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SOYBEAN FARMER

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not just a...
MEMBERSHIP

April 2024



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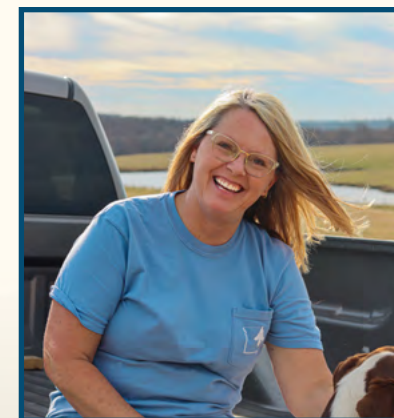
9— Discover Renee Fordyce's strategic vision for Missouri's soybean sector. Fordyce is focused on transparency, integrity and grassroots engagement, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future.



14— Seven soybean farmers from Missouri received hands-on lessons in South America.



22— Becoming a member of the Missouri Soybean Association isn't just a transaction – it's a gateway to a community of grassroots advocates and a value added to farms across the state.



On The Cover...

« The cover photo of the April issue was captured by Ryan Siegel. Pictured is Renee Fordyce, newly elected MSA president.



Missouri Soybean Association

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Missouri Soybean Farmer is published six times annually and is an excellent opportunity to reach row-crop farmers.

Contact Samantha Turner at (573) 635-3819 or sturner@mosoy.org for advertising information.

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From The Field

Notes from Missouri Soybeans' Leadership Team



Hello from northwest Missouri! As I write this, signs of spring are making their presence known. The air is warmer, the days are beginning to lengthen, grass is greening, baby calves are dotting the pastures and soybean planters are starting to run – all of which makes a farmer excited and hopeful for the coming year.

At our annual meeting in January, new leadership was chosen for the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA), and I'm humbled to serve as your president. I am excited about this new challenge and look forward to the year ahead. Change is inevitable, and MSA is working to be more strategic with priorities affecting change. MSA and the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC) will conduct in-depth discussions guiding our organizations. I am eager to begin this process with our farmer-leaders.

A focus of MSA has been on our "Not Just a Farmer" campaign, which includes "Not Just a Membership." As you know, membership to any organization provides numerous benefits well beyond the cost. Our staff keeps a watchful eye on legislation affecting agriculture, communicates on new innovations or agricultural practices and hosts educational events at the Center for Soy Innovation. Also, MSA promotes annual yield contests and the Foundation for Soy scholarship winners. MSA continues to find unique ways to engage with farmers across the state and works diligently every day to assist farmers. And, we thank each and every one of you for your membership.

As farmers and so much more, we have a lot on our plates. A resource like MSA is helpful to our day-to-day lives. Please feel free to reach out with suggestions or concerns as the year progresses.

"Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you." - Hosea 10:12 NLT

Renee Fordyce - Missouri Soybean Association President



In today's world, everyone wants you to subscribe to or become a member of some program. I admit I am a member of a handful of organizations, and you may be too. Membership in programs such as AAA, Climate FieldView or Amazon, for example, do provide some level of convenience and value to the consumer. However, as a farmer, I believe my membership in the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) likely returns more value to me, my farm and my family than any other organization. I know, it sounds a little over the top. But before you roll your eyes, let me explain.

As a farmer-director of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC), I can see firsthand how our sister organization, MSA, functions and what it does as the policy arm of Missouri Soybeans. MSA is at the forefront of the conversation and spearheads appropriate action. Although, it is not always just farm policy. MSA works to influence all areas of policy that affect our rural lives for the betterment of the communities we call home. The MSA policy team literally works night or day to ensure our collective voices are heard.

I don't know about you, but I have more pressing things to do than be at the Capitol knocking on doors, shaking hands and sharing our story while the issues that shape all aspects of our profession and lives are debated. The farmer-directors and staff of MSA stand poised at the forefront representing us in the halls of Congress when we cannot. Because checkoff funds are forbidden from being used for purposes related to lobbying, your membership in the MSA is crucial in advancing efforts in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C., to share our story as farmers and push to structure legislation that allows the freedom to operate and sustainability for our family farms.

Between low commodity prices, high inputs and persistent drought, there is not much enthusiasm in the countryside as far as I can tell (unless maybe you are a cattle farmer). I certainly haven't felt the inspired motivation this year that \$6-plus corn and \$13-plus beans can provide. Lord willing, we will make it through to this fall with more rain, higher prices, bumper crops and all our fingers and toes!

Aaron Porter - Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Chairman

Letter from the Executive Director



Iam excited to share with you our process of developing new strategic plans for our boards. These plans will help shape our vision for the future and guide us for the next five years. While this is a hands-off approach from staff, leaning heavily on the expertise of the boards, I have advised the boards to think with the theme "back to the basics," ensuring that we build upon our strengths and focus on our priorities.

In recent years, the landscape of our industry has evolved rapidly, presenting both challenges and opportunities. While innovation and technology have undoubtedly played a crucial role in our progress, I believe it is time for us to recenter our efforts on the fundamentals that have always been the cornerstone of our success.

We must reaffirm our commitment to excellence in every aspect of our operations. This commitment to excellence extends beyond our individual operations and into our broader industry community.

This includes the emphasized importance on membership in the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) to make sure your voice is heard. The Association serves as a vital platform for collaboration, advocacy and knowledge-sharing among soybean producers across the state. By actively participating in the Association, we not only strengthen our own capabilities but also contribute to the collective advancement of our industry.

Additionally, we must rekindle our passion for innovation while staying true to our roots. Missouri Soybeans has a proud tradition of pioneering new techniques and technologies, and we must continue to push the boundaries of what is possible. However, we must also remember that true innovation is not just about embracing the latest trends; it is about finding creative solutions to the challenges we face, no matter how simple or complex.

To do that, we need to redouble our efforts to foster strong relationships within our communities and beyond. Whether it is supporting local farmers, collaborating with research institutions or engaging with policymakers, we must work hand in hand with all stakeholders to promote the growth and sustainability of our industry.

I am confident that by returning to the basics and embracing the values that have always defined us, we can chart a course toward a brighter future for Missouri Soybeans. I am excited to embark on this journey together and look forward to the incredible achievements that lie ahead.

God Bless,

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

Our Boards

MSA Board Members:

Andrew Lance, Barnard
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Renee Fordyce, Bethany
Ronnie Russell, Richmond
Cody Brock, Norborne
Daniel Carpenter, Norborne
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Matt Wright, Emden
Dane Diehl, Butler
Garrett Riekhof, Higginsville
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Terry Schwoeppe, Labadie
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Tory Meyr, Jackson
Peter Rost Jr., New Madrid
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Nathan White, Norborne
Marc Zell, Meadville
Kyle Durham, Norborne
Mark Lehenbauer, Palmyra
Tim Gottman, Monroe City
Brad Arnold, Harrisonville
Robert Alpers, Prairie Home
Denny Mertz, Chesterfield
Aaron Porter, Dexter
Trent Haggard, Kennett
Justin Rone, Portageville
Kevin Mainord, East Prairie

USB Board Members:

Meagan Kaiser, Bowling Green
Neal Bredehoeft, Alma
Kyle Durham, Norborne
Robert Alpers, Prairie Home

ASA Board Members:

Renee Fordyce, Bethany
Ronnie Russell, Richmond
Matt McCrate, Cape Girardeau
Russell Wolf, Tipton



SOYBEAN POLICY UPDATE



In Missouri, farmers face a multitude of legislative and regulatory uncertainties, spanning from water user data protection to pesticide regulations. In this issue of *Missouri Soybean Farmer*, we address several of these issues and provide an update on the efforts that your farmer-leaders and staff have taken to ensure that these challenges are being met. Be assured that while Missouri farmers head back to the fields to begin their planting season, Missouri Soybean Association remains dedicated to providing support and advocacy to guarantee a thriving agricultural sector.

State Legislation

Missouri Water User Data Protection

MSA is proud to lead the effort in safeguarding farmer data. Under Missouri law, individuals classified as major water users (consuming 100,000 gallons or more daily) must provide their personal information and water consumption to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). While we encourage this disclosure, our apprehension lies in the potential exposure of producers' personal data. Actions taken last year in response to proposed legislation underscored how activists often disregard the real-world repercussions of disseminating misinformation, culminating in out-of-state activists appearing at farmers' homes and threatening the residents.

SB 1351 and HB 2669, sponsored by Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer and Rep. Dane Diehl, aim to protect any individually identifiable user information provided by a major water user to DNR from a sunshine request by the public. The legislation's goal is to instill assurance among farmers regarding the confidentiality of their addresses and personal details when providing said information so

"Actions taken last year in response to proposed legislation underscored how activists often disregard the real-world repercussions of disseminating misinformation, culminating in out-of-state activists appearing at farmers' homes and threatening the residents."

-Casey Wasser, Sr. Director of Policy

that the department and the state can defend our farmers should anyone challenge our water availability or usage.

As of press time, the Senate version, SB 1351, was voted out of committee 5-2 and is now on the Senate calendar for floor debate. The House version had been voted out of committee but is not yet on the House calendar.

Missouri Farm Bureau Health Insurance Expansion

MSA continues to express our support for legislation proposed by Missouri Farm Bureau aimed at expanding health insurance choices for Missourians. Currently, six state farm bureaus, soon to be eight, are delivering affordable, quality health plans to their members. Farmers and other self-employed individuals are hit hard by the lack of competitive health coverage options, and this language aims to lessen the burden felt by these individuals.

The House acted quickly on HB 2082, sponsored by Rep. Kurtis Gregory, passing it through a five-hour committee hearing, during which MSA staff spoke in support of the bill, to move it to the House floor. However, the Senate version, SB 925, sponsored by Sen. Sandy Crawford, has not yet received a hearing. We will continue to advocate for more coverage options for our members and express our gratitude to Missouri Farm Bureau for leading this effort.

Water Export Bill

HB2153, sponsored by Rep. Jamie Burger, and SB782, sponsored by Sen. Jason Bean, create a permit requirement for anyone seeking to export water out of Missouri. Currently, as a Riparian Rights State, there is no mechanism to review or prevent the exporting of water. Missouri is blessed with abundant water

"Without such legislation in Missouri, companies such as Bayer could be forced to pull the product from the shelves, leaving farmers to seek alternative methods of crop protection during the growing season."

-Casey Wasser, Sr. Director of Policy

resources. However, as we have witnessed in states where water is scarce, interstate conflicts can swiftly arise over water rights disputes. While we support these pieces of legislation, we are advocating for amendments. Both sponsors seem willing to engage with us on these changes.

First, the current legislation lacks a provision for major water users to petition the director of DNR to amend a permit once issued. Only upon renewal, which would be five years in HB2153 and three years in the SB782, can export volumes be adjusted. Given the prevalence of droughts, MSA believes it is imperative to enable in-state users to request a DNR review of the permit if they perceive that the export permit is impeding their access to water.

Furthermore, Missouri is a Riparian Water Rights state, which ensures a landowner the reasonable right to the water that is adjacent to, on or under their property without needing a permit. States to the west are required to obtain a permit for such privilege. If this bill were to pass, we'd be in a situation where the permit issued by the government could trump your riparian rights. We are requesting the addition of a section that cements your riparian rights even if a permit is issued.

Both sponsors are strong ag supporters and have been very willing to work with MSA on these updates.

Failure to Warn Lawsuits

Both the House and Senate conducted hearings on bills aimed at providing liability protections amidst the surge of "failure-to-warn" lawsuits targeting crop-protection companies. Recently, Bayer has faced substantial settlements in response to lawsuits alleging that their use of Roundup led to cancer. Despite no regulatory body worldwide finding

glyphosate to cause cancer, these lawsuits persist, resulting in judgments of up to \$1.5 billion per case. Plaintiffs argue that companies failed to adequately warn about product risks despite EPA labeling the products as noncarcinogenic. Notably, a failure-to-warn claim does not imply any physical flaws in the product.

SB 1416, sponsored by Sen. Justin Brown, and HB 2763, sponsored by Rep. Dane Diehl, specify that a pesticide registered by certain federal agencies or consistent with certain federal pesticide labeling requirements or health assessments satisfies any warning label requirement regarding health or safety or any other provision of current law.

Without such legislation in Missouri, companies such as Bayer could be forced to pull the product from the shelves, leaving farmers to seek alternative methods of crop protection during the growing season.

Initiative Petition Reform

Initiative petition reform was a major point of contention in the early days of session for the Senate. The so-called Freedom Caucus demanded that this bill be passed out of the Senate before any other priority. They filibustered for days while the Senate tried to work on other priorities and function in the first month of session. When the bill was finally up before the full Senate, it was filibustered by the Democratic caucus, who had been longtime opponents of such legislation. Eventually, after about a 20-hour filibuster, a compromise was reached that requires all proposed constitutional amendments and new proposed constitutional provisions to receive a majority of the votes cast statewide as well as a majority of the votes cast in at least a majority of the Congressional districts. Current law requires only a simple majority statewide.

The House also passed its version of initiative petition reform. However, unlike the Senate's version, it does not raise the threshold for the passage of a constitutional amendment. Instead, it imposes more rigorous standards for getting an amendment placed on the ballot initially.

Both versions are in opposite chambers and will need to be approved again before making it to the governor's desk.

Federal Legislation

ESA Herbicide Strategies

The EPA's new Herbicide Strategy, unveiled last year, has introduced significant uncertainty regarding the future use of pesticides. This strategy emerged in response to a lawsuit mandating EPA compliance with the Endangered Species Act in pesticide registration and regulation. To meet this obligation, the EPA is required to propose mitigation practices for more than 900 listed species and designated critical habitats.

During a panel discussion at Commodity Classic in Houston, representatives from the EPA and USDA outlined key aspects of the forthcoming requirements. Notably, farmers situated in pesticide use limitation areas (PULAs) will be obligated to implement mitigation practices on their farms. Collaborating with the USDA and local agencies, the EPA will compile a roster of practices, each assigned a point value. Additionally, products intended for crop protection within PULAs will also be assigned point values.

For instance, if a product requires eight points for usage, farmers will consult the EPA's website to match available practices (such as cover crops or buffer strips) to meet the required point total. We are actively engaged with the EPA, USDA and our state Department of Agriculture (responsible for enforcement) on this matter.

Currently, the EPA is in the process of updating PULA maps, as initial versions faced criticism for their broadness and

lack of accuracy. We remain committed to keeping our members informed as new information emerges and advocating for a reasonable and manageable approach in the implementation of these regulations.

Dicamba Registration

In February, we provided several updates regarding the legal proceedings stemming from the U.S. District Court of Arizona's ruling concerning procedural errors in the EPA's issuance of certain dicamba registrations. The dicamba ruling has stirred significant uncertainty and action within the agricultural community, particularly affecting farmers who rely on over-the-top (OTT) applications on dicamba-tolerant soybeans and cotton for weed management.

The EPA soon after issued an existing stocks order that permits the sale, distribution and use of dicamba products existing before the court ruling, extending the cutoff dates for sales and use until June 30 in most soybean-producing states.

While there is still some confusion among ag input companies and farmers regarding the existing stock order's scope, the MSA and American Soybean Association (ASA), along with industry partners, are actively engaging with the EPA to ensure farmers have access to essential crop-protection tools while prioritizing adherence to scientific standards.

Overall, the dicamba ruling and subsequent actions underscore the complex regulatory landscape impacting farmers

and the need for concerted efforts from industry stakeholders to navigate these challenges.

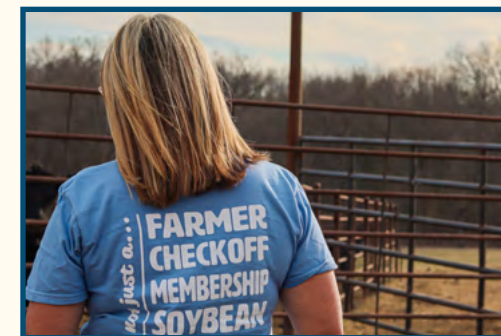
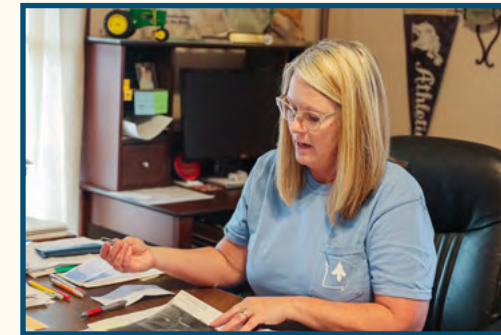
Want to know more?

MSA federal and state PAC contributors gain access to an exclusive newsletter for updates during the state legislative session on policy and regulatory movement in Jefferson City and anywhere Missouri soybean 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 our QR code for more details. ●



"While there is still some confusion among ag input companies and farmers regarding the existing stock order's scope, the MSA and American Soybean Association (ASA), along with industry partners, are actively engaging with the EPA to ensure farmers have access to essential crop-protection tools while prioritizing adherence to scientific standards."

-Casey Wasser, Sr. Director of Policy



MORE ON MEMBERSHIP

BY SAMANTHA TURNER

Discover Renee Fordyce's strategic vision for Missouri's soybean sector, focused on transparency, integrity and grassroots engagement, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future.

In her journey from city life to farm leadership, Renee Fordyce embodies the spirit of service and an unwavering dedication to Missouri's agricultural community. With a background as a self-proclaimed city girl turned seasoned farmhand, Renee's transition into the heart of Missouri's agricultural landscape has been characterized by a steadfast commitment to learning, advocating and ultimately, leading.

Recently elected as the president of the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA), Renee brings a wealth of experience and a passion for farmer advocacy to her new role. Having served on the MSA board for more than a decade, including her most recent role as vice president, Renee's unanimous election as president underscores her peers' trust and confidence in her ability to lead.

"Thank you to my fellow farmer-leaders for entrusting me with this significant responsibility," expressed Fordyce. "MSA has made remarkable strides in engaging growers, and I am dedicated to building upon this progress. Our association's success hinges upon the support and active involvement of our members, and I encourage everyone to reach out with their concerns or ideas for shaping the future."

Since its establishment in 1966, MSA has been an active voice for the state's soybean farmers, tirelessly championing their interests at the state and national levels. From closely monitoring regulations impacting agriculture to advocating for homegrown fuels and vital transportation projects, MSA plays an indispensable role in safeguarding farmers' rights and enhancing their economic prosperity.

PROFILE

"MSA is about protecting your right to farm, keeping an eye on issues that you don't have the time or capacity to fight on your own," said Fordyce. "We worry about what's coming down the pipeline regarding regulations so that you can continue to do what you love."

Fordyce believes some of the biggest policy victories include our recent beginning farmer legislation and the increase in accessibility to biodiesel. She stands firm that we have accomplished so much in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C., due to the transparency and integrity built into the association's mission, bolstering a reputation as a trustworthy resource for Missouri soybean farmers. However, as MSA president, she understands the board and staff can't do it alone.

MSA IS ABOUT PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO FARM, KEEPING AN EYE ON ISSUES THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR CAPACITY TO FIGHT ON YOUR OWN.

RENEE FORDYCE

"Our organization's strength lies in grassroots involvement. Regardless of membership level, active participation is crucial. It amplifies our impact and strengthens our connections, both within the farming community and with policymakers," said Fordyce.

Fordyce stresses that farmers should get involved at any level. Members of MSA receive effective communications through various channels such as email and text action alerts. Members also receive real-time information on cutting-edge and critical agricultural topics to keep them informed and engaged.

"The true power of MSA lies in active involvement. Whether it's advocating at the state level or providing a lifeline to the Capitol during times of need, MSA serves as a trusted ally for Missouri soybean farmers," said Fordyce. "Having a familiar face in the Capitol, armed with knowledge, solutions and strong relationships, ensures that our concerns are heard and addressed."



Beyond her leadership with MSA, Renee remains involved in her local community, serving on the boards of the Harrison County Community Hospital District, Harrison County Community Hospital Auxiliary, United Methodist Church Pastor/Parrish Committee and the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association. As a dedicated nurse and mother of two, she brings a comprehensive perspective to her advocacy work, emphasizing the importance of rural healthcare and the myriad benefits of soy in promoting overall wellness.

Renee also serves on the American Soybean Association (ASA), where she sits on the Conservation and Precision Agriculture advocacy team.

"Joining the ASA advocacy teams, particularly in conservation and precision agriculture, has been enlightening," said Fordyce. "We can't navigate regulatory changes alone. By amplifying our voices, we ensure our concerns are heard, benefiting not just our organization but the agricultural industry."

Looking ahead, Renee remains confident in her commitment to effective communication, strategic planning and continued service to Missouri's soybean sector. With a focus on transparency, integrity and grassroots engagement, she and her fellow farmer-leaders are poised to spearhead positive change and cultivate a future of prosperity and sustainability for Missouri's farming landscape.

As she continues to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, Renee remains guided by her faith and passion for serving her fellow farmers and advocating for their interests. With her leadership at the helm, the Missouri Soybean Association is poised to chart a course toward a future of success.



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GET TO KNOW THE GRASSROOTS FELLOWSHIP

The IA-MO Grassroots Fellowship is a collaborative, one-year experience for young soybean farmers from Iowa and Missouri who possess a desire to learn more about the soybean industry and how weather, government action and global economics play a critical role in the price received at a grain elevator, all while improving their core leadership skills.

Previously under a different name, the Grassroots Fellowship rebranded the cohort to emphasize a more robust, inclusive opportunity for next-generation leaders in the Midwest.

“The Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) is a farmer-led organization with strong grassroots support, and we’re proud of that foundation,” said Renee Fordyce, MSA president. “Investing in the next generation of agricultural and industry leaders is key to serving Missouri’s soybean farmers. Our impact grows as we work together, and this is a great step forward for ensuring soybeans are front and center in Missouri and the Midwest well into the future.”

The Grassroots Fellowship will give participants a deep understanding of the policies, laws and regulations that affect agriculture, the soybean industry and rural America. Weaving travel and social interaction into the program curriculum, participants will become aware of the role they can play in supporting the soybean industry, farmers and the rural way of life.

BY SAMANTHA TURNER
THE POWERHOUSE LEADERSHIP COHORT RECEIVES A REFRESH AND REBRAND FOR FARMER-LEADERS.



During the program, members travel anywhere from Jefferson City to Washington, D.C., and major farm shows in between. Major events include a kickoff orientation, MSA Annual Meeting, export terminal tours and Commodity Classic.

“After I completed my Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) experience, I was looking for something that would give me insight into the legislative process,” said Roth McElvain, a current participant of the Grassroots Fellowship. “I met all my respective legislators but hadn’t learned how to talk to them about important issues effectively. I always heard great things about the Missouri Soybean Association and its ability to advocate for Missouri farmers, and I wanted to experience it for myself.”

With constant communication from soybean staff, members are equipped with educational resources at their fingertips to enact real change at the grassroots and national levels.

“Building the next generation of agricultural leaders is one of the core purposes of the program,” said Baylee Asbury, Missouri Soybeans director of outreach and education. “These soybean growers turned advocates are our future commodity board members, elected officials and industry spokespeople.”

Grassroots Fellowship targets talented young men and women who are involved in production agriculture and have a vast interest in

finding their niche to growing demand for soy off the farm. Participants must be in good membership standing, and one member is selected from one of each of the seven grower districts in Missouri.

“This program is a fun and impactful way to meet people from around the state,” said Terrance LePage, a Grassroots Fellowship member from the second class. “It’s important to understand the decisions that are made every day that affect our livelihood as farmers and agriculturalists, and as part of the Grassroots Fellowship, I got to be a part of those discussions. I encourage anybody in the agricultural industry to join the program.”

This year’s participants include:

- Ethan Fordyce | District 1, Bethany, Mo.
- Brooke Zell | District 2, Meadville, Mo.
- Reed Plunkett | District 3, Philadelphia, Mo.
- Roth McElvain | District 3, Palmyra, Mo.
- Chance Kurzweil | District 4, Harrisonville, Mo.
- Klinton Holliday | District 5, Prairie Home, Mo.
- Jane Zuroweste | District 6, Truxton, Mo.

Interested in participating in the 2024-2025 MSA Grassroots Fellowship? Reach out to Baylee Asbury for more information or assistance or check out mosoy.org for applications in June. ●

BEANS **SE** BRAZIL **Z**

BY SAMANTHA TURNER

SEVEN SOYBEAN FARMERS FROM MISSOURI RECEIVED HANDS-ON LESSONS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

As the global soybean sector continues to thrive, Missouri soybean farmers are taking proactive steps to deepen their understanding of the dynamic Brazilian market, a market that holds the coveted position of the No. 1 global soybean exporter. In January, seven farmers representing Missouri embarked on a strategic mission to Brazil with a goal of unlocking valuable insights into Brazil's soybean production, export capacity, consumer preferences, distribution channels and regulatory requirements.

"Farmers need to see and experience firsthand the agricultural landscape in other countries," said Gary Wheeler, Missouri Soybeans CEO and executive director. "The return on these missions is invaluable to our state's producers and gives us an opportunity to see where we have competitive advantage, where we can improve and where we can find common ground to expand and diversify markets."

LEARNING ABOUT THE LAND

"The trip aimed to learn about farming and supply chains in key agricultural areas, assessing future soybean production growth and infrastructure capabilities," said Matt Amick, Missouri Soybeans director of market development. "It was also an opportunity for the farmers to develop leadership skills and make informed decisions on behalf of the organization."

Brazil's ascendancy in soybean exports underscores the importance of comprehensive market research. By gaining a nuanced understanding of these factors, U.S. soybean farmers seek to navigate the Brazilian agricultural industry effectively and identify opportunities for collaboration.

"Farming is a business, and it's important we understand our competition, just like any other industry," said Kevin Mainord, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC) director and farmer from East Prairie. "We can't defend what we don't know or understand. I never think it's good for us to live in a cocoon and not take the time to understand how we can compete in the future."

continued on page 15...



(YOU)

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THE IMPORTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Brazil's increasing export capacity opens new avenues for global trade. The mission assessed how Brazil addresses infrastructure challenges and the implications for U.S. soybean farmers as they compete for market share. Examining logistics and distribution networks allows soybean growers to identify areas for improvement and collaboration to streamline the export process.

"As an industry, we often hear about the infrastructure in Brazil, but seeing firsthand their production scale and reliance on trucking highlights the need for infrastructure investment," said Amick. "Brazil is continuing to invest, which underscores the need for the U.S. to focus on making sure our infrastructure is strong to maintain our competitive edge in logistics."

Brazil is heavily reliant on trucking with less rail access compared to the United States. There is also less on-farm storage capacity with most processors building large warehouses for flat storage to store harvested crops.

Gottman observed that most farmers used dump trailers, rather than hoppers, requiring the elevators and processing facilities to use lifts to dump grain, which decreases efficiency.

"They lack the capacity to handle things with ease like we do in the U.S.," said Mainord. "For example, when hauling fertilizer, we use bulk trailers, and they are still using bulk bags for thousands of acres."

The reliance on trucking, limited rail access and inadequate on-farm storage capacity present hurdles that impact efficiency and competitiveness. Through firsthand observations, U.S. soybean farmers have recognized the importance of infrastructure investment to maintain a competitive edge in the face of Brazil's increasing export capacity.

"We have to sharpen our pencil and continue to be a low-cost provider to compete on the world stage," said Mainord. "We need to compete through economies of scale and our advancements in technology, raising more bushels at a lower cost."

CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATION

While competition is inherent in the global market, the mission emphasized building solid relationships with Brazilian soybean stakeholders. This involves regular communication, understanding local business practices and fostering trust.

Collaborative efforts on the knowledge and regulatory practices surrounding genetically modified (GM) products are vital to ensuring open markets for both nations.

"By collaborating on acceptance of biotechnology, we can open markets for both countries to more effectively feed the world," said

Brazil has many advantages, including longer cropping seasons, the ability to produce multiple crops in one year, lower cost of production and more labor availability. U.S. farmers will have to focus on relationships, quality and logistics to remain competitive.

"We must remain one step ahead in the ever-changing world of technology, infrastructure and market development," said Tim Gottman, MSMC director and farmer from Monroe City. "To speak to farmers one-on-one to better understand their mindset and challenges offers an advantage to Missouri's checkoff payers."

Farmers set foot on various operations, including farms in Goais, Mato Grosso and Parana. Most notable were the country's expansive landscapes. Comparatively, Brazil has larger farming operations, more labor and less grain storage. Often, they grow two to three crops per season.

"We went to a farm where they were harvesting soybeans and planting corn behind the beans," said Gottman. "Soybeans were harvested with as many as 10 combines at a time, with grain carts continuously moving in and out of the field."

Gottman shared that he even got to ride in the combine as they harvested to see the process firsthand and ask the producer questions.

The farmer-leaders on the mission explained the diverse landscape of each field in Brazil, sharing the vast differences in topography.

"The soil quality and varying terrain in Brazil poses challenges for productivity," said Gottman. "Near Brasilia, it was rolling hills, but when we got to Mato Grosso, it was mostly flat. At any given field, one side could be black soil and the other mostly clay."

The diverse terrain and varying soil conditions observed during the expedition emphasize the complexities and challenges inherent in maximizing productivity. By embracing these lessons and insights, U.S. soybean farmers are better equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of international agriculture and identify opportunities for collaboration and growth.

Amick. "If farmers are allowed to operate in an environment where they are seen as the solution to problems like hunger and climate challenges, farmers from both countries will thrive."

The farmers also learned that sustainability is critical in Brazil despite the perceptions. For instance, in certain parts of the country, farmers are required by law to keep 20% of their acres in forest. In areas closer to the Amazon biome, they are required keep 80% of their acres in forest.

Despite these protections, U.S. soybean farmers have an advantage over Brazilian farmers in the sustainability discussion. The conservation practices and technology contributing to more efficient use of inputs, better soil health and carbon sequestration are critical to providing a competitive advantage over Brazil in the world marketplace.

"This topic of deforestation and sustainability in the world market is top of mind for Brazilian producers," says Gottman. "They are behind the United States and have some disadvantages because they have and are continuing to clear land for production agriculture."

The farmers also learned Brazil is behind when it comes to investing in education, market access and building new market demand across the world. With partners on the ground in international markets such as the U.S. Soybean Export Council, World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, U.S. Meat Export Federation and U.S. Poultry and Egg Export Council, Missouri soybean farmers are at the table every day with current and potential buyers of U.S. soy products and soy value-added products.

While traveling, Missouri's producers met with Embrapa, Brazil's state-owned research corporation that operates 43 research facilities focused on production, technology and sustainability; the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; FS Biofuels ethanol plant;



COACEN Cooperative; 3 Tentos retail supply, crush and biodiesel plant; Granfinale Sistemas Agrícolas, where they produce grain drying, cleaning and transporting equipment; and the Caramuru Terminal at the Port of Santos, which loads out soybean meal for export.

"Through meetings with various stakeholders and visits to agricultural operations and research facilities, the mission provided valuable insights into Brazil's agricultural landscape and the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships," said Wheeler. "Moving forward, continued collaboration and exchange of knowledge will be essential for the prosperity of the soybean industry in both Brazil and the United States."

This mission marked a significant step for U.S. soybean farmers in expanding their global footprint and fostering mutually beneficial relationships with their Brazilian counterparts. By delving into the intricacies of the Brazilian market, U.S. soybean farmers are positioning themselves for success in an ever-changing international trade landscape. ●

WE MUST REMAIN ONE STEP AHEAD IN THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT. TO SPEAK TO FARMERS ONE-ON-ONE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR MINDSET AND CHALLENGES OFFERS AN ADVANTAGE TO MISSOURI'S CHECKOFF PAYERS.

**TIM GOTTMAN,
MSMC BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 3**

BETTER ON BIODIESEL



GARRETT RIEKHOF | HIGGINSVILLE, MO

Biodiesel has transformed the way I approach fuel use on my farm. Since 2020, I've embraced blends exceeding what's commonly available, driven by a belief in supporting products from my own land. From economic to environmental considerations, I see it as a responsibility for any industry to champion the products it creates.

While the operational impact on my machinery has been minimal, the sense of vertical integration and supporting local industries is profoundly rewarding. Although the journey with biodiesel has been met with skepticism from peers and frustrations with supply chains, the potential for a greener future and self-sustainability keeps me dedicated to biodiesel usage.

Despite the hurdles, I remain optimistic about the future of biodiesel and its role in shaping a more sustainable agricultural industry.

DAVID LUECK | ALMA, MO

Biodiesel has been integral to my operations for more than 15 years, currently utilizing a B30 blend. Not only does it enhance fuel lubricity, mitigating injector pump issues, but it also champions sustainability, utilizing crops I produce. Educating others on its benefits is essential, while proper fuel management ensures optimal performance. By supporting biodiesel, we're not just fueling engines; we're driving forward a greener, more resilient agricultural economy.



DAVID WIGGINS | MEMPHIS, MO

I use a 20% biodiesel blend in my equipment, including older machinery. In older equipment, I can see a horsepower increase and in my new machinery, there is less fuel consumption. I even use the same B20 in my Ford 7000 and 8000 for tractor-pulling. I find any contribution back to my homegrown products beneficial, and it only helps increase our use of soybean oil.



Your whole farm solution.

"I don't have to worry about sourcing products from different companies. Having that one-stop shop is really important for us."

– Clayton Thompson, MFA Incorporated member



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**FROM JON IHLER,
MFA OIL
COMPANY
PRESIDENT
AND CEO**



The Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) and MFA Oil Company serve farmers' interests differently, but they share one crucial similarity—both organizations are 100% committed to serving their members' needs.

MSA focuses on legislative advocacy, communication and outreach for the state's soybean farmers. In industry discussions and public policy debates, MSA works to advance and protect the interests of Missouri soybean producers.

MFA Oil Company was established in 1929 when a group of Missouri farmers formed a cooperative to ensure a reliable supply of quality petroleum products at a fair price. Nearly 100 years later, MFA Oil continues to fulfill its founders' vision.

Many farmers find value in being members of both types of organizations, as they complement each other in supporting different aspects of their farming operations and interests.

COOPERATIVE NECESSITY

Agricultural cooperatives were formed out of necessity in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries in response to corporate trusts like Standard Oil Company and U.S. Steel, which used their size to regulate supply and fix prices on their products. Trusts often eliminated competition and monopolized industries.

Farmers and ranchers needed a solution and found it through collective action. Co-

operatives provided access to unreachable goods and services, opened downstream markets, created necessary infrastructure and shared operations, addressed systemic risks, and maintained crucial market power through the collective action of the farmers who formed them.

The cooperative model is sustainable and resilient, as evidenced by the fact that 23% of agricultural co-ops are over 100 years old, and 54% are over 75 years old. While much has changed in the last century, the importance of the cooperative system is greater than ever.

In many cases, the mere existence of cooperatives benefits producers by providing options to the marketplace, maintaining the vitality of rural communities through local investments and local employment, and ensuring business decisions are made by member-owners who use the co-op and share in its successes and failures.

REASONS TO BELONG

Whether you are talking about agricultural advocacy groups such as MSA or a cooperative, farmers and ranchers benefit when they collectively pool their resources and work together to achieve their goals. This concept is well understood in farm country, where it is common for producers to help each other during harvest, and community members will rally together to support each other when times are tough.

Though cooperatives have existed for a long time, it's important to consider their role in

today's agricultural economy. What would the marketplace look like without cooperatives like MFA Oil? Would producers still find comparable products, services, and competitive pricing?

Would a private or publicly traded company provide the same level of local investment, charitable giving, employment opportunities and income to your community? And what about representation? Is there value in working with suppliers led by a board of directors made up of farmers who share your needs and values? These are questions all producers should consider.

Ownership and profit sharing through patronage are additional cooperative benefits. For our 2023 fiscal year, MFA Oil paid out \$15.9 million in cash distributions to our farmer-owners. We issued an additional \$4 million in member equities. Over the past five years, MFA Oil has returned \$49.2 million in cash to cooperative members.

At both MSA and MFA Oil, your membership matters. Member feedback provides crucial guidance to the farmers who serve on each organization's respective Boards of Directors. Your involvement helps us ensure your values, needs and interests are represented. When we work together cooperatively, there's nothing we can't achieve. ●

ANYONE WHO SIGNS UP FOR MISSOURI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AT THE ANNUAL ADVOCATE LEVEL OR ABOVE BEFORE APRIL 30 WILL RECEIVE A \$50 GIFT CARD FROM MFA OIL COMPANY.



Use of BOSS Performance Diesel results in engines lasting longer, better fuel economy and a decrease in swearing by equipment operators who like their equipment operating.



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Not just a... MEMBERSHIP

by
Madelyn Warren

Becoming a member of the Missouri Soybean Association isn't just a transaction – it's a gateway to a vibrant community, a platform for grassroots advocacy and a source of value-added benefits that enhance farms across the state.

For more than 50 years, the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA) has served as a voice for soybean farmers and all who are part of the soybean value chain. Yet, without the dedication and support of its members, the farmer-centric organization would lack the effectiveness and impact needed to drive meaningful change in the soybean industry.

For farms nestled in the rolling hills of the northwest corner to those dotting the sun-kissed landscapes bordering Arkansas in the southeast, joining MSA is more than just a transaction – it's an investment in the future of those farms. It's not just a membership; it's a gateway to a vibrant community of connection, a platform for grassroots advocacy and a source of value-added benefits that enhance operations across the state.

Cultivating Community

Missouri Soybeans offers farmers ample opportunities to connect with their peers and expand their networks through district meetings held at various times throughout the year, such as the Winter Meetings, Soy Socials and Harvest Luncheons. These gatherings not only provide a platform for vital conversations, issue insights and friendly farmer fellowship but also serve as invaluable forums for sharing critical perspectives and experiences. MSA utilizes the insights garnered from these meetings to inform and focus the association's work for the future. Characterized by resilience and a collaborative spirit, the district-level meetings of the Missouri Soybean Association embody the power of collective action and shared purpose.



The developing and emerging nations of today are the home of tomorrow's U.S. Soy customers



PROFILE

Clarissa Cauthorn, MSA farmer-member from Audrain County in District 3, emphasizes the transformative impact of membership and active engagement within grassroots organizations.

"Membership is momentum," said Cauthorn. "It's about actively engaging, forging connections and contributing meaningfully to build a collective voice for our industry. It's about shaping the discourse, driving progress and championing innovation."

Grounded in Grassroots Advocacy

This sense of connection extends beyond the personal relationships formed within the association. It also encompasses the collective voice that MSA provides for its members. As a grassroots organization, MSA empowers farmers, giving them the power to shape policy decisions that directly affect their livelihoods.

Checkoff dollars cannot be used for lobbying, so membership is needed to make a difference in the halls of the Capitol.

Through lobbying efforts, educational campaigns and advocacy initiatives, MSA ensures that the voices of soybean farmers are heard loud and clear in the corridors of power. Whether it's advocating for fair trade policies, promoting sustainable farming practices or fighting against regulatory burdens, MSA stands as a powerful advocate for its members.

"Our strength lies in our collective voice," said Laura Collins, a soybean farmer in Stoddard County. "Individually, our voices

may be small, but together, we have the power to enact real change and shape the future of our industry. Advocacy in numbers helps make that a success."

Membership is momentum. It's about actively engaging, forging connections and contributing meaningfully to build a collective voice for our industry.

CLARISSA CAUTHORN

A farmer from Nodaway County in District 1 echoed the sentiment.

"We support [MSA] because they support us," said Bill Slaughter. "I can't afford to have a lobbyist in Washington, but we need champions in the Capitol fighting for our way of life. By joining our voices together, I believe we are more powerful."

Better with Benefits

Membership with MSA also offers exclusive discounts and communications efforts to add value to the farm. Retailers such as Cabela's and vehicle manufacturers such as Ford and Chrysler offer significant price

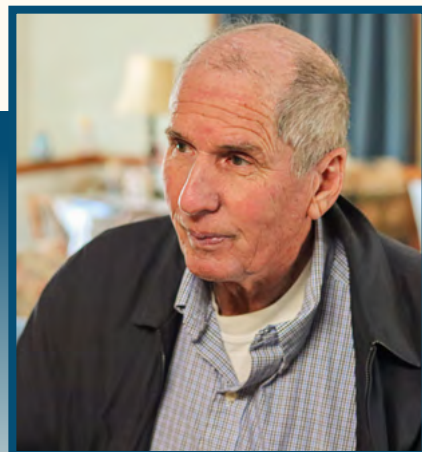
cuts for American Soybean Association (ASA) paid members.

However, all free and paid members receive access to MSA's state-of-the-art research facility, where innovative technologies and cutting-edge studies converge to drive the industry forward. From exploring novel cultivation techniques to experimenting with groundbreaking equipment, the research farm serves as a hub of innovation.

"MSA's research facility provides farmers with the freedom to assess various practices and technologies tailored to a farm's needs, all without the upfront financial burden of significant investments," said Slaughter. "As input costs continue to rise, relying solely on 40-bushel beans simply won't suffice anymore. It's imperative that we utilize research like the studies that are conducted at MSA's research farm to bolster our yields and ensure sustainability and profitability for generations to come."

The insights gained from these experiments are not confined to the laboratory but are shared with farmers across the state. Each year during field days, farmers gain exclusive access to these research findings, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to enhance their own operations.

The Missouri Soybean Association is more than just a membership – it's a lifeline for soybean farmers across the state. Through connection, grassroots advocacy and value-added benefits, MSA provides its members with the tools, support and resources they need to succeed in today's competitive farming environment. ●



SOW SEEDS OF SAFETY THIS PLANTING SEASON

Whether you've been through 30 planting seasons or three, be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

You and anyone working or doing business on your farm should know and follow electrical safety precautions to avoid potential hazards.

When near power lines, poles and other utility equipment:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance in all directions.
- Realize that electricity can arc/"jump" when equipment is too close.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting.
- Designate preplanned routes that avoid potential hazards.
- When approaching or in the field, use a spotter and deploy flags.
- Before exiting the cab, look up to ensure proper clearance of all equipment.
- Lower extensions to the lowest setting before moving loads.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Contact your electric utility if you think a pole or line may have been damaged.

If your equipment does come in contact with a power line or other utility equipment, do not exit the cab. Instead, call 9-1-1 and wait until utility workers say it is safe to exit.

If you are in imminent danger (e.g., equipment is on fire) and need to exit the cab, make a solid, clean jump out of the cab and hop with both feet together as far away as you can.





WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Statement of Activities, Fiscal Year 2023

Transparency is paramount for Missouri soybean farmers and their checkoff, and the board of directors and staff carry that as one of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's values. Each year, this financial report appears in Missouri Soybean Farmer magazine as part of that commitment.

The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, under the guidance of elected, volunteer farmer-leaders and with the support of professional staff, invests Missouri farmers' soybean checkoff dollars to improve the bottom line and future for soybean and soybean farmers. The budget can be summarized under the following categories:

Research

This budget area provides for collaborative work on pest and disease resistance, flood and drought tolerance and soybean breeding, as well as other work at the Missouri Soybean Association's Bay Farm Research Facility.

Producer Communications

This budget area includes the many ways checkoff funds are used to connect with soybean growers via radio, grower meetings, field days, educational tours, etc.

Consumer Information

This budget area is the home for efforts to connect Missourians not living on a farm or ranch to the importance of soy and agriculture.

Administration

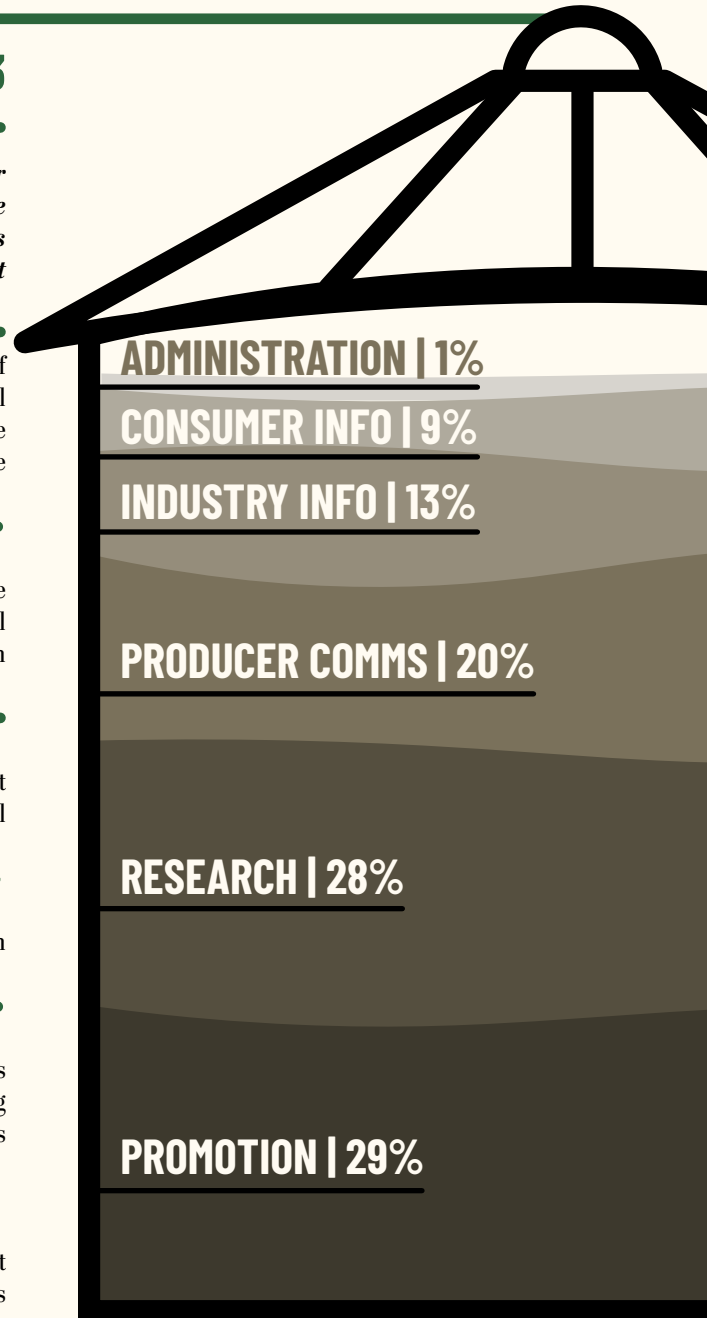
This budget area includes the cost of overseeing and investing Missouri's soybean checkoff dollars, including management, personnel and facilitating elections and meetings of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's board of directors.

Industry Information

Initiatives in this budget area include policy education, commodity support and working with industry partners to identify new management practices and uses for soybeans and soy products. This area encompasses business development and relationship-building programs as well.

Promotion

This budget area includes efforts to raise awareness within the market for Missouri soybeans and build demand for Missouri soybeans and soy products around the world.



Scan to learn more about the checkoff!



As soybean planting season approaches, farmers are gearing up for another busy period in the fields. With the financial stakes high, it's essential for farmers to have a solid accounting plan in place to ensure a successful and profitable season. Here are some accounting tips to help farmers navigate the soybean planting season:

1. Budgeting: Before planting season begins, farmers should create a detailed budget that outlines all expenses related to planting soybeans. This should include costs for seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, equipment maintenance, labor and any other expenses that may arise. Having a clear budget in place will help farmers track their expenses and stay on track financially throughout the season.

2. Record-keeping: Keeping accurate records is crucial for farmers during planting. Farmers should track all expenses and income related to soybean planting, including receipts for purchases, labor costs and any other financial transactions. This will help farmers monitor their financial performance, identify areas where costs can be reduced and make informed decisions about their operations.

3. Tax planning: Farmers should also consider tax planning during soybean planting season. Understanding the tax implications of their farming operations can help farmers maximize deductions and credits, minimize tax liabilities and ensure compliance with tax

laws. Working with a tax professional can help farmers navigate the complexities of agricultural tax laws and optimize their tax strategy.

4. Cash-flow management: Cash-flow management is crucial for farmers during soybean planting season, as expenses can be substantial and income may not be realized until harvest. Farmers should monitor their cash flow closely, ensuring that they have enough funds to cover expenses and meet financial obligations. Having a cash reserve or access to financing can help farmers manage cash-flow fluctuations and avoid financial stress.

5. Risk management: Farmers should also consider risk-management strategies during soybean planting season. This may include purchasing crop insurance to protect against yield losses due to weather events or other unforeseen circumstances. Farmers should also assess their risk tolerance and develop a risk-management plan that addresses potential challenges and uncertainties that may arise during the planting season.

By following these accounting tips, farmers can better prepare for the challenges and opportunities of soybean planting season. With a solid accounting plan in place, farmers can make informed decisions, monitor their financial performance and maximize their profitability during this critical time of year. ●

Meeting the Demand for Food and Fuel

U.S. soybean yields are predicted to grow, producing an additional 24 pounds of protein and almost six pounds of oil per acre annually*.

*"The Whole Bean: How U.S. Soy Helps Feed and Fuel the World."
<https://wholebean.ussoy.org/>



cleanfuels.org

The benefits keep growing.

Materials supported by United Soybean Board, soybean farmers and their checkoffs.

Missouri Soybeans Celebrates National Soy Foods Month



April is National Soy Foods Month, and the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC) is celebrating the benefits of soy foods by hosting two events to highlight this powerhouse commodity.

As part of the celebration, MSMC is sponsoring free soy latte giveaways at Jefferson City coffee shops for one week in April and hosting a food truck event on Friday, April 12.

From April 8-13, consumers can stop by local coffee shops to receive a free 12-ounce soy latte. Additionally, on April 12, Missouri Soybeans is hosting a community-wide food truck event at the Center for Soy Innovation to bridge the gap with consumers and share the soy-based educational space. Food trucks will feature soy-inclusive special menu items.

“National Soy Foods Month is a monthlong educational campaign to tout the versatility of our state’s beans, and we hope consumers join us in our efforts to highlight the many

soy products,” said Aaron Porter, MSMC chairman. “Bringing together the community for this event allows us to continue shedding light on the many benefits of U.S. Soy and highlights Missouri soybean farmers’ commitment to providing high-quality, sustainable protein for people to enjoy.”

The United States is one of the leading countries in soybean production. In Missouri alone, 5.7 million acres of soybeans are grown each year, and farmers work to meet the global demand for this important crop in a sustainable way. Through soil and water conservation, crop rotation and carbon net neutrality goals, U.S. and Missouri soybean farmers provide nutritional, versatile and sustainable food to people across the globe.

Soy Foods Month is an opportunity to celebrate soy’s important place at the table – from its powerful plant-based nutrition and ability to improve skin health to its sustainable production and cooking versatility. Soy is a complete, high-quality protein that provides all nine essential amino acids in

amounts needed by the body. It’s the only plant protein that carries the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) heart health claim confirming it may be able to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. Soy foods are also a source of folate, potassium, fiber, iron and zinc. Soybean oil, which is typically labeled as “vegetable oil,” also carries an FDA heart health claim.

Soy foods range from traditional soy-based foods like tofu, edamame and miso to well-known products including soy milk, soy nutrition bars, soy-based meat alternatives and soybean oil, which is used as both an ingredient and in food preparation.

“U.S. soybean growers are committed to supplying safe ingredients that provide a dependable supply of food for global communities that consumers can trust,” said Porter.

To learn more about Missouri Soybeans and recipes that include soybeans, visit mo-soy.org.

AVERAGE
\$33
PER ACRE
PAYMENT
IN 2023

NO LIMITS*
ON ACRES
ENROLLED

1-YEAR
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**Enrollment closes once we reach our acre goal for the year.*

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Riley Schnell, participating SWOF Farmer

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Want to **begin or expand** a conservation practice on your operation to reduce erosion, improve soil health, and more? The Soil and Water Outcomes Fund® can help you earn more for your acres. And as a part of the Iowa Soybean Association, you can be sure that we put the interests of our farmers first.



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global flavors

Soy has strong roots in many Asian dishes — agedashi tofu from Japan, dubu kimchi from Korea, mapo tofu from Sichuan and san bei ji from Taiwan — however the flavors that soy produces — umami, salty, sweet and nutty — can be seen throughout many global dishes. The recipes this month are inspired from global flavors and the rich tastes that accompany them.

From Vietnamese dumplings with nuoc cham chay to miso meatballs with a savory tomato sauce, join us for a journey between a classic and modern twist on soy foods.

vietnamese inspired dumplings

ingredients

for the dumplings...

2 pounds ground pork
1/4 cup cilantro
1/2 - inch ginger root
1/2 thai chili or habanero pepper, deseeded
2 cloves garlic
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon fish sauce
75 wonton wrappers

for the sauce...

1/4 cup soy sauce
2 teaspoons sugar
2 teaspoons hot water
1/2 thai chili or habanero pepper, deseeded
1 teaspoon fish sauce
1 teaspoon rice vinegar
2 cloves garlic
1/4 lime, juiced

directions...

Combine pork, cilantro, ginger, chili, garlic, soy sauce and fish sauce in food processor; pulse until smooth.

Place 1-2 teaspoons filling into wonton wrappers and seal with water. Boil for 5-6 minutes in salted water.

Combine soy sauce, sugar, hot water, chili, fish sauce, vinegar, garlic and lime juice in blender; blend for 15 seconds.

Serve with herbs such as mint and cilantro.

for more flavor...

Wrap filling on lemongrass skewer and grill until cooked.

ingredients

for the meatballs...

2 pounds ground beef or pork
1 tablespoon white miso
2 eggs
1/4 cup milk
8-ounce pack mushrooms
1/4 cup textured vegetable protein
2 sprigs basil
2 tablespoons Italian seasoning
Salt and pepper to taste

for the sauce...

8 tomatoes, halved and destemmed
3 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 cloves garlic
4 sprigs basil
1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
1 tablespoon white miso
2 teaspoons sugar

directions...

Combine eggs, milk, miso, mushrooms, basil and Italian seasoning in food processor; blend until smooth.

Combine mushroom mixture, ground beef and textured vegetable protein. Mix until even.

Combine 1 tablespoon soy sauce, honey and olive oil. Coat halved tomatoes with mixture. Roast at 275 degrees for 2 hours.

Remove tomatoes from oven and place in food processor with the rest of the soy sauce, garlic, basil, Italian seasoning, miso and sugar. Pulse until desired texture. Pour in baking dish.

Sear 1.5-inch meatballs for 3 minutes of each side and place in sauce. Cook for 1 hour at 325 degrees.

Serve with spaghetti or polenta.

miso mushroom meatballs

MISSOURI SOYBEANS ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

BY SAMANTHA TURNER

During the Missouri Soybean Association's annual meeting in January, the farmer-led board selected several of its peers to step up in leadership positions to serve the Missouri soybean grower.

To lead MSA, Renee Fordyce was elected to serve as the president for 2024. Fordyce is a soybean grower and rural health professional from Bethany, representing District 1 on the board. Fordyce has been a board member for more than 10 years, serving in various leadership roles, including vice president. This is her first term serving as the Association's president.

"Thank you to my fellow farmer-leaders for trusting me to fulfill this leadership role," said Fordyce. "MSA has made great strides in grower engagement and will continue to pursue this important endeavor. MSA is only successful with member support, so please reach out with your concerns or recommendations for the future." Renee also serves as the chief financial officer of Fordyce Farms, where she farms with her husband, Richard. The Fordyce family farms corn, soybeans and has a cow/calf operation. Renee is on the boards for Harrison County Community Hospital and Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri.

"Renee's extensive experience and dedication to our cause make her an exceptional choice to lead us forward," said Gary Wheeler, Missouri Soybeans CEO and executive director. "With her at the helm, supported by our talented vice president, secretary and treasurer, I'm confident we will continue to drive positive change for Missouri's soybean growers."

Brooks Hurst, a farmer from Tarkio in District 1, was also re-elected as the Association's vice president. To round out the board's leadership, Cody Brock from District 2 was selected as secretary, and Garrett Riekhof, representing District 4, was voted to serve as treasurer. MSA also recognized Matt Wright for his years of service as MSA president. Wright, a farmer from Emden, served on the board for more than a decade. Under his leadership, the Association has furthered the interests of soybean farmers with vision and integrity.

"To have led the Missouri Soybean Association as your president has been an absolute thrill and honor," said Wright. "I cannot begin

to list or quantify all the accomplishments Missouri Soybean producers have enjoyed these past two years, but I can tell you that the achievements will continue. The board is in a great place regarding knowledge, abilities and appetite to take on whatever comes our way."

Wright will continue to serve on the board as a farmer-leader from District 3.

"I want to sincerely thank Matt Wright for his exemplary leadership over the past years," said Wheeler. "Under his guidance, our Association has achieved significant milestones and advancements. Matt's contributions have been invaluable, and I look forward to his continued involvement as a board member."

In addition to the newly established executive committee, the following farmer-leaders remain on the board:

- Andrew Lance, District 1
- Ronnie Russell, District 1
- Daniel Carpenter, District 2
- Clint Prange, District 3
- Dane Diehl, District 4
- Russell Wolf, District 5
- Terry Schwoeppe, District 6
- Tory Meyr, District 7
- Jason Mayer, District 7
- Ryan Wilson, District 7

In June, MSA will onboard new members to lead the Association.

"This board is pivotal in advancing not only the soybean industry, but our nation's agricultural sector today and in the future," said Wheeler. "I admire the board's leadership, hard work and dedication to the Association, and I look forward to working with these leaders to advance our mission at the state and federal level."

To find out more about the policy branch of the Missouri Soybeans organization or to active your membership today, please visit mo-soy.org.

MSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Renee Fordyce
President



C. Brooks Hurst
Vice President



Cody Brock
Secretary



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Andrew Lance
District 1 Director



Ronnie Russell
District 1 Director



Daniel Carpenter
District 2 Director



Clint Prange
District 3 Director



Matt Wright
District 3 Director



Dane Diehl
District 4 Director



Russell Wolf
District 5 Director



Terry Schwoeppe
District 6 Director



Jason Mayer
District 7 Director



Ryan Wilson
District 7 Director



Tory Meyr
District 7 Director

Subscribing to Stewardship

MSA board treasurer Garrett Riekhof shares how stewardship is helping him ensure generation No. 6 can continue to farm.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I was born and raised in Higginsville, Mo., in Lafayette County. I attended Lafayette County C-1 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia. I've been married to my wife, Cara, for 21 years, and we have three children ages 8-18. We live on the same farm my great-grandfather bought in 1905.

Q: Does your family implement any sustainable practices?

A: Yes, our sustainability practices have succeeded so far as I'm raising the 6th generation to nurture our farm. Specifically, we focus heavily on soil sampling by zone and fertilizing prescriptively to optimize revenue per acre. No-till and cover crops, along with gypsum applications, are some examples of work we do to improve soil health. I subscribe to the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship by split-applying nitrogen and micronutrients, focusing on rates, timing and form of nutrition for the specific crop growing. I'm interested in anything that shows promise to improve nutrient cycling.

Q: Should tractors be red or green?

A: Green

Q: What is your involvement in agriculture?

A: It all started in 4-H, and then I moved to FFA and spent time working on various farms. During college, I started to understand the diversity and scope of the industry through AFA. After graduation, I became involved in farm bureau, a local zoning board and committees that support our rural community. Now, I serve as treasurer of the Missouri Soybean Association and advocate for soy-based biodiesel. I stay active in ag policy, and I'm constantly trying to implement new production practices that reduce inputs while increasing yields on the farm.

Q: Who is your biggest influence?

A: It depends on the topic, but it mainly revolves around close family and community.

Q: What is your favorite planting or harvest snack?

A: Trail mix

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

A: My earliest memories are of time spent with my grandparents playing yard games in the same front yard my kids and I play today. Next would be the many hours spent holding tight to the fender of the tractor while row-cultivating or planting with my Dad and, as I got older, driving myself all around our county on an AC 175, baling untold amounts of straw.

Q: How do you take your coffee?

A: Black

Q: Tell us about your farm.

A: Aside from the cows, horses and pigs we have around the farm for our children's character building, we mainly farm soybeans and white and yellow corn. We are the 5th generation to manage the farm. I enjoy trying different things, and there seems always to be an experiment somewhere. I have two employees, and we try to perform nearly all farm operations in-house. Technology is a staple of how we operate, so much data logging and analysis is done in the off-season.

Q: Who is your favorite farm influencer to follow?

A: I do not "follow" any ag influencers. I use 'X' to keep up on state and national politics and to follow Ag media trends. I use TikTok as much-needed musical and comedic relief, and I am trying at BeReal to have fun and show my daily life with mostly my kids' friends. I do not enjoy Facebook or Instagram.

Q: What are you listening to while working?

A: Depends on my mood: Old country, Southern rock, Blues, Pop or Talk radio.

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

A: Whatever you find your passion, a career in agriculture deals with that. The possibilities for Agriculture are only limited by our imagination. Your Ag community needs you!

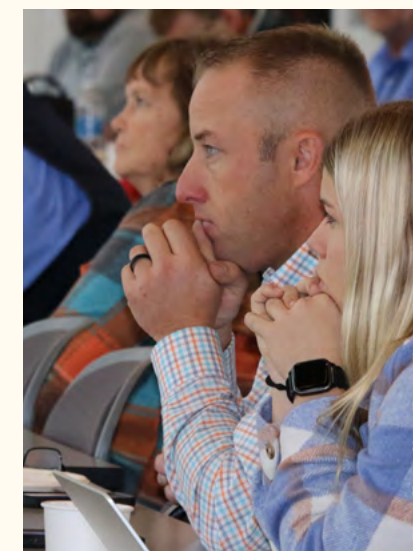
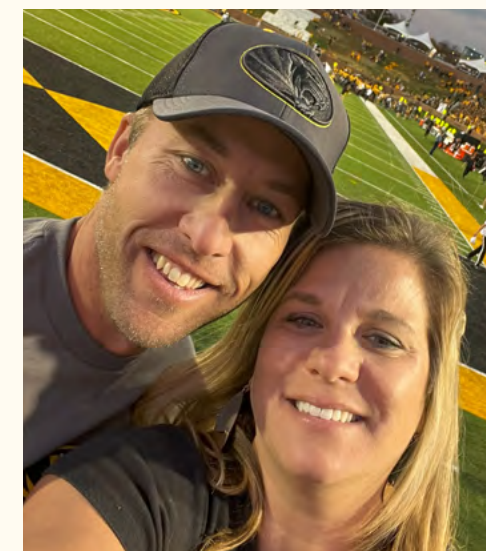


Photo From Clean Fuels Alliance-America



FOUNDATION FOR SOY INNOVATION AWARDS 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

BY SAMANTHA TURNER

The Foundation for Soy Innovation continues to support the future of soybeans by selecting two students, Jeff Barizon and Avery Matthews, for the 2023 Soy Innovation Scholarship. The scholarship invests in the future of the soybean sector and empowers those working to further the industry.

“The investment in future generations of agriculturalists and innovators is critical to the future state of soy,” said Matt McCrate, chairman of the Foundation. “One of the main goals of the Foundation for Soy Innovation is to support students interested in the soybean sector to aid in enhancing the soy value chain.”

The farmers behind the Foundation for Soy Innovation envision supporting early-career faculty and students in their work across the industry through this scholarship program. Scholarship funds may be used for coursework, supplies, training and professional conferences.

Barizon received his Bachelor of Science in agronomy and a Master of Science in plant pathology from Iowa State University. He is

now a senior research specialist at the SCN Diagnostics Clinic and a first-year doctoral student at the Plant Sciences and Technology Division at the University of Missouri, working with plant-parasitic nematode identification and soil nematode communities.

“My goal is to help Missouri growers increase their profits by minimizing yield losses caused by plant-parasitic nematodes,” said Barizon. “I plan to do this by mapping growers’ potential nematode problems and testing soybean-resistant varieties, active ingredients and cultural practices.”

Barizon will utilize these funds to attend the 2024 North Central American Phytopathological Society (APS) meeting to share his research findings. The findings include in-field evaluation of soybean cultivars containing different sources of resistance to the soybean cyst nematode and the most recent tools to control plant-parasitic nematodes affecting soybeans and other crops.

Matthews is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in agronomy, focusing on crop production at Northwest Missouri State University.



Through her program, her goal is to find a way to leverage her educational and hands-on experiences to contribute to the development of sustainable farming techniques, increasing soybean yields and profitability for farmers.

“I am humbled to be chosen as a recipient of this scholarship and will use this opportunity to the fullest,” said Matthews. “The Foundation’s investment in my education gives me the confidence and resources to pursue my career aspirations in agronomy.”

This investment in Matthews’ academic coursework assists in funding field studies and lab work to apply items learned directly to agricultural scenarios. In her agronomy program, Matthews combines theoretical knowledge with practical applications relevant to the challenges of modern agriculture.

I am humbled to be chosen as a recipient of this scholarship and will use this opportunity to the fullest. The Foundation’s investment in my education gives me the confidence and resources to pursue my career aspirations in agronomy.

AVERY MATTHEWS

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. The Foundation is chaired by Matt McCrate of Cape Girardeau. To learn more about the Foundation for Soy Innovation, explore soyfoundation.org.

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JEFF BARIZON





NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW

A nomination period will be held for one Missouri candidate for the United Soybean Board (USB), which manages the funds collected through the soybean checkoff program on the national level. The terms of office include 3 three-year terms (nine years total).

Any duly registered commercial producer of soybeans is eligible to be nominated as the USB candidate.

Qualified producers may express their interest in nomination to have their name put forth to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), provided they meet the application requirements postmarked by *April 5*. Farmer-leaders serving on the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council will select a primary and secondary candidate to nominate. Applicants may submit their interest by emailing Baylee Asbury, director of outreach and education at basbury@mosoy.org. Please direct any questions to the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, 734 South Country Club Dr, Jefferson City, Missouri., or 573-635-3819. 📍




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*Discount applies to new & existing policies.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Missouri Soybean Association has been committed to the advancement of the soybean industry since 1966. Dedicated to improving the bottom line for soybean farmers and protecting their freedom to operate, the Missouri Soybean Association ensures farmers are heard at state, national and international levels.

While checkoff dollars are used solely for research and market promotion, your dues ensure the financial sustainability of Missouri soybean farmers by supporting and influencing legislative efforts.

MSA offers four levels of membership, ranging from farmer-member to lifetime advocate members. Check out the details of membership below or scan the QR code for more information!



ANNUAL ADVOCATE MEMBER

\$100

Benefits Include:

- 10% Discount to Cabela's
- Friends and Family discounts with Ford and Chrysler vehicles
- \$100 Commodity Classic Registration Discount
- 5% Discount on All CFM Policies
- ASA Soy Scholarship Eligibility
- Participation in MSA Events
- Regular Missouri policy updates
- Federal updates from the ASA

3-YEAR ADVOCATE MEMBER

\$250

Benefits Include:

- 10% Discount to Cabela's
- Friends and Family discounts with Ford and Chrysler vehicles
- \$100 Commodity Classic Registration Discount
- 5% Discount on All CFM Policies
- ASA Soy Scholarship Eligibility
- Participation in MSA Events
- Regular Missouri policy updates
- Federal updates from the ASA
- \$50 discount on membership

LIFETIME ADVOCATE MEMBER

\$1,500

Benefits Include:

- 10% Discount to Cabela's
- Friends and Family discounts with Ford and Chrysler vehicles
- \$100 Commodity Classic Registration Discount
- 5% Discount on All CFM Policies
- ASA Soy Scholarship Eligibility
- Participation in MSA Events
- Regular Missouri policy updates
- Federal updates from the ASA
- Lifetime Membership Sign



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