

DECEMBER 2022

# *Illinois* **Field & Bean**

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION



**The Soy From  
Illinois Issue**





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Visit us online at [www.ilsoy.org/magazine/illinois-field-bean](http://www.ilsoy.org/magazine/illinois-field-bean).



**COVER:** ISA's "Soy From Illinois" campaign was developed to cultivate a sense of Illinois pride and to generate a better appreciation and greater community support of soybean production, soybean farmers, and the collective impact of our industry. Pictured is Illinois farmer Ben Briggs who farms with his wife, Abby, and their two children in Stonington, Ill.

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**FROM THE BOARDROOM**

# Braggin' Rights



**DWAYNE ANDERSON |  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER |  
ILLINOIS SOYBEAN BOARD**

Since I'm among friends here, mind if I brag a little?

When it comes to producing high-quality, sustainably reliable crops, no one does it better than Illinois soybean farmers. We hail from many different parts of the state. And it's our unique contributions that have propelled Illinois to the very top of the list, sending the message around the world that Illinois' 43,000 soybean farmers can be counted on – to enhance our domestic resources, support communities, fuel the economy, and feed the world.

That's why the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) created the "Soy From Illinois" campaign two years ago - to brag a little; to raise consciousness and appreciation for soybeans, and to enrich the lives and prospects for Illinois soybean farmers across the state and beyond.

Through campaign messaging, ISA is creating opportunities for Illinois soybean producers by generating pride and support for efforts with non-ag audiences that enable Illinois to be the leading soybean producer in the United States. These efforts, reaching audiences we've never reached before, have built support for soybean production in Illinois by demonstrating the positive economic and social impact that soybean production has on Illinois. They've also helped to position ISA as a leading source of information about soybean production and marketing in the state.

Our Soy From Illinois campaign was designed to create greater awareness for soy-based products that are part of our everyday lives. We set out to tell the story that soy is more than just a crop. Sure, it can grow from a tiny seed to a full-grown plant in less than one growing season. But it can also do much more. Versatile, renewable soybeans help meet food, feed, and fuel demand on local, national, and global levels. And we've still only scratched the surface.

From crayons, candles, biodiesel, turf, adhesives, and more, we are showing consumers the value of soy. And despite where our product goes from here – how far it travels, and however it's consumed – your ISA board and staff are working everyday to ensure your return on investment exceeds your return on expectation.

So perhaps we have earned the right to brag, just a little. Soy from Illinois is changing lives, rewriting the future, and raising standards. Let's continue to leverage our role within the center of the world's agricultural supply chain to help improve its overall sustainability, accelerate innovation, and meet challenges with Illinois-specific solutions.



# It's Just Us

This fall, I spent time meeting with every member of the ISA staff for what's called a "Stay Interview." These meetings are designed to take the temperature of our team, gathering information about the things our hardworking employees value about their jobs and discover any areas where we can provide additional support. It's also a chance to hear more about their hopes for the future of our association and their unique participation, to address any concerns, and to remind staff that their professional success is a top priority of mine.

Because these Stay Interviews are a new engagement tactic at ISA, I could sense some uncertainty as each employee entered the room and sat down, not quite sure what to expect or what might be expected of them.

But it took only three little words from me to completely change the atmosphere of the room, to put staff members visibly at ease, and to bring a comfortable openness to the conversation:

"It's just us," I began.

These small but genuine words reassured staff from every ISA department that this was simply a conversation between colleagues; an effort to check in about what was going well and to wonder together if there was anything they needed from me. I wanted these conversations to convey that we are a family at ISA. Here to shoulder the collective load and celebrate our collective success.

It would take me until my retirement to have the same conversation with each of our 43,000 hardworking Illinois farmers. But I would sure love that opportunity. The chance to sit down with each of you to ask you what you value most about the soybean checkoff and what your hopes for the future look like. I'd like to know where we could be doing more and to think together about our opportunities. I'd like to know what's hard right now, what you feel hopeful about, and if there's something more ISA can do to ensure your success.

As you read through the pages of this issue, which might be a personal fan favorite of mine, I hope you'll feel proud and inspired by the "Soy From Illinois" stories. We've used this tagline as a central theme of many messages and events over the last year, each designed to cultivate a sense of Illinois pride and to generate a better appreciation and greater community support of soybean production and soybean farmers. The Soy From Illinois messages have been imbued across gatherings, sporting events, advertisements, paid media opportunities, and more, engaging communities throughout the state to reinforce the economic and social impact that soybean production creates for Illinois.

I hope you'll drop me a note to let me know what you find meaningful in these pages, and what you'd like to know more about. There are no wrong answers, no idea too big, no effort too small.

Because after all... it's just us.



JOHN LUMPE | CEO |  
ILLINOIS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION







# Big Men Don't Do Small Things

## Get to know Mr. A.E. Staley, "The Father of Soy"

By Betsy Osman

If you ask most people what it means to chase after "The American Dream," you'll likely get a mixed bag of interpretations. By its definition, The American Dream is described as an ideal that every citizen of the United States should have an equal opportunity to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination, and initiative. But what sits at the center of this golden idea is a self-made dreamer with humble beginnings and a rapacious willingness to do whatever it takes to move theoretical imaginings into hard-and-fast realities.

It could be said that Mr. A.E. Staley – who would one day be dubbed "The Father of Soy" – was a dreamer who inspired dreamers; a man so big that his legacy would be safeguarded and imbued across landmarks and corporate fixtures, ultimately made synonymous with the rise of soybean nation. His story is tethered to a hard upbringing that made him more likely to sputter than soar, but what Mr. Staley and all dreamers have in common is wit, grit, and an unsinkable nature that cannot be outmatched by a challenge.

A.E. Staley (Gene) was born on February 25, 1867, on the family farm in Julian, North Carolina. His parents William and Mary Jane Staley were farmers, their crops ranging from tobacco, corn, and cotton. Theirs was not an idyllic, sprawling southern plantation but rather a modest family operation where all hands were needed – even the smallest ones. Childhood was a short-lived luxury on the family farm and Gene was engaged in farm chores from a very early age. His unprioritized education fell to his mother who provided instruction from a single

textbook (the only textbook Gene would ever encounter). But his job was not to learn about the vast world outside of the family operation, rather he was expected to shuck corn, pick cotton, and destroy the nettlesome tobacco worms.

His father had hopes that Gene would become a minister and eventually continue running the family farm. But Gene had his sights set on other plans, often telling his parents, "I'm goin' be a businessman!"

He began his early sales career by loading up the family truck with products from the farm and delivering them to markets in nearby towns. Eventually, he became a traveling salesman for various companies, delivering products to far reaches of the settled territories. His employers included a baking powder manufacturer which first took him to Decatur, Illinois.

(Little did he know that one day, his dreams would call Decatur home.)

In 1897, Staley turned his attention to the starch business. He had noticed during his years as

a salesman that starch was ever on-hand in the businesses he visited. With the conviction that starch would make for a good business, Staley began creating the foundation of what would later turn into the industrial success story of the A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company.

The early years of the business were centered in Baltimore, Maryland. Gene Staley had become so successful at packaging and selling his own brand of starch that he was becoming a thorn in the side of the big players in the starch business. Staley knew he was in danger of being cut off by his suppliers and began the search for a plant where he could set up a business and provide starch for himself. His search brought him back to Decatur where he purchased a defunct starch making plant in 1909 and set to make the necessary repairs and improvements. He opened the doors for business in 1912 but it wasn't until the 1920's that soybeans came onto the scene. Mr. Staley partnered with the University

of Illinois School of Agriculture and the Illinois Central Railroad to take educational programming around Illinois and nearby states via train car known as "The Soil and Soybean Special."

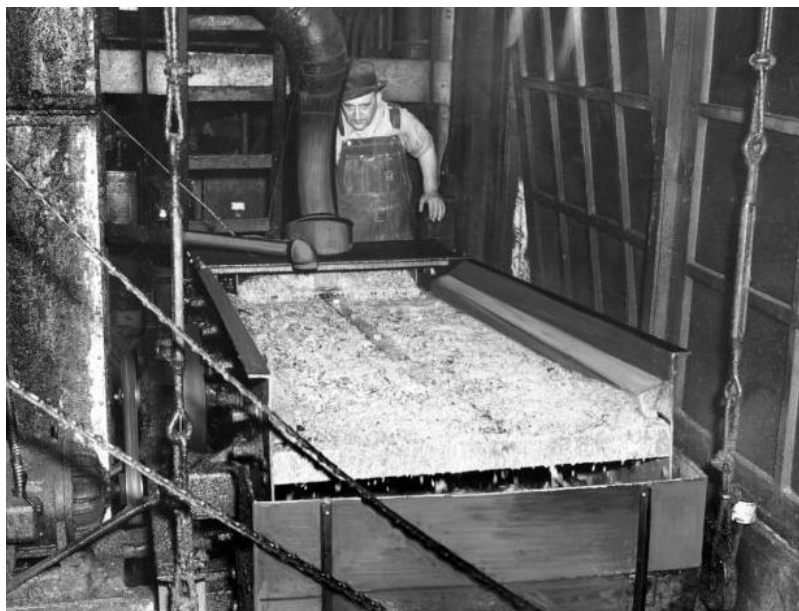
Mr. Staley told soybean farmers he would purchase all the soybeans they could harvest and bring them to him. This led to enormous increases in soybeans planted in central Illinois, particularly in the late years of the war when the productivity of Illinois corn land had been diminished because farmers had neglected crop rotation in an effort to take the greatest advantage of high wartime prices on corn.

The plant would receive hundreds of inquiries from farmers and grain dealers throughout Illinois, even from neighboring states, which were always answered by Mr. Staley himself. In one such correspondence, he wrote: "The A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company pledges to every farmer, to the industry of which it is a part, and to the consumers

(Big men, page 8)



2022 marks the 100th anniversary of soy processing in Decatur, Illinois.







One of A.E. Staley's greatest achievements was his role in the creation of the Decatur Staleys Club, which would eventually become the Chicago Bears. He is also responsible for the creation of the National Football League.

## Big men

(continued from page 7)

of soybean products, to administer its position of leadership in a manner that is fair and constructive."

It was just before his death that Mr. Staley sat down with the Decatur Herald & Review to share his story and unpack all that he'd learned over the

years. In the newspaper article that appeared a few days later, he was quoted as saying, "Big men don't do small things."

Reading about his life and legacy, one can't help but wish Mr. A. E. Staley could see how today's Soy from Illinois is changing global commerce, global food supply, and even global connectivity. But perhaps in his wisdom and foresight, we are all carrying on with the work he originally intended; the work of one Amer-

ican dreamer who believed his own success was defined by the commonwealth of every American farmer.

*With special thanks to the Staley Museum for providing biographical information, photos and historical perspectives.*



A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company opened its doors in 1912 but it wasn't until the early 1920's that the plant began soybean processing.



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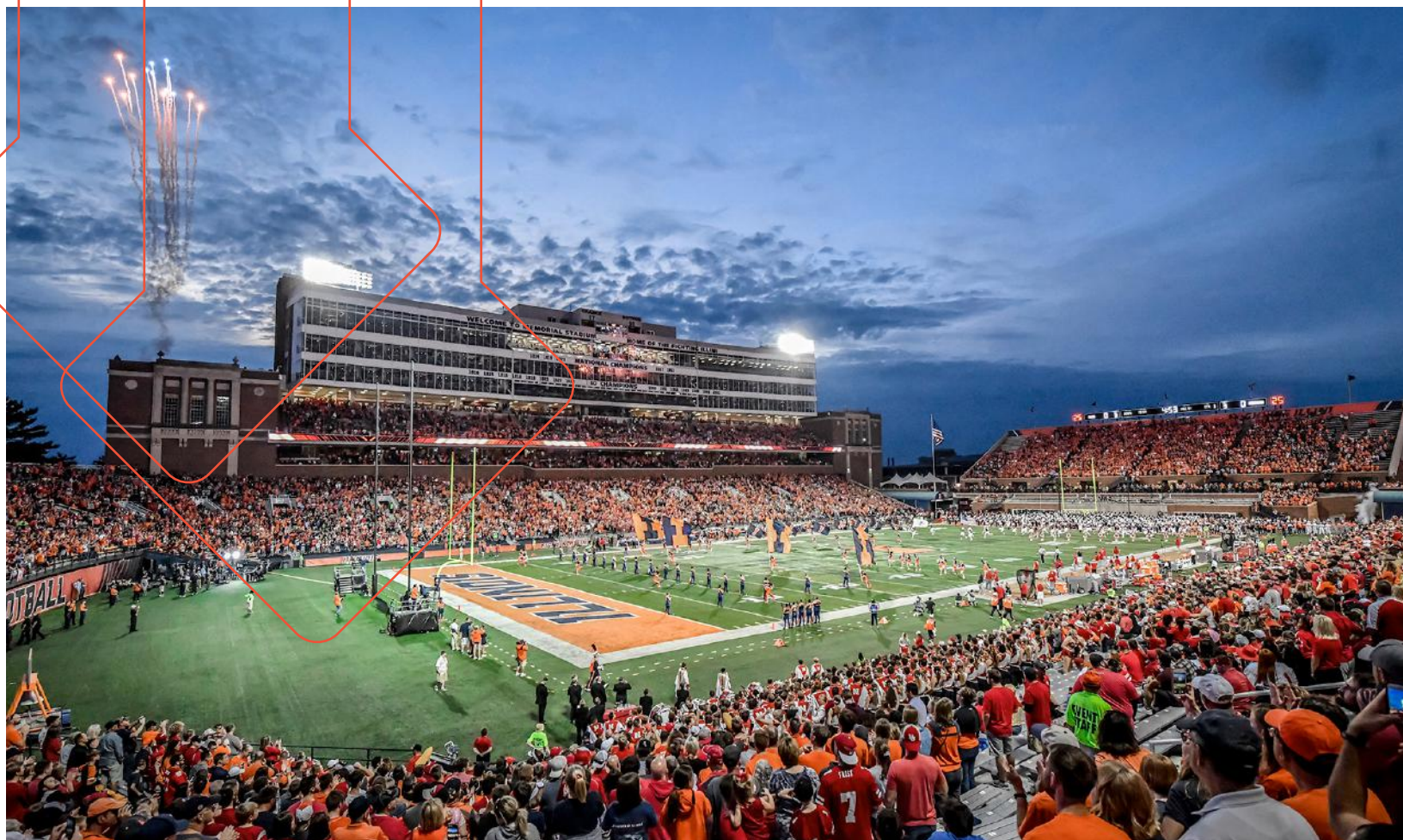
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# The University of Illinois and ISA: United on All Fields

By DeAnna Thomas

**F**or true Fighting Illini fans, no sound in the world compares to the roar of fans packed in Memorial Stadium chanting "I-L-L" "I-N-I." The cheers and chants from the crowd as DeVito launches a "Hail Mary" toward the goal line during the final moments of a game are unforgettable and awe inspiring. The energy is indescribable and instantly unites Illini fans of all ages.

There is an adage, "If you eat, you too, are involved in agriculture." Like the beginning notes of "Oskee-Wow-Wow" unites fans, Illinois soybean

farmers have been uniting families at dinner tables for generations. They are committed to growing our domestic resources, positively impacting communities, fueling the economy, and meeting global opportunities with homegrown solutions.

## ***A Tradition of Excellence***

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) has long worked with the University of Illinois in many different capacities, recognizing and respecting the deep roots the premier land grant university has in Illinois agriculture.

"Products made from soybeans get the job done

– responsibly, economically, sustainably," said ISA District 6 Director, Jim Martin. "From plastics to hand sanitizers to fuel, soy plays a big role in our everyday lives. As more and more generations are removed from agriculture and farming today, it is essential for Illinois consumers and communities to understand how the Illinois soybean industry impacts their daily lives."

With that history in mind, the ISA checkoff program is thrilled to partner with the Fighting Illini in their fall and winter sports lineup to share the story of Illinois soy with the Illini nation.

"One of the ways ISA is working with the U of I on creating consumer awareness is through athletic advertising," said ISA Director of Communications, Rachel Peabody. "By partnering with the athletic department, we are able to share that it's 'Good to be soy,' and to share all of the good that soy brings back to Illinois."

From food to fuel, Illinois soybean farmers are committed to growing our domestic resources, supporting global food security, and meeting challenges with homegrown solutions.

"The goal of bringing awareness of all the good things soy



brings to the state of Illinois, especially from a consumer-focused point of view," Peabody said. "People don't know how versatile soy is; we are educating consumers about something that has many, many applications, and it's good for everyone."

#### **What's that look like?**

ISA is committed to uncovering new opportunities for Illinois soy, ensuring the greatest return for farmers, and an appreciation for this homegrown, renewable resource.

**Biodiesel** - Illinois soybean farmers are growing sustainable, domestic fuels right here in Illinois fields. Biodiesel is made using Illinois soybeans, which makes it a homegrown, renewable energy solution.

**The Power of Soy Protein** - Soy protein is the only plant-based protein carrying FDA's heart health claim confirming it may reduce the risk of heart disease. It's deliciously versatile as an ingredient, and best

of all, it's sustainably grown by local Illinois farmers using innovative conservation practices.

**Sustainability** - Illinois soybean farmers are the caretakers of our natural resources, including soil and water, and work to make agricultural production sustainable, clean, and green.

**Economic Impact** - Illinois produces more soybeans than any other state in the U.S. The 43,000 Illinois soybean farmers who deliver high-quality products year after year are driving the economy, growing new market opportunities around the world, raising the bar for conservation and innovation, and bringing dollars back to Illinois.

"To be the head coach here at the University of Illinois and to grow up here on an Illinois farm, I know how important that business is to our community," said Coach Bret Bielema, Fighting Illini Football Coach.

# ILLINOIS

"I walked soybeans many times growing up, so I know the importance of the soybean crop and what it provides our country. I appreciate the Illinois Soybean Association's continued support of our athletic department here at the University of Illinois."

During the fall and winter sports season, ISA's partnership with the Fighting Illini has the potential to impact more than 15 million consumers in sharing it's "Good to be Soy" story by educating consumers about the versatility of soybeans and how the crop brings them direct benefits in everyday products and a greener world. In addition to sponsoring the November Fighting Illini vs. Purdue football game, ISA will sponsor the Fighting


Illini vs. Northwestern Wildcats basketball game Thursday, February 23, 2023.

While ISA is rooting for The Fighting Illini, we know that Illinois soybean farmers are Illinois' true home field advantage.

*"To be the head coach here at the University of Illinois and to grow up here on an Illinois farm, I know how important that business is to our community. I walked soybeans many times growing up, so I know the value of the soybean crop and what it provides our country. I appreciate the Illinois Soybean Association's continued support of our athletic department here at the University of Illinois."* - **Bret Bielema, Fighting Illini Head Football Coach**

  
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**OVER 519,100**  
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SOURCE: COMVIVA SOCIAL, JUNE 2021 | GOOGLE ANALYTICS, 2020-2021 | NIELSEN, 2020-21 | UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, 2021 | NCAA ATTENDANCE, 2019-20

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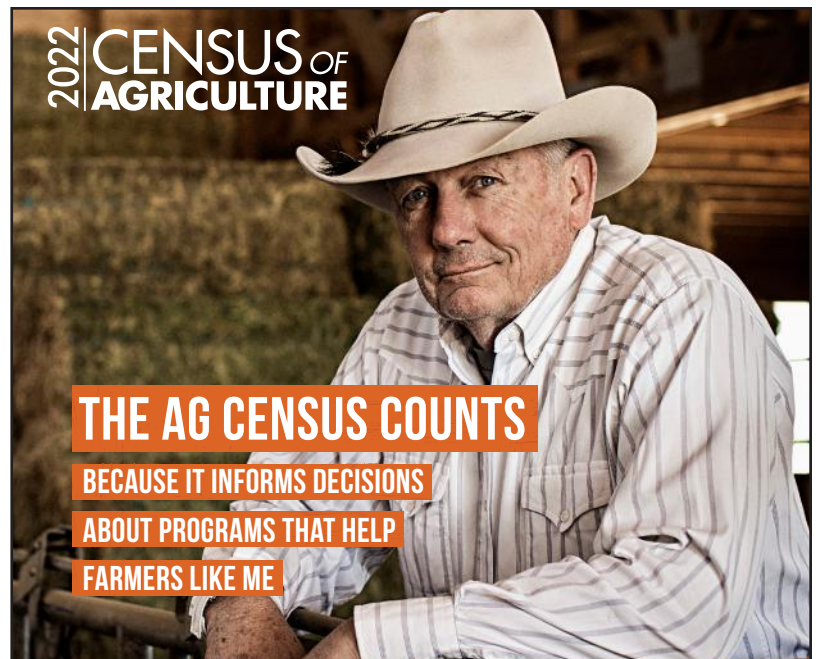


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RACHEL PEABODY | EDITOR |  
ILLINOIS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

# Beans With a Backstory

In 2018, my husband and I moved our family into a nearly 100-year-old brick farmhouse atop a hill in Old Stonington. At that time, it was our 10th flip property in seven years, and every bit a challenge as it was a blessing. Over the next couple of years, we remodeled and preserved and made that house our home. We moved into the farmhouse with babies and sold it in 2020 with two toddlers. Out of all of our addresses, we've always said that the "country house" is the one we'll never forget. As we lived there and made memories with our girls, I always thought about how that house was full of memories from past children running down the stairs, the years of Christmas mornings celebrated, and the miles run by children in the wide-open yard. I'm still incredibly grateful that out of all of the stories shared by that house, our family got to add a special chapter to its book.

Country house in particular gave me new perspective on putting a new spin on an old story, and I think that we've captured that sentiment in this December "Soy from Illinois" issue of Illinois Field & Bean.

On page 6, our Associate Editor, Betsy Osman, tells the story of the soybean's long lineage in Illinois and the legacy left by A.E. Staley, the founder of Staley Manufacturing Company which became Tate & Lyle. This year marks the 100th anniversary of soy processing in Illinois, and we've prepared a special piece on his contributions to the soybean market.

On page 10, we're talking about Illinois soy's role on a different Illinois field – the football kind. Over the last couple of years, we've built a fun partnership with Fighting Illini Athletics to sponsor their fall and winter sports lineups. Staff writer, Deanna Thomas, explains how this partnership has allowed us to share with the Illini nation

and Illinois consumers the importance of soy in our everyday lives.

We've also used this issue to highlight some of our incredible leaders advocating on behalf of the soy industry. On page 14, you'll read about the Illinois soybean farmers leading the way at the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), and on page 22, you'll read about two of our best legislative champions and recipients of ISA's 2022 Legislator of the Year awards.

Every ounce of this issue is full of pride and commitment to the Illinois soybean industry and all that it stands for. I hope our readers enjoy these tales of "Soy from Illinois," and keep dreaming of new ways to keep our beloved industry thriving.

It's been a monumental century for soy, and an incredible 2022 for ISA, and I can't wait to see what we find in 2023. Let's keep writing a new spin on an old story, shall we?

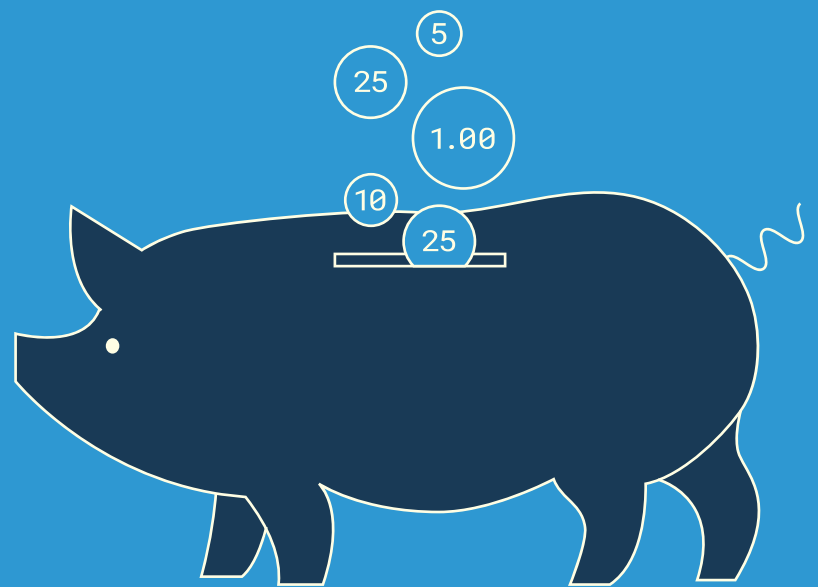
I'll see you in 2023!





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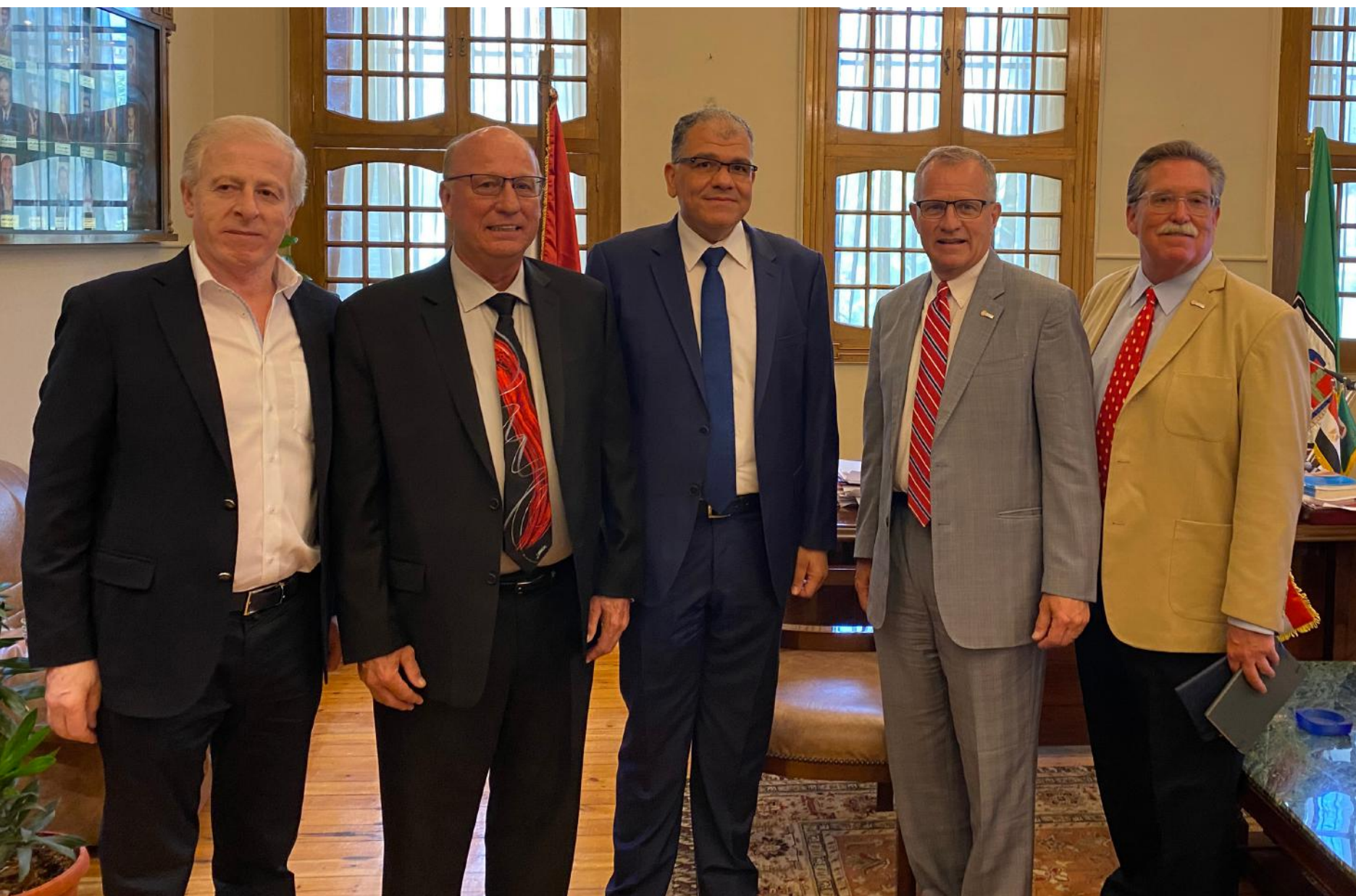
In 2021, pork exports contributed 12.6% to the per-bushel value of U.S. soybeans, adding \$1.65 per bushel to your bottom line.

Your half percent per bushel checkoff contribution helps to fund programs to increase the global demand for soy-fed pork and pork exports. ISA works with the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) to invest in ongoing market development and promotion programs. These programs help increase global demand for pork, as well as expand the volume and range of pork cuts purchased around the world. The strategic focus to build demand for pork will result in demand for soy-based feed, which is a checkoff investment that clearly pays off.

For more information on your investment, visit [ilsoy.org](https://ilsoy.org).

THE CHECKOFF THAT PAYS OFF.





Farmer leaders like Illinois' Doug Winter, second from left, represent soybean farmers in markets around the world, instilling confidence in the product.

# Leading the Leaders, Illinois-Style

By Claire Weinzierl

**A**ll around the world, people are mindful of their food choices. Whether it be nutrition, availability, production, or price, there are several factors that consumers consider when making dietary choices.

A healthy option that is made available all around the world

that's grown right here in Illinois? Soy.

High in protein, soy is a healthy dietary option for consumers all over the globe as it contains all of the essential amino acids necessary for human nutrition, while also overcoming environmental concerns thanks to its sustainable production.

One organization that works to promote the consumption of soyfoods is the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC).

The vision of USSEC is that U.S. soy is a trusted, sustainable source of nutrition and energy worldwide. USSEC's mission is to maximize the utilization, value, and access to markets of U.S. soy around the world. To achieve that

mission, USSEC's strategy is to create a preference for U.S. soy by nurturing relationships, growing awareness, and demonstrating value. Strategic goals were set in place by USSEC which are viewed as three major steps in a continuous process: differentiate, elevate, and attain.

The first step, differentiate, involves differentiation the quality



and value of U.S. soy from other nutrition and energy products. USSEC's Strategic Plan dictates that this can be monitored at several levels, including U.S. soy's amino acid profile, sustainable provenance, and other value markers. Establishing and further honing U.S. soy's value proposition will be a key activity as global competition intensifies.

The second step, elevate, encourages collaboration with partners across the U.S. supply chain to elevate a preference for U.S. soy products in existing markets and spark demand in worldwide markets. Promoting the quality and provenance of U.S.-produced soy will focus on current markets that must meet the needs of their evolving regulatory landscape and population size.

Finally, USSEC will attain access to markets for U.S. soy through cooperation with a variety of diverse global stakeholders.

Two soybean farmers, Doug Winter and Stan Born, helped in the development of USSEC's strategic plan and currently serve as Chair and Vice Chairman of USSEC's Board of Directors, respectively. Both are Illinois farmers with a special interest in expanding international markets for soy.

"As U.S. soybean farmers, exports are critical to our business," says Born. "Six of every 10 rows we produce find their way into markets outside our borders. And as a supplier, we are not alone. We must earn every sale because customers have choices in who to buy from."

Born notes that one challenge U.S. farmers face is proving the value of U.S. soy using facts and data.

"That is the role USSEC serves, to understand what customers need and want, and then demonstrate how U.S. soy will best meet those needs and wants."

As Directors, Born and Winter are tasked with several speaking engagements and participate in opportunities for dialogue with international customers, face-to-face.

"In those conversations, we hear what kind of challenges our international customers have, whether they be a feed mill, crush plant facility, land-based or water-based livestock feeders. It's good to know what they're looking for, what their challenges are, and what their future needs are going to be," says Winter.

According to USSEC, given the rising consumer interest and corporate and government initiatives on sustainability from zero hunger to climate action and partnerships, U.S. soy has the lowest carbon footprint when compared to soy from other origins. The U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) was developed by a multi-stakeholder group, including USSEC, with participants all along the soy value chain to address international sourcing requirements of verified sustainable soy.

The SSAP is based on an integrated approach audited by third parties that verifies sustainable soy production at a national scale. The U.S. approach is quantifiable and results-driven with trace back to the point of export.

"While the majority of soy demand is for animal nutrition, there is a significant demand for direct human use, both in oil for cooking and for soy meal to produce a variety of human foods," says Born. "This is most evident across Asia and Southeast Asia, where there is a long tradition and palate for the taste of soy. Foods like soy sauce, miso, tofu, and tempeh are

well known, but during a recent trip to Singapore I saw new uses – from ice cream to soy wine!"

"USSEC works to help promote these product developments, understand the unique requirements these producers have, and bring that back to tailor and adapt what we have to offer and better meet the customer needs."

Winter adds that USSEC works very closely with organizations that deal with food-grade soybean exporters and many use Illinois-grown soybeans for human nutrition.

USSEC's staff is comprised of individuals who bring regional expertise, as well as knowledge of market access, nutrition, and strategy.

"USSEC impresses me with their caliber of staff located in various regions around the world and I'm also very impressed with the amount of respect the staff has whether they are regional directors or feed nutrition consultants, all the various areas we work in," says Winter. "USSEC has become an integral, go-to resource for many international customers."

While our world faces a hunger crisis and some countries face malnourishment, rest assured that soybean farmers are growing a healthy, sustainable solution right here in Illinois and organizations like USSEC ensure that solution makes it to dinner plates around the globe.



USSEC is working closely with organizations that deal with food-grade soybean exporters and many use Illinois-grown soybeans for human nutrition.



# WISHH works with key international stakeholders to demonstrate **U.S. soy's value** for businesses and communities.



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*WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.*





[unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)

# HELPING YOU DELIVER ON DEMAND

*Whether it's improving soybean meal to outperform the competition or promoting the sustainability of U.S. soy, the soy checkoff has been working behind the scenes to help farmers satisfy their customers' needs. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And for U.S. soybean farmers like you, the impact is invaluable.*

*See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for farmers at [unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)*







Labyrinth Made Goods, makers of 100% soy candles, is empowering women who have experienced incarceration to develop real-life skills and business preparedness.

# Doing Good by Candlelight

By Olivia Key

**Y**WCA McLean County is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families and strengthen communities. Their non-profit enterprise, Labyrinth Made Goods (LMG), creates 100% soy candles that allow women who have faced incarceration to

develop real-life business skills by working on product development, marketing and business management.

Kate Brunk, Director of LMG, says, "We saw the need to provide skill-building to help clients learn transferable skills and access transitional employment that would prepare them for the modern workforce

or for entrepreneurship. Labyrinth Made Goods was founded to provide structured professional development training and paid business apprenticeships to help more women access those opportunities and have a real chance at success."

LMG's candles stand for equity – meaning every person should have equal access to

education, resources, professional opportunities and the chance to define what success means to them.

The Illinois Soybean Association is proud to partner with LMG as the partnership aligns with ISA's commitment to sustainable soybean production and farmer profitability, paired with the opportunity to



support an important community resource. ISA's custom LMG candles made their debut at the open house celebrating ISA's new Lombard office in June, and attendees who received them were more than appreciative of the quality and overall purpose they serve to the community.

Many women in the McLean County area have had their lives forever changed for the better because of LMG's efforts, one of them being Shay Tolise. Brunk says, "[Shay] was living at Labyrinth House when she started attending product development meetings and volunteering to help us design our products leading up to our launch in 2020. That led her to sign up for Strive, our professional development program, and she worked hard to overcome her self-doubt. She was one of our first Strive graduates, one of our first business apprentices, and now, I'm thrilled to say, she's our full-time Sales Assistant helping us tell our story, reach new customers, and build relationships with our wholesale partners."

To ensure their candles are made from 100% soy wax, LMG works with Heartland Candles, which is located on a farm just outside of Ashkum, Illinois. To make soy wax, the soybeans must be cleaned, cracked, and pressed into an oil. From there, the oil goes through a hydrogenation process where the fatty acids in the oil are saturated, changing the melting point of the oil so that it is solid at room temperature.

Brunk says, "We love being part of the economic circle that helps sustain our community in a variety of ways. We use soy wax to produce high quality, beautiful candles with bespoke scents while providing transformative experiences to women who've experienced incarceration. We know that by using soy wax for our candles, we're also creating a good,

stable market for the soybean farmers in our own community. Plus, soy wax burns cleaner and longer than paraffin and paraffin blended candles. You can be assured that each of our Labyrinth Made Goods candles are made with 100% soy wax and not a blend like many other companies making what they call soy candles."

ISA is committed to both farmer profitability and sustainability, and so opting for product alternatives like soy wax candles will not only continue to raise demand and marketplace opportunity for

Illinois soybeans, but also promotes the use of sustainable soy products. Many candles on the market are a mix of soy wax and paraffin. Paraffin wax is the product of the oil purification process from petroleum, coal, or oil shale, which are all large contributors to greenhouse gases. Candles made solely of soy wax, like LMG's, are significantly more sustainable and diminish environmental impact.

Burning soy wax rather than paraffin wax candles are not just environmentally friendly and beneficial to Illinois farmers. The absence of toxins, carcino-

gens, and pollutants means soy candles are less likely to trigger allergies. They will not produce black soot that can stain walls or fabrics, and because it is biodegradable, spilled soy wax can be easily cleaned up with soap and water. Soy wax also has a lower melting point, so it will burn slower and longer than paraffin candles, as well as produce a scent that is stronger and more pleasant.

To learn more about YWCA Labyrinth Made Goods or to purchase a soy wax candle, visit <https://labyrinthmade-goods.com/>.

# LABYRINTH MADE GOODS



To ensure their candles are made from 100% soy wax, LMG works with Heartland Candles, which is located on a farm just outside of Ashkum, Illinois.






[unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)

# KEEPING THE FUTURE OF SOYBEANS BRIGHT

*From researching new uses for soybeans to identifying new markets for U.S. soy, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to create new opportunities and increase profits for soybean farmers. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.*

*See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at [unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)*

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Quincy, IL 62305

**February 23 | 7 am - 1 pm**  
Southern Illinois University -  
Carbondale Stadium Club  
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# **Illinois Legislators of the Year**



By Brynna Sentel

**A**s part of the Illinois Soybean Association Achievement Awards program, two legislators were awarded the Legislator of the Year award for their efforts in actively making a difference for soybean farmers by advocating for policy and regulatory issues important to our industry.

Due to their advocacy of Illinois soy legislation and support for agricultural issues, Representative Cheri Bustos and Representative Rodney Davis are the 2022 Illinois Legislators of the Year recipients.

"From Farm Bills to biofuels both Rep. Bustos and Rep. Davis have been tireless advocates for Illinois soybean farmers," says Director of Government Relations & Strategy, Andrew Larson.

Rep. Bustos is the granddaughter of a hog farmer and a native of downstate Illinois and has served the constituents of Illinois' 17th Congressional district for the last decade. Throughout her five terms in office, she has been a tireless advocate for family farmers on the House Agriculture Committee where she currently chairs the

Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.

"When she was first elected, Bustos promised to be a leader for rural Illinois," says Ron Moore, Director of the American Soybean Association (ASA). "Throughout the course of her career, she lived up to that promise by working across the aisle to promote the needs of her district. Bustos has been a key national leader on bio-fuel issues including the biodiesel tax credit and the Next Generation Clean Fuels legislation."

From working to pass two Farm Bills and promoting the use of biofuels, to helping advance trade certainty through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and securing \$874.1 million to modernize our locks and dams, Rep. Bustos has remained focused on ensuring that American farmers can feed, fuel, and clothe our country for generations to come – and that rural communities have the tools they need to survive and thrive.

"Bustos has not only been a strong advocate herself, she has also built a strong staff who understand key issues including

agriculture, and helped advance the interest of Illinois farmers with their colleagues," says Larson.

Rep. Davis is currently serving his fifth term in Congress representing the 13th District of Illinois, which covers a 14-county region that includes both urban and rural communities in central and southwestern Illinois. Rep. Davis serves on the Committee on House Administration, where he is the Ranking Member, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, and the House Committee on Agriculture.

"In his role as subcommittee Chairman and ranking member, Davis fought hard for Illinois farmers bringing attention to issues that matter on the farm," says Larson.

Prior to being elected to the U.S. House in 2012, Rep. Davis served as Projects Director for Congressman John Shimkus for 16 years. In 2020, Rep. Davis was ranked the 13th most bipartisan member of the House of Representatives out of 435 members by the Lugar Center, which is the

gold standard in measuring bipartisanship in Washington.

"Rodney Davis has been the consummate professional representing the 13th District and some of the most fertile farm ground in the world," says Jered Hooker an ASA Board Director. "From day one he acknowledged that our farmers feed the country and world. Rising from being a freshman member of Congress he was an influential voice in writing the 2014 Farm Bill that made major changes to improve federal farm programs."

Both legislators were honored at an awards banquet prior to ISA's winter board meeting on November 29 where they were presented with plaques. Their names will be commemorated on a separate plaque that will be displayed in ISA's Bloomington office.

"Illinois has enjoyed the leadership of both Rep. Bustos and Davis over their service in Washington. Being from opposing political parties, they often could approach the same issues from different perspectives and help Illinois farmers no matter who was in the majority."



Representative Cheri Bustos



Representative Rodney Davis



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*WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.*





# HUDDLE WITH YOUR ILSOYADVISOR TEAM TO KICKOFF 2023



Our team is ready to help you make an offensive play for the next growing season. We've drafted the leading soybean experts for the handoff of the latest in soybean agronomy, sustainable production, and checkoff-funded research so you can maximize yield and optimize your returns from the field. **That's what we call a touchdown!**

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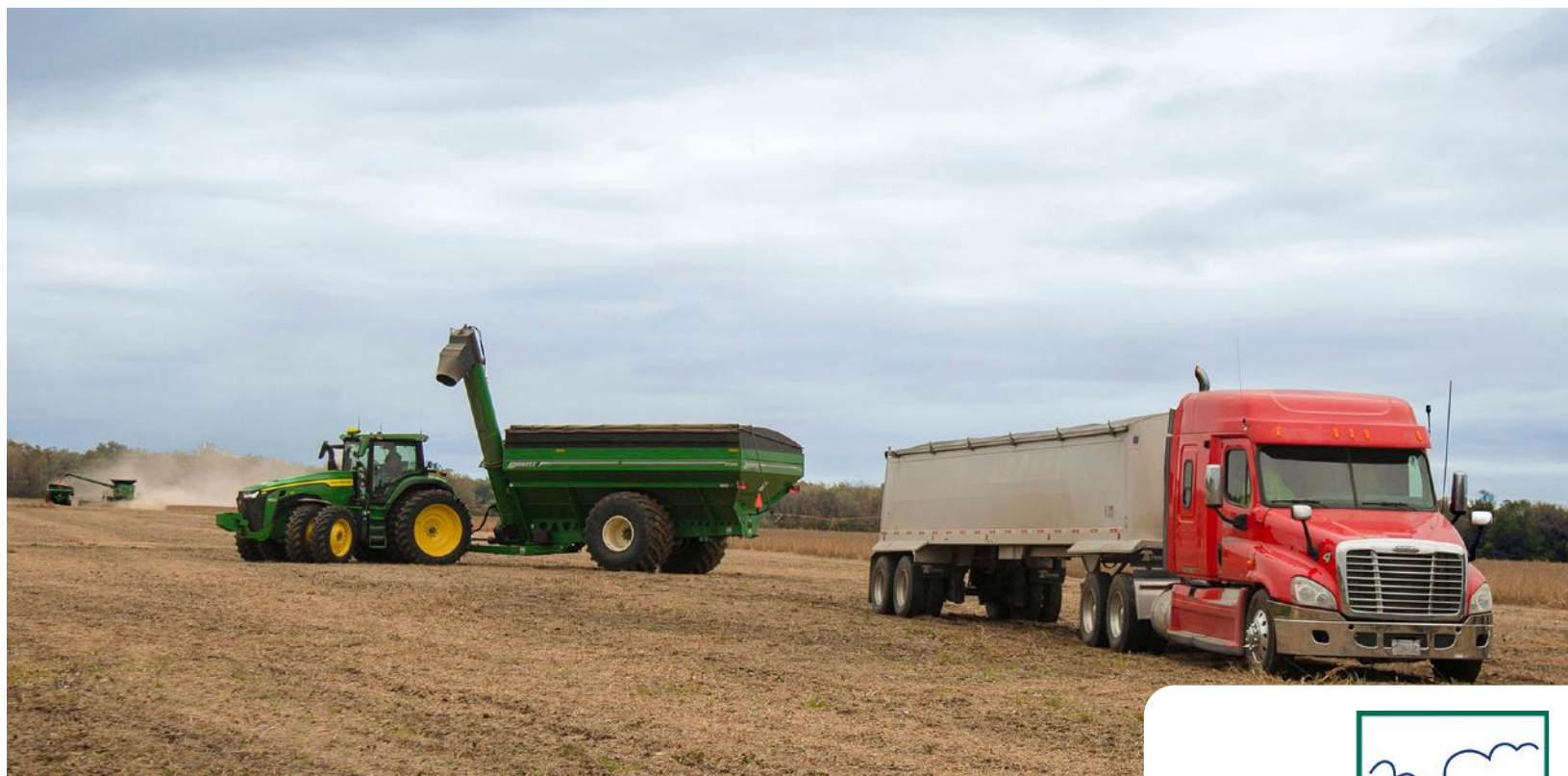


Photo credit: Catrina Rawson, Illinois Farm Bureau photographer.

# Driving Solutions for Transportation through CDL Scholarships



This time of year, it is customary to express thanks for the bounty of the American harvest. An entire team of agriculture and transportation workers produces and moves products to rail, barge, and market. Rewind to the beginning of 2022 when the American Trucking Association reported a shortage of 80,000 drivers. That alone was an all-time high but could reach as much as 160,000 by 2030. Understanding that trucks are responsible for more than 80% of agricultural freight movement by tonnage, the trucking industry is central to our country's agriculture sector. Trucking, and truck drivers, provide the critical linkage between farmers, manufacturers, and feedlots, and it is evident that we need more qualified truck drivers.

On average an individual can expect to pay between \$4,000 to \$5,000 depending on endorsements to obtain their CDL. Recognizing both the need and potential financial obstacles, Illinois Farm Bureau created the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarship with the IAA Foundation to help offset the cost of Commercial Driver License training. In the program's first year, 20 individuals will each receive \$1,000 in tuition assistance. However, for 2023, each scholarship awarded will be doubled, thanks to a generous contribution from the Illinois Soybean Association ensuring a valuable impact for Illinois soybean farmers, and maintaining their reputation of

delivering an advantage to U.S. soybean farmers.

From farm to market, agricultural products move by all forms of transportation, however, trucks carry the greatest share. In 2021, trucking was an \$875.5 billion industry and the lifeblood of the U.S. economy. Facing a hefty labor shortage, individuals in agriculture can help maintain the commodity supply chain by bolstering the workforce of qualified truck drivers.

Why put it off any longer? With scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 available to Illinois residents who are directly connected to agriculture, now is the time to enroll in a truck driver training course at your local community college or encourage someone you know to consider applying.

As the charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation serves to support farm families and the future of agriculture through education. And when the agricultural industry is facing an obstacle, the IAA Foundation works with its donors to help drive solutions. Through their gifts, both the Illinois Soybean Association and Illinois Farm Bureau are working in partnership, focused, and committed to providing opportunities to drive agriculture forward.

Details on the scholarship and how to apply can be found at [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org).





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Palmer amaranth management in soybeans. United Soybean Board. [https://weedscience.missouri.edu/publications/50737\\_FINAL\\_FactSheet\\_PalmerAmaranth.pdf](https://weedscience.missouri.edu/publications/50737_FINAL_FactSheet_PalmerAmaranth.pdf) 2013.



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