Still Picking up the Pieces

• Grow a Healthy Weed Crop?
• Rethink Fall N Strategies
It’s time to take a stand against soybean cyst nematodes.

As soybean cyst nematodes have adapted to the most widely used source of genetic resistance, you increasingly need additional protection against SCN to maximize yield potential. Take back control with Clariva™ Complete Beans, the only seed treatment proven to offer effective, season-long protection against SCN through direct and lethal activity. Clariva Complete Beans helps minimize hidden and costly damage from SCN independent of environmental conditions, and builds on the unsurpassed early-season insect and disease protection that growers trust from market-leading CruiserMaxx® Beans with Vibrance® seed treatment.

Contact your Syngenta representative or visit ClarivaCompleteBeans.com and take back your fields.
**Cover Story**

**Storm Cleanup Continues One Year Later**
Little did grain and livestock producers near Washington, Ill., know what they would face Nov. 17, 2013, when an EF4 tornado ripped through the community. Shared support and experiences have helped them recover. Almost a year later, they still find debris in their fields. And they find comfort in the many people who have lent a hand and still offer their assistance.

**Yield, Composition & Profitability**

**How to Plan for a Weedy Crop in 2015...Really**
It’s almost fall, which means that after harvest, it’s time to start thinking about next season’s crop. Instead of soybeans, your field of dreams is full of weeds. But that’s ok, because that is exactly what you wanted. You took the right steps to grow a healthy weed crop. Read this different take on managing weeds in Illinois.

**Leadership**

**ISA Elects 2014-15 Executive Committee, Seats New Directors**
ISA elected its 2014-15 leadership and seated new directors last month. New board members include several women, which broadens ISA’s reach and is representative of evolving Illinois soybean farmer demographics. Get to know the new names on the ISA board.

**Transportation**

**Counties Weigh in on High Transportation Costs**
A bumper soybean crop may be welcomed by Illinois farmers, but it also highlights the heavy costs of transporting all those beans to market. Farmers work hard to find ways to haul more with fewer trips. Heavier weights create concerns on county roads and bridges. Learn what transportation adjustments are taking place in Illinois and what is still needed.

**Animal Agriculture**

**PEDv Affects Pork and Soybean Producers**
Since Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) was confirmed in the U.S. more than a year ago, the disease has spread to 30 states and killed millions of piglets. The situation has had a devastating effect on pork producers, but also on soybean meal demand. Read what the agriculture industry is doing to try and curb the disease on the animal and feed fronts.

**Management Matters Mythbuster**

**Time to Apply New Thinking to Fall-Applied N**
Fall nitrogen applications have been standard practice in central and northern Illinois for decades. But a renewed focus on nutrient management and its downstream effects on water quality have many within the crop production industry reconsidering the practice. Find out what tips Illinois agronomy experts have for farmers across the state.
What is your Seed Selection Process?

Every farmer has a different process for selecting seed for the upcoming season. Are you someone who studies independent seed trial data and reviews your own production records? Or do you just go with the recommendations of your seed representative? Research funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff suggests doing your homework to pick the right seed pays off.

The Six Secrets of Soybean Success project led by Fred Below at the University of Illinois lists maximizing genetic yield potential through selection of varieties that respond to increased management as the number three “secret.” Results from the University of Illinois Variety Testing Program (vt.cropsci.illinois.edu/soybean.html) indicate soybean varieties of similar maturity can vary by as much as 20 bushels per acre when evaluated at the same location.

Similar to corn hybrids, Below believes proper selection of a soybean variety for success in a management-intensive, high-yield-potential production system is critically important.

I would encourage you to review the research. You can find it on our ILSoyAdvisor.com website, which was launched earlier this year. The website focuses on boosting Illinois soybean yields and profitability through collaboration and the latest management practices. You’ll find production research like Below’s, articles and recommendations about managing soybeans, and a discussion forum where you can share stories, ask questions and connect with other farmers.

Selecting seed for yield is only part of the equation, however. Illinois soybean farmers also should know the protein and oil composition of the varieties they choose. While you may not think you are paid on protein and oil, the truth is that you are. ISA has been working to raise awareness of what’s in Illinois soybeans, and you can find more details at www.ilsoy.org.

On another note, I am happy to have been elected in August to serve another year as chairman. We have a great and diverse board that represents many generations and both men and women from across the state. As always, we welcome your feedback. Have a safe harvest.

Bill Raben
ISA Chairman

ISA Fact: ISA Offers Many Paths to Production Knowledge

ISA, with funding from the soybean checkoff, hosts several different events for farmers each year to learn more about soybean production management. Those opportunities include the Soybean Summit held during the winter in two state locations; the Farm Journal Soybean College, which is generally held in July; and learning through participation in the Yield Challenge. Multiple online resources also are available through ILSoyAdvisor.com.

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September 2014
Seed Selection Integral to Meeting Future Demand

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) and Illinois soybean farmers this year are celebrating 100 years of soybean production. Soybean acreage has grown from more than 2,000 acres to nearly 10 million during that time, as the industry generates more than $6 billion per year in direct sales alone. None of that could be possible without advances in soybean seed technology.

A century ago, Illinois farmers had only a few options for seed selection, mostly public varieties developed by universities. But today private funding from industry, as well as public research, provides a multitude of options for making seed selections. Today, Illinois soybean farmers can choose seed specific for the conditions on their individual farms and boost productivity.

For instance, herbicide resistance is now a factor in seed selection. Some farmers are growing conventional soybeans so they can spray traditional herbicides to help prevent resistance. Niche markets have developed for conventional soybean production, too, and some seed companies are spending more research funds in creating new conventional soybean varieties.

Customers using U.S. and Illinois soybeans and soybean products continue to ask for higher protein and oil content. Many farmers still look only for the highest-yielding varieties, but must also consider the protein and oil composition to help meet customer demands.

Recent research investment from seed companies has been in biotechnology, and molecular breeding is on the cutting edge of microbial science. Biotech research started with glyphosate-resistant soybeans, but now the selection of options available to producers includes disease resistance, insect resistance, drought resistance, new herbicide technologies, healthier oils for human consumption – just to name a few – with many more in the pipeline.

These exciting new technologies are products that will enable U.S. and Illinois soybean farmers to continue to provide some of the most sustainable and healthiest food to feed an ever-growing world population. The United Nations estimates by the year 2050 agriculture must increase yields by 70-100 percent to feed the world population.

Illinois soybean farmers will soon make seed selection decisions for their 2015 varieties. Yield will still be at the top of the list, but I suggest farmers look at protein and oil content in those varieties as well. If the information you need is not in your seed booklet, ask your dealer to provide that information. Varieties are available with higher yields and also greater protein and oil content. Provide the quality product Illinois soybean customers seek.

And if your seed selection includes the use of some of the newest technologies, determine if the technology has global acceptance first. Always read the labels and follow strict adherence to them. An unapproved variety in the food chain could disrupt the entire industry and have severe legal consequences for the farmer.

This is an exciting time for the soybean industry as global demand for soy continues to grow. Seed selection can play an integral part in meeting demands for feeding a growing population.

Dwain Ford is a soybean farmer from Kinmundy, Ill., and a director for the United Soybean Board (USB). He and his wife, Melba, own M&D Seed Company.
Many Hands
Storm Cleanup Continues One Year Later

By Barb Baylor Anderson

When Metamora, Ill., corn and soybean farmer Kent Hodel was sitting in his church’s sanctuary November 17, 2013, he had no idea of the destruction he would witness after leaving the service. Nor did he know he would spend the rest of the day cleaning up his farmstead after an EF4 tornado barely missed his home, but destroyed his son’s and neighbors’ homes. He also would be unaware of the long recovery that comes with the havoc wreaked by such a storm.

Pork producer Curt Zehr from Washington, Ill., who also was at church, would wonder about the safety of his wife and son who were home when the tornado destroyed his house above ground.

Hodel’s neighbor, Steve Ulrich, would have to find a temporary home for his cattle. Ulrich returned from church to find his historic hip roof barn completely destroyed. But a crowd of volunteers already was on hand to help rescue the cattle and sheep trapped inside.

What do these grain and livestock farmers have in common? They shared each other’s support and experiences recuperating from the deadliest and costliest tornado ever recorded in Illinois during November and the fourth worst for the state ever, reports Weather Underground.

The National Climatic Data Center reports 633 homes, seven businesses and 2,500 vehicles were destroyed in Washington, Ill., while minor to significant damage was sustained by many other structures. Damage amounted to about $800 million. Though 5,000 people were in the path of the tornado, only one person was killed during the storm, while two others died of injuries later. The low fatality count was attributed to people being in church.

“It had more impact than we thought it would,” says Hodel, whose son Kevin’s home was destroyed. “We had terrific support from a lot of people. There were close to 100 people at our home and Kevin’s home helping with cleanup that day. My wife, Janet, was able to feed all of them with the many food donations that also were dropped off that day.”

Volunteers that showed up at the Ulrich farm down the road found not only the hip roof barn collapsed, but the calving barn nearly destroyed and fence torn out around the farm and pastures.

“We had 15-20 cows on permanent pasture who sustained injuries from flying debris,” says Ulrich. “We only lost one cow. Farmers showed up with livestock trailers, and took the cows to the local vet. He was even able to stitch a two-foot gash in one cow’s stomach and save her life. That cow had twins this summer, and you can hardly see the scar.”

Kent Hodel stands with the utility vehicle he repaired after a tornado destroyed one of his sheds. Dents still appear on the vehicle’s bed. While much equipment was damaged or totaled, he was able to repair his combine.
Ulrich’s hip roof barn had nine, 700-lb. steer calves and 22 sheep in it during the storm. When the barn collapsed, the hay mow fell down, trapping all of the animals in underground areas where the barn was built into a hill. The steers were literally lying on top of each other.

“By the time we got home, there were people removing the hay and boards. As the steers were able to see light, they ran out through the hole and all were saved,” he says. “No one knew the sheep were two feet below ground level. When we got home and I started to call them, they came out through a hole one by one and followed me into the pasture. We were able to take the sheep to another barn on the farm where we live a mile down the road.”

Three different livestock producers volunteered to house Ulrich’s calves until they could be sold to market and his cows for the winter. Hay was loaded into another farmer’s barn for the sheep.

Zehr did not lose hogs or hog buildings, but did lose his

**TIPS TO PREPARE FOR DISASTER**

While livestock producer Steve Ulrich knows you really can’t be prepared for disaster, there are some tips that he, Zehr and Hodel offer grain and livestock producers to consider:

- Make an inventory of your home and outbuildings by taking photos of everything or videotaping all contents. Insurance paperwork can take hours, and not having to recreate a list of everything lost can save you some time.
- Have a good safe for valuables, and keep it in the basement.
- Back up farm records, and store them on the cloud or on a drive that is kept somewhere secure and outside of your home.
- Have insurance up to date and understand your coverage. Replacement insurance is more costly, but may cause fewer headaches than cash value insurance.
- Know what losses, if any, you are willing to assume yourself. Know your financial situation and insure accordingly. Determine what you cannot afford to lose.
- Accept the help of others. Set aside pride, and let others assist with the cleanup.
- If you do not have damage, volunteer at other farms that may have damage. Even weeks and months later, these three farmers still appreciate offers of help.
Curt Zehr continues to find debris in his fields. He had half a dozen flat tires on implements running over junk during the spring. His spares are ready for harvest.

home, grain bins, machine shed and one piece of machinery. His full-time employee assumed responsibility for the hogs during cleanup.

“We were at a good point of the production cycle where no breeding or farrowing was occurring. Fieldwork, including chisel plowing and manure application, was already done for the season,” he says. “It was amazing the number of urban and rural neighbors who joined together to help, even strangers walking our fields for debris. It was a humbling experience.”

Zehr was thankful his family was fine, noting that their home’s contents can be replaced.

“I hated to lose some of our antique family furniture, but we were ok,” he says. “We found our computers and someone who was able to recover our hard drives. We were catching up on paperwork at the time, and had to recreate about three weeks’ worth of data from a lost thumb drive. The rest of our records had already been backed up to the cloud.”

Nearly a year after the storm, all three producers still continue to find debris in their fields.

“We had a local church youth group walk our fields this spring, which was the third time it had been done. They picked up enough debris for a 14-foot high pile,” says Hodel.

Zehr has found some debris the hard way – half a dozen flat tires on implements running over junk during the spring. Even with spares ready, he worries about combining this fall.

Ulrich agrees. “We have had to stop this summer every round while we were baling hay. We have walked fields, mowed and raked hay, and still pick up debris,” he says. “But we don’t want to bale nails or small wood pieces the sheep might eat. It remains a long process.”

Hodels Retire After Years Serving ISA

Kent and Janet Hodel worked part-time for ISA for more than 20 years, performing outreach and education activities. The couple retired from the position in May 2014. During the years, Kent and Janet attended community meetings and farm shows to talk with farmers and consumers about the value of soybeans. They also were successful association membership recruiters. ISA leaders thank the Hodels for their long-time support.
Tools and technologies that focus on protecting soybean yield potential with in-season inputs may provide a yield bump – perhaps even two to five bushels or more when used alone or in combination. But when choosing varieties, farmers must balance their goal of producing high yields with the need for agronomic and defensive traits that match particular field needs.

“From planting, every management step builds on the foundation available from chosen varieties. Seed selection plays an important role in a high-yield management plan because it defines the genetic potential of the field,” says Don Meyer, facilitator at Illinois State University and director of ISA’s check-off-funded Yield Challenge program. “Then, it is a matter of protecting the crop from yield robbers – disease and weeds.”

Start with Right Genetics

Illinois Yield Challenge participants test new tools and techniques each year that they hope will lead to greater soybean yield gains. At harvest, farmers compare test plot yields to their own management programs to see how effective their tested changes were in breaking their own yield barriers. And generally, those changes start with the soybean seed selected.

“You need a good base, and that starts with seed varieties growers select to plant,” confirms Meyer. “We encourage farmers to use innovative technology to help advance their yields. Many of our Yield Challenge participants have made tremendous progress on their trial plots, and are using those positive experiences to increase yields on all of their soybean acres.”

Refine Performance Results

The best repeat Yield Challenge competitors work to improve their challenge plot every year based on the previous year’s test results.

Ross Prough, soybean farmer from Greenfield, Ill., experimented with treated versus untreated seed in his 2013 Yield Challenge plot. He saw a two-bushel-per-acre increase with treated seed. This year he is building on his results and is using a defensive seed variety with resistance to soybean cyst nematode (SCN) and sudden death syndrome (SDS).

“I have planted FS HiSoy for a number of years. We’ve been changing varieties in that brand of seed,” says Prough. He chose HS 42A12 this growing season to try and expand last year’s gains.

Dan Arkels, soybean farmer from Peru, Ill., always chooses a different variety for his Yield Challenge plot. His goal this year is to “take his beans to the next level.”

“The variety I chose is fairly new, so there wasn’t a lot of that seed available for this growing season,” explains Arkels. “I got just enough for my challenge plot.”

Prough saw an 11-bushel increase in his first Yield Challenge plot in 2010. Arkels was one of three entrants to break the 80-bushel-per-acre mark in 2012. He is determined to break 100 bushels per acre this season. Both say such advances were hard to imagine years ago, but on-farm experiments and a little friendly competition go a long way.

“Someone needs to prove it’s possible to reach 100 bushels in Illinois,” says Arkels, “and with the right growing season, I know I can do it.”

Photo by Karl Spencer

 ISA’s Yield Challenge program encourages producers to plant soybean seed and try innovative approaches to achieve greater yield potential.

Checkoff Fact: Six Secrets of Soybean Success Includes Variety Selection

The checkoff-funded project, “Six Secrets of Soybean Success,” reveals soybean varieties of similar maturity can vary as much as 20 bushels per acre when evaluated at the same location. Proper seed selection is paramount to success in a high-yield potential production system. Visit ILSoyAdvisor.com for more information.
Field of Dreams

How to Plan for a Weedy Crop in 2015...Really

By Amy Roady

It’s almost fall, which means that after harvest, it’s time to start thinking about next season’s crop. In your dreams, you picture a beautiful, green field. It’s lush with a strong plant population, lots of high-yielding plants and full of foxtail, marestail, Palmer amaranth and giant ragweed.

Instead of soybeans, your dreamy field is full of weeds. But that’s ok, because that is exactly what you wanted. You took the right steps to grow a healthy weed crop.

“Ignore the little details, and the weeds will take over,” quips Barry Nash, Growmark weed science technical manager. If you are just getting started growing weeds -- which Nash defines as plants in the wrong place -- lambsquarter, morningglory, cocklebur, velvetleaf, foxtails, waterhemp and Palmer amaranth are easy types to grow.

Plan for Weeds in Fall

If you want to get a head start on 2015, consider now how you can grow better, stronger weeds.

Harvest fields with marestail and other noxious weeds first, says Eric Gordon, plant manager for Brandt in Lincoln, Ill. This way the seeds have a better chance of spreading to other fields.

Next, mow as many weeds as possible that are seeding along ditches, waterways and other heavily infested areas. The more seeds you can spread, the better chance they have of growing.

Third, spread manure from cattle that have grazed in infested fields. It’s a great way to increase the variety of weed species, Nash says. Purdue University researchers believe Palmer amaranth was introduced to northern Indiana in dairy or beef manure from animals fed cottonseed hulls or other feedstocks that came from the South and were contaminated with Palmer amaranth seed. If you’re tired of continuous foxtail, add some manure for extra Palmer amaranth and other weeds.

Tillage makes a difference, too. Lambsquarter and foxtails thrive in no-till systems. Marestail and Palmer amaranth, which need to grow in the top one-half inch of soil, do best with minimum tillage, Nash says. Large-seeded plants need deep tillage to get seed two to four inches deep.

Watch Winter Weather for Clues

Winter weather makes a big difference in your weed populations. Small-seeded grasses and broadleaves prefer a mild winter since it gives plants the best chance of emerging in the spring.
Small-seeded grasses and broadleaf weeds need sunlight, moisture and a soil temperature above 50 degrees to germinate in the top one-half inch of soil, Nash says.

“If you give plants those three things, you will grow lots of Palmer amaranth, lambsquarter and other weeds,” says Nash, who has been helping farmers manage weeds for nearly 30 years.

If you live south of Interstate 70 or are a “618-er,” as Nash says, warmer winter weather will be better for growing these weeds. However, farmers in northern Illinois have an advantage when it comes to growing large-seeded broadleaves such as giant ragweed, cocklebur and velvetleaf.

“These varieties need something to crack the seed coat,” Nash says. “They need a hard winter with a freeze like last year’s winter.”

Mismanage Spring Herbicide Applications

Just like soybeans, weeds grow best when competition is eliminated and fertilizer is applied.

“If you want to grow more foxtails, apply a postemergence broadleaf herbicide, quips Growmark’s Barry Nash. Fifty to 100 pounds of nitrogen, along with average phosphorus and potassium applied in the spring, will help most weeds grow stronger. If you must grow soybeans with your weed crop, plant wide rows, 36 inches or wider, to give weeds the most sunlight once they emerge.

“It’s so easy. Just give foxtail a little nitrogen and it grows like crazy. It outcompetes everything,” says Nash, who answers 70 to 90 calls per day from FS crop specialists. The Southern Illinois University Carbondale graduate also helps train, teach and assist FS staff with issues. Most questions relate to treating weeds or figuring out such problems as crop injury.

If for some reason, you or your neighbor accidentally sprays weeds, hope for a few things. First, that you sprayed either when it was rainy or dusty. Rain causes herbicides to run off plants and into the fields. Gordon says dusty conditions protect plants from absorbing herbicides.

Second, hope that you didn’t use the full rate. Just ignore the label and spray whatever you feel like using that day. If it says to use 40 oz. to kill weeds, try cutting that in half or in quarter. In fact, some farmers report that injuring weeds causes them to come back even stronger.

“If you want strong weeds, spray them when they get big. They won’t die as easy,” Gordon says.

And it is even easier for weeds to get ahead of you in non-GMO varieties, says Dean Atkins, who raises non-GMO soybeans near Weston, Ill. If you accidentally spray the weeds, use the same mode of action each time. This will give weeds a chance to evolve and keep growing.

Hope for Good Summer Growth

Weeds will continue to need moisture and moderate heat in the summer, just like soybeans.

“What is good for a crop, is good for weeds. And it’s only a weed because we don’t want it there,” Gordon says. “This past year was great for growing weeds.”

“We’re losing the battle against weeds this year. They’re killer,” says Doug Schroeder, who farms near Mansfield, Ill., and is an ISA director.
But if you are trying to grow more weeds, this past year was stellar, especially for farmers who waited too long to spray and had good soil moisture during the summer. Weeds go to seed in the summer, which is a crucial time for establishing a strong stand later that fall or in the spring.

Palmer amaranth pollinates from mid-July to August. If you leave it in the field long enough, it will produce seeds. It might just be the super hero of weeds – or the evil villain of soybean farmers and weed scientists.

Marestail also is a determined weed. It will begin flowering in July and will set hundreds of thousands of seeds in August.

Palmer amaranth is feisty. It grows aggressively. It competes with crops. It's invasive and it likes to travel. Under ideal conditions, Palmer amaranth plants can grow two or three inches per day, according to Purdue Extension. Within two months, Palmer amaranth plants that emerged May 29, 2013, were more than six feet tall at the Purdue Palmer amaranth research site. It might just be the super hero of weeds – or the evil villain of soybean farmers and weed scientists.

Marestail also is a determined weed. It will begin flowering in July and will set hundreds of thousands of seeds in August.

It can germinate quickly once it hits the ground, according to Purdue Extension. This means that with the right growing conditions, it can get started in late summer and grow in the fall. In northern Illinois, most marestail, which also is called horseweed, germinates in the fall, overwinters as a rosette, and begins to bolt in the spring. The larger the rosette is prior to winter, the greater the chance of survival in the spring.

“Marestail is a winter annual. Once it breaks dormancy in April, it’s a monster. There really are no options to stop it. It’s a total seed producer. Just leave it alone and let it grow,” Nash says.

Agronomist Offers True Final Thought

“If you understand how weeds grow, then instead of just thinking spray, spray, spray, you can understand what weeds need and address what will improve the actual crop,” says Nash.

For information on killing your stellar weed crop you’ve worked so hard to grow, visit with your local crop consultant or visit ilsoyadvisor.com or other trusted information sources.

Morningglory is an easy weed to grow in soybean and other fields.

Conventional Wisdom to Manage Weeds Right

- Use multiple modes of action.
- Follow label directions for the proper herbicide rate.
- Rotate crops.
- Scout fields and treat early.
- Harvest weedy fields last.

Perspective: Compare Seeds per Plant

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<th>Seed Type</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Waterhemp</td>
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<td>Palmer Amaranth</td>
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ISA elected its 2014-15 leadership and seated new directors to its board during its annual meeting held Aug. 1, 2014. New board members include several women, which broadens ISA’s reach and is representative of evolving Illinois soybean farmer demographics. According to American Farmland Trust, women now own or co-own nearly half the farmland in the U.S., and more are managing farmland on their own as they inherit it from their spouses or parents.

Bill Raben, soybean farmer from Ridgway, Ill., was elected to serve as chairman for a second year. “I am humbled and honored to be elected again,” says Raben. “I look forward to serving as chairman, and helping do what we can to become more relevant to Illinois soybean farmers and sharing to the rest of the nation what, why and how we do things in Illinois.” Raben previously served as vice chair and chair for the ISA membership task force. He operates a family farm with his brother, and has been an active member of the Illinois Farm Bureau, Gallatin County Soil and Water Conservation District and Wabash Valley Service Company. He has a bachelor’s degree in agronomy from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and was a high school ag instructor prior to farming full-time.

Two new at-large directors were elected to the board – Jenny Mennenga, LeRoy; and Austin Rincker, Moweaqua. Also seated to the board are new directors Roberta Simpson-Dolbeare, Nebo; Stan Born, Dunlap; and Carrie Winkelmann, Tallula. Bill Wykes, Yorkville, was elected to represent Illinois soybean growers on the American Soybean Association board.

“I look forward to serving as chairman, and helping do what we can to become more relevant to Illinois soybean farmers and sharing to the rest of the nation what, why and how we do things in Illinois,” says ISA Chairman Bill Raben from Ridgway, Ill.

ISA’s 2014-15 officers include (left to right) Duane Dahlman, Marketing Committee chair; Mike Marron, vice chairman; Don Guinnip, Production Committee chair; Lynn Rohrschein, secretary; Bill Raben, chairman; Daryl Cates, assistant secretary-treasurer; and David Droste, treasurer.

ISAs 2014-15 officers include (left to right) Duane Dahlman, Marketing Committee chair; Mike Marron, vice chairman; Don Guinnip, Production Committee chair; Lynn Rohrschein, secretary; Bill Raben, chairman; Daryl Cates, assistant secretary-treasurer; and David Droste, treasurer.

Leadership Fact: ISA Makes History with Five Women on Board

Five women now are directors for ISA, a first for the organization. Those directors include current board members Sharon Covert, Tiskilwa; and Lynn Rohrschein, Fairmount; and the three new directors Jenny Mennenga, LeRoy; Roberta Simpson-Dolbeare, Nebo; and Carrie Winkelmann, Tallula.
Like explorers blazing a trail for future settlement, a soybean seed planted in the field has endured an extremely arduous journey through years of research.

“Our goal is to release the ultimate variety that is better than what’s on the market right now, whether it is better yield, or disease or insect traits that aren’t currently available,” says Mycogen Seeds soybean breeder Dennis Schultze. “At any point in the yield testing phase, varieties that do not exceed what is currently on the market get thrown out.”

Mycogen Seeds has a comprehensive and state-of-the-art soybean breeding program, complete with seven stations throughout the United States and Canada. There also are winter breeding programs in Puerto Rico and Chile.

Schultze says tens of thousands of new varieties are yield tested, but only about 0.2 percent, or one in 500 varieties, of those lines ever make it to become commercially available.

Soybean breeding is a five- to six-year process. At every step, a potential variety must meet multiple requirements. “If you compare it to education, a soybean variety must get an A on every test to continue through the process,” Schultze adds. “For example, at the Minnesota breeding station, one of the characteristics we focus on is soybean cyst nematode resistance. Every variety is screened to make sure it has a marker for cyst resistance. If a plant does not, it is automatically discarded.”

After the lab and nursery testing is complete, varieties move to yield testing. In addition to yield, researchers look for characteristics such as disease tolerance and lodging resistance. Field evaluations are vital because they mimic what farmers are doing in their fields. This allows researchers to collect the information farmers need to make seed decisions.

“We can have new varieties in the hands of farmers in five to six years,” Schultze says. “Fifteen years ago, it took twice as long. What Mycogen Seeds is doing from a breeding standpoint all boils down to the farmer and what works on his acres.”
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While higher soybean yields are generally good news for farmers, they also represent a growing concern—the heavy costs of transporting that crop to market. Rising fuel costs, severe bottlenecks in many transport modes and increasing demands to improve efficiency to limit fuel emissions, mean farmers are working to find ways to haul more with fewer trips.

But as Paul Rasmussen, soybean farmer from Genoa, Ill., and ISA director, explains, heavier trucks run into challenges in many areas where rural infrastructure has not kept up with the demands of larger farm equipment and higher yields.

“Some of our bridges aren’t rated to handle the types of loads we have today,” says Rasmussen, who resides in DeKalb County. “Many rural bridges are limited to less than 80,000 pounds and simply don’t have the capacity for today’s modern equipment.”

Bruce Bird, P.E., county engineer for Macon County, Ill., says current standards drive the specs for new projects, while older requirements defined design for older structures.

“We design all new projects to meet the current 80,000-pound standard, but older structures were never designed to meet those demands,” he says. “One of the biggest issues is with roadways. They need a good base to support any kind of load, and many roads in rural areas don’t have a sufficient base. That’s the first thing we look at, especially in spring.”

Designing roads to meet current standards involves a carefully calculated formula, explains Nathan Schwartz, P.E., county engineer for DeKalb County, Ill. “We look at soil type, thickness of the base and estimated numbers of vehicles per day, including the number of multi-unit or single-unit trucks, to calculate the thickness needed to meet the 80,000-pound minimum.”

Checkoff Fact: Research Shows Road Problems are Roadblocks

Infrastructure problems can force farmers to detour 20-50 miles at an additional cost of five cents per bushel. Checkoff-funded research shows every $1 invested in road repairs would provide an average return on investment of $10.24.
Balancing the Load

Schwartz says one of the benefits of counties setting weight limits is the ability to manage the lifespan and maintenance of a road. “Setting weight limits means we can control the weight of those vehicles and protect the integrity of the roads,” he says. “You can better predict deterioration of a road when you know what kind of traffic is on it. It also allows us to plan preventative maintenance.”

Macon County’s Bird explains that while load limits present challenges for farmers, it is important to consider both the short- and long-term effects of higher load limits. He likens the management of roads and bridges to how a farmer manages a new equipment investment. “Just like when a farmer buys a piece of equipment, repairing or replacing a road or bridge is a major investment. We want to get as much life out of it as we can. Sometimes, that means establishing a weight limit to help extend the lifespan of a bridge,” he says.

Resolving the question of higher load limits for Illinois roads and bridges may depend on making the right trade-offs, adds Rasmussen. “These roads are in our communities. We drive on them every day and have an interest in their long-term viability,” he says. “While higher load limits are desirable, we need to understand the local costs those limits would impose on communities. We need some sense of security roads are not being damaged by increasing weight limits.”

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  - Dow AgroSciences
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Decisions made in Springfield and Washington, D.C., impact your bottom line. Illinois soybean growers need to get involved in the legislative process to defend their profitability, market access and freedom to farm.

The easiest way to connect with legislators and regulators is through Voice for Soy. If you haven’t registered yet, please do so now at www.voiceforsoy.org. On the home page, click “Join Us” to register.

Voice for Soy:
- Is a FREE, one-stop shop for tracking priority issues, like GMO labeling and the Renewable Fuel Standard for biodiesel.
- Connects Illinois farmers and agricultural advocates with state and federal legislators and regulators.
- Uses today’s technology to make advocacy easy – it’s accessible via desktop, tablet or smartphone.

When action is needed:
- Advocates receive an email action alert that includes all the tools to respond.
- The email action alert contains links to key messages, legislators’ telephone numbers and customizable letters to send directly to lawmakers.

“"If we don’t advocate for ourselves, there aren’t very many other people out there who will do it for us.”"

— Tim Scates

An ISA director from Carmi, Ill., Tim Scates farms with his father, his brother, four uncles and half a dozen cousins. It’s a family farm partnership that covers roughly 15,000 acres in southern Illinois, and includes an irrigation business. Tim also is active on Voice for Soy – the Illinois Soy Action Network from Illinois Soybean Growers.

Why advocate for Illinois agriculture?
“"If we don’t share the facts, others with a different agenda will be telling our story for us. There already are plenty of inaccuracies out there about agriculture.”"

Why not leave advocacy to the American Soybean Association (ASA)?
“"What ASA does is important, but Illinois has some state-specific issues that we need to focus on more closely – just like other states have specific concerns.”"

Why should Illinois farmers take the lead?
“"Illinois farmers need to push for what’s best for us, because other farmers in other states may have different views. Legislators do listen when you send them something. We need to let them know when we as a group feel strongly about an issue.”"

Why use Voice for Soy?
“"Every time you’re active on Voice for Soy, it’s worthwhile – it’s helping protect your bottom line. If you don’t tell your story to legislators, someone else will. And they may not have the same voice that you want to speak with. You may get a different outcome.”"
Extension and Farm Progress Encourage Drone Use

Crop scouting can be a tedious task. Thanks to new technologies being tested, including drones, farmers can see their fields without actually getting in their fields.

Farm Progress recently hosted an event in Decatur, Ill., to showcase all that aerial agriculture has to offer. Several demonstrations showed drones can be used as a scouting assistant to see if anything looks odd in the field. If it does, the drones can either hover closer to get a look or direct you to the location. Other discussions included pricing and return-on-investment of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), as well as safety regulations.

University of Illinois Extension also is getting into drone experimentation, taking snapshots of South Farms research plots. Dennis Bowman, crop sciences educator, says the agriculture industry is expected to be one of the largest markets for drone use.

The drones also may be deployed in the battle against Palmer amaranth, an invasive weed that is spreading across the Midwest and has been found on the South Farms. Palmer amaranth is becoming increasingly resistant to herbicides and spreads so prolifically that it could drastically reduce farmers’ yield potential in affected fields (see related story on page 10).

“Before the soybean rows close, or if we get a different spectrum response from some of these weeds as they break through the canopy, we may see some of those weeds show up in the imagery as well to identify where there are hot spots and problems,” Bowman says.

Study Shows Soybean Checkoff Offers Big ROI

A new, independent study finds the soybean checkoff continues to grow farmer investments into big results. The checkoff’s most recent regular, independent return-on-investment (ROI) analysis found U.S. soybean farmers receive $5.20 in profits for every dollar they invest in the checkoff. Gary Williams, Texas A&M University agricultural economics professor, conducted the study. He says five percent of all farmer revenues are due to the checkoff’s research and marketing efforts, and he says the checkoff has:

- Increased the size of the U.S. soybean industry.
- Lifted markets for U.S. soybeans, meal and oil.
- Increased U.S. soy exports and reduced South American competitiveness.
- Created benefits, as net additional returns far exceed program expenditures over time.

WSF Campaign Features Illinois Soybean Leader

The World Soy Foundation (WSF) declared July “Acre Challenge Month.” The group celebrated the event by creating videos of farmers talking about why they support WSF.

Dan Farney, soybean farmer from Morton, Ill., and former ISA secretary and WSF board trustee, shares in his video why he believes in giving the gift of protein. He says, “As a farmer, I have been very blessed to have this occupation. I believe in giving back to those across the globe.”

To see more videos from the series, go to the World Soy Foundation YouTube page.

Be on Lookout for Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

Be on the lookout for the Illinois Statewide Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy this fall. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), representatives from commodity groups, state agencies and stakeholder organizations developed the comprehensive program. The strategy outlines the status of water quality in Illinois, and will help agriculture and other industries reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses to improve water quality. For more information, visit epa.state.il.us/water/nutrient. You also can find additional information at the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices (C-BMP) website, illinoiscbmp.org.

$5.20

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>Women in Agribusiness Summit</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oilseed &amp; Grain Trade Summit</td>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
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<td>Illinois Commodity Conference</td>
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For more information, visit www.ilsoy.org
**PEDv Affects Pork and Soybean Producers**

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) was confirmed in the U.S. in the spring of 2013. Since that time, the disease has spread to 30 states – and killed more than seven million piglets. It continues to devastate pork producers and drive up the cost of pork. And it also is having a negative impact on soybean meal demand. Animal ag is Illinois soy’s top customer, with more than 80 percent of soybean meal consumed by the pork industry.

PEDv has killed an estimated six to eight percent of this year’s pig crop, confirms Dr. Aaron Lower, veterinarian with Carthage Veterinary Service Ltd. in Carthage, Ill. Currently, 50 to 60 percent of sow farms nationwide have contracted the virus, while the pork industry works overtime to determine how PEDv spreads. Lower cites three possible scenarios that cause the disease to spread:

- Transportation – on trucks that have hauled pigs to market.
- Feed – contamination of mill or trucks or contaminated feed ingredients.
- Unknown routes of transmission – such as aerosol, birds or infected objects.

Lower says feed is another risk area. “We think a lot of farms have gone positive because of live virus in the feed. We’re trying to understand how it gets there. Either some of the ingredients being used have live virus in them, or there’s contamination at the feed mill. One of the protocols being implemented at feed mills is disinfecting the feed.”

There also is concern that porcine blood meal or bone meal may harbor live virus. “There’s plenty of research showing that plasma is safe,” Lower adds. “But based on what we’ve experienced in the industry, we question whether that’s 100 percent accurate.”

ISA Director on Front Lines

To help piece the puzzle together, David Droste, soybean farmer from Nashville, Ill., and ISA director, is participating in research. Droste also is a contract hog producer for The Maschhoffs, LLC. The company is doing PEDv research in Droste’s hog building.

“The Maschhoffs monitor pigs at our site to determine how long infected pigs shed the virus,” Droste says. “This is a critical piece of information to apply toward PEDv control strategies.”

Droste believes soybean farmers should help livestock producers solve problems like PEDv: “If we don’t, there won’t be enough livestock, and we’ll be burdened with an oversupply of soybean meal. Pork and poultry producers are our biggest customers.”

Calculate the Loss

Losing an estimated seven percent of the U.S. swine herd will affect soybean meal consumption, although pork producers are taking pigs to heavier weights to compensate for the loss.

“With a seven percent drop in pig numbers, there’s less push on barn space, so pigs on feed are going to be fed longer. Pig weights are up an average of 11 pounds. As a result, the total reduction in soybean meal use will be more in the range of five percent,” says Dr. Aaron Lower, veterinarian with Carthage Veterinary Service Ltd. in Carthage, Ill.

**Checkoff Fact:** Preliminary Research Shows Disease-Fighting Promise

Illinois soybean checkoff-funded research continues to advance protein quality and digestibility, while working to minimize anti-nutritional effects. Preliminary research indicates soybean meal may help hogs fight disease better. Recent University of Illinois research funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff indicates soybean meal may offer advantages over synthetic amino acids.
SA continues to work with the National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL) to reach emerging markets in the developing world through the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) program. This year, NSRL, with soybean checkoff funding, has provided training through its new Illinois Based International Technical Training Program (IBITT). The inaugural IBITT focused on soy in poultry nutrition and included participants from Haiti and Uganda.

“Poultry is the number one market for U.S. soy protein and a growing application for soy in the developing world. There has been increasing interest in Haiti, in particular, to increase its poultry production,” says Bridget Owen, NSRL associate director.

In 2013, ISA and NSRL/WISHH organized a workshop in Port au Prince, Haiti, to share information on soy contributions to poultry nutrition. ISA directors Ron Moore, Roseville, Ill., and Joe Murphy, Harrisburg, Ill., participated in the workshop in Haiti. As a follow-up to the event, NSRL and ISA developed the Poultry IBITT to provide further technical training in Illinois and to connect participants to Illinois’ soy value chain.

While on campus, participants spent time with Carl Parsons, University of Illinois poultry science professor, to learn more about poultry nutrition and health. Feed formulation simulation was included, which highlighted the important role high-quality U.S. soy plays in poultry diets. The Poultry IBITT also included field visits to the University of Illinois Poultry Farm, container loading facilities and to a lock and dam on the Illinois River.

“Overall, participants left with a strong understanding of the value of U.S. soy protein and the strong soy value chain in Illinois,” says Owen. “ISA and NSRL plan further IBITT programs that will focus on soy in meat processing and soy in food service in the future. We want to reach growing international markets that can benefit from Illinois soy products.”

IBITT participants toured the Smithland Illinois Lock and Dam at Peru, Ill.

The group learned more about soy transport at the Scoular Grain Container loading facility in Peotone, Ill.
Management Matters

MYTHBUSTERS

TRUE: Fall nitrogen (N) applications have been standard practice in central and northern Illinois for decades. But a renewed focus on nutrient management and its downstream effects on water quality have many within the crop production industry reconsidering the practice.

Soil temperature plays an important role in the timing of fall-applied nitrogen.

TRUE: Farmers may be eager to get a jump on fall N applications. But as University of Illinois Extension agronomist Emerson Nafziger explains, “It’s important to wait until soil temperatures consistently are below 50 degrees before applying fall N. For most of the northern half of Illinois, that means waiting until Nov. 1. In southern Illinois, it stays warm later in the fall and warms up earlier in the spring, making fall application too risky.”

Soil temperature information is available from the Water and Atmospheric Resources Monitoring Program (WARM) at www.isws.illinois.edu/warm/soiltemp.asp. Use the maximum daily temperature in four-inch bare soil as your guide.

Fall N applications require balancing operation benefits with increased N loss risk.

TRUE: Nafziger believes fall application benefits should be weighed against risks.

“One of the main advantages to fall application is having the nitrogen available in the spring and not having to worry about applying it prior to planting. With the trend toward earlier planting dates, it’s an advantage to not have to worry about pre-plant application,” he says.

Nafziger adds soils are typically drier in the fall, meaning less compaction and better dispersal of anhydrous ammonia in the soil profile. “Fall applications often work better, but you have to weigh that against increased chances for loss,” he says.

Only fall-applied nitrogen contributes to water quality issues.

FALSE: While many farmers recognize applying N in the fall means some increased risk of loss, early spring losses also may be the result of N left from the previous year’s crop. Both Nafziger and Payne cite the spring of 2013 following a dry 2012 as a prime example. N was applied sidedress in the spring and never fully used by the crop, leaving it vulnerable to leaching when it rained after harvest.

“Mother Nature dictates the best time to apply nitrogen,” says Payne. “Because we can’t predict the weather, the best approach is to manage nitrogen as a system.”

Nafziger adds, “Like in so many things, the moderate path is a wise one. More farmers are using split N applications. Be aware of the potential for loss while applying only as much N as the crop needs. Fall N can be a useful tool to help get this done.”

Increasing nitrogen rates is a good alternative to using a nitrogen stabilizer.

FALSE: Nafziger says using a nitrification inhibitor with fall-applied anhydrous ammonia has become a common practice. “Stabilizers slow conversion of ammonium to nitrate,” he says. “Keep as much nitrogen as possible in the ammonium form going into winter when cold soils stop nitrification.”

Jean Payne, president of the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, says oscillating fertilizer and corn prices have helped farmers move away from overapplying nitrogen.

“Farmers see nitrogen as a high-value input, so stabilizers are a form of insurance,” Payne says. “Besides, the goal in adding N is to keep it for the crop, not risk losing more to the environment.”

Wait until soil temperatures consistently are below 50 degrees before applying fall N.

Checkoff Fact: ILSoyAdvisor is Go-To Resource

For growers in southern counties with unglaciated soils, typically those south of Highway 16, fall applications of nitrogen are discouraged, according to the Illinois Agronomy Handbook. The soybean checkoff-funded ILSoyAdvisor.com website provides soybean farmers with information about nitrogen management and other agronomic topics. Check in with other farmers, ask questions of the experts and read the latest information regarding soybean production.

“Farmers across the state are learning more about how to manage nitrogen to ensure it is available to the crop and not lost to the environment,” says Don Guinnip, soybean farmer from Marshall, Ill., and ISA director.

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Photo by Karl Spencer

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“Farmers across the state are learning more about how to manage nitrogen to ensure it is available to the crop and not lost to the environment,” says Don Guinnip, soybean farmer from Marshall, Ill., and ISA director.
Nearly 200 soybean farmers attended Farm Journal’s Soybean College 2014, which was sponsored by the Illinois Soybean Association and funded by the Illinois soybean checkoff. The event was held July 15 at the Crop-Tech facility south of Heyworth, Ill. The purpose of Soybean College is to give farmers a hands-on look at new and exciting techniques for improving soybean production and yields.

Isaac Ferrie (middle) and Brad Beutke (right) from Crop-Tech give a breakout session group tips about how to identify soybean growth stages.

Participants went into the field to work with agronomy experts to identify soybean growth stages.

Soybean College’s youngest student learns how to identify soybean cyst nematode.

During a breakout session, Dan Towery shows an attendee how to conduct soil health tests. Towery is an ag consultant with knowledge and expertise in conservation practices.

Isaac Ferrie (far right) shares information with a group of participants. The show-and-tell approach helps educate farmers about production practices that can increase profitability.

For more information, visit soyyieldchallenge.org.
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