



SOY NEWS

Mid-South Farm and Gin Show

Activities

At the Mid-South Farm and Gin show USB farmer-directors, including Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board member Todd Allen, presented soybean checkoff messages including increasing soy biodiesel usage and supporting animal agriculture. During the event, USB co-sponsored a rust seminar featuring USB Director and ARSPB chairman John Cooper. Cooper presented how checkoff-funded rust research has developed short-term solutions like fungicide treatments and detection tips as well as long-term solutions such as research toward rust-resistant varieties.

ARSPB Funds University of Arkansas Rust Project

Early this year, the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board approved a proposal by the University of Arkansas. The Board allocated over \$226,000 to the UofA project, which has the following objectives:

1. To train crop monitoring personnel throughout the state about Asian rust including recognizing symptoms and understanding available control options. This will be accomplished by conducting "First Detector" training sessions during February and March 2005 at key locations in Arkansas.
2. To conduct additional grower and public education programs during the winter and spring of 2005 and develop new electronic and printed educational materials.
3. To establish a crop monitoring and soybean rust alert network during 2005 using sentinel plots, vigorous crop scouting and regional communication.
4. To establish fungicide and variety screening trials for assessment of new fungicides under Arkansas growing conditions and identify "slow rusting" cultivars.
5. To upgrade the Plant Disease Clinic to better respond to the expected surge of soybean samples during 2005.

New U.S. Soybean Export Council Holds Inaugural Meeting

U.S. soybean farmers have a new ally working on their behalf to remain competitive in a growing global marketplace. The United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC), a new organization that will implement a unified and coordinated international marketing program to build demand and brand for U.S. soybeans and soy products, held its inaugural meeting on March 31, 2005, in Chicago. USSEC will be governed by 19 representatives from the American Soybean Association (ASA), the United Soybean Board (USB) and U.S. soybean exporters and allied industry.

During the March 31 meeting, USSEC board members appointed interim officers. Neal Bredehoeft of Alma, Mo., and Mark Pietz of Lakefield, Minn., will act as co-chairmen. Ken Dalenberg of Mansfield, Ill., will act as treasurer and Gary Joachim of Owatonna, Minn., will act as secretary. USSEC will hold official elections at a later date.

"It's exciting to be on the ground floor of creating a new organization that will implement international market development activities on behalf of ASA and USB," Bredehoeft said. "The steps taken at our first meeting will help USSEC get its feet firmly planted on the ground so we can best serve the farmers we are representing."

USSEC board members also established working committees, assigned a charge to each committee and appointed

committee members during the inaugural meeting. The three committees are Finance, Membership, and Personnel. Committees have been asked to bring recommendations before the full board for consideration during the next USSEC board meeting. The board also established a process to hire a chief staff officer for the organization.

"In creating USSEC, ASA and USB farmer leaders recognized the importance of creating an industry-wide entity that allows us to react quickly in the ever-changing global marketplace," said Pietz. "With the establishment of USSEC, soybean farmers have a strong triad of their association, their checkoff, and now their own international marketing organization working for them."

USSEC was jointly developed by soybean farmers who serve on ASA and USB. ASA has been developing overseas markets for U.S. soybean growers since 1956. In 1991, after the inception of the national soybean checkoff, ASA and USB began working together to build international markets and increase competitiveness for U.S. soybean producers. USSEC will build off of ASA's nearly fifty years of successful soybean export activities by continuing to use the "ASA International Marketing" name. USSEC will work on behalf of ASA and USB to positively impact the U.S. soybean export market for the benefit of all U.S. soybean farmers.

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES BIODIESEL INCENTIVE

The 85th General Assembly passed a new state tax credit for the use of biodiesel. The Act provides a tax credit of 50 cents per gallon of biodiesel (B100) sold or used by the supplier in producing biodiesel blends that contain up to 2% biodiesel (B2) for on-road use. The tax credit will take effect only after biodiesel production begins in Arkansas.

Allen serving on USB Executive Committee

Todd Allen, ARSPB member from West Memphis, is now serving on the Executive Committee of the United Soybean Board. Todd also is chairman of USB's New Uses Committee, dedicated to developing new markets for soybean products.

U.S. Farmers Have Great Potential to Heed President's Call for Greater Use of Soy Biodiesel

Farmer-leaders of the soybean checkoff say U.S. agriculture has great potential to lead other economic sectors in the use of soy biodiesel. After visiting a Virginia soy biodiesel manufacturing plant with President George W. Bush in May of 2005, United Soybean Board (USB) Chairman Greg Anderson, a soybean farmer from Newman Grove, Neb., noted only the trucking and rail industries use more diesel than agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers use nearly 3 billion gallons of petroleum diesel every year," said Anderson. "If we all ask our fuel suppliers for just B2, a 2 percent blend of soy biodiesel with regular diesel, we could utilize close to 54 million gallons of soy biodiesel a year. That's helping displace foreign oil used to make diesel. And it's using U.S. soybean oil to make soy biodiesel from the equivalent of close to 40 million bushels of U.S. soybeans."

A biannual survey of U.S. soybean farmers conducted by the soybean checkoff earlier this year shows 36 percent of U.S. soybean farmers currently use soy biodiesel in their farming operation. That's an increase from 21 percent in a similar survey conducted in the fall of 2002.

While nearly four out of 10 of us use soy biodiesel, six out of 10 still don't," said Anderson. "The soybean checkoff wants 10 out of 10 U.S. soybean farmers using soy biodiesel. Our efforts won't cease until that's a fact."

The soybean checkoff survey shows the lack of availability continues to be cited as the top reason more U.S. soybean farmers don't use soy biodiesel. Though the number is falling, 66 percent of the soybean farmers who indicated they don't use biodiesel said it still isn't available in their area. But Anderson says what President Bush found during his visit to Virginia can

happen all over the country.

Soy biodiesel became available here in Virginia because farmers asked for it," said Anderson. "And that's the case all over the country. If your fuel supplier doesn't carry it, find one that will. And then use it on your farm or ranch."

Soybean checkoff dollars invested by farmer-driven USB and Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs) have been instrumental in the development and market expansion of soy biodiesel in the United States for more than a decade. For example, the soybean checkoff invested more than a million dollars this year in the National Biodiesel Board, the trade organization of the biodiesel industry, for soy biodiesel research and promotion. USB has also invested over \$3 million dollars during the last three years in its Biobased Products Initiative, which reimburses several QSSBs for short-term, state-based soy biodiesel and soy biobased product market expansion activities.

Soy biodiesel is affordable, it adds lubricity to fuel and it improves the performance of our diesel engines," said Anderson. "Perhaps most important, and as the President said today, every time we use home-grown biodiesel, we support U.S. farmers, not foreign oil producers."

Investing in soy biodiesel is another way the effective and efficient soybean checkoff works to give U.S. soybean farmers a competitive edge.

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**Denotes a representative to the United Soybean Board*

Administrator: Brandy Carroll, Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation.
For questions about any information in this newsletter or for more information on board-funded programs, please contact any of the above board members, call 501-228-1268, or write Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board, P. O. Box 31, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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