TRAITS APPROVALS EXPAND SEED SELECTION

Manage by Soil Type

Take Quality into Consideration
Nature is teeming with hard-working microbes. In the soil and on the seed, they work to help enhance nutrient availability and uptake for your crops. Monsanto BioAg leads the way in harnessing the power of these microbes to help unlock the nutrients in your soil and maximize your yield potential.

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EU Green Lights Three Biotech Traits

Soybean seed options for 2017 got a lot broader this summer when the European Union (EU) finally cleared three biotech events for import and processing. Read how Illinois farmers will have more weed control strategies and eventually a new high-oleic soybean choice.

FFA Plot Draws Attention to Soybean Quality Value

An ag instructor and his students got a different kind of lesson from their soybean plot this year. They learned how protein, oil and amino acids bring value to soybean yields by participating in an ISA checkoff-funded quality program. Farmers also can glean data from their own farms.

Getting on the Same Page

The ISA checkoff program recently surveyed more than 750 Illinois residents about their awareness and attitudes regarding food system knowledge, soybean production practices and farmers. Find out how the information collected strategically will be used in the future.

Aquaculture Opportunity Knocks

Fish farming relies on nutrition research to define feed rations for each species, factoring in quality, safety and sustainability. Soy protein has become a sustainable component of shrimp and salmon diets, and is now being evaluated to feed tuna, the third largest seafood market.

Can Illinois Farmers Manage Fields by Soil Type?

Yes. But Illinois has more than 600 soil types that differ in slope, surface textures, flooding tendencies and other features. Learn the tips consultants have to manage soil types.

LEADER PROFILE: SHEILA FOWLER
Urban Ag Education Advocate

Sheila Fowler grew up on a farm near Ina, Ill. Today she is assistant principal for the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences, a college prep school for diverse students to study agriculture and develop marketable skills as well as college level competencies. And she is seeing success.
September Starts New Year of Strategic Direction

It’s September, and that means the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) membership and checkoff programs are kicking off a new fiscal year. We have updated our strategic direction for 2017-2020, still with the same target of using 600 million bushels of Illinois soybeans by 2020.

Our mission remains the same: to ensure Illinois soy is the highest quality, most dependable, sustainable and competitive in the global marketplace. Our goal is to achieve maximum profitability and global competitive positioning for soy from Illinois.

Here’s how we are going to get there:

- We have shifted our funding focus from target areas to target audiences. One of those key audiences is the marketplace — our customers. To sell more Illinois soybeans, we need to promote preference for them in our export markets and for use in biodiesel and animal agriculture. For example, we are looking at growing exports of Illinois soy via containers and increasing volume of sales where we have a strategic advantage, all as we promote the highest quality soybean, oil and meal products we can.

On the biodiesel front, we want to boost consumption from B11 to B20 blends. We also want to support animal agriculture in Illinois and in close proximity to our state to ensure markets for meat products and increase overall volume of soy used in animal feeds.

- Another key audience is farmers. We plan to continue to help optimize farmer profitability by leveraging tools and technologies that increase yields and sustainability. We also are building farmer support, recognition and participation in ISA programs, and providing business management education to enhance profitability.

- Our third major audience is stakeholders and influencers. ISA expands its influence and reach through member, corporate, industry and advocacy efforts that positively affect Illinois soybean farmers. For instance, we will continue to promote recognition of farmer sustainability practices, as well as educate consumers in the Chicago area about the benefits of soy. And with membership dollars, we will advocate for equitable public policies and generate opportunities to clear the way to markets.

We also want Illinois soybeans and products to reach intended destinations efficiently. We are exploring support for road, bridge, rail and river systems, Illinois logistics infrastructure optimization and road weight limits for efficient delivery.

I look forward to what we can accomplish in the next few years. Please contact me with any thoughts, questions and concerns you may have, and stay safe this harvest.

DARYL CATES
ISA Chairman
NASS a Valuable Partner for Illinois Farmers

> BY MARK SCHLEUSENER

The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is tasked with providing “timely, accurate and useful statistics in service of U.S. agriculture,” and we take that mission to heart. We provide an honest and unbiased reckoning of the current trends that affect Illinois and U.S. farmers, covering everything from crop yields to livestock inventories. We are honored to be a part of the Illinois ag community. Know that NASS cannot accomplish its mission without the cooperation of farmers, so let me explain how we can be most helpful to your operation.

NASS has been surveying millions of producers for decades. The amount of agricultural information we offer is staggering. We have information that can help small farms, big farms and every farm in between. Looking to expand into a different county and want a starting point for cash rents? We have that information. More importantly, we have a searchable database to help you find what you need called Quick Stats. Quick Stats can make big data, bite sized.

It’s important to know when you’re getting the best return on inputs, whether they be fertilizer or time. NASS data can help you assess yields down to the county level. And because NASS data are accurate and dependable, they are used for inputs to the Farm Service Agency’s Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) programs and Risk Management Agency’s crop insurance price elections.

Many yields used to determine payments come directly from survey responses. Your responses to NASS surveys are critical to ensure accurate and reliable data are used in these programs. Surveys you’ll see in the coming months include the continuing Agricultural Yield Survey and the Small Grains County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS). NASS conducts monthly Agricultural Yield surveys to measure crop production throughout the growing season. The information collected captures changes in yield that occur due to weather, pests, disease and other factors. Small Grains CAPS results will be added to other CAPS survey data and used to administer FSA programs and other disaster mitigation programs.

These and other surveys can have a huge impact on the ability to maximize profits. Many groups that advise farmers about marketing use NASS information as a foundation for their work.

When you’re making strategic decisions, remember that much of the information available to you is high quality only because of survey respondents like yourself. Any individual producer’s information is completely confidential and exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests. We publish data in a way that protects individual and operation identity. Sometimes that means we decline to publish data we have, so the more responses we have, the more data we can publish. Every response is important and makes a real impact in what we offer farmers in return.

NASS officials take our mission very seriously, and we highly appreciate your help in achieving it. We need your continuing participation to produce the best data possible. If there is anything you need from NASS, please contact me at Mark.Schleusener@nass.usda.gov.

Mark Schleusener is NASS’ Illinois state statistician. His duties include performing objective yield surveys, which involves counting individual plants per row, pods and blossoms per plant, and soybeans per pod. This helps NASS accurately predict soybean yields for the fall.
EU GREEN LIGHTS
THREE BIOTECH TRAITS

Illinois Soybean Farmers Have Expanded 2017 Seed Options

BY BARB BAYLOR ANDERSON

Soybean seed options for 2017 got a lot broader this summer when the European Union (EU) finally cleared three biotech events for import and processing. The events will provide Illinois farmers with more weed control strategies and eventually a new high-oleic soybean choice.

Approved traits include Xtend dicamba-tolerant soybean products and Vistive Gold high oleic soybean products from Monsanto, and Balance GT FG72 from Bayer CropScience. The three events had received positive scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Agency more than a year ago, and had been waiting for final approval by the EU Commission. Xtend soybeans previously were approved for import into China and other major U.S. markets.

“This is the clearing of an important hurdle for the commercialization of these products in the U.S.,” says Daryl Cates, soybean farmer from Columbia, Ill., and Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) chairman. “We need an ever-increasing range of tools to tackle the challenge of resistant weeds. And with the continued move away from trans-fats in American diets, farmers need additional tools to produce soybeans that meet that market demand as well.”

EXTENDED OFFERINGS

Seed company representatives are excited to be able to offer new traits for 2017.

Mike Bachman, Asgrow product development manager, says they had been preparing for approval, in hopes that their seed products could be commercialized for 2017.

“We will have ample Roundup Ready 2 Yield varieties available for Illinois growers. Now with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend EU import approval, we will have a full lineup of those varieties in good quantities,” he says. “People are ready for the Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System.

There are concerns about glyphosate tolerance and hard-to-control weeds the system can address.”

Bachman notes Roundup Ready 2 Xtend are the first biotech soybeans with tolerance to both dicamba and glyphosate, although no dicamba formulations are registered yet for in-crop use.

“We encourage farmers to change weed control systems as needed, while also staying focused on maximizing production,” he says. “Now they have more options.”

Farmers who intend to plant Channel brand soybeans with approved
traits also will have plentiful supplies in all maturity groups, says Dave Wallner, Channel seedsman from Pleasant Plains, Ill. “We expect big interest in Roundup Ready 2 Xtend varieties for 2017, and are hopeful for approval for in-crop use of dicamba before next season,” he says. “It would be a welcome addition to the weed control system versus making three or four herbicide passes.”

DuPont Pioneer will have Roundup Ready 2 Xtend varieties in its 2017 lineup for Illinois farmers, along with other glyphosate-tolerant and Liberty Link varieties and non-GMO seed. “Conventional, non-GMO soybeans are picking up a decent premium in this area, and not giving up anything on yield potential,” says Jarrod Hudson, DuPont Pioneer field agronomist for central Illinois. “At the same time, most farmers have some weed resistance pressure, especially from waterhemp. We advise farmers to operate under the assumption they have resistance and adjust their programs with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend or Liberty Link.”

**CONSIDER SEED TREATMENTS**

If diseases are a concern, Hudson also encourages farmers to consider a seed treatment for their 2017 varieties. “ILeVo is an option to fill in the gaps in your seed variety disease package, especially if you need protection against sudden death syndrome and nematodes,” he says.

Monty Malone, soybean agronomist with Bayer CropScience, also supports the use of ILeVo with the Credenz soybeans in their 2017 lineup. “We expanded our offerings so farmers can be more flexible in handling stresses like soybean cyst nematode and white mold,” says Malone. “We have a wide range of high-yielding Liberty Link and Roundup Ready 2 Yield traits. We advise farmers to think now about where you can improve, and rotate into another trait for more effective weed control in 2017.”

Burrrus Hybrids has glyphosate tolerant, Liberty Link and Roundup Ready 2 Xtend varieties for next season. Stephanie Porter, sales agronomist and Illinois Soybean Association Soy CCA Envoy, says they also will have Enlist soybeans, pending approval. “Weed resistance is huge, and waterhemp is confirmed with PPO and glyphosate resistance. For waterhemp escapes, farmers will need to switch to Liberty, Xtend or Enlist,” she says. “Farmers should pick up the best traits they can to manage their own weed situations.”

**DICAMBA DRIFT**

Several state departments of agriculture investigated potential dicamba injury to crops this summer. Susceptible crops, including soybeans, can be damaged by current formulations of dicamba when spray equipment is not cleaned out completely or from wind drift or volatilization.

In the case of drift or volatilization, injury to nearby susceptible crops can occur if dicamba is being used to burn down weeds in a field prior to planting double-crop soybeans, or if dicamba is used to control weeds in nearby corn or other crops that have a dicamba label.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) has noted that if dicamba was sprayed on Xtend soybeans or cotton in 2016, such in-season crop use would be inappropriate and unauthorized. Both Monsanto and BASF have developed dicamba formulations that significantly reduce volatilization and will help avoid any future non-target crop damage. The labels still are in the process of being finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ASA is working with Monsanto, BASF and the EPA for label approval to try and assure the low-volatility dicamba formulations will be available to farmers for the 2017 growing season.

**SEED SELECTION TIPS: The Experts Weigh In**

“Stick to the basics for seed selection. Review yield data from different sources for your farm. Choose varieties and a weed control system that will manage any tolerant weeds and maximize yield potential.”

MIKE BACHMAN - Asgrow

“Dial down to the field or even the acre as needed to address as many concerns as you can with variety selection. That is one thing you can control.”

MONTY MALONE - Bayer CropScience

“Yield is still king, followed closely by selecting maturities on the fuller side so you can capture yield potential. Sudden death syndrome and soybean cyst nematode protection are in many varieties, so match the disease package to field history.”

JARROD HUDSON - DuPont Pioneer

“Look for yield consistency. Identify disease problems now to pick up better traits for next year. Select a .5-7-day maturity range to spread risk. Don’t go too short or too long. Then explore emergence, vigor, plant height, shattering and lodging.”

STEPHANIE PORTER - Burrrus Hybrids

“Select for yield and agronomic package. Don’t have your mind made up on maturity selection until you see what varieties might be tolerant to the diseases you might need to manage in your fields. With earlier planting dates, consider seed selection as 50 percent of the puzzle and choosing a seed treatment as the other 50 percent.”

DAVE WALLNER - Channel Seed
Voice for Soy Advocacy Champions Multiply Farmer Voices

When legislation is on the floor or regulatory comment periods are open, Illinois soybean farmers can advocate for agricultural issues that affect their businesses. To multiply the voice in such efforts, Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG) is taking its Voice for Soy initiative one step further with the Advocacy Champions program. When action alerts are distributed, these champions share the alerts and key issues with other Voice for Soy users so even more Illinois soybean farmers can make their opinions heard among legislators and regulators.

Who are these Champions? They are soybean growers who are passionate about advocating for their farms and industry issues. Stan Born, soybean farmer from Dunlap, Ill., is one of them Learn more about Stan Born and other champions on www.voiceforsoy.org/champions.

ISG: WHY DO YOU COMPLETE VOICE FOR SOY ACTION ALERTS?
BORN: I've come to realize that we farmers are a small community. A lot of decisions are made in Springfield and Washington, D.C., and I want to ensure our voices are heard by the decision makers who impact our business.

ISG: HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE DIFFERENCE ADVOCACY CAN MAKE?
BORN: I have had the opportunity as an ISG director to engage with Illinois representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. In one instance, I really felt like we stated our case. However, the representative came back and explained other constituent perspectives he was hearing. While he appreciated us sharing our opinions, he wasn't going to move forward on our side.

Even though it didn't end in our favor, it drove home for me that the representative was willing to have a conversation. That's when you know you are beginning to develop a relationship, which can pay dividends down the line.

Advocacy isn't a one-and-done action. Consistently engaging with those who represent us builds respect and credibility so that the next time around, the outcome may be in our favor.

ISG: WHAT IS ONE REASON YOU’D TELL A FRIEND TO TAKE ACTION FOR VOICE FOR SOY?
BORN: It is pretty simple: If you don’t speak up for your farm and on your own behalf, someone else will — and they might not get it right.

STAN BORN
HOMETOWN: Dunlap, IL
ISSUES I’VE ACTED ON: Trade Promotion Authority, Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, Renewable Fuel Standards
At ILSoyAdvisor.com, you’ll find management and production tips, the latest research, market information, weather forecasts and more. It’s always relevant and from local experts—and it’s all within a click of a button. Visit ILSoyAdvisor.com today for the tools to help increase your yields.
FFA Plot Helps Draw Attention to

An agriculture instructor and his FFA members got a different kind of lesson from their soybean plot last year. They learned how protein, oil and amino acids bring value to soybean yields.

Rantoul, Ill., High School FFA Advisor Roman Fox and his students sent soybean samples last fall for measurement by the High Yield PLUS Quality (HY+Q) program, which is supported by the ISA checkoff program. HY+Q is an innovative, industry-wide mission to help increase soybean value through continuous yield and quality improvement. Samples are usually sent by seed company research teams and farmers throughout the U.S.

“Students helped with the plot, and I sent the samples to see how our protein and oil stacked up,” says Fox. “We’re teaching the students about many aspects of agriculture, including agronomics, the environment, economics and community support. HY+Q showed why soybeans have value and how composition connects local farms with global soybean customers.”

The Rantoul FFA plot samples tested about average in a year when composition was reportedly a challenge throughout the country due to varied growing conditions. HY+Q analysis shows protein averaged 34.7 percent and oil averaged 19.1 percent in Illinois during the last four years, according to Sharon Bard, Ph.D., a manager at Centrec Consulting Group.

Rantoul High School FFA Advisor Roman Fox helped pioneer FFA’s involvement in the HY+Q program that showcases the U.S. commitment to unsurpassed yield, quality and soybean value.
Soybean Quality Value

“Global customer targets are 35 percent and 19 percent. Higher protein and oil levels support higher prices,” Bard says.

“Farmers need to increase awareness of how food is produced and why soybeans have value,” says Doug Schroeder, soybean farmer from Mahomet, Ill., and ISA director. “The HY+Q team is offering the program to other states this harvest because it brings seed companies and farmers together to support students and showcase U.S. yield, quality and value for soybeans.”

ISA Director of Strategic Research Programs Linda Kull and HY+Q Program Lead John Osthus visited the classroom to recognize the school’s innovation and participation. U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) Regional Director Tim Loh phoned in from Singapore to visit with the students about how soybeans are used for feed and food in Southeast Asia. The conversation included sharing harvest data, composition and why it is important, livestock and food uses, feeding people in Africa, reducing food waste and farm sustainability leadership.

Soybean seed for the school’s FFA plots was provided by local farmers and seed dealers.

Checkoff COLLABORATION

HY+Q Partners Seek 2016 Harvest Samples

The HY+Q and U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) teams, with support from the ISA checkoff program, are interested in 2016 soybean samples from Illinois farmers and seed companies to learn how location and agronomics can affect composition. The data will be used in upcoming meetings with the world’s largest soybean customers. Farmers joining the cause get a card with their personal results plus a link to a new report mapping composition by maturity zone. To reserve a sample kit, visit hyqtoday.com/USWINS.

YOUR CUSTOMERS CAN—AND THEY SHOP FOR THE BEST

This harvest, farmers and seed suppliers are showcasing America’s commitment to unsurpassed yield, quality and value by simply dropping soybeans into sample bags. That helps your checkoff-funded U.S. Soybean Export Council and HY+Q (High Yield PLUS Quality) teams measure and showcase the full value oil, protein and amino acids put in your bushels. Looking at the data in a better way helps prove U.S. farmers mean business about selling the highest-value soybeans your customers can find anywhere in the world.

Reserve your postage-paid kit at hyqtoday.com/USFTW. We’ll measure your beans and send back your confidential results and a groundbreaking new look at why U.S. soybeans pay.
Getting on the Same Page

Survey Offers Glimpse of Consumer Perceptions

> BY SHANNON LINDEROTH

Perception is reality, regardless of the topic. So when it comes to sustainable agriculture, to influence perception, it first must be understood how people think about the subject.

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) checkoff program recently partnered with Heart+Mind Strategies to survey more than 750 Illinois residents about their awareness and attitudes regarding food system knowledge, soybean production practices and Illinois soybean farmers. “The resulting data allow us to explore ISAs role in how consumers think about soy and soybean farmers,” says ISA CEO Craig Ratajczyk. “These insights also better enable ISA to host meaningful conversations with members of the supply chain and identify opportunities to positively influence consumer perceptions.”

For instance, survey results show that Illinois consumers do value efforts to raise soy using sustainable production practices. But, the data also indicate that consumers typically don’t understand what those production practices represent, nor do they specifically seek information about sustainability or farming practices when making purchase decisions.

Ratajczyk says these findings leave plenty of room for Illinois farmers to build bridges and engage non-farmers in sustainability conversations. “One of the things that struck me about this study is that where there was once a single and straightforward definition of sustainability, that simple definition has morphed into many definitions with multiple facets,” says Stan Born, soybean farmer from Dunlap, Ill., and ISA director. “Going forward, we need to focus on communication about soy sustainability that is clear, crisp and delivered through the right conduits. We need to be visible in urban areas and tell our story of environmental stewardship to those that are concerned and interested.”

“These results show that information helps improve consumer views,” says Ratajczyk. “We have a significant task ahead of us. As we search for ways to close the gap between farmer fields and consumer homes and find real, personal connections, we have remarkable opportunities to positively influence consumer perceptions about Illinois farmers. We have a compelling story to share with friends and neighbors about the sustainable practices farmers use to provide a safe, stable and nutritious food supply while protecting the environment.”

Additional survey results are available at http://www.ilsoy.org/sustainability. ■

What Consumers Say:

- 3/4 of respondents indicate interest in learning more about sustainable farming practices related to soybean production.
- 83% believe the positives of sustainable farming practices outweigh the negatives.

Which of These Are Most Closely Related to Soybean Sustainability?

- ORGANIC: 36%
- NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT: 30%
- NON-GMO: 29%
- ECONOMICALLY VIABLE: 26%
- WATER CONSERVATION: 24%
- WATER QUALITY: 23%
- PRECISION FARMING: 21%
- LOCAL: 21%
- SOCiALLY RESPONSIBLE: 19%
- COVER CROPS: 18%
- REDUCED TILLAGE PRACTICES: 17%
- REDUCED ENERGY USE: 16%
- NO-TILL: 13%
- AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS: 11%
- TRANSPARENCY: 10%
- NONE OF THESE: 21%
What the Research Reveals:

ONLY 56 PERCENT of consumers surveyed are familiar with the use of sustainable farming practices. The majority of that group are only somewhat familiar with these practices.

Information helps. After learning more about sustainable soybean production, consumer favorability toward the positives of sustainable farming outweighing the negatives rose by 8 percent.

21% of respondents believe none of the sustainability-related items listed in the survey are actually associated with sustainable soybean production.

Increase in Favorability Towards Sustainable Production Practices

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Funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff

FARM STRONG

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312.565.8000

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IT’S TIME TO DIG DEEP

• Learn how to execute flexible marketing plans
• Hear how high-profit farms tap technology
• See what lenders expect on the credit front
• Gauge where land markets are headed next
• Get a post-election outlook on farm policy

2016 AG SUMMIT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

PRE-EVENT OPTIONS

DTN University: Tax Solutions to Enter and Exit Ag

10-Year celebration reception with ag’s most awarded Editorial Team

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:30 a.m. Registration
7:30 a.m. Early Bird Profit Sessions/breakfast
12 p.m. Lite lunch with the sponsors
1 p.m. Ag Summit general session
6 p.m. Dinner at Fogo de Chão

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7 a.m. Breakfast buffet roundtable discussions
8:30 a.m. Ag Summit general sessions
12 p.m. Plated luncheon
1:30 p.m. Ag Summit breakout sessions
5:30 p.m. Reception with the sponsors

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7 a.m. Breakfast buffet roundtable discussions
8 a.m. Ag Summit general session
12 p.m. Adjourn

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8 a.m. Ag Summit general session
12 p.m. Adjourn
Dietary guidelines recommend consumers eat fish and seafood twice a week to reap nutritional benefits. And shrimp, salmon and tuna account for 55 percent of the seafood eaten in the U.S., according to SeafoodHealthFacts.org, providing low-fat protein and omega-3 fatty acids. That makes for a fairly lucrative feed ingredient market for soybean farmers.

“Commercial aquaculture supplies more than half the seafood we eat,” says Tim Scates, farmer from Carmi, Ill., Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) director and representative to the Soy Aquaculture Alliance (SAA). Fish farming relies on nutrition research to define feed rations for each species, factoring in quality, safety and sustainability. For example, protein traditionally comes from fishmeal derived from wild-harvested anchovies and sardines. Substituting some soy protein improves the long-term sustainability of aquaculture and maintains feed quality.

“The aquaculture industry has long recognized plant feedstuffs are essential for development and permanence,” says Alex Buentello, fish nutritionist, Ichthus Unlimited and ADM. Soy protein has become a sustainable component of shrimp and salmon diets. Species-specific research summarized by SAA and the United Soybean Board reports shrimp feed can include 30 to 40 percent soy protein. Salmon rations contain 5 to 25 percent soy, depending on economic factors. Limited alternative protein research exists for tuna, the third top U.S. seafood product.

“After 25 years of commercial tuna ranching, feed accounts for more than 60 percent of variable operating costs,” says Buentello. “Daily feeding of large quantities of baitfish, mostly sardines, results in unreasonably high feed conversion rates and meat that is whiter than market preference. For tuna ranching to expand, we need more research into cost-effective, appealing, nutritious feedstuffs with minimal environmental impacts.”

“We see this as an opportunity,” Scates says. “Incorporating soy into tuna diets would create new demand, so the ISA checkoff program is currently funding research focused on replacing fishmeal and fish oil with quality soybean alternatives for Pacific and Atlantic bluefin tuna and yellowfin tuna.”

The research, led by Buentello, developed four prototype diets tested in Panama and Spain this summer. Semi-commercial trials begin this fall in Ensenada, Mexico, a center for tuna ranching.

According to Buentello, functional soy proteins provide traits like binding, soft texture and moisture retention to create pellets with characteristics farmed tuna enjoy: juicy, tender and chewy. Other soy components, such as lecithin, contribute important nutrients to tuna diets.

“We aim to provide optimal nutrition, improve feed conversion ratios and develop sustainable alternatives that benefit tuna ranchers and soybeans farmers,” says Buentello.
MYTHBUSTER

Can Illinois Farmers Manage Fields by Soil Type?

YES. But Illinois soil types are more complicated than just “good,” “bad,” “loamy” or “sandy.” In fact, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) estimates Illinois has more than 600 soil types that differ in slope, surface textures, flooding tendencies and other features. About eight soil regions have been identified based on age and type of material that helped form these soils, which complicates how farmers manage their fields.

“Each soil type holds nutrients differently, which means you have to manage those soils differently to hit yield and fertility targets,” confirms Adam Day, Northern Partners Co-op in Ottawa, Ill., and ISA CCA Soy Advisor.

Day and other consultants bust three common myths about soil type management:

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT IS INDEPENDENT OF SOIL TYPE.

FALSE. “Soil types have a significant influence on field drainage, erosion and other factors that affect nutrient management, especially nitrogen and nitrates,” says Dan Towery, Ag Conservation Solutions, West Lafayette, Ind. “Certain soils naturally have higher leaching potential.

“Precision ag tools, especially yield maps, help farmers identify areas of the field where plants are more effective at using nutrients,” he says. “This knowledge enables farmers to apply nutrients in a way that works to the advantage of differences in soil types.”

Jim Isermann, Soil Health Partnership Illinois field manager, adds, “When focusing on nutrient loss relief, understanding soil types helps sync nutrient use with crop needs and avert losses.”

COVER CROPS CAN BENEFIT ALL SOIL TYPES.

TRUE. Virtually every soil type benefits from cover crops. But not every cover crop performs well in all soil types.

“The goal of what you want to accomplish with your cover crop is always your first consideration,” says Day. “You need to consider how that crop fits with field properties, including soil type, and how it fits in your overall management plans.”

The key is to determine what soil factors you want to improve, like nutrient retention, erosion control and more. “Then tailor your cover crop program so that it fits into your farm’s cropping system, the weather and the soils you have,” says Isermann.

“While cover crops are versatile, keep in mind that, like any crop, some covers perform better in certain situations than others,” adds Towery. “For example, cereal rye doesn’t like wet feet, so be cautious when choosing which crop to plant in poorly drained soils.”

VARIETY SELECTION CAN OVERCOME SOIL TYPE CHALLENGES.

MAYBE. No soybean variety performs perfectly in all fields. Some varieties prefer heavier soils while others achieve higher yields on lighter soils. In addition, most fields feature several soil types.

“To better manage this variability, we’ve developed a ‘precision’ variety package that includes a blend of soybeans that will help improve performance uniformity across the field,” explains Day.

Soil types become a varietal decision factor as you consider disease management. “Which diseases are a problem for you?” asks Day. “Sudden death syndrome and white mold, for example, are more of a problem in certain soil types. Therefore, if fields are susceptible based on soil sample results, that has an impact on the varieties you plant.”

Soil type knowledge should be a very early, fundamental part of your soybean management decision making process. Crop consultants advise using a whole-farm, comprehensive soil testing program that includes new soil test results every four years to get the best results. ■
ISA Welcomes Diverse Board

> BY JAYNE GODFREY

What’s the job of a volunteer Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) director? In short, directors collectively are responsible for setting strategic direction of the organizations, overseeing the budget and representing soybean farmers at events.

The ISA board, made up of 24 farmer-leaders from across the state, are voted into the organization by their peers for up to two, three-year terms. Directors oversee efforts for both the ISA checkoff and membership programs. During the three-year terms, board members get involved with projects or areas of interest to them, including advocacy, sustainability, market development and production outreach. Some are at-large directors, governing large parts of the state. Others join the executive committee and lead the board strategically.

The journey as a board member can start a variety of ways. One way is through the ISA Soy Ambassadors program. The two-year program chooses young leaders from around the state to learn about being on a board and about ISA projects before officially running for a position. Several current ISA board members have come from this program.

The board recently elected two new directors to fill open slots, one who was a former Soy Ambassador. Jim Martin represents district six and Livingston, McLean and Woodford counties. He is from Pontiac, Ill., and was an ISA Soy Ambassador before being elected to the board. Martin was interested in joining the ISA board because, “I like to educate myself, network and use my skills in organizations I believe in strongly.”

Rick Rubenacker, McLeansboro, Ill., represents district 18, which includes Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union and Williamson counties.

“I have always thought the Illinois Soybean Association was a first-class operation. I look forward to working with the association and farmers to improve the profitability and competitiveness of Illinois soybean farmers,” he says.

In addition to bringing in typically younger farmers through the Soy Ambassador program and members from other organizations, the board currently also has five female leaders. The diverse group allows for more perspective and broad conversations.

Daryl Cates, ISA chairman, is in his second three-year term on the board and his second year as chairman. His first stint on the board was more than 10 years ago. He took a break before returning to the board. His previous experience has helped guide the board on choosing projects and also a new strategic focus, which will be implemented this fiscal year. Having two, three-year terms available to board members allows them to have a greater impact to obtain deeper knowledge on opportunities and the industry.

“We will concentrate on a new strategic plan in my second year as chairman. I want to help lead the board and share our new focus with Illinois farmers,” Cates says. “I’m excited about our future. I want Illinois farmers to be engaged with checkoff and membership programs that reflect our changing needs.”

ISA re-instated its current executive committee for a second term at the board’s annual meeting in Springfield, Ill., in July. Daryl Cates, of Columbia, was re-elected as chairman; Lynn Rohrscheib, Fairmount, as vice chairman; Stan Born, Dunlap, as treasurer; Doug Schroeder, Mahomet, as secretary; Jered Hooker, Clinton, as assistant secretary-treasurer; John Longley, Aledo, as production and outreach committee chair; and John Hagenbuch, Utica, as marketing committee chair.

To learn more about the Illinois Soybean Association board elections Soy Ambassadors program and how the ISA checkoff and membership programs interact with other organizations, visit www.ilsoy.org/leadership.
Canal Expansion Benefits Farmers

The official opening of the Panama Canal expansion, which doubles the waterway capacity of the canal, took place June 28. The expansion followed seven years of partnerships through groups like the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC), which is supported by the ISA checkoff program.

The new, larger lane of the canal allows more freight to be loaded on each vessel, decreases transit time and lowers transportation costs overall when compared to the original canal. Sound transportation has long been a key competitive advantage of the U.S. soy industry. The STC touts with its superior transportation system, that the U.S. maintains a significant competitive advantage over South American soybean suppliers.

According to the STC, 44 percent of total U.S. soy exports travel through the Panama Canal, or about 600 million bushels of U.S. soybeans annually. That makes soy the top U.S. agricultural commodity traversing the Panama Canal to reach export markets efficiently.

The Soy Transportation Coalition is comprised of 13 state soybean boards, the American Soybean Association and the United Soybean Board.

CTIC Chooses New Executive Director

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) has named Chad Watts its new executive director. Watts joined CTIC in 2012 and since has worked with the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) checkoff program on projects such as the Indian Creek Watershed Project. CTIC is based in West Lafayette, Ind., and is a national public-private partnership that champions, promotes and provides information on farming systems that conserve and enhance soil, water, air and wildlife resources. For more than 30 years, CTIC has provided a forum for farmers, regulators, researchers, agribusiness leaders and others to share ideas, collaborate on research and demonstration projects, and promote systems that help farmers become more economically and environmentally sustainable. For more information, visit www.ctic.org.

USFRA Shares Ag Story with Urban Audiences

The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) recently partnered with Discovery Education to create Discovering FARMLAND, a follow up to the popular documentary, which will be available for use in classrooms starting this fall. Teachers also can access an on-demand virtual field trip about technology and innovation on today’s farms. First shown to urban students in April from Deere & Company World Headquarters, more than 80,000 students from across the United States now have watched the field trip.

Discovering FARMLAND is a curriculum complete with standards-aligned, high school levels lessons, activities and interactive resources. Since its launch in November with help from the ISA checkoff program, more than 10,000 people have downloaded lessons such as: Farming as an Industry, Educated Consumers, Breaking Down Stereotypes and Challenges in Farming and Ranching. Discovery Education is the leading provider of digital content and professional development for K-12 classrooms. To share these free resources with teachers in your school district, share that they can be accessed at www.discoveringfarmland.com.

Discovering Farmland is a follow up to the popular documentary, which will be available for use in classrooms starting this fall.

Funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff

ISAFARMLANDBEAN.COM
Help Turn up the Volume with ISGPAC

As the 2016 general election season is in full swing, Illinois soybean farmers are invited to turn up the volume with the Illinois Soybean Growers Political Action Committee (ISGPAC).

ISGPAC provides farmers with strong involvement in political races, and a direct pipeline to tell senators and representatives about the issues that matter most to Illinois farmers:

- Transportation efficiency
- Expanding animal agriculture
- Worldwide market access support
- Plus biodiesel, trade, energy, taxes and agricultural research

Farmers can directly support legislators who take a leadership role on soybean priorities and policies. ISGPAC helps nurture those relationships and keeps key contacts in office where they work for the soybean industry’s best interests. To contribute, visit ilsoygrowers.org/ISGPAC.

To learn more information about ISA’s Corporate Partner’s Program visit ilsoygrowers.com
Funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff

Urban Ag Education Advocate

Sheila Fowler, Chicago, Ill.

Sheila Fowler grew up on a farm near Ina, Ill. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in crop sciences, but had a passion for agricultural education. Since she had received some informal training as a teacher, she decided to pursue a master's degree in ag education. In the fall of 2004, Fowler accepted a position as a short-term substitute at the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences (CHSAS), looking forward to sharing agriculture with urban students. She later was named head of the ag department, which includes eight instructors, and was the FFA adviser. She recently transitioned into the role of assistant principal.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FOCUS DURING YOUR TENURE AT CHSAS?

Most consumers in Illinois live in the greater Chicago area, and it is important for them to appreciate and respect agriculture, from farm to table, and agriculture's contributions to the economy. When I first began teaching, I focused on educating students about ag careers and leadership in FFA. I wanted these students to understand the role of agriculture in their everyday lives, from the time they wake up until they go to sleep, and even as they sleep.

IS AG EDUCATION IN AN URBAN SETTING UNIQUE TO CHICAGO?

The Chicago Board of Education created CHSAS in 1984. CHSAS was modeled after a similar magnet school in Philadelphia, which opened in the 1940s. Otherwise, there are few comparable approaches in other large cities and CHSAS is one of a kind in Illinois.

CHSAS offers a unique opportunity to students from all parts of the city talented in science and mathematics. Our mission as a college preparatory high school is to provide opportunities for diverse students to study agriculture with the goal of developing marketable skills as well as college level competencies. Our school serves as a model not only for its innovative curriculum, but also for dropout prevention and exceptional student motivation.

HAVE YOU FOUND CHSAS GRADUATES PURSUE CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE?

Yes, we have had many students pursue college degrees in various areas of agriculture. We have students who have gone on to obtain jobs in downtown Chicago working for ag business companies, public relations companies with ag accounts and food production companies such as Kraft and Quaker. In addition, some students now have degrees in ag education and are ag instructors in primarily urban areas. We even have five former students who are now back at CHSAS as ag teachers.

WHAT FEEDBACK DO YOU MOST OFTEN HEAR FROM STUDENTS?

The most eye-opening comment is that they cannot believe some aspect of agriculture touches every aspect of their lives. They enjoy being able to trace everything back to the farm.

HOW CAN ILLINOIS SOYBEAN FARMERS HELP FURTHER YOUR MISSION?

We appreciate when farmers share their time and network with students. We always welcome farmers who are willing to speak to students here, as well as host small groups on their farms. Anyone who can help expose students to potential jobs in agriculture are welcome to contact us. We also are getting ready to launch a new pathway in biotechnology to steer students toward crop sciences careers. We hope to have test plots, and would love some assistance with them. ■
Make soybean cyst nematodes useful.
Turn them into fertilizer.

While other seed treatments claim to be effective against soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), Clariva® Complete Beans seed treatment, a combination of separate products, is the only broad-spectrum seed treatment proven to kill them all season long. As it acts to destroy SCN, it also reduces damage from sudden death syndrome (SDS). All this lethal power comes from a tough nematicide paired with the unbeaten insect and disease protection of CruiserMaxx® Beans with Vibrance® seed treatment, a combination of separately registered products. So contact your Syngenta representative or visit ClarivaCompleteBeans.com. And take back your fields.