Tackle Tough 2013 Pests

• What’s in your Soybeans?
• Fresh Take on Soybean Research
On the Hunt for SOYBEAN PREMIUMS?

Point your browser to SoybeanPremiums.org!

This regularly updated site lists first purchasers, locations and details for soybean premium programs such as non-GMO contracts and food grade soybeans. Click on “Find a Premium Program” to see what opportunities are available in your area.

Funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff.
Cover Story

Integrated Approach Best for Tough Diseases and Weeds

University researchers predict Illinois soybean farmers will continue to face the ever-present soybean cyst nematode (SCN), tough weeds and diseases in 2013. And in every case, the potential for resistance development comes up. That challenges management practices but also prompts researchers to offer tried-and-true recommendations for the coming season.

Yield

Farmers a Key Component to Soybean Research Success

Research information traditionally has passed through statewide Extension offices. However, state investments in Extension continue to decrease, which can reduce the flow of information to farmers. Illinois university leaders have come up with some ideas on how to involve the state’s soybean farmers in more hands-on research, which could lead to greater success.

Quality

How Do Your Soybean Contents Stack Up?

Soybean protein and oil levels after crushing factor into the price customers pay for processed soybeans and the price processors ultimately pay to farmers. But is Illinois soybean composition up to the demands of the marketplace? Read the survey results for your region.

Transportation

New Outlet to Enhance Soybean Market Access

Getting soybeans to market is no easy task. Some companies are investing in transportation infrastructure to try and ensure Illinois soybean farmers don’t lose their competitive advantage. One of those facilities is set to open in May, and open new doors for soybean movement.

Animal Ag

Animal Ag Growth Needs Community Support

A healthy animal agriculture industry can have a hefty economic impact. New livestock and poultry barns benefit local communities in many ways. But securing that expansion can be a challenge. Learn how one farm family was successful in getting their plans approved, and how it can work in Illinois.

Leadership

Take Tips from the Soy Ambassador Playbook

ISA’s new class of Soy Ambassadors – seven farmers who are part of a two-year leadership program funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff – are just beginning their experience. But they already have thoughts to share about leadership and the future of the soybean industry.
Never Too Old to Learn

You’ve heard the saying, “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” I have to disagree with that statement. Illinois soybean farmers at any age can benefit from continued learning opportunities, and should, as we farm in a fast-paced, technologically advanced world.

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) recognizes this opportunity. With funding from the soybean checkoff and with dollars from our corporate partners and other sources, we have begun to offer more chances for farmers to gather information, interact with ag experts and participate in hands-on education sessions designed to improve our productivity and profitability.

Earlier this month, ISA coordinated its second Illinois Soybean Profitability Summit. The “Shape Your Future as a Soybean Grower” event allowed farmers to learn new techniques and innovative practices that can help attendees boost yield potential and maximize profits.

The event also was the official kickoff for the 2013 Yield Challenge. Farmers are encouraged to sign up and work with their agronomists, retailers or manufacturers to develop a single practice or set of technologies they want to test and compare to their traditional management practices this year. Farmers no longer need to sign up as a team with a sponsor. Enter the challenge directly and get more information about registration and rules at www.soyyieldchallenge.com.

This issue of Illinois Field & Bean focuses on yield and pest management. While the magazine itself can be a learning tool through articles that provide production tips, we also try and point farmers in the direction of additional information and resources. Look for links to websites in the pages ahead, as well as take note of the experts quoted and follow up with any questions.

Finally, I challenge other Illinois soybean farmers to provide input on the continued learning opportunities you would like to see from ISA. One of the best ways to offer your insight is to become active in Illinois soybean industry leadership. ISA has director positions opening soon, and we are looking for farmers who want to contribute to our future, as well as participate in activities that can advance Illinois soybean production. ISA directors also have the chance to participate in short-term educational opportunities that range from seminars to see-for-yourself missions, to a variety of conferences. Visit www.ilsoy.org for more information.

As we head to the fields for another season, remember you are never too old to learn. Look for opportunities this year to grow professionally. Have a safe planting season.

Bill Wykes
ISA Chairman
Driving across Illinois, through miles of some of the world’s most productive farmland, it seems the weight of the world is upon us. The world’s population has already shot past seven billion, and we’re going to add the equivalent of two more Chinas in the next generation. It’s going to fall on Illinois farmers and other American producers to shoulder the responsibility of feeding many of those people – and it must be done sustainably.

Sustainable farming means producing the food, feed and fiber the world needs without depleting our natural resources. It means protecting our soil for the long haul, making the best possible use of our nutrients, and conserving and protecting our water. It also means achieving efficiency in our input use to maintain the economic viability of our farms and farmers.

That’s a challenge every bit as critical as the space program of the 1960s or the search for a cure for cancer. It takes science, commitment and skill. But unlike sending a man to the moon or developing a new medicine, combining productivity and sustainability starts on every farm.

A group of farmers and their neighbors in Livingston County, Ill., has chosen to be proactive in the face of such a daunting challenge. Fairbury isn’t a big town, nor is it near any major attractions. But Fairbury and the Indian Creek watershed it sits in are quickly becoming a global center of sustainable farming innovation.

The Indian Creek Watershed Steering Committee works with a diverse group of public and private partners, including the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), ISA and the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) to coordinate a series of projects and demonstrations around Fairbury.

Those farmers, advisors and regulators team up to put conservation practices to the test on real farms. They’re fine-tuning nitrogen use efficiency. They’re managing tile drainage water. They’re planting buffers to capture sediment and nutrients before they wash into creeks and ditches, and experimenting with cover crops that recycle nutrients while improving the soil.

Just as important, they are sharing conservation success by hosting tours and meetings to help teach others about these innovative practices and systems, and how the benefits can be applied anywhere. By opening their farms to visitors, they build bridges between the ag community and non-farming neighbors who appreciate increasing productivity and cleaner water.

The road to feeding the world’s growing population leads through Fairbury, Ill.; past rich crops, cleaner streams and town halls where an entire community supports the push for sustainable production and reaps the benefits. That’s the most beautiful image I can imagine of the peaceful and pastoral setting of rural Illinois.

Make sure you reserve July 10 on your calendars as a day to visit the area for CTIC’s Conservation In Action Tour. You’ll see firsthand how farmers put conservation practices to the benefit of water, sustainable agriculture and the community. Visit www.ctic.org/CIATours/.

Sustainable farming means producing the food, feed and fiber the world needs without depleting our natural resources.

Chad R. Watts is project director for the CTIC, West Lafayette, Ind. CTIC champions, promotes and provides information about technologies and sustainable agricultural systems. Watts manages all CTIC on-the-ground projects, including the Indian Creek Project.
Integrated Approach Best for Tough 2013 Diseases and Weeds

By Joanie Stiers

In all of soybean farmer Rowen Ziegler’s 35 years of farming, never have diseases and weeds proved more complicated.

“The weed and disease issues and even insect issues out there are going to evolve and develop, and we have to keep on top of them,” says the LaHarpe, Ill., farmer and ISA Production Committee chair.

University researchers predict Illinois soybean farmers will continue to face the ever-present soybean cyst nematode (SCN), weeds, diseases and other pests in 2013. And in every case, the potential for resistance development will thread throughout the conversation, challenging management practices but also prompting researchers to stand by their previous recommendations of recent years to:

• Take an integrated approach to diseases and weeds.
• Focus on variety selection.
• Rotate pesticides.
• Consider row-crop cultivator use.
• Try cover crops.

“The long-term solution for these problems will not be poured out of a two-and-a-half-gallon jug,” says Aaron Hager, University of Illinois associate professor of weed science.

SCN Threat Continues

With an estimated 80 percent of Illinois fields containing cyst nematodes, chances are that every farmer in the state could face it this year. SCN can rob up to 40 percent of production before farmers see its effects, says Jason Bond, Southern Illinois University Carbondale associate professor of plant pathology.

“Don’t have the mindset of trying to eliminate it. Have the mindset of trying to manage it,” says Bond. “SCN will be...”
there and will attack plants, even in the best management scenario."

Bond says nematicide seed treatment availability in recent years has increased inquiries about SCN and the economics of paying for treatments. And, he says, the treatments generally prove worth the cost. Seed treatments stop early invasion of roots by juvenile nematodes, even on resistant varieties, and also can benefit the plant’s overall health. His advice:

• Plant resistant varieties, and have greater confidence in their efficacy. Soybean checkoff-funded research has tested the “SCN-resistant” claims put out by some seed companies and improved the reliability of choices available to farmers.

• Keep with commonplace management practices, such as crop rotation and taking soil samples every three to five years. Those samples can compare nematode severity over time.

Research Combats Fungicide Resistance

Resistance continues to increase among soybean diseases, with frogeye leaf spot among them. In the last three growing seasons, six Illinois counties have reported incidences of strobilurin fungicide-resistant strains of Cercospora sojina, the pathogen that causes frogeye leaf spot, says Carl Bradley, University of Illinois Extension plant pathologist.

Fortunately, new research funded by the United Soybean Board (USB) shows that other classes of fungicides show promise in the ability to reduce the severity of this foliar disease, he says. In fact, in a study last year at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs facility in southern Illinois, some triazole, benzimidazole and choronictrile fungicides proved effective (visit http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=1730).

“The main message is not to rely solely on one management practice or one chemistry class to manage fungicide resistance,” he says.

Herbicide Resistance Escalates

Likewise, herbicide resistance continues to escalate every year, while availability of new herbicides to combat weeds slows. Hager sees no new products in the foreseeable future. Instead, his recommendation to take an integrated approach remains unchanged. He says farmers should rotate traits in variety selection, vary herbicide chemistries and realize that walking fields or using row-crop cultivators may be necessary. He also

Weeds to Watch

Hager says scouting and integrated management practices are key to keeping four weeds at bay in 2013:

1. Waterhemp. This weed continues to evolve with resistance to various herbicide families, not just glyphosate.

2. Horseweed or “marestail.” While most troublesome in limited tillage systems, it can challenge any farm and may move more northward in the state this year. Experts suspect many populations have glyphosate resistance.

3. Giant ragweed. The competitive weed proves difficult to control with a single herbicide application.

4. Palmer amaranth. While the weed has been in Illinois for a long time, experts show great concern that glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth may be introduced via seed transport. This aggressive, adaptable, highly competitive weed can grow 2-3 inches per day, which potentially creates more devastating yield loss than waterhemp. Palmer amaranth appears to be moving northward and threatens to alter management practices, as it already has in the Mid-South and Southeast.
Cover Story

serves the Illinois soybean checkoff.

Funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff.

suggests looking into cover crops to improve weed control.

Cover crops can compete with tough weeds, and also help control white mold and significantly reduce SCN activity. But realizing these benefits takes an elevated level of management, adds Dan Towery, Ag Conservation Solutions, Lafayette, Ind. In fact, poorly managed cover crops can work in reverse and become weeds to the next crop, if not killed properly with herbicides or winter kill.

- Certain cover crops reduce SCN populations. In one study, annual ryegrass reduced SCN eggs from 11,500 to 117, equating to a 12-bushel soybean yield increase, Plumer says. Cereal rye and rapeseed also exhibit SCN reduction abilities.

Herbicide Carryover Possible

As farmers weigh spring decisions, history suggests herbicide carryover may be a concern. Drought conditions in 2012 did not allow for sufficient degradation of products that soil microbes generally break down. And, says Hager, the consequences of carryover can prove ugly, as evidenced in 1989 following the 1988 drought. Results can range from just cosmetic injury to plants, to having to replant.

Hager advises first looking at what residual products were applied last year and when they were applied. Of particular concern are residual herbicides that degrade primarily by soil microbes. The later the application into 2012, he says, the greater the concern for carryover.

“Certainly, planting the same crop reduces worry. However, farmers who intend to rotate crops into that soil may want to test it first,” he says. “Farmers can pot some treated soil, and then plant the intended seed in the pot. Likewise, farmers should plant seed into pots of non-treated soil for comparison.”

If the soil check causes concern, farmers should consider planting the same crop or delay planting to give more time for herbicide degradation.

Consider Double-Cropping for Healthy Returns

Farmers may also want to weigh other cropping options to boost returns. Emerson Nafziger, University of Illinois Extension agronomist, says soybean yields of only 8-10 bushels per acre can cover expenses and provide some return at current prices in double-crop settings with wheat.

With double-crop soybean yield prospects so subject to weather, Nafziger recommends a “pay-as-you-go” approach, tracking plant stand, growth and weather forecasts to assess yield prospects before making the commitment to spend additional money at each step through the season.

“As long as plants are green and growing, there’s hope rain can produce some yield. Still, some fields in 2012 were clearly not going to produce, and pulling the plug early was the right move,” he says. “Full-season soybeans proved their resilience to 2012’s hot, dry weather. Corn in 2012 yielded only 105 bushels per acre, while soybeans yielded 43 bushels per acre. This ratio of 2.5 is the most favorable for soybeans in decades.”

USDA reports Illinois farmers seeded 830,000 acres of winter wheat for 2013. Don Guinnip, soybean farmer from Marshall, Ill., and ISA director, estimates soybeans will follow 50-70 percent of those acres. “One of ISA’s goals is for Illinois farmers to produce 600 million bushels of soybeans by 2020,” he says. “If we’re going to increase soybean production in Illinois, we’re going to have to do it with acres and yield both. Some of that can be realized by the double-crop system.”

Weed ID at your Fingertips

A new weed identification app for iPhones, iPads and Android devices contains information on more than 400 weeds. To download, search for “ID Weeds” at the Apple App or Google Play stores, or navigate the Web version at weedID.missouri.edu.
Farmers a Key Component to Soybean Research Success

The Illinois soybean checkoff funds production research that addresses the biggest concerns of soybean farmers. And while results are shared with farmers through magazines, newsletters, online resources, presentations and conferences, involving farmers in more hands-on studies may yield even more profit-boosting success.

Land-grant universities, including the University of Illinois, were established in the late 1800s to perform research and then help farmers apply research findings in their own fields. Although Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) is not a land-grant university, Mickey LaTour, dean of agricultural sciences, has a vision that expands the Extension concept with new ways to translate findings from labs into soybean farmers’ fields.

“We have the information,” says Latour. “Now, how can we actually move the needle to increase soybean yields in a very hands-on way?”

Information traditionally has passed through statewide Extension offices. However, state investments in Extension continue to decrease, which reduces the flow of information to farmers.

Latour sees students working with faculty advisors and Illinois soybean farmers at test plots to implement findings of checkoff-funded research from each of Illinois’ four ag universities: SIUC, the University of Illinois, Illinois State University and Western Illinois University.

“The program would activate what is being done at universities at a grassroots level in Illinois soybean fields, and provide an enriching, hands-on experience for students interested in agriculture,” he says. Latour hopes to launch the ideas by next spring.

In another approach at the University of Illinois Crop Physiology Laboratory, researcher Jason Haegle recently assisted in the development of “Six Secrets of Soybean Success,” a study funded by both the soybean checkoff and private companies. The study's goal is to help identify the best combinations of agronomic management practices to increase soybean yields.

“Partnerships exist between universities and industry groups to create field experiments, and we hope to get farmers involved in that process with test plots on their farms,” says Haegle, who believes the approach reflects the industry's common interest in making farmers more profitable. “Soybeans aren’t considered a secondary crop anymore. We know yields can be increased through management. We must be more efficient at sharing what we know with farmers.”

Where do Research Dollars Go?

Up to one-half of Illinois soybean checkoff dollars collected per year have been invested in research initiatives conducted at private firms, at the four Illinois agriculture universities, and the National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL) at the University of Illinois.

“We invest in the research than can help Illinois farmers be more profitable and competitive, and ISA facilitates this by making results as accessible as possible,” says Rowen Ziegler, soybean farmer from LaHarpe, Ill., and ISA director. “That involves joining with industry partners in adopting new ways of sharing information with farmers.”

Ken Ferrie, for example, is an independent crop consultant based in Central Illinois who disseminates the latest soybean research through presentations to thousands of farmers year-round and at field demonstrations to smaller groups.

“My topics come from farmers who want to know more about a certain management tip or information from a recent study,” says Ferrie. “I replicate the research so farmers can visualize how they can implement it on their farms.”

March 2013
Whether you can measure it or not, higher protein and oil levels in Illinois soybeans are important to your profitability. Soybean components after crushing factor into the price customers pay for processed soybeans and the price processors ultimately pay to farmers.

That’s why ISA and the Illinois Crop Improvement Association joined together in a statewide study last year to find out how protein and oil levels in Illinois soybeans stack up to end user demand. The soybean checkoff-funded analysis of 502 Illinois soybean samples found average protein levels fell just short of the 35 percent industry target, at 34.3 percent. Average state oil levels were on target at 19 percent, although several regional averages fell below that target.

Historical data from the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) show protein and oil levels in Illinois soybeans have been decreasing in recent years, similar to trends in other soybean-producing states. Meanwhile, data provided by Japanese oilseed processors show that soybeans from Brazil consistently have higher protein and oil content than U.S. soybeans.

“Higher protein and oil content in soybeans produces greater yield of soybean meal and oil at the crush plant and higher quality, or protein content, of the meal,” says Sharon Bard, program coordinator at Centrec Consulting Group in Savoy, Ill., the firm that analyzed the sample results. “Higher protein and oil content increases value for the entire chain, and protects markets from competition. More yield and higher quality meal impacts farmer profits.”

That value is quantified in the Estimated Process Value (EPV). The study found that soybeans from northeast Illinois had the highest EPV, while those from the west had the lowest. Values ranged from $14.17 to $15.87 per bushel. EPV was based on the composition of the soybeans including protein, oil and crude fiber, and November USDA price averages for the oil, meal and hulls. More on EPV is available at ilsoy.org/isa/composition/.

Bill Raben, soybean farmer from Ridgway, Ill., and ISA director, says the results confirm there is room for improvement in composition to keep up with growing competition and to ensure potential profits aren’t missed. “We now have an idea of where composition is good and where it can improve within the state,” he says. “Luckily, solutions are within farmer control. Planting season is approaching, and soybean farmers should make sure they choose varieties that promise at least 35 percent protein and 19 percent oil.”

The 2012 season was the first time such research has been conducted in Illinois. As additional annual surveys are conducted and multiple survey results are evaluated together, the industry could gain further insight to help Illinois farmers provide the market with superior composition soybeans. To review composition of soybean varieties grown in Illinois, visit www.VIPsoybeans.org.
SOUTH AMERICA IS TAKING OUR PLACE.

Scary thought, isn’t it? The good news is we can do something about it every time we choose a soybean variety to put into the ground. If we start getting closer to 35 percent protein and 19 percent oil, our beans would be a lot more attractive to domestic livestock producers and foreign markets—and we’d help stop the loss of export share to Brazil and other foreign competitors. It’s time to talk with your seed dealer or Certified Crop Adviser about protein and oil. Then visit VIPsoybeans.org to validate your seed selection and ilsoy.org for more information.
New Outlet to Enhance Illinois Soybean Market Access

Getting soybeans to market is no small feat, especially in light of low river levels and aging modes of transportation. To try and ensure Illinois soybean farmers don’t lose their competitive advantage, companies such as ADM are investing in transportation infrastructure.

“Farmers work hard to improve crop production, but if we cannot get those crops to market efficiently and competitively, we take away all that hard work,” says Mark Schweitzer, managing director, intermodal/container freight at ADM.

ADM will open in May an intermodal facility between its corn and soybean processing plants in Decatur, Ill. The new facility will allow products from either plant to ship in containers on three Class I railroads. The container ramp is being added to a recently constructed rail switching yard. Previously, CSX and CN rail lines only serviced the corn plant, and the NS rail line only serviced the soybean plant, which limited market access.

ISA directors and staff learned about the benefits Illinois farmers will receive from the intermodal facility during a meeting at ADM’s headquarters.

“Our proximity to so many transportation options that reach markets in almost any direction gives Illinois an edge,” says Paul Rasmussen, soybean farmer from Genoa, Ill., and ISA vice chair for transportation. “Adding this option for processed soybeans should solidify a consistent market supply and translate into consistent demand for our beans.”

The additional transportation option could open new market opportunities, too. Phase one of the intermodal facility will be able to support 160 container lifts per day. ADM will be able to triple that capacity in the future.

Illinois currently has 22 intermodal facilities and, according to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, regularly has a large supply of empty containers.

“Being in the heart of Illinois and on three Class I railroads, we will be able to reposition empty containers to our ramp efficiently,” says Schweitzer. “We can switch containers from one railroad to another without a fee, and truckers bringing in containers will be able to avoid traffic congestion that surrounds other intermodal facilities.”

Industry experts say ongoing concern about port worker strikes and low inland waterway levels are important reasons to have several shipping options available.

“Options for U.S. producers and exporters to reach foreign markets are expanding as ag commodities continue to migrate from bulk shipping to containerization,” confirms Peter Friedmann, Agriculture Transportation Coalition executive director. “With this opportunity to achieve greater efficiency comes the obligation of transportation providers to continuously work to improve infrastructure and procedures.”

ADM’s infrastructure improvements highlight an area ISA is focused on this year; aligning farmer needs with the supply chain and customer needs.
Ryan Sands and his family have learned that farmer unity within a local community can lead to growth—a lesson that can be applied by farmers in Illinois and other states.

The Silver Lake, Ind., crop and livestock farmer experienced such unity firsthand during the last two years while going through the permitting process to expand their hog operation. Sands Farms was founded in 1846 in northern Indiana’s Kosciusko County. The operation currently includes Ryan’s grandfather, father, two uncles and his two younger brothers. Many family members, including Ryan, also have off-farm jobs.

“Both my brothers want to join Dad farming full-time, and we want to keep our farm profitable for all our families,” says Sands. “To make that possible, we decided to expand our hog production with new barns.”

As the Sands family went through the permitting process, they experienced organized challenges within their community.

“Although we were doing things by the book, we found ourselves in a fight,” he says. “But the ag community rallied around us. At our first area plan meeting, we had about 200 people show up to support us. We were amazed that these farmers took time to come, even though they weren’t directly involved.”

Kyle Tom, a crop farmer with Tom Farms in nearby Leesburg, Ind., was among those who showed up to support Sands Farms.

“Not many people support farmers in our area,” says Tom. “Farmers need to support each other because we depend on each other. If we stand together, we have more leverage, more resources and better representation.”

Sands Farms received similar ag community support at their Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hearing and in response to editorial letters.

“We take our community leadership role seriously,” Tom explains. “We want to support farmers like Sands Farms who are doing the right thing. Their new barns will generate tax dollars for the community, and they will help feed a growing world population.”

Sands says their two-year fight to get barns approved became an opportunity to educate neighbors. “Through a series of efforts, we were able to tell the people of Kosciusko County what we do and how we do it,” he says. “The more united the ag community, the better we can do educating people, and the stronger we are to withstand challenges.”

Sands Farms received final approval to build four, 4,000-head finishing barns in early January, and they plan to break ground this month.

**Ryan, Scott and Aaron Sands represent the seventh generation of active farmers in their family. (L to R) Jensen, Ryan, Graycee, Brystal, Devan, John, Marsha, Aaron, Jenn and Scott Sands.**

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**Animal Ag Needs Community Support**

A healthy animal agriculture industry can have a hefty economic impact. That is one reason supporting livestock and poultry farmers is a top priority for the Illinois soybean checkoff. Livestock and poultry barns benefit local communities in many ways:

- **Provide a local market for soybeans and corn.**
- **Supply income and jobs for the farm, often allowing another generation or branch of the family to make a living.**
- **Generate taxes that support local schools, roads and more.**
- **Allow money to spill into local communities. In Illinois, for each dollar of output created by the livestock and processing industry, 98 cents of additional economic activity is created outside the industry.**

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**“I State” Animal Ag Production Trends 1999-2009**

Help ISA with Anniversary Celebration Preparations

ISA directors and staff are seeking help from soybean farmers across the state, as planning for soybean anniversaries in 2014 continues. ISA would like to use memories and photos from Illinois farmers that illustrate soybean production history across the state from the last 100 years, as well as memories and photos that show ISA activities during the last 50 years.

ISA was created in 1964 as a membership organization to provide legislative representation for the state’s soybean growers. The year-long anniversary recognition will officially kick off at the 2013 Farm Progress Show in Decatur. Please go to the link found on the ISA website, www.ilsoy.org/isa/contact-us/share-your-stories-and-photos/, and enter your memories and send any photos we might use in the commemorative issue of this magazine. You also can contact Angel Flesher at fleshera@ilsoy.org or call 309-808-3600 with questions.

ISA Corporate Partners

- Executive
  - Monsanto
  - Novozymes BioAg
- Principal
  - ADM
  - DowAgroSciences
- Core
  - DuPont Pioneer
  - BASF
  - Cargill
  - Beck’s Hybrids
- Associate
  - Bunge North America
  - GROWMARK
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  - Syngenta
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  - Bayer CropScience
  - The Andersons
  - Becker Underwood
  - CGB Twomey Group
  - Ursa Farmers Co-op
  - Crop Production Services
  - Bio Soil Enhancers
  - AgVenture Inc.
  - Valent U.S.A.

Lawmakers need to hear from you


Sign up.

Respond to legislation that impacts you.

Take action.

Share your story with legislators.

Register for Voice for Soy, Save on Membership

If you are not currently a member or your membership has lapsed, now is a great time to join Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG). ISG provides for Illinois soybean farmers advocacy in Springfield and Washington, D.C. The organization is offering a savings of $50 with every three-year membership when farmers also register with the Voice for Soy Legislative Action Center at any farm show or special membership event. That reduces the cost of a three-year membership to $145. Growers can complete a membership application online at www.ilsoygrowers.org.

Voice for Soy gives growers the ability to track key legislative issues, share information and mobilize quickly via email alerts, while providing members a voice at state and national levels.
The Panel:
- Cassandra DeJaynes, LaHarpe
- Matthew DeSutter, Woodhull
- Frank Legner, Odell
- Kate Longley, Aledo
- Jeff Lynn, Oakford
- Austin Rincker, Moweaqua
- Jenny Mennenga, LeRoy

**Take Tips from Soy Ambassador Playbook**

SA’s new class of Soy Ambassadors – seven farmers who are part of a two-year leadership program funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff – are just beginning their experience. They shared their thoughts about leadership and the future of the industry with *Illinois Field & Bean*:

**Why did you decide to get involved with soybean leadership?**

*Frank Legner:* I want to become a better-rounded farmer. Being in this program has opened my eyes to issues on a global, as well as state, level. That helps me start to be part of the solution to the issues in my operation.

*Kate Longley:* Growing up on a family farm and being educated in agronomy at Iowa State University, I have learned a lot about hard work and crop production. However, I feel I need to be more knowledgeable about what happens after crops leave our farm. I can learn this through ISA. I became involved because I want to be the best advocate for agriculture that I can be.

*Austin Rincker:* I became involved to learn more about ISA. In my short time with the association, I have been amazed at the amount of programs that ISA is involved with and what they do to represent Illinois soybean farmers. Illinois farmers should be very proud of the work that ISA is doing to promote and improve their product.

**What would you tell other farmers to encourage them to get involved with leadership?**

*Jenny Mennenga:* I think it is more important than ever to be an advocate for our industry. We live in an information age, and not all the information is accurate or flattering. We need to be able to tell our story about our industry. Being involved makes you more informed and more confident.

*Matthew DeSutter:* With less than two percent of the population being farmers in today’s world, we all need to be involved in order to have our voices heard in both Springfield and Washington, D.C.

*Jeff Lynn:* Illinois soybean farmers need to take the initiative. For example, if we do not produce a better quality bean than our competitors, we will lose export business and demand for our soybeans. This also is true of our animal feed business. If we don’t produce soybeans with higher oil/protein content, livestock producers will import soybeans from outside Illinois.

**What is the primary issue critical to the future of soybean production?**

*Mennenga:* Economics of growing soybeans, especially with high input and land costs.

*Cassandra DeJaynes:* Product quality and marketing.

*DeSutter:* Transportation -- we need to update locks and dams and keep the river open.

*Longley:* Exporting soybeans with higher yields, oil and protein content.

*Rincker:* Increasing the amount of livestock on feed in Illinois, our number one customer.

**What do you hope to accomplish as a Soy Ambassador to help the industry?**

*DeJaynes:* I hope to identify key problems in our industry on both a local and global scale so I can help others come up with solutions to solve those problems.

*DeSutter:* I hope to become more knowledgeable about the soybean industry and be able to spread my knowledge to the public and those elected to office. Once my time is done as an ambassador, I hope that it leads to more opportunities to serve ISA in the future.

*Legner:* I would like to help producers increase profitability with a focus on production. The soybean industry has programs in place to help farmers try innovative ideas to add bushels. I hope to use these ideas on my operation and lead farmers in my area to do the same. ♥
Kevin Johnson Joins IFCA

The Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (IFCA) has hired Kevin Johnson as director of government and industry relations. In the position, Johnson will be responsible for carrying out legislative and regulatory policy objectives for IFCA and fostering positive working relationships with state and federal legislators and agency officials and industry organizations.

Since 2001, Johnson served as the agricultural liaison for Congressman Tim Johnson, assisting with policy issues including agriculture, energy, water and environmental regulations. He grew up on a farm in Champaign/Vermilion counties and earned a degree in agriculture and political science from Illinois State University. IFCA represents the crop production input supply and service industry including ag retailers, crop protection and fertilizer manufacturers, distributors and equipment suppliers. For more information, visit www.ifca.com.

Illinois Farmer Re-elected to Lead Soy Aquaculture Alliance

Duane Dahlman, soybean farmer from Marengo, Ill., and ISA director, has been elected to serve a second term as chairman of the Soy Aquaculture Alliance (SAA).

“I look forward to serving my second term as chair. The goal of SAA is to create partnerships that will help the aquaculture industry grow. Since this is a new organization, we will be focusing our efforts in the upcoming year on getting the word out there that U.S. soybean farmers want to help support the aquaculture industry,” says Dahlman. “As a soybean farmer, I am committed to developing diverse markets for the products I grow. With demand for global aquaculture increasing so rapidly, we are committed to meeting increased demand for feeds.”

SAA was developed to ensure a safe supply of affordable seafood for the U.S. and an abundant supply of high quality soybeans and soy ingredients for the aquaculture feed industry.

Comprised of private industry and several Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs), SAA is working to make U.S. soybeans the most widely trusted, commonly used aquafeed ingredient.

Ask for Biodiesel Campaign Underway

Few within the state benefit as much from biodiesel production as farmers do, yet not everyone supports the industry by using biodiesel in their trucks and heavy farm equipment. A new advertising campaign from REG, one of Illinois’ largest biodiesel producers, seeks to change that. REG, headquartered in Iowa, has partnered with groups to fund an effort designed to encourage Iowa farmers to use higher biodiesel blends in their operations. The same concept could be applied in Illinois. The “More B For Me” campaign is all about re-educating growers about the economic benefits of biodiesel in the ag sector and then encouraging them to ask their fuel supplier, especially co-ops, for a higher blend of biodiesel. The campaign stresses that biodiesel performs in cold weather, can lower soybean meal prices, and reduce foreign oil dependence.
The New High Value Crop

Be a part of making it happen. Take the challenge.

Soybean Growers! This is your opportunity to test new and innovative farming practices to boost soybean yields. Best of all, be recognized and rewarded for it.

The Illinois Soybean Association created the Yield Challenge three years ago to boost yields. Our goal is to help meet the growing worldwide demand and to make Illinois soybean growers the global leaders in soybean production. Soybeans can be the new high value crop. We are inviting growers from across Illinois to explore, strategize and test new methods and crop protection products. Each district will have a first and second place award of $500 and $250. Plus, each winner will receive a certificate and recognition at the annual Illinois Commodity Conference!

For more details and to register, please visit www.soyyieldchallenge.com or email yieldchallenge@ilsoy.org.

Registration Fee: Only $25 per participant per entry!

Funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff.
Industrial Uses Partner  Franmar Chemical, based in Bloomington, Ill., uses 47,000 pounds of soybean oil per month (equal to the oil from nearly 4,300 bushels) to make industrial cleaning products. When Frank Sliney, a former commodities broker, started the company 30 years ago, that number was a mere five gallons (about 38 pounds). Today, soybean oil is a main ingredient in most of Franmar’s 42 products. Jason Davenport, marketing director, says the company is constantly looking for new soybean oil uses to meet customer needs.

Soy is Illinois Company’s Natural Choice

Why does Franmar Chemical choose soy and other natural ingredients for its products?
Soybean oil is a renewable, safe, non-toxic alternative to chemicals found in many cleaning products, and it also is an efficient solvent. Soy oil naturally migrates into dirt, grime, paints and oils that need to be cleaned off, and does so very effectively without health hazards to people, pets or the environment. Currently, our best seller is a soy-based paint and urethane remover. Second to that is our screen printing line of cleaners, which includes our very first product. Most of our products are soy-based, but we use other natural ingredients like seaweed, oranges and pineapples.

How does Franmar Chemical create a soybean oil market?
It is common for people to only think of soy as a food, but its versatility supports many additional markets. The first product we developed three decades ago was a screen printer cleaner called BEAN-e-doo made from 100 percent soybeans. Much of our new product development comes from listening to customer requests for green alternatives. We have evolved through research and development to provide cleaning products for the home, businesses, automotives, marine and boating, asphalt, concrete and more.

How do Illinois soybean farmers contribute to Franmar Chemical’s success?
Through checkoff funds and support from the United Soybean Board, we have been able to innovate various products that increase the market for soy oil while providing our customers with natural products. In the mid-1990s we used checkoff funds to create a type of plastic packaging that holds up to solvents without leaching. More recently, checkoff funds helped Franmar scientists develop a soy-based mildew cleaner. Another way Illinois soybean farmers support us is by providing us with quality soybean oil. We source oil from two facilities in Illinois and one in Iowa. As the company continues to grow and add soy-based products, it is crucial that the soybean oil supply grows to meet what we need to make our products and serve customers.

“Franmar Chemical benefits the Illinois economy and soybean industry with its many soy-based cleaning products that create demand for our soybean oil,” says Lyle Wessel, soybean farmer from Waterloo, Ill., and ISA director.

Franmar Chemical in Bloomington, Ill., manufactures soy-based cleaning products for more than 100 distributors worldwide.
From the Illinois Commodity Conference last November through the Illinois Soybean Profitability Summit earlier this month, ISA has met with Illinois farmers across the state and at other regional events, sharing information about animal agriculture, transportation and yield and quality programs. Participation in farm shows provides an opportunity for ISA to educate farmers about checkoff-funded activities, as well as solicit feedback on various programs and generate input from farmers to further industry goals.

Paul Rasmussen, soybean farmer from Genoa, Ill., and ISA director, talks about ISA programs with an attendee during the Northern Illinois Farm Show. Farmers who stopped by the booth were able to nominate a soybean variety to be included in the VIPS trials, as well as provide memories, comments and photos for use by ISA during its anniversary celebration beginning in September 2013.

Soy Ambassador Jenny Mennenga talks with a farmer during the Midwest Ag Expo held in Rantoul, Ill., in January. As a Soy Ambassador, Mennenga, from LeRoy, Ill., will spend two years building leadership skills to advance the future of the Illinois soybean industry.

ISA Connects with Producers at Farm Shows

ISA gave away $25 worth of biodiesel every hour at farm shows. Winners, such as those listed here during the Quad Cities Farm Show, were notified via the list posted at the ISA booth.
"I pledge my loyalty to the fight against glyphosate resistant weeds, and to my fields upon which they grow, for all farmers, with liberty and no weeds for all."

Glyphosate is a great herbicide, however, continued use has resulted in weed resistance throughout the Midwest. Take Beck's Liberty® pledge and be free of weed resistance. Claim your freedom. Plant Beck's. Choose Liberty.

Take advantage of the LinkUp™ offer from Bayer CropScience and receive a cash-equivalent rebate of $5/unit on your Beck’s LibertyLink soybean seed! Call 1-800-937-2325 or visit www.beckshybrids.com/libertysoybeans.

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