Soy Cookie Recipe for a more tender cookie!

Visit mosy.org/recipes or Use this QR code to access the recipe:



Wine 101:

- Utilize the 5 S's of wine (see, swirl, smell, sip, savor) and think about each wine.
- 3-2-1 rule: chill sparkling for 3 hours, white wines for 2 hours, and red wines for 1 hour. In addition to the chilling, there is also a trick to the wines that you open and when. Sparkling and white wines are best opened just prior to serving, while red wines can be opened well before serving to allow them to "breathe". Red wines are best once they've had the chance to mix with air and develop their full aroma and flavor.
- Know how to hold your glass by the stem or by the base.
- Each glass should be about 4-5 ounces enjoy at the same speed as guests/host.
- Cheers! Clink glasses at the bowl (widest part of glass) to reduce breakage, noise disruptions and germs.
- Store unopened wines on their side, in a cool and dark place.
- Once opened, refrigerate wine. Dry reds are optional.
- Reds keep 5-7 days and whites keep 3-5 days once opened.



Simon & Soymantha's Word Search

Circle all of the words from the word bank to help Simon and Soymantha get ready to farm!

M F R S R S Ε W Y Н Ε Ε G K M D Υ Т U Ε N U N C Ε U U C I B Ε Υ Τ 0 0 S S Ε Α R Α R D Ε X D Т Ε W Α Т R G N N P Ε N R S I Τ Т V D Y Т N B N Н Т R G 0 W Α C C P X W P P Α Α D K G Α R Н В Т N Ε M Ε P M I C Υ R G M S P R K 0 Α Υ Ε P Ε J Α G D 0 N E R G K S C C Z Z N R Н N X K P E S E 0 0 D B Α A W J V S W Q Ε Н R

Biodiesel
Cart
Combine
Crop
Disc
Feed
Fuel

Grain Green Grow Harvest Implement

Paint
Planter
Soybean
Sprayer
Tech

Tillage Tire Tool

Tractor

Soymantha!
Join Simon
and I to have
fun and learn
about Missouri
Soybeans in
the 2023
Activity Book.

Hi! I'm







Spring planting

Sow Seeds of Safety This Season

Farmers returning to the fields should stay particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Remember:

- Electricity can arc or "jump" from the line to equipment that's too close. Keep equipment at least 10 feet from overhead lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- Designate preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.
- Lower extensions like planter arms or cultivators to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Even if using an auto-guidance system, stay focused on equipment location while in the field. Do not simply rely on the GPS system and be ready to take action if needed.
- Consider using a spotter to alert you if you come close to making contact. A spotter can see sagging wires that would not be visible on a GPS and provide additional verification that you can pass safely.
- Before getting out of the cab, look up and double check the area around your machinery to make sure it is not in contact with overhead lines.
- Know how to stay safe if equipment does make contact with power lines!

Managers should make sure full-time and seasonal workers are educated on these and other electric safety precautions. Learn more about farm safety at *SafeElectricity.org*.



MISSOURI SOYBEAN FARMERS ELECTED TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Meagan Kaiser Elected to United Soybean Board Chair

Farmer-leaders of the United Soybean Board (USB) elected Meagan Kaiser as the 2023 Chair and nine additional grower directors to serve on the Executive Committee.

"During my tenure at United Soybean Board, I'm proudest of our achievements in engagement for infrastructure investments," said USB Chair Meagan Kaiser from Bowling Green, Missouri. "As we've seen production and transportation challenges brought on by drought this past growing season, farmers' investments to the checkoff are more critical than ever in enhancing resilience on the farm, building preference for U.S. Soy and providing a reliable supply to our customers."

Kaiser brings significant experience and first-hand knowledge of USB's strategic focus. She previously served as Strategic Plan Task Force Chair and oversaw a nearly 20-member committee that created the current strategic plan that prioritizes sustainable soy solutions for global and domestic customers while ensuring value and profitability for U.S. soybean farmers.

ASA Selected Ronnie Russell to 2023 Executive Committee

The American Soybean Association (ASA) elected the leaders who will guide the organization through the coming year's top advocacy priorities, including the much-anticipated 2023 Farm Bill, among other soy policy issues.

To help lead the organization, ASA selected Missouri farmer-leader, Ronnie Russell, to serve as an at-large member on the executive committee. Russell served in this position previously and led the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) as its board president from 2020 to 2022. Russell still serves on the statewide MSA board representing District 1.

"It's an honor to be elected to the executive committee and serve the soybean producers of the 30 states the American Soybean Association represents," said Russell. "I look forward to advocating in their best interest, especially in the development of the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill."

Soy Transportation Coalition Chooses Missouri Farmer for Leadership

The Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) elected its officers during the organization's annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia, with a Missouri farmer-leader selected to serve as vice chairman.

Tim Gottman, a soybean and corn farmer from Monroe City, Missouri, was chosen to lead as vice chairman. Gottman previously served as the STC secretary-treasurer from 2021-2022. Gottman is also a director on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC).

"Farmers understand more and more how transportation impacts their bottom line," said Gottman. "Whether it's roads and bridges, freight railroads, inland waterways or ports, the STC continues to be a leader in promoting a transportation infrastructure that helps farmers be successful."







Ronnie Russell



Tim Gottman

We'll minimize your risk. You can rest easy.



Crop Insurance

Our Crop Insurance Teams are ready to help you manage your business risk with the expertise you need to make sound decisions. We'll help you find the products that protect your operation and give you peace of mind.

- ✓ Multi-Peril Crop Insurance MPCI
- ✓ Livestock Insurance MPCI-LRP MPCI-LGM
- Pasture Rangeland Forage PRF
- ✓ Crop Hail Insurance

Find an office near you:

1.800.444.3276

WWW.FARMCREDITSEMO.COM

WWW.MYFCSFINANCIAL.COM







Counsel & Conservation

MSMC Board Member, Justin Rone, shares his advice and story for those passionate about agriculture.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I've been married to Lesley for 13 years and we have two children: Jack (11) and Violet (9). I am a Mizzou, Washington and Lee Law alum. I'm a big St. Louis Cardinals fan and love to travel.

Q: Tell us about your farm.

A: We have a family row-crop operation growing soybeans, corn and cotton. I can't talk about the farm without mentioning our amazing group of landlords — who are true partners — and the super group of guys who really get the work done each spring and fall.

Q: What is your involvement in agriculture?

A: Agriculture has always been a part of my life. I was raised on a family farm in the '80s. Then, I went to Mizzou to study agriculture in the '90s. I did some ag policy and ag appropriations work for former Rep. Jo Ann Emerson in the 2000s. Now, I am raising my kids on the family farm.

Q: Should tractors be red or green?

A: They should be reliable. We run both and have great Deere and Case-IH dealers in Portageville, Missouri.

Q: What is your favorite planting or harvest snack?

A: Anything sour. Sour Patch Kids or Sour Skittles.

Q: Tell us about your favorite memory on the farm.

A: It's been a lifetime of favorite memories! The first that comes to mind is cotton harvest with my grandfather, hauling cotton trailers to the gin. Fun times.

Q: Who is your favorite farm influencer?

A: Anyone bringing reliable information and honest opinions. I prefer to search for specific information or topics I'm interested in, instead of following feeds.

Q: What are you listening to while working?

A: Mornings: Bloomberg Surveillance and Rural Radio Market Report

Afternoon: The Country Roads playlist on Apple Music

Q: How do you take your coffee?

A: Black and often

Q: Does your family implement any sustainable practices?

A: We have participated in Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). We also have utilized Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) for marginal ground. We are continually making investments to reduce energy consumption and maximize the inputs we purchase.

Q: Who is your biggest influence?

A: My wife, who makes me a better person every day. Then my parents. I'm blessed to have both still in my life.

Q: What would you tell your kids or other next-gens to encourage them to be involved in agriculture?

A: First, find your passion. Second, look for how that passion intersects with ag. The ag industry is large and diverse with lots to offer and full of amazing people. The opportunities to raise a family, provide a service, be innovative and have an impact on your community are unlimited in this industry.





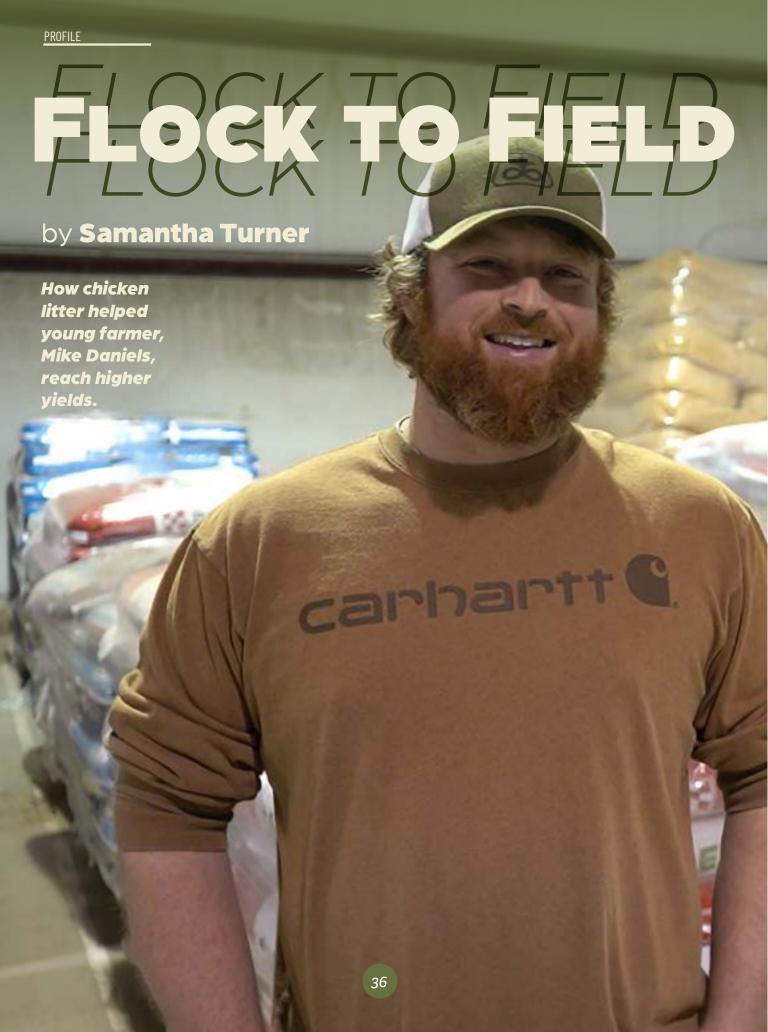














Mike Daniels, a generational farmer from Hale, Missouri, had high hopes for this year's crop. With a goal to hit 125 bushels per acre on beans, the District 2 winner of the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) Yield Contest wasn't too shy of his expectation. Reaching an impressive 122.714 bushels in a 250-acre field with Pioneer's P46A09E variety, Daniels shared he felt both a wave of shock and relief when seeing his final yield results.

"My jaw hit the ground," said Daniels. "There was a lot of stress going through the year. I was just hoping the rain would maintain, and we could keep the crop healthy."

Daniels was first in the non-irrigated category, standing up against other triple-digit yields from across the state. This is only his second year entering the yield contest, placing in the top three last year with another three-digit yield at 101. These yields push the state's average at 48 bushels per acre according to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Like many farmers across the state, Daniels faced a dry year and struggled with increased input prices. However, he attributes his soybean success to research and little bit of risk.



"I would hate to give all my secrets away," Daniels joked. "We applied a lot of chicken litter and put organic matter back in the ground. The process was very hands on, and I spent a lot of days walking fields inspecting the crops."

Daniels also shared he utilized a foliar feed, Big Yield, and put on insecticide to keep the beans clean. Every 7 to 10 days, Daniels would not only apply his foliar feed, but test the soil and take tissue samples to ensure the beans were receiving the essential nutrients they needed to remain strong throughout the growing season.

"I will probably keep implementing these practices on the same acreage," said Daniels. "Because of input costs and if we were to burn up our beans, there is a lot of risk to carry these practices over to the whole operation."



However, there are a few things Daniels will continue to try on more of his farm including adding more chicken litter and double fungicide. Daniels also shared he took a gamble in planting early. For the yield contest acres, his plant date was April 7, but he was planting other fields as early as mid-March.

"You can't be afraid to try new things," said Daniels. "I would encourage more farmers to try to plant earlier and have beans done before May."

For Daniels, farming is in his blood. With both his dad and grandpa deeply involved in agriculture and the family farm, Daniels always knew this is what he wanted to do.

Daniels farms alongside his dad and three sons, Bronson, Lawson and Kelson, on Daniels' Custom Farms.



"I wouldn't trade it for anything," said Daniels. "And now that my boys are interested in farming, it just makes it all the more worth it."

Daniels shared he and his three boys all love spending time on the farm. If you were to ask any of them what their favorite part is farming is, they would simply respond just spending time together.

This year, the Daniels boys were able to buy their first piece of ground. Much like Daniels, his sons are quite the entrepreneurs with a strong straw business and selling sweet corn and pumpkins to the local community.

With continued high hopes, Daniels wants to continue to maximize yield so that one day he can maximize the opportunity for his kids to return the farm.

The MSA's Yield Contest is made possible by generous contributions from the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Ag Power Inc., Asgrow, Baker Implement, BASF, Bayer, Beck's Hybrids, Channel Seed, Corteva, FMC, John Deere Legacy, MFA Incorporated, MFA Oil, Missouri Crop Improvement Association, Nutrien, Pioneer, ProHarvest – Resor Seeds, Southern FS, Sydenstricker Nobbe John Deere, and Ursa Farmers Coop.

Participants were able to enter their fields into the competition at the time of harvest, without an entry form. To enter, participants were required to have a designated judge verify their yield results and submit their verified results no later than Nov. 30th. Details for next year's contest will be posted online at mosoy.org and announced in the magazine in the spring 2023.

2022 YIELD CONTEST DISTRICT WINNERS

Name	Category	District	County	Yield	Variety
Chris Russell	No-Till	1	Holt	77.8	PIONEER P39T61SE
Mike Daniels Daniel's Custom Farm	Conventional Till	2	Carroll	122.7	PIONEER P46A09E
Greg Rush	No-Till	3	Audrain	85.8	ASGROW AG41XF2
Travis Dixon	Cover Crop	3	Audrain	82.5	PIONEER 44A91E
Doug Wetzel	No-Till	4	Henry	89.0	PIONEER 42A96X
David Brand	No-Till	5	Howard	89.1	ASGROW 40XF1
Nate Bloss	Conventional Till	5	Callaway	109.1	AGRIGOLD G3957E3
KTM Farms LLC	Cover Crop	5	Howard	93.5	PIONEER P46A09E
Jeremy Couch	No-Till/ Cover Crop	6	St. Charles/ Warren	89.1/ 84.0	PIONEER P46A09E/ P38T05E
Josh Harris	Conventional Till	6	Lincoln	76.8	CHANNEL 3721
Tory Meyr	Conventional Till	7	Cape Girardeau	91.7	ASGROW 48XFO

On World Food Day and every day, WISHH'S strategic partners take local action.



Connect with WISHH wishh.org







MORE BUSHELS ARE OUT THERE.



ASGROW.COM

