

# THE NORTH DAKOTA Soybean GROWER MAGAZINE

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 6  
DECEMBER 2015

**INSIDE**  
Growing for Cover.  
PAGE 16





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# O

## n the cover

Eric Broten, a soybean farmer from Dazey, N.D., has been experimenting with cover crops such as turnips, radishes and field peas.

—Photo courtesy Wanbaugh Studios



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# Mislabeled

Serving Size: 1 cup (236 ml)  
Servings Per Container 1

## Groups press for uniform food-labeling program

Amount Per Serving

In a few months, the nation's first genetically modified organism (GMO) food-labeling mandate will take effect. Beginning July 1, 2016, food products sold in Vermont that are made with genetically modified ingredients must be labeled as such. Vermont Act 120 was passed as a "consumer's right to know" measure. Other states have attempted or are considering their own labeling mandates. The prospect is alarming to farmers, food companies and grocery manufacturers, and the looming deadline has created a flurry of activity intended to create a uniform national labeling standard.

"Government-mandated labeling of GMOs perpetuates an unnecessary fear. People have a right to know what is in their food, but that does not equate to a mandatory label, particularly as food from GMO crops does not pose any additional food safety or human health threat than non-GMO or organic," Vermont dairy farmer Joanna Lidback told the Senate Agriculture Committee at an October hearing.

A Cornell University study estimates that the cost of food for a family of four will increase \$500 per year because of the mandatory labeling. Some companies are considering whether to sell products in Vermont because of the mandate.

"Mandatory GMO labeling at the state level would create a patchwork of state regulations that

would be virtually impossible for companies, particularly mid-sized, family-owned companies such as ours to navigate," Daryl Thomas told the Agriculture Committee. Thomas is the senior vice president for Herr Foods, a snack-food company that distributes its products throughout the contiguous 48 states.

A plan, advocated by the American Soybean Association (ASA) as a part of the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food, would establish a voluntary national standard for foods containing biotechnology as well as for those companies that wish to market their products as non-GMO.

Advocates say that the national standard is necessary for several reasons:

**A standard would create a uniform, science-based labeling standard.** Currently, there is no national standard governing the use of GMO technology. A program, similar to the USDA Certified Organic initiative, would provide labeling clarity and a consistent standard for customers seeking a GMO-free option.

**A standard would protect farmers, small businesses and consumers.** A patchwork of state laws would create new costs and challenges for farmers, small businesses and manufacturers. Costs along the entire food-supply chain

would be passed on to the consumer.

**A standard would remove uncertainty from the marketplace.** The Vermont law contains numerous labeling exemptions which will likely increase consumer confusion rather than alleviate it. For example, a can of vegetable soup would need to be labeled while soup containing meat, such as vegetable beef soup, would not be labeled.

**A uniform standard would prevent needless stigmatization of a safe technology.** Numerous leading health organizations and thousands of peer-reviewed research studies back the safety of biotechnology. Forced labeling feeds the belief that

genetically modified ingredients are unsafe.

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act, which would create a uniform standard, passed the U.S. House on a bipartisan vote in July. A companion measure is being developed in the Senate with North Dakota's John Hoeven a leading supporter.

ASA President Wade Cowan says, "We're invested in finding a long-term fix that gives consumers what they need and keeps this safe technology available and unencumbered for future use."

— Story by Daniel Lemke



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# T

ogether, we can address grass roots issues.

The North Dakota Soybean Growers magazine has been a significant source of information for many people in the agricultural industry. In this issue, we touch on cover crops. Even though I've been farming for years, I have a hard time relating to cover crops. Yes, I have planted rye or spread barley in the spring in order to help with wind erosion on my sandy soils, but I could not fathom the many techniques being tried and tested throughout the state. A lot of trials are looking at soil health, ways to improve soil fertility, as well as wind and water erosion.

That leads me into my thought for this letter. As producers, we have many opportunities to attend different meetings, shows and seminars during the dormant, winter season. These educational opportunities may lead to discussions that help make decisions and improvements for your farm, such as incorporating cover crops. Not only can we learn from others, but they can also learn

from us. The willingness to listen to other farmers and researchers about new production methods can help further our success as farmers, and sharing our experiences with others producers creates the same outcome.

Board members for our state's soybean growers association have the opportunity to share their experiences and insights with others on a national level in order to improve the entire industry. This winter, we will take our state-derived resolutions and issues to the national board, the American Soybean Association (ASA). These resolutions will be voted on by a body of delegates from across the United States. From there, the ASA board gets its direction for years to come. This local input is a fitting example of the term "grass roots." It is farmers coming together, maybe not always agreeing, but looking at ways to make soybeans a profitable and successful crop for all producers.



Craig Olson, President North Dakota Soybean Growers Association



## Membership Application

To join ASA and the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, complete and return this application with payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Farm/Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (Please check all that apply)  
 Farmer     Retired     Agribusiness  
 Finance     Elevator     Other

Do you currently grow soybeans?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_  No \_\_\_\_\_  
Soybean Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Acres Farmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you raise:  
 Cattle     Hogs     Poultry     Dairy

How did you hear about NDSGA? (Please circle one)  
Recruited in person; Recruited by phone, Magazine;  
Internet; Mailing; Radio; Event; Other

3-Year Membership \$200     1-Year Membership \$75  
 Check enclosed (please make checks payable to NDSGA)  
 Credit Card: Visa / MasterCard / Discover / American Express  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application with payment to:  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
1555 43rd Street S., Suite 103  
Fargo, ND 58103



# From Pharmacy to Farm

**H**e may not have grown up on a farm, but it hasn't taken Joe Ericson long to get fully immersed in agriculture.

"I got involved in farming six years ago when my father-in-law was looking for a bookkeeper," Ericson says. "My wife was a bookkeeper for a business in Fargo, and I was a pharmacy technician. Her grandmother's house was sitting empty, so he asked us if we wanted to move out to the farm. She would do the bookwork, and I would work on the farm. It's been one of the best decisions of our lives."

Ericson and his wife now farm near Wimbledon, North Dakota, with his father-in-law and brother-in-law. They're a fourth-generation grain farm that raises soybeans, corn and wheat.

In 2014, Ericson was asked by a

North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) board member to participate in the American Soybean Association's (ASA) DuPont Young Leader program. This nationwide program helps train future soybean-industry leaders. Participation in the leadership program includes a one-year term on the board of directors.

"I thought it would be a good learning experience, so I took him up on it, and now, I am an at-large director," Ericson adds. "I can serve two 3-year terms."

Involvement with the DuPont Young Leader program and on the NDSGA board has given Ericson a firsthand look at some of the chal-

**“It's extremely important for farmers to be members...”**

lenges facing the industry. Those challenges affect farmers in all areas of North Dakota and include water-quality issues and biotechnology.

"Wetland determinations need to be done in a timelier manner. You shouldn't have to wait years to get the results," Ericson says. "I also think that the anti-GMO crowd is getting louder. All types of agriculture are going to be needed to feed the world, so we all need to start working together instead of against each other."

Because of the importance of exports and commerce, Ericson says that transportation issues are always going to be a concern. He says that farmers are also trying to get a better understanding of the Waters of the U.S. ruling. Those challenges are why he believes that NDSGA membership is vital.

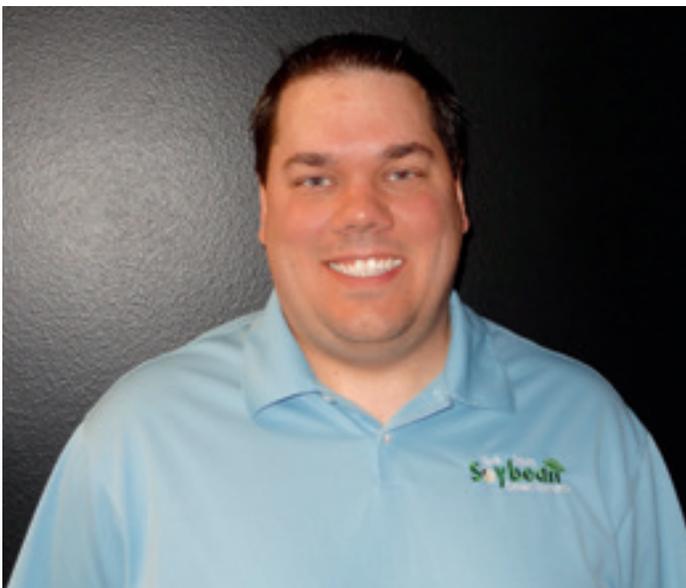
"It is extremely important for farmers to be members of the NDSGA. The more members we have, the more power we have when

talking to our legislators about the issues. It's also a good way to find out what's happening in our state and national governments regarding agricultural policy," Ericson adds.

Membership also provides farmers with resources that keep them up to date on important, always-changing trends and legislation in the agricultural community. Membership also provides farmers with the confidence that fellow soybean farmers are keeping an eye on issues, even when they're doing what they love.

"The best part about farming is being able to see your accomplishments every year, from planting to harvesting," Ericson says. "Each year brings new challenges. From the markets to the weather, you always have to be on your toes and ready for changes."

— Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photo by staff



Joe Ericson

# The Cycle of Farming

**F**or Walcott, North Dakota, farmer Matt Swenson, the cyclical nature of agriculture is one of his favorite

things about farming.

“I always enjoyed planting and then watching the seed grow into an ear of corn or a pod of soybeans,” Swenson says. “It’s the same way watching a baby calf grow into an animal that’s ready for market. I enjoy the whole cycle.”

Swenson farms with his parents, raising soybeans, corn, sunflowers and occasionally some specialty crops. They also have a cow-calf

operation and began feeding out beef cattle a year ago. He’s the fifth-generation farmer in the family, although just the second on the land in southeast North Dakota. He began farming ground of his own in 2002. In addition to growing crops and livestock, Swenson and his wife, Stacy, are raising three young children.

The Swenson farm west of Walcott sits in a unique area with

sandy soil and a high water table. That’s why, despite getting little rainfall through most of the summer, crop yields were good.

“Crops were above average,” Swenson says. “If it weren’t for the low commodity prices, this could have been an exceptional year.”

Swenson points to low commodity prices as a major challenge for North Dakota soybean farmers. As a director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA), he’s well aware of the role that global competition plays with soybean markets.

“Global competitiveness is a long-term challenge for the industry. Whether it’s right or wrong, what happens in places like China, Japan or India affects us. There are repercussions,” he says.

Swenson became involved with the NDSGA after participating in the American Soybean Association’s Soy Leadership College. The program helped him gain a broader understanding about how the soybean industry works and introduced him to other farmer leaders. Not long after completing the Leadership College, he was asked to join the NDSGA board.

In addition to learning about the industry, that role presents an

opportunity to help craft policy in order to benefit fellow North Dakota farmers. Even though global challenges can affect soybean farmers so, too, can local policies on issues such as water quality and animal agriculture.

While Swenson views soybeans as a good crop with room for growth in North Dakota, that potential is limited by a lack of animal agriculture. Because the majority of the state’s soybeans are exported, issues such as freight costs and international market volatility can impact profitability. Those factors could be tempered by having outlets closer to home.

“I would like to see a more favorable attitude toward livestock because of the opportunity that provides for growth,” Swenson says. “Most successful crop-farming areas have successful livestock, too. They go hand in hand.”

Dairy, hog and cattle operations near where crops are grown would provide local markets for grain, plus animal agriculture provides crop farmers with manure for fertilizer and soil structure. Processing facilities, such as a soybean crushing plant to produce meal for feed, would not only provide an outlet for local soybeans, but also create jobs and economic activity in rural areas.

“There is a lot of potential,” Swenson says. “A lot depends on how long it takes to get more acceptance.”

—Story and photo by Daniel Lemke



Walcott farmer and NDSGA director Matt Swenson knows global competition impacts North Dakota soybean farmers, which is why adding value closer to home is important.

“What happens in places like China, Japan or India affects us.”

# D

## ear valued soybean producers,

This month, I celebrate five years of working for you and for this great organization. This anniversary has caused me to reflect: not only on what has been achieved in recent years, but also on just how much has been accomplished since 1985 when the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) was formed. The North Dakota soybean farmers who shaped and led this organization have always been focused on creating opportunities to enhance your profitability and to bring you value. That legacy of leadership continues at the NDSC today.

From our leadership in production research to our contributions that create greater demand for soybeans domestically and globally, NDSC is positioned to remain a relevant and important partner for you well into

the future. We are committed to enhancing consumers' understanding of modern farming practices, providing timely and informative education to help you remain competitive, and collaborating with our industry partners to continually advance and strengthen our industry.

We salute our founding farmer leaders and the many soybean farmers who have since volunteered their time and energy to lead this organization to where it is today. We look forward to future generations of soybean farmers who will continue this legacy of leadership and service.

On behalf of our entire NDSC family, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and memorable New Year!



**Diana Beitelspacher,**  
Chief Executive Officer  
North Dakota  
Soybean Council

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## Soybean Council Seeks Producers for Board Leadership Opportunities

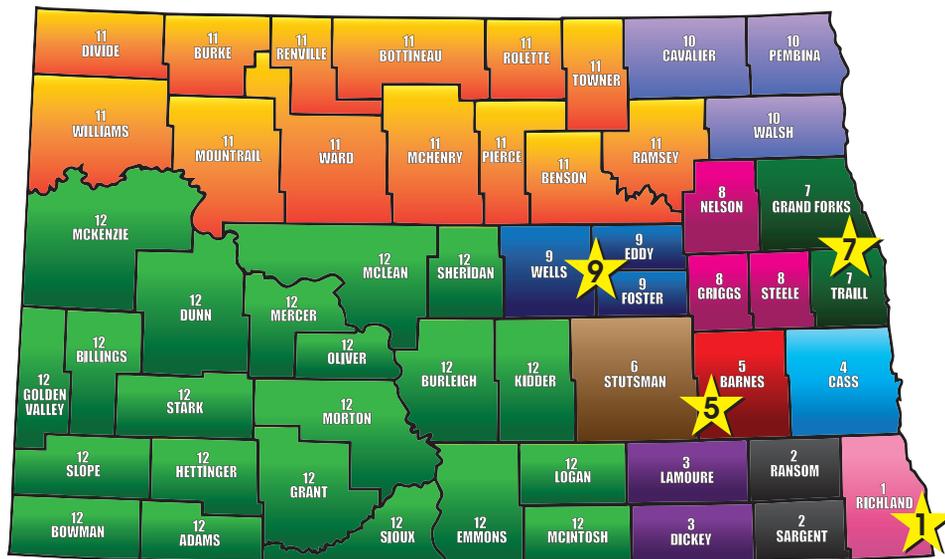
In 2016, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) will seek four soybean farmers from the following districts to serve on its Board of Directors:

- District 1: Representing Richland County
- District 5: Representing Barnes County
- District 7: Representing Grand Forks and Traill Counties
- District 9: Representing Eddy, Foster and Wells Counties

Nomination forms will be mailed in January to soybean producers in the counties highlighted on the map. Election ballots will follow in February. You can nominate yourself or someone you know who has a passion for the soybean industry and a willingness to serve.

### Who is qualified to serve as a director on the NDSC?

Any person who plants or causes to be planted a soybean crop where the person has an ownership interest with the intent that, upon maturity, the crop will be harvested. The person will meet this requirement during the next available growing season or has met this requirement during the immediately preceding growing season. Organic producers who have been exempted from paying assessments are not eligible to serve on the NDSC board.





Soybean farmers Dana and Travis Dagman of Enderlin, N.D.

### Are candidates from diverse backgrounds encouraged to run for a director position?

Women, men and minority soybean farmers are encouraged to run for a board seat. Many case studies have shown that a diverse board improves the outcomes and decision-making processes, enhancing performance. As leaders in the soybean industry, we compete in a global and a domestic marketplace that is growing more diverse. In this ever-more challenging business environment, the ability to draw on a wide range of viewpoints, backgrounds, skills, and experiences is critical for our continued success.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden continue

to emphasize the need for state soybean boards, such as the NDSC and the United Soybean Board, to reflect industry diversity by more aggressively reaching toward women and minorities and by encouraging them to run for open board positions. It is important that women and minority farmers know about these opportunities, and to this end, the NDSC continues its outreach efforts in this area.

### How often does the NDSC board meet?

The NDSC board meets quarterly for two days in Fargo. Reimbursement is provided for travel to and from the meetings, for lodging and for meals.

### What are the expectations of service?

The NDSC board is a working board, which means that directors are expected to attend all committee and board meetings, to come prepared to the meetings in order to make informed decisions, to attend various NDSC-sponsored meetings and events, and to comply with NDSC policies as well as state and federal regulations. New directors participate a full-day orientation session to integrate them into the NDSC's work. Directors are supported by a six-member team of qualified, experienced and dedicated employees.

### Why serve? What's in it for me?

Service on the NDSC provides a stepping stone for industry leadership opportunities at the state and national level.

Service on the NDSC

- Enables you to influence how your checkoff dollars are invested.
- Places you a position to influence the industry's direction.
- Enables you to greatly expand your network of fellow producers, leaders and key influencers in the soybean industry on a state or national level.
- Greatly increases your industry knowledge through your exposure to production research, domestic and international marketing, transportation, consumer information, educational opportunities and other areas.

Most importantly, service is supported with training and mentoring.

### How can I learn more about serving on the NDSC board?

Contact Diana Beitelspacher at the NDSC office by telephone, toll-free, at 888-469-6409 or, in the Fargo area, at (701) 239-7194. You can also email at [dbeitelspacher@ndsoybean.org](mailto:dbeitelspacher@ndsoybean.org), or log on to [ndsoybean.org](http://ndsoybean.org) and click elections.

—Story by staff, photo by Wanbaugh Studios



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## 2016 Northern Soybean Expo

February 2, 2016 • Fargo Holiday Inn

**7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Registration and Buffet Breakfast with Soybean Researchers**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Live Taping of U.S. Farm Report**

A panel of the nation's leading and in-demand market analysts that is moderated by John Phipps

- Tommy Grisafi, Commodity Risk Management Advisor at Advance Trading; DeMotte, Indiana
- DuWayne Bosse, Bolt Marketing; Britton, South Dakota
- Mike North, Commodity Risk Management Group; Platteville, Wisconsin



**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Opening Remarks**

Tyler Speich, Chairman, North Dakota Soybean Council  
Craig Olson, President, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association

**11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Dr. Barry Asmus**



Dr. Barry Asmus is a Senior Economist with the National Center for Policy Analysis. Dr. Asmus has been named by USA Today as one of the five most-requested speakers in the United States. He has testified before the House Ways and Means Committee regarding our income-tax system and has encouraged government leaders to pass free-market, low-tax, protected property rights and free-trade policies. Dr. Asmus is the author of nine books. He is a professor of economics and was twice voted the university professor of the year. He co-anchored a syndicated radio program called Perspectives on the Economy. Dr. Asmus is an advocate of free-market economics. He is a recognized thinker who delivers his ideas in an enthusiastic and energy-filled presentation.

**2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Dr. Bill Wilson**



Dr. Bill Wilson was named a Distinguished University Professor in 2007 and is a professor in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at NDSU. He has been working in areas related to grain marketing, transportation and logistics. His academic teaching covers these topics at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His research program is focused on grain marketing, transportation, international trade, and marketing and logistics. In these capacities, he has received numerous awards, has served as a guest lecturer around the world, has served on the board of directors for the Minneapolis Grain Exchange, and has provided advice to numerous international companies and countries on related issues.

**4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks**

**Emcee for the Day:** John Phipps, U.S. Farm Report



# North Dakota Soybean Farmers Host Chinese Soybean Buyers

A delegation of soybean buyers from China, hosted by the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC), visited Cass and Barnes Counties September 27. The purpose of their visit to North Dakota was to collect samples of the 2015 harvest and discuss crop quality firsthand with producers. While in North Dakota, the group toured grain

elevators and terminals, as well as area soybean farms.

The group of 14 guests were welcomed just outside Valley City on Monte and Penny Peterson's farm. In attendance were the Petersons' family and friends, other local soybean producers, representatives from Columbia Grain Elevator, and NDSC staff and board members.

This socialization was an opportunity for the Asian buyers to gain insight about the source of the beans they primarily use for human consumption and animal feed.

After getting to know each other and enjoying a bountiful meal, including traditional Norwegian lefse, the group headed to the field where harvest was already underway. While in the field, each Chinese guest had the thrill of experiencing the soybean harvest firsthand in a combine. As the local farmers fielded questions about this year's crop quality, buyers collected samples to add to the collection they had already compiled earlier in the day from stops at farms in Hillsboro, Colgate and Dazey, North Dakota.

**PHOTO ABOVE: American Soybean Association Board Member Monte Peterson of Valley City (center, blue shirt) hosts an international soybean crop sampling delegation from China on his farm September 27.**

"Any time we can show the quality of our crop and build relationships with customers is a chance to make more sales," says Monte Peterson, former NDSC chairman and current director of the American Soybean Association. "The two most successful aspects of the team's visit were relationship building and showing what's available for export to China."

Export is a key element for North Dakota soybean production because over 90 percent of the soybeans harvested in North Dakota leave the state. Of that percentage, nearly three-quarters are exported globally via the Pacific Northwest.

—Story and photos by  
Ethan Mickelson



Dazey, N.D. soybean farmer Eric Broten (third from right) and his family also hosted the Chinese delegation on their farm September 27 and answered many questions. Eric is the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association treasurer.



# Pluses and Minuses of Growing Soybeans in Brazil, Compared to the United States

**B**razilian soybean farmers are expected to plant a record soybean crop this year, with an estimated 81.5

million acres, the ninth consecutive season of increased acreage. That compares with 85.1 million acres in the United States. As the worldwide export market becomes more competitive, it is becoming increasingly important for U.S. farmers to understand how this competition can affect demand.

In many ways, soybean farming in Brazil is similar to the United States, yet there are distinct differences that challenge Brazilian soybean farmers. Like their counterparts in the United States, farmers in Brazil have access to advanced genetics and the latest technology; but they also deal with high interest

rates and a mediocre transportation system for exports. Five major differences include climate, financing, equipment, transportation and international competitiveness.

**1. Climate.** One of the primary differences between soybean production in Brazil and the United States is the climate. Brazil's northern and central regions have a tropical climate with regular rains and consistent temperatures that allow for higher yield. The climatic difference is both a blessing and curse for Brazilian soybean farmers, according to Gerardo Copello, a

Latin American business manager for AgriThority, an agricultural consulting agency.

"The tropical weather allows for enhanced growing conditions, which can boost yields up to 20 percent higher than the U.S. average, but it also creates ideal conditions for higher levels of pest and disease pressure," says Copello. "Brazil's southern states have a more temperate climate with frequent dry spells that can limit yields to 30 to 45 bushels per acre."

**2. Financing.** Unlike the United States, access to affordable financing can be a problem for Brazilian farmers. Copello, who lives in Brazil and has an extensive background working with farmers and agricultural companies there, says that Brazilians can expect to have interest rates of 25 percent to 35 percent for farm loans.

**3. Equipment.** Another difference with Brazilian agriculture is the size of the farming equipment. While the machinery is of similar quality to what U.S. farmers are running, it is generally smaller in size.

"Most U.S. farmers probably have 20 percent to 50 percent greater planting and harvest capacity than Brazilian farmers, due to the increased size of their equipment," Copello says.

**4. Transportation infrastructure.**

Brazil is making strides to improve its infrastructure in order to strengthen its export capabilities, but Copello says that this area is another place where the United States has a clear advantage over Brazil. When asked to compare the soybean transportation systems for each country, Copello says that if the United States is considered a 10, he would rate Brazil as a 2.

"Shipping from the interior of Brazil, where most of the soybeans are grown, is highly inefficient due to poor roads and long distances to reach the country's ports," Copello says. "Bottlenecks and slowdowns are also common at Brazilian ports, which need improvement."

**5. International competitiveness.**

Analysts expect Brazil to increase its exports for the fourth straight year as the devalued real (Brazil's unit of currency) makes Brazilian soybeans more affordable for Chinese buyers. As Brazil continues to make improvements to its infrastructure and adds new soybean acres, the country will solidify its position as a competitor for U.S. soybean production.

Although it's hard to predict the future, it appears that Brazil will remain a formidable challenger in the worldwide soybean market. It may be wise for U.S. farmers to monitor the competition.

*—Story and graphic provided by the United Soybean Board, photo provided by Wanbaugh Studios*



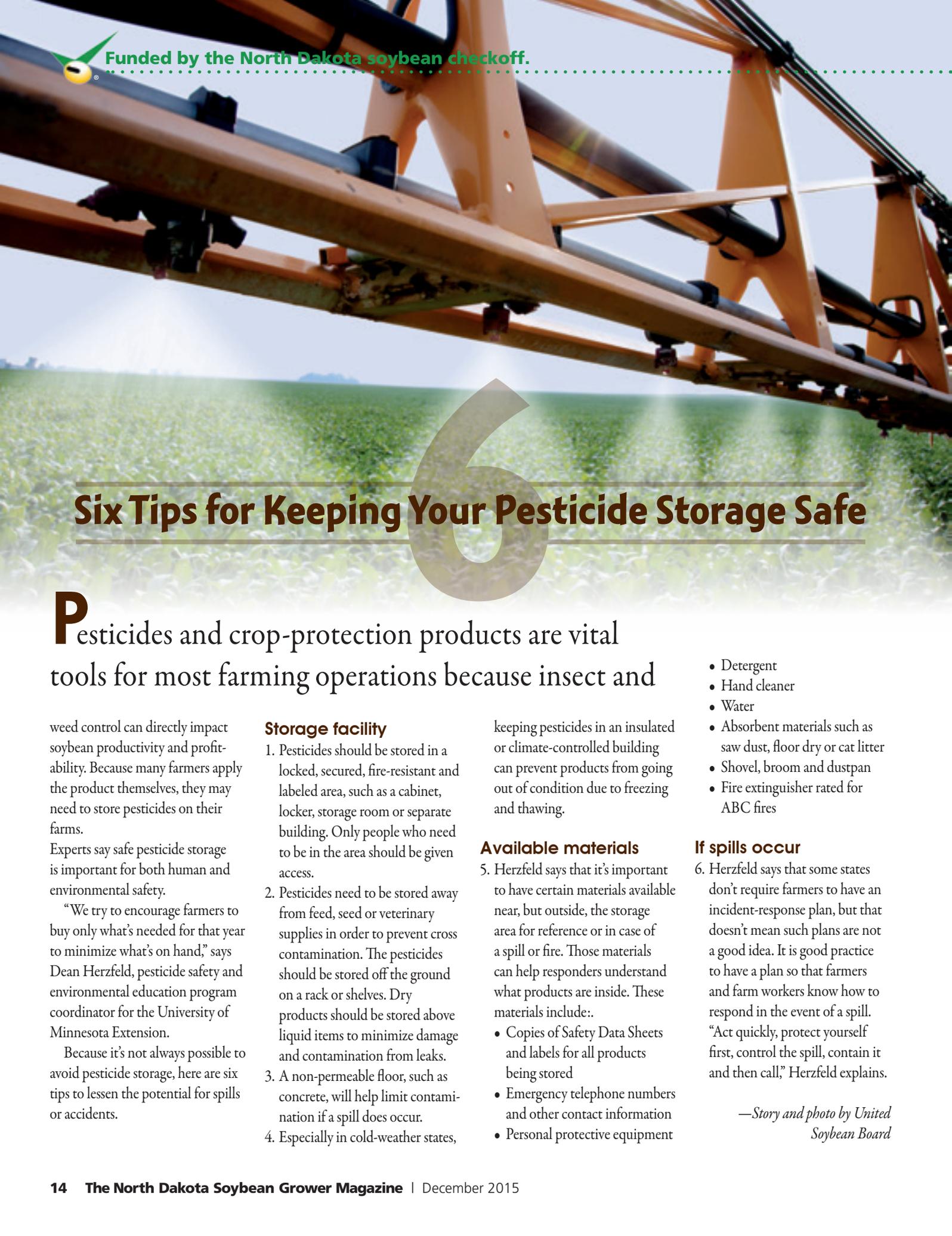
In 2015, the planted area for soybeans is estimated at 5.80 million acres for North Dakota.



## U.S. soybean production vs. Brazil's, according to 14 key factors

Factor	U.S.	Brazil	Difference
Major Crops Per Year	One	One or two	Farmers in the Mato Grosso state of Brazil can take advantage of the tropical climate to plant soybeans and corn in the same season
Average Yield <sup>1</sup>	2014: 47.8 bu./acre	2014-15: 44.5 bu./acre	U.S. soybean farmers have held an edge in this area recently, with a two-bushel advantage during the most recent completed crop years for each country.
Total Production <sup>1</sup>	2014: 3.93 billion bushels (106.878 million metric tons)	2014-15: 3.53 billion bushels (96.2 million metric tons)	The most recent U.S. soybean crop beat Brazil's by nearly a half-billion bushels.
Protein <sup>2</sup>	U.S. meal is sold as 44% protein	Brazilian meal is guaranteed to contain 47-48% protein	On average, Brazilian soybean meal contains at least 3% more protein, but U.S. soybean meal is said to have a better amino-acid profile.
Oil <sup>2,3</sup>	Oil content for U.S. commodity soybeans can range from 16% to 23%	Soybeans from Brazil typically have slightly higher oil content	Brazilian soybeans yield as much as 4.5% more oil than U.S. soybeans.
Approximate Cost of Production Per Acre <sup>4</sup>	\$346	\$247	Lower land costs and cheaper labor provide Brazil with a competitive advantage.
Seed Price	\$55.00	\$56.66	Seed costs are relatively similar
Weather	Most of the U.S. has a temperate climate	Northern Brazil has a sub-tropical climate, while southern Brazil has a more temperate climate	The climatic difference is both a blessing and curse for Brazilian soybean farmers. The warmer temperatures and dependable rains are good for yield, but also increase pest and disease pressure.
Total Domestic Consumption (Demand) <sup>1</sup>	2.02 billion bushels	1.57 billion bushels	Domestic demand is higher in the United States but continues to grow in Brazil.
Exports (2014-2015) <sup>5</sup>	50.2 million metric tons	51.11 metric tons	Brazil has outpaced the United States in soybean exports for the last three years.
Transportation Infrastructure	The United States holds a transportation cost advantage over Brazil, but there are concerns that infrastructure maintenance within the country is lagging.	Brazil's roads and ports are in need of improvement to support its export ambitions	Brazil is in the process of upgrading its roads and ports but is still years away from matching the quality of the U.S. transportation system.
Export Delivery Accuracy <sup>6</sup>	Shipments arrive within 3 days of scheduled delivery date	Shipments arrive within 15 days of scheduled delivery date	Exports from the United States are generally much more reliable in terms of delivery date accuracy.
On-farm storage <sup>7</sup>	13.1 billion bushels	795.2 million bushels	U.S. farmers have approximately 16 times more on-farm storage capacity than Brazilian farmers.
Crop Insurance <sup>8,9</sup>	Approximately 88% of the acres eligible for crop insurance in the United States were insured in 2014.	Crop insurance is not often used in Brazil. Only 10% of acres were insured in 2012.	While most of the major crop acreage is insured in the United States, only about one in every ten acres is insured in Brazil.

Sources: 1. USDA-FAS - Production, Supply and Distribution Online database; 2. An overview of the Brazil-China soybean trade and its strategic implications for conservation; 3. Quality Standards for U.S. Soybeans and Soy Products; 4. USDA FAS - Brazil Oilseeds and Products Annual Report - March 2015; 5. Oilseeds: World Markets and Trade - Oct. 2015; 6. USSEC- Analysis of Transit Times, Transportation Costs and Predictability of Delivery; 7. Only 13.6% of Brazil's Grain Storage Capacity is Located On-Farm; 8. 2015 Crop Insurance Update; 9. The Rise of Brazilian Crop Insurance; USDA FAS - Circular series: World Ag Production - Sept. 2015; Estimated Costs of Crop Production in Iowa; Jan. 12, 2015 Grain Stocks: On- and Off-Farm Grain Storage Capacity



## Six Tips for Keeping Your Pesticide Storage Safe

**P**esticides and crop-protection products are vital tools for most farming operations because insect and

weed control can directly impact soybean productivity and profitability. Because many farmers apply the product themselves, they may need to store pesticides on their farms.

Experts say safe pesticide storage is important for both human and environmental safety.

“We try to encourage farmers to buy only what’s needed for that year to minimize what’s on hand,” says Dean Herzfeld, pesticide safety and environmental education program coordinator for the University of Minnesota Extension.

Because it’s not always possible to avoid pesticide storage, here are six tips to lessen the potential for spills or accidents.

### Storage facility

1. Pesticides should be stored in a locked, secured, fire-resistant and labeled area, such as a cabinet, locker, storage room or separate building. Only people who need to be in the area should be given access.
2. Pesticides need to be stored away from feed, seed or veterinary supplies in order to prevent cross contamination. The pesticides should be stored off the ground on a rack or shelves. Dry products should be stored above liquid items to minimize damage and contamination from leaks.
3. A non-permeable floor, such as concrete, will help limit contamination if a spill does occur.
4. Especially in cold-weather states,

keeping pesticides in an insulated or climate-controlled building can prevent products from going out of condition due to freezing and thawing.

### Available materials

5. Herzfeld says that it’s important to have certain materials available near, but outside, the storage area for reference or in case of a spill or fire. Those materials can help responders understand what products are inside. These materials include:
  - Copies of Safety Data Sheets and labels for all products being stored
  - Emergency telephone numbers and other contact information
  - Personal protective equipment

- Detergent
- Hand cleaner
- Water
- Absorbent materials such as saw dust, floor dry or cat litter
- Shovel, broom and dustpan
- Fire extinguisher rated for ABC fires

### If spills occur

6. Herzfeld says that some states don’t require farmers to have an incident-response plan, but that doesn’t mean such plans are not a good idea. It is good practice to have a plan so that farmers and farm workers know how to respond in the event of a spill. “Act quickly, protect yourself first, control the spill, contain it and then call,” Herzfeld explains.

—Story and photo by United Soybean Board



## Kathy Wiltse Joins the North Dakota Soybean Council

The North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) is pleased to announce the recent addition of Kathy Wiltse as the administrative assistant. She assumed her role on October 19, 2015, at NDSC's Fargo office.

"We are excited to have Kathy join our team," says Diana Beitelspacher, NDSC CEO. "Kathy brings a wealth of administrative and event planning experience to NDSC. I look forward to working with her and the rest of our team to continue delivering value to North Dakota soybean producers."

Most recently, Wiltse served as a production assistant for the past three years at Dakota Monument. Wiltse earned a Bachelor of Science degree from North Dakota State Uni-

versity. Originally from Lisbon, Kathy and her husband, Jon, farmed for many years in Ransom County. For 25 years, Wiltse also worked at the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. She was very active in the Lisbon community for many years and is especially proud of her work with the Lisbon Opera House Foundation, with which she is still involved. Kathy and her husband have two grown sons and two grandchildren.

"North Dakota agriculture has been part of my life for a long time, and I am excited to work with the North Dakota Soybean Council," Wiltse says.

—Story by staff, photo by Scherling Photography



## NDSC Congratulates Scholarship Recipients

Annually, the NDSC sponsors two scholarships for undergraduate students and two scholarships for graduate students at North Dakota State University (NDSU). NDSC's Undergraduate Scholarships are awarded to sophomores or juniors in crop and weed sciences, soil science, food science, animal science, agribusiness or agricultural economics who have demonstrated a tie to soybeans; and are a U.S. citizen with a minimum 3.0 GPA. NDSC's Graduate Student Scholarships are awarded to graduate students involved in research that benefits the soybean industry.

This year, Matthew Pederson of Wheaton, Minnesota, and Bethany Erickson of Roseau, Minnesota, were awarded NDSC's Undergraduate Scholarships. Maria Breker of Havana, North Dakota, and Rebecca Schewe of Fort

Gratiot, Michigan, were awarded NDSC's Graduate Student Scholarships. NDSC Communications Director Suzanne Wolf congratulated NDSC's scholarship recipients at NDSU's Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on November 5.

—Story and photo by staff



Pictured from left to right: Maria Breker, Suzanne Wolf, Rebecca Schewe, Bethany Erickson and Matthew Pederson.



# Growing for Cover

**F**or the past three growing seasons, Eric Broten has added variety to his family farm's crop rotation of

soybeans, corn and barley. The Dazey, North Dakota, farmer and his family are experimenting with cover crops, including radishes, turnips and field peas, in an effort to find ways to improve the overall soil health and to reduce compaction.

Broten plants the cover crops into barley stubble shortly after harvest. The post-harvest planting gives them a chance to get established before frost comes. Turnips and radishes are included in the mix because their deep tap root helps to break up compaction and because they draw nutrients from deep in the soil, moving the nutrients closer to the surface. The plants die when the temperature freezes, but they leave mined nutrients in the topsoil as they break down. Field peas were planted in an effort to return nitrogen to the soil.

This year, Broten says that he experienced such a heavy volunteer

barley stand that some acres were sprayed with a desiccant to kill it, or it would be nearly impossible to plant there next spring. Some acres were mowed. It's all part of the learning process that comes with incorporating new practices into the cropping system.

"Using cover crops is not a short-term process; it takes a while," Broten says. "They're part of the whole farm-management system."

On Broten's farm, cover crops were planted on two quarter sections to see how the cover crops affected compaction. Two other poorly drained, high-salt soils were also planted with cover crops. Water evaporation pulls salts to the surface while plant transpiration does not move salts, only water.

Broten is hopeful that keeping plants growing in those "sour spots" will reduce salinity and improve productivity for those areas.

## Curiosity Grows

At an October field day south of Wahpeton, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Soil Scientist Dr. Abbey Wick pushed a spade into the soft soil on Doug

Toussaint's farm. The shovel slid easily into the dirt to lift out a single cereal-rye plant. Even though the plant was only a couple of inches tall, Wick pulled the plant from the moist, loose topsoil to reveal a



Farmers are considering cover crops for soil health, erosion control and water management.

fibrous root system that was nearly a foot long. The rye had been planted in September following the soybean harvest. Thanks to sufficient moisture and a late fall, the rye was well established.

Like Broten, Toussaint began working cover crops into his cropping system as a way to improve soil health. He said that about three-fourths of his farm ground is now planted with cover crops.

“We’re experimenting with five or six different crops because each one has its place,” Toussaint says, “but the main one that works for us is winter cereal rye.”

Wick says that cover crops can serve several purposes. The plants’ root systems provide channels for rainfall and snow melt to be absorbed and held in the soil. Roots also prevent soil from blowing in the winter if there’s not enough snowfall to keep the ground covered. Plants such as radishes and turnips can shoot tap roots 4 feet into the ground, loosening deep compaction in the soil. Cover crops can reduce soil salinity by using moisture rather than letting evaporation pull salt to the surface. Depending upon when they’re planted, cover crops can also be useful for weed control by shading out the competing weeds.

“Last year was a big year for cover crops because we had so many farmers dealing with prevented planting acres,” Wick says. “That opened a lot of eyes.”

Wick says that, with a better growing season this year, the number of North Dakota acres planted with cover crops was lower. Some farmers, such as Toussaint, see the potential for incorporating cover crops into their cropping system.

“There’s slow growth,” Wick adds. “Some farmers are using cover crops in their wheat rotation while it’s fairly new in corn and soybeans. Management of cropping systems plays a role because it depends on

the priority of the farmer.”

Incorporating a cover crop is relatively simple for wheat and barley acres. Since they’re harvested in July and August, there’s usually plenty of time for cover crops to become established. With corn and soybean harvest coming later in the year, it’s more challenging to include cover crops.

Dr. Marisol Berti is NDSU associate professor of forage and biomass crop production. She says that work is being done to determine the best ways for using cover crops with soybeans and corn. Because there’s no time to drill crops in following corn and soybean harvest, some farmers have aerial seeded cover crops into standing fields so that plants can get established without competing with the primary crop.

Once corn or soybeans are removed, cover crops are already in place.

Cover crops work with any type of tillage, but they’re most widely used by no-till or reduced-till farmers. While there’s interest by farmers across North Dakota, Berti says that there are still a lot of researchers and farmers who are learning about the best ways to grow and utilize cover crops.

“Some growers are watching the farmers who use cover crops to see how they’re doing,” Berti says. “We are encouraging those farmers to keep going. We can’t expect to have it all right the first year.”

Broten would agree with Berti’s assessment. Despite planting cover crops for 3 years, he says there is still a lot to learn. The first year that they planted cover crops after barley,

the fall was so dry; nothing grew outside a few wet areas. The second year, things were better, but an earlier fall meant the growth wasn’t as good as it could have been.

Broten says that they learned this year that, if they would have inoculated their peas before planting, the crop likely would have gotten a better stand and possibly put more nitrogen back into the soil.

“We’re still a little new at this to see exactly what kind of results we’re getting,” Broten adds. “We know we’re getting quite a few benefits but we just don’t know yet what all of them are.”

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos by Wanbaugh Studios  
and Daniel Lemke



**Farmer Dough Toussaint (left) and NDSU professor Dr. Marisol Berti examine the root structure of cereal rye planted after soybean harvest.**

# Legislative Update

Although they're not in session, lawmakers, staffers and the individuals who track legislative business are active during the interim with committee meetings and hearings. This interim period is used to help legislators gain a deeper understanding about the issues we face in North Dakota and to make preparations for the 2017 session.

In addition to following multiple committees because what they oversee could impact North Dakota soybean farmers, there are a wide range of issues which are of interest to growers.

## Conservation Biologists

Four conservation biologist positions are in the process of being filled. The North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts will employ the individuals. The positions are to be placed, tentatively, in Turtle Lake, Jamestown, Hettinger, and either Napoleon or Linton. Candidates are expected to have an understanding of agriculture or to be very willing to learn about agriculture as well as how to approach farmers and ranchers to assist them with the Farm Bill's conservation provisions.

## Budget Status

The focus on the budget's status is due to the downturn in oil prices along with the corresponding reduction in oil and gas tax revenue for both the state and local political subdivisions. A critical collection of funds for additional rural infrastructure, or anything else beyond the normal general-fund spending, is called the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund (SIIF). If there is less tax revenue, there will be fewer dollars flowing into the SIIF fund.

## Interim Committee Tracking

**The Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee** is continuing its work updating agricultural provisions in the Century Code as well as examining the Game and Fish Department licenses provided to entities for the purpose of fundraising.

**The Economic Impact Committee** is looking at issues related to providing natural-gas service to underserved communities in North Dakota to support economic development. The committee is also studying a One-Call Excavation Notice System as well as issues related to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

**The Energy Development and Transmission Committee** is reviewing potential EPA regulatory impacts on North Dakota as well as state regulatory influence on gas and oil operations. This committee is also concerned with state oil and gas tax revenue, pipeline activities and water-supply issues.

**The Education Committee** is evaluating content standards and assessments along with the nature and the scope of career- and technical-education opportunities.

**The Higher Education Committee** is examining delivery methods for higher-education courses, the missions for all two-year institutions and other institutions, and the administrative costs for institutions that are under the State Board of Higher Education's control.

**The Government Finance Committee** is reviewing the statutory and regulatory requirements that are placed on North Dakota's government

agencies by U.S. government agencies along with a review of the state budget information as well as the status of revenues and appropriations.

**The Political Subdivision Taxation Committee** is studying sales-and-use taxation applications for purchases by contractors on behalf of an exempt entity and is conducting an analysis of economic-development tax incentives.

**The Taxation Committee** is reviewing current scientific and economic information regarding oil and gas recovery as well as enhanced recovery techniques. The committee is also examining an oil-extraction tax exemption for incremental production from a tertiary recovery project.

**The Transportation Committee** is reviewing truck size and weight provisions that relate to size, width

and height restrictions. The committee is also focusing efforts on required motor-vehicle insurance, truck permitting systems for oil- and gas-producing counties, and special transportation funding distributions for political subdivisions.

**The Water Topics Overview Committee** is looking at the use of eminent domain by water-resource districts. The committee is also examining options for providing a sustainable water supply to central and eastern North Dakota. The committee is studying the impact for owners of land that has been inundated by rising waters in Devils Lake and Stump Lake. The committee is also providing a legislative overview for water-related topics including the Garrison Diversion Project.

—Story by Scott Rising  
and Daniel Lemke



Scott Rising, NDSGA Legislative Director.



# Troubled Waters

## A controversial rule meant to clarify which waterways fall under the control of the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has, instead, muddied the waters for farmers and others. The rule is likely to be embroiled in a lengthy legal battle.

The Waters of the United States (WOTUS) was to go into effect August 28, but a U.S. District Court judge in North Dakota placed an injunction on its implementation in North Dakota and the 12 other states that joined in a lawsuit to stop it. In all, 16 lawsuits for and against WOTUS were filed. In October, the 6th District Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio, issued a temporary stay, stopping the EPA from enforcing the rule completely. In December, that same court will decide whether the jurisdiction for further legal proceedings belongs to district courts or appellate courts.

Congressional action has also taken place to try to rescind the water rule on the grounds that the EPA overstepped its bounds and stripped states of water oversight.

“Congress, 43 years ago, began to define the scope of jurisdiction and regulation regarding which waters will be regulated when it passed the Clean Water Act,” says David Saxowsky, JD, an associate professor at North Dakota State University who teaches agricultural and water law. “We’re still trying to figure that out.”

Saxowsky says the practice is for agencies that are responsible for implementing statutes to put forward how they will regulate. He says that there have been several attempts in the past four decades to define how the Clean Water Act would be enforced. Many of those attempts were challenged, and several went all the way to the Supreme Court.

“I expect this will go through the slow process of litigation as well,” Saxowsky says.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA have been responsible for “navigable” waters for many years. Language in the Clean Water

Act expands that coverage to waters that have a “significant nexus” to a traditional waterway or interstate waters.

The EPA and Army Corps say that the Clean Water Rule provides greater clarity and certainty for farmers, doesn’t create any new permitting requirements and won’t add an economic burden to agriculture. Many people, including farmers and other businesses, believe the measure has created confusion and leaves more latitude for interpretation. They also believe it constitutes a massive overreach by the EPA.

“The impact on American farmers could be immense,” says Scott Korom, senior environmental engineer for Barr Engineering in Bismarck. “Essentially WOTUS will give EPA authority over all surface waters and, by connection, most groundwater. WOTUS must be viewed as a fundamental change in the power structure of government and a negation of federalism. The power structure change is

everything. Even if today EPA is moderate, once the power structure is in place, their authority will be much increased. Farmers should be nothing less than alarmed.”

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) is strongly opposed to the EPA’s Waters of the United States rule. NDSGA members and grower leaders have actively lobbied North Dakota’s federal legislative delegation and others to stop the rule from being implemented. Growers also sit on the advisory board for a North Dakota fund that is being used for injunction activity.

While WOTUS is currently tied up in court, farmers still need to be vigilant and active.

“Farmers should do everything they can to stop WOTUS, including lobbying all federal congressmen and senators, supporting states and other farm groups in their lawsuits against WOTUS,” Korom adds.

—Story by Daniel Lemke



## North Dakota Farmers Travel to China on Food Security and Marketing Missions

# H

arvest might be over, but three North Dakota farmers managed to stay pretty busy this November.

United Soybean Board (USB) Vice Chairman Jared Hagert of Emerado, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association and American Soybean Association (ASA) director Monte Peterson of Valley City, and former USB chair Vanessa Kummer of Colfax recently traveled to China on food-security and marketing missions. These trips help to further strengthen soybean industry relations between the United States and China.

Kummer and Peterson traveled to Guangzhou, China to attend the 10th China International Oils and Oilseeds Conference on November 11. The event promoted U.S. soy and soy products among Chinese soybean importers, traders and feed millers. Kummer joined a panel to discuss U.S. soy production and to provide a grower’s perspective about the current market situation. Peterson led a meeting with top management from the Dalian Commodity Exchange (DCE), the conference organizer and a long-time partner

with the U.S. soy industry, about how to strengthen the partnership and to promote U.S. soy.

The pair next traveled to Beijing to attend the 3rd China Food Security and Safety Strategy Summit. Hagert also participated in this summit, where all three grower leaders interacted with leaders on policy issues such as recent biotech approval delays in China that have affected the commercialization of new biotech events.

“The conference has resulted in not only China understanding what U.S. soybean producers can provide them to maintain food safety and security, especially in feed grains such as soy, but it also helps U.S. soybean producers understand the needs of our customers,” says Hagert. “This provides an opportunity to exceed their needs and continue to build our mutually beneficial relationship.”

The North Dakota Soybean Council sponsored the 17th annual U.S. Soy Market Outlook

Conference in Shanghai, China on November 16. More than 100 importers, traders, crushers, feed millers and animal integrators from China participated in this conference, which was conducted by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC). The event provided attendees with market insight and an updated report on U.S. soybean quality for this year’s crop. Grower leaders gave production reports and risk-management strategies used by U.S. farmers, in addition to discussing the sustainability of U.S. soy and the global soy market outlook.

Kummer says, “The conference provided North Dakota farmers with a chance to bring up the importance of Essential Amino Acid (EAA) content versus crude protein content, which is an important message as North Dakota beans tend to have lower crude protein, but have excellent EAA quality.”

Grower leaders’ participation and involvement within these events demonstrate the long-term

commitments that the U.S. soy industry has made to supply China’s increasing demand for soy and strengthened the partnership with Chinese industries in order to help achieve China’s goal for food security, food safety and a sustainable soybean supply.

Peterson says that it’s important for North Dakota farmers to participate in such missions. “North Dakota, like many other state boards, invests in both domestic and international markets,” he notes. “North Dakota exports over 70 percent of the soybeans it produces overseas, and the majority of those exports go to China. It is critical to understand our markets. Without firsthand knowledge of how and where our soybeans are being used, informed promotion cannot occur.”

Kummer agrees. “North Dakota’s soybean checkoff investment provides the ability for North Dakota farmers to make personal connections to our soybean buyers in Asia. Relationships are important when doing business, and with 70 percent of North Dakota soybeans shipped overseas, it gives our farmers the opportunity to relay the importance of the EAA content of North Dakota soybeans.”

—Story by Jen Del Carmen, photos by USSEC



Vanessa Kummer presents an award to a top ten buyer of U.S. soybeans while Monte Peterson (left) looks on at the awards ceremony at the 17th Annual U.S. Soy Market Outlook Conference on Nov. 16, 2015 in Shanghai, China.



Vanessa Kummer (third from right, bottom row), and Monte Peterson (far right, top row) take part in a group photo with top buyers of U.S. soybeans during the 17th annual U.S. Soy Market Outlook Conference on Nov. 16, 2015, in Shanghai, China.



## Food-Grade Soybean Premiums Add to the Bottom Line

**A**s soybean farmers weigh the risk and rewards for varieties this winter, food-grade soybeans can be

considered a top choice for a return on the bottom line.

“The yield is a little less than the Roundup Ready beans, but the economics work with the premiums. Add \$4.50 and \$5.00 a bushel premium and it works,” says Tom Trautman of Jamestown, North Dakota. Trautman has grown food-grade soybeans on his farm for the past decade. He also grows spring wheat and corn.

Food-grade soybeans are grown for tofu, soy milk, Natto, miso, sprout, tempeh and other soy-based foods. The northern region developed Asian markets for food-grade soybeans in the late 1980s, and today, over 60 percent of the Japanese Natto that is consumed comes from this northern soybean-growing

region. Markets and demand, both internationally and domestically, continue to rise for food-grade soybeans.

“Growers may not have grown food-grade soybeans before or even have a neighbor who has,” says Mark Huso of Huso Crop Consulting of Lakota, North Dakota. “Unknowns may seem like a risk in growing them. However, with the new varieties, the reward in this economy through the premiums offered is worth looking at and having a conversation about this winter.” Huso consults in Nelson, Grand Forks, Griggs, Steele and Walsh Counties of North Dakota and sees that there is low awareness of food-grade soybeans with the opportunity to expand the crop in

North Dakota.

“Falling commodity prices, attractive premiums for food-grade soybeans and costly commodity seed are some factors which entice growers to grow food-grade soybean,” says Aaron Skyberg of SK Food International, a member of the Northern Food Grade Soybean Association (NFGSA). “In addition to the economic benefits, food-grade soybeans also bring competitive yields compared to commodity soybeans.”

The NFGSA is comprised of eight area food-grade soybean companies. It works to bring awareness as well as to increase the demand and acres for northern food-grade soybeans. This winter, you will find NFGSA members at local

**PHOTO ABOVE: Tom Trautman of Jamestown, N.D., in his food-grade soybean field.**

farm shows talking with farmers about their researched food-grade soybean varieties for domestic and international markets.

Learn more about choosing food-grade soybeans by visiting the organization’s website ([nfgsa.org](http://nfgsa.org)) where you can connect with any of the member companies about 2016 food-grade contracts. You can also learn more about food-grade soybeans on the NFGSA Facebook page: [facebook.com/foodgradesoybeans](https://facebook.com/foodgradesoybeans).

—Story by Katie Pinke,  
photo by NFGSA



# Biodiesel Given a Top Score for Reducing Carbon Emissions



One state's commitment to reducing carbon emissions could mean more value for U.S. soybeans.

Biodiesel was recently given the best carbon score for all liquid fuels in California's revised Low Carbon Fuels Standard, boosting the fuel's demand potential in the nation's most-populated state.

"California's reaffirmation of biodiesel as a low-carbon fuel is good news for soybean farmers in the U.S.," says Robert Stobaugh, an Arkansas soybean farmer and soy checkoff farmer-leader. "Biodiesel is great for the environment. This latest analysis shows that it's almost as clean as electric."

According to California's new standard, biodiesel reduces emission between 50 percent and 80 percent relative to conventional fuel.

"Anytime we, as farmers, can support making our air cleaner with something we're already doing—like producing soybeans sustainably—that's good for all of us," Stobaugh says.

Soybean oil is the primary feedstock for biodiesel, which is why the soy checkoff supports research to demonstrate biodiesel's sustainability benefits. The check-off's life-cycle analysis of soybeans, along with other research conducted in cooperation with the National Biodiesel Board, provided data that helped California decision makers to determine biodiesel's

carbon score.

One of the most interesting changes in the revised standard says Don Scott, director of sustainability for National Biodiesel Board (NBB), is with indirect-land-use-change estimates. For a life-cycle analysis, researchers make estimates about the amount of land that is put into production to create a fuel rather than for other uses.

"Soybeans, for example, are 20 percent oil and 80 percent meal, so as demand increases for oil, more

meal in the market has positive benefits for animal agriculture and can displace other crops," Scott says.

That displacement was acknowledged with the new standard.

Even though farmers aren't directly producing biodiesel, soybean farmers benefit from increased demand for the fuel. "They're producing a low-carbon feedstock, and as California and other regions put value on carbon reduction, that commodity has a value that will benefit farmers," says Scott.

As for the decision's impact on the California fuel market, Scott says that biodiesel has several advantages in the marketplace. Fuel providers can blend biodiesel in existing infrastructure and drivers can use it for vehicles that are on the road now. The fuel's low carbon scores will give fuel companies another incentive to provide biodiesel blends.

—Story by the United Soybean Board, photo by Wanbaugh Studios



North Dakota Soybean Council director Joe Morken of Casselton, N.D. fuels up with biodiesel.



Funded by the North Dakota soybean checkoff.

## Consumer Outreach to NDSU Bison Fans

The NDSC joined Bison fans at the Fargodome on November 7, during North Dakota State University's Harvest Bowl football game, promoting North Dakota soybeans as well as celebrating agriculture and farmers. NDSC handed out free travel coffee mugs, soy recipes and brochures, stickers, coloring books and soy coloring crayons. Bison fans who participated in

fun soybean trivia received a free pair of knit gloves. Below, from left to right: NDSC Communications Director Suzanne Wolf, NDSC Administrative Assistant Kathy Wiltse, NDSC CEO Diana Beitelspacher, and North Dakota Soybean Growers Association Executive Director Nancy Johnson.

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## Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research - 2016

Researchers and Extension Specialists from North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota are working together to deliver the most current research information to help you make better management decisions on your farm. One of the highlights will be hands-on demonstrations where you get a closer look at important production and marketing tools.

Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research and Marketing workshops will be held **Thursday, February 4th** at the Alerus Center, Grand Forks and **Friday, February 5th** at the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead.

- ◆◆ **These sessions are free.**
- ◆◆ **Pr-registration is encouraged.**
- ◆◆ **CEU credits are available.**

For times and to register, call (800) 242-6118, ext 3 or go online at [www.smallgrains.org](http://www.smallgrains.org) and click on Best of the Best link.

*Brought to you by the MN Association of Wheat Growers, ND Soybean Council, MN Wheat Research & Promotion Council, ND Grain Growers Association, MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council and the ND Wheat Commission*

# Northern Crops Institute Holds Meeting to Discuss Opportunities for Future Expansion in Southeast Asia

On Tuesday, November 3, 2015, Northern Crops Institute (NCI) invited its stakeholders to provide recommendations on expanding market opportunities in Southeast Asia for crops grown in the four-state region of Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana and North Dakota.

NCI welcomed Dr. Norman Ramos, division vice president for La Filipina, the second largest food and feed company in the Philippines to be the featured speaker at the meeting. Dr. Ramos provided information about the current growth opportunities in Southeast Asia for northern grown crops.

Ramos focused specifically on the major opportunities in the animal feed industry and its need for soybean meal. Ramos stated, "In any of the animal industries, the basic protein source is soybean meal. No Asian country is capable

of growing soybeans. All soybean meal is being imported and is coming from either the United States or South America. The exception is China, as it keeps to its own requirement."

During the meeting, the discussion with stakeholders continued to center on the incredible growth in agricultural markets in the Southeast Asia region. Currently, the agricultural markets are expanding at a four percent rate of growth. "The more efficient companies become in Southeast Asia the more raw materials they will need to bring in," Ramos said. "For example, American soybean meal is the best choice and it commands a premium."

"The growth in Southeast Asia is definitely on NCI's radar," NCI Director Mark Weber said. "We will continue to discuss and focus our efforts in marketing the unique characteristics of our northern



**Dr. Norman Ramos addresses NCI meeting.**

grown crops around the world. I believe this meeting provided an outlet for our stakeholders to gain some information and give some

great recommendations for our future efforts."

—Story and photo by Betsy Armour



The North Dakota Soybean Council has welcomed teams of soybean purchasers from the Philippines to North Dakota over the years. This Filipino team visited North Dakota on October 15, 2013. This delegation represented Filipino businesses in the animal feed industry.



# New Videos Feature CommonGround North Dakota Volunteers

CommonGround North Dakota produced two new fall videos featuring volunteers. Teresa Dvorak of Manning, North Dakota, and Polly Ulrich of Ashley, North Dakota, both showcased the depth and breadth of North Dakota agriculture as well as sharing their personal farm and ranch stories, including serving as CommonGround volunteers.

Teresa is originally from a Wisconsin dairy farm. She completed her graduate degree in Ruminant Nutrition at North Dakota State University. Today, she ranches with her husband, Weston, and four daughters near their family ranch and farm near Manning, which is located north of Dickinson in western North Dakota.

The video featuring Teresa showcases cattle along with feedstuffs, including grass, alfalfa, barley for hay

and corn, which the family uses on the ranch. Additionally, canola and wheat are crops that the Dvoraks raise. Teresa and Weston work alongside one another on the ranch. The importance of bringing up the next generation of North Dakota agriculture in their daughters is highlighted, connecting non-agricultural consumers to the family behind the ranch and land.

Teresa is an active CommonGround North Dakota volunteer who participated in CommonGround training in Austin, Texas, in early 2015 along with serving at the second annual Banquet in a Field this past August. Her knowledge and expertise with cattle nutrition afforded opportunities to answer questions from attendees, including a dietician, about how the cows are fed and the science that goes into their diets.



CommonGround volunteer Karolyn Zurn of Callaway, Minn. (far right), helped start conversations with urban moms and women who are concerned about food and where it originates at two area events this fall by exhibiting for CommonGround North Dakota. Karolyn and fellow farm woman Margaret Jirava of Ogema, Minn. (middle), exhibited at the Essentia Health Lakes Area Women's Expo in Detroit Lakes, Minn., on October 10. Along with CommonGround North Dakota farm woman volunteer Katie Miller of Kindred, N.D., Karolyn exhibited at the "It's a Girl Thing" event at the Fargo Holiday Inn on November 11.



North Dakota soybean farmer Polly Ulrich of Ashley, N.D., is on the left.

"I want to be a part of the conversation, connecting people to the food on their plates and in their grocery stores back to where it starts and is grown and raised," says Teresa. "Thank you to CommonGround for giving me a strong platform to share and this video is a special way also to tell our family ranch story. I know our family will still be watching and sharing it for years to come."

Polly Ulrich left her Indiana farm roots to work as a nurse and paramedic for years before marrying Terry Ulrich, an Ashley, North Dakota area farmer. They met in Washington, D.C., and Terry convinced Polly to lobby on the Farm Bill with him. After dating and now marriage, Polly farms and ranches with Terry. She spends three months a year as a full-time combine driver through wheat, soybean and corn harvest on their south-central North Dakota farm and cattle ranch.

As a CommonGround volunteer in 2015, Polly also participated in CommonGround training in Austin, Texas, and attended her first Banquet in a Field event at Peterson Farms Seed. She hopes to participate in an upcoming Women's Health Conference panel and the Banquet in a Field again in 2016.

The new video featuring Polly highlights her passion for technology on the farm as she harvests soybeans. Additionally, Polly refers to herself as a "farm-to-table foodie" who cans produce from her large garden with her mother-in-law and tries to include at least one item that she has grown in each of the family's winter meals. Polly and Terry farm and ranch with Terry's brother, Gary and the men's parents, Wilbert and Alvina, who all were a part of the video shoot, showcasing the multi-generational family still actively working together on the farm.

"We are proud to open our home and farm to help tell the story of modern agriculture through the CommonGround outreach," says Polly. "The video captures soybean harvest, our cattle, the bounty of our garden produce and how our family works together daily."

Watch the new videos on the CommonGround North Dakota YouTube page: [bit.ly/CommonGroundND](http://bit.ly/CommonGroundND) or visit the Facebook page: [facebook.com/CommonGroundNorthDakota](http://facebook.com/CommonGroundNorthDakota)

—Story and photo by Katie Pinke, photo by Creative Treatment



# Know Your Warning Signs for Stroke

**N**orth Dakotans are usually proud to lead the nation, but when it comes to their risk of stroke,

many North Dakotans may be surprised to know that our state leads the nation for major stroke risk factors, including hypertension.

Stroke is the number five cause of death among adults in the United States and kills about 128,000 people each year. Therefore, about every 40 seconds, someone suffers a stroke, and about every 4 minutes, someone dies from stroke.

Another terrifying statistic is that about 25 percent of all Americans do not know any stroke warning signs. The time it takes a potential bystander to recognize the warning signs of a stroke and to call 9-1-1 directly impacts the difference between life and death or between full recovery and permanent disability.

The American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, is teaching Americans about stroke warning signs in an easy way. Just remember F.A.S.T. to recognize the symptoms that appear suddenly. F.A.S.T. stands for

- F – Face Drooping:** Does one side of the face droop, or is it numb? Ask the person to smile.
- A – Arm Weakness:** Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the per-

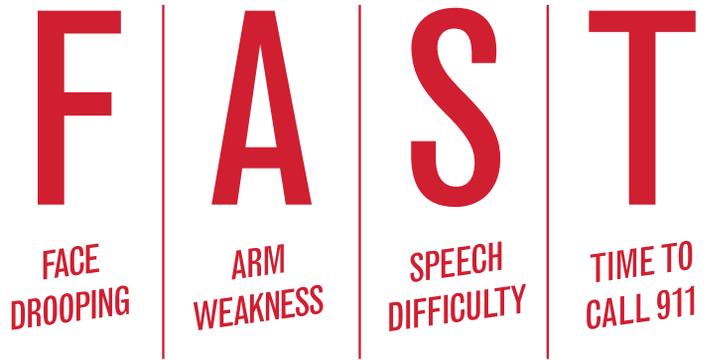
son to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

- S – Speech Difficulty:** Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, such as “The sky is blue.” Is the sentence repeated correctly?

- T – Time to call 911:** If the person shows any of these symptoms, and even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1.

By calling 9-1-1 instead of driving the individual to the hospital, you will be activating that individual’s care team immediately. Being transported to the hospital by ambulance is associated with earlier arrival and treatment, including the administration of clot-busting drugs or other potential medical procedures.

In North Dakota, the American Heart Association has partnered with several stakeholders for a comprehensive stroke care system that ensures that patients are treated according to the latest science-based guidelines. The partnership also helps to prevent stroke through targeted education efforts in order to reduce the risk factors for stroke, including hypertension.



These projects are funded largely through events such as the Fargo Heart Ball which will be held on January 30, 2016, at the Fargo Holiday Inn. This year is the 20th anniversary of this elegant event, which helps to raise awareness, fund research and save lives. The black-tie event attracts business leaders, professionals, influential men and women along with other

community members to fight heart disease and stroke.

For more information about the American Heart Association’s lifesaving work to fight strokes in North Dakota and the Red River Valley Heart Ball, visit [www.heart.org/northdakota](http://www.heart.org/northdakota).

—*Story by Chrissy Meyer, graphic by American Heart Association*

**Findings suggest that a certain naturally occurring component of soy may enhance the function of arteries for stroke patients and may help all Americans stay heart healthy. The 2008 study, published in the European Heart Journal by researchers at the University of Hong Kong, found that a diet rich in soybeans and soy isoflavones boosts artery health. Isoflavones are natural compounds found in soy that, although different from the hormone estrogen, do exert a mild estrogen-like effect under certain conditions.**



# Discover the Magic of Miso for Holiday Meals

Just because the upcoming holidays are a time of tradition doesn't mean you can't tweak your favorite recipes by adding the salty flavors of miso. Miso—a soybean paste fermented with rice, barley or other grains—adds savory notes to a variety of foods. Discover how this traditional staple in Japanese cuisine can enhance your traditional holiday recipes. Miso is a high-protein food (offering approximately 2 grams of protein per 1 Tbsp.). It also provides nutrition benefits, including probiotics (naturally occurring live bacteria in cultured and fermented foods) that are good

for the digestive system. Miso is typically found in the refrigerated section at supermarkets.

Mild-flavored white miso can be used in salad dressings or stirred into mashed potatoes. For brunch drinks, try adding a small dab of white miso to your favorite Bloody Mary recipe. Create salad dressings such as a mustard vinaigrette that is made with white miso paste, Dijon mustard, honey, rice vinegar, minced ginger, rosemary and soybean oil.

For a nuttier, slightly more robust flavor, add yellow miso to your recipes. It is fermented a little

longer than white miso, producing a flavor that's ideal for making light marinades or for stirring into broths or soups just before serving. Yellow miso also adds pizzazz to roasted vegetables. Make a glaze for root vegetables by combining miso with honey, brown sugar or maple syrup, and a little oil and mirin (rice wine), plus your favorite herbs. Add another level of flavor to your turkey stuffing by incorporating yellow miso. Stir a small amount of miso paste into the liquid that is added to your favorite stuffing recipe.

The robust flavors and saltiness of red miso make it an excellent

choice for complementing roasted meats. Use it to create marinades and sauces, or add red miso to gravies. You can also make a miso rub by combining miso paste with olive oil and seasonings.

For sandwiches made with leftover turkey, mix miso into mayonnaise, spreading the sauce on the bread of your choice. This condiment adds depth and dimension to any sandwich combinations. This holiday season, add a little miso for added flavor depth with your favorite recipes.

—Story by Linda Funk, photo by The Soyfoods Council

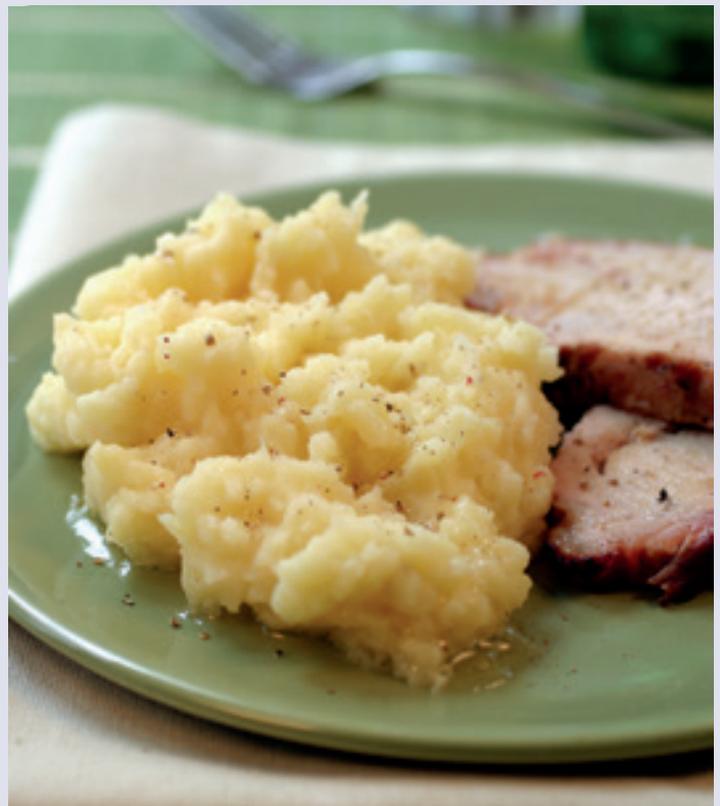
## Miso and Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Miso and soymilk impart a wonderful aromatic flavor to mashed potatoes.

- 2 ½ pounds Yukon Gold Potatoes
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced
- 2/3 cup plain, unflavored soymilk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon white miso
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Place potatoes and garlic in a saucepan; cover with water. Bring to a boil over medium heat; reduce heat; and simmer 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Drain. Add soymilk, butter, miso and pepper. Beat with an electric mixer until smooth. Yield: 6 servings.

Calories 223 (17% from fat); Fat 4.3 g (sat, 1.9 g; mono, 1.6 g; poly, 0.3 g); Protein 5.6 g; Carbohydrate 35.2 g; Fiber 2.6 g; Cholesterol 10 mg; Iron 1.7 mg; Sodium 238 mg; Calcium 6 mg.



# Managing WATER Resources

Among the biggest factors contributing to soybean yields is one that farmers often can do little to control:

water. Too much or too little rainfall can be the difference between a bumper crop and a forgettable year.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Agronomist Dr. Hans Kandel believes that

farmers can manage water in a way that benefits crops and mitigates some potential negative environmental impacts. For the past several years, Kandel and several colleagues have researched a water-management system for tile

drainage that would allow farmers to release water when conditions are wet and to potentially hold water back when it is dry.

## Dutch Model

Kandel grew up in the Netherlands where much of the country's farmland is below sea level. Through an elaborate series of channels, ditches and pumps, farmers are able to keep the water table low enough to consistently raise crops. Kandel sees similarities between the Netherlands' farmland and the flat Red River Valley. Because the valley is essentially the bottom of the former Lake Agassiz, many farms have high water tables. Farmers frequently battle wet conditions that can impact productivity.

Unlike the Netherlands, there isn't a coordinated system to manage water in the Red River Valley. Many areas have shallow ditches to help channel water from the surface into road ditches. In recent years, subsurface tile drainage has been installed on an increasing number of acres in order to take some water off the land and to allow farmers to get into the fields for planting in a timely fashion.

Subsurface drainage helps lower the water table and provides better soil aeration. A lower water table permits soil to warm up faster, potentially allowing for earlier planting. The soil temperature affects seed germination, emergence, growth and even soil

microbial activity.

"Tile works. That's been proven," Kandel says. "Farmers are giving up yield when they plant in wet conditions or face late planting. A one-week delay in getting corn planted can mean as much as 7 percent yield loss."

Kandel said that the research illustrates just how effective tile drainage can be. Research from Ohio showed that, with undrained soil, corn yielded 60 bushels per acre. Corn planted with surface drainage yielded 92 bushels per acre while soil with subsurface drainage averaged 116 bushels per acre. A combination of subsurface and surface drainage yielded 121 bushels per acre and was the most consistently high-performing practice.

"In wet years, tile will give better yields, but in dry years, it could give up yield potential," Kandel adds.

Kandel's vision takes tile drainage to the next level. By installing control boxes connected to subsurface drain tiles, farmers can manage the water levels, keeping water near the plant's root zone. When wet conditions exist, the control box is opened to allow water to flow through the tiles. When it's dry, the box is closed so that needed moisture is kept in the soil. This control allows farmers to manage the water table, keeping the level as close to optimum as possible.

Three years of NDSU wheat research supported the concept's



NDSU researcher Dr. Hans Kandel holds a tabletop control box. When connected to subsurface tile drainage, control boxes can help farmers manage the water table in their fields.

effectiveness. The study showed that yields were highest across the years when the water table was controlled and kept at an optimal level near the root zone. Yields fell when the soil was either too wet or too dry.

### Mitigating Negatives

Water quality and water management are hotly debated issues across the country, and the Red River Valley is certainly no exception. Kandel says that managing water through control boxes on subsurface drainage could reduce how much water would be released. That would cut down on the potential for dissolved nutrients, such as nitrogen, to be released, eventually reaching rivers or streams.

“There are environmental benefits to putting out less water,” says Kandel. “If we can reduce the outflow of water by one-third, we

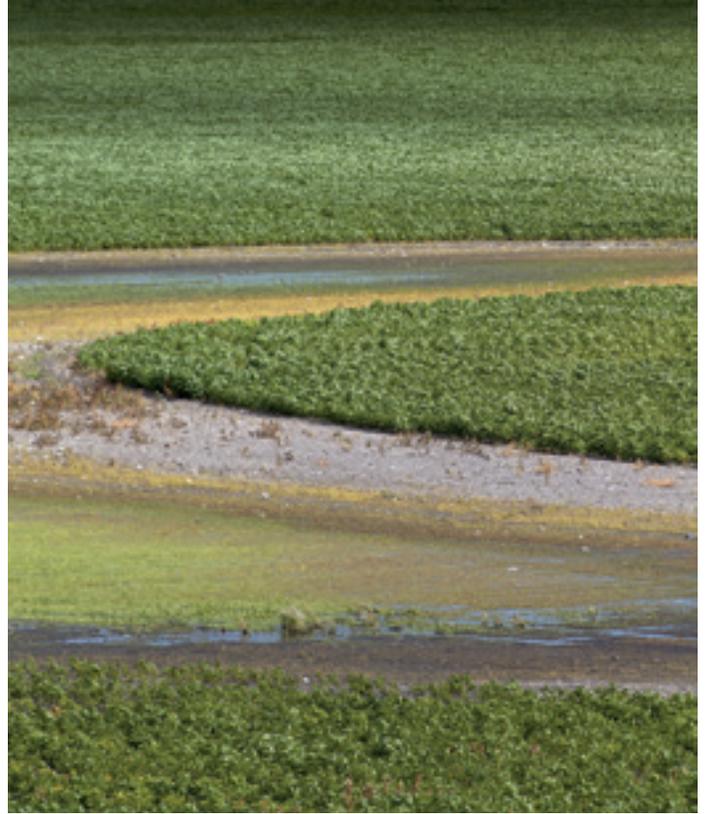
are putting out fewer nutrients.”

With a wet fall, tile can run up to late winter and can create some additional space for water to infiltrate during the spring. In addition, Kandel says that, in periods of flooding, which are common during the spring snow melt, control boxes can be closed.

Kandel’s vision of a coordinated water-management system goes beyond moving water off the land. A system similar to that of the Netherlands would allow farmers to hold water in ditches. That water could be pumped back through the subsurface tile as a system of sub-irrigation during dry periods.

“Water is a resource. We should keep the water we can utilize and only let go of what we can’t,” Kandel says. “That’s different than saying just let it all go.”

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photos by Lemke and Wanbaugh Studios



## Multi-State Survey to Identify Soybean Trends

North Dakota farmers are encouraged to participate in an eight-state survey designed to identify trends that are limiting soybean production.

NDSU Agronomist Dr. Hans Kandel is heading up the project for North Dakota. “We want to look at the mega-trends in soybean production to see which factors are most critical in limiting production,” he says.

Kandel says that the survey will involve asking questions about variables such as soybean seeding rate, maturity group selection, variety tolerances, soil fertility, fungicide use and more.

“This is a huge benchmarking opportunity,” Kandel adds. “This information should benefit the growers and the industry at large to identify trends. It could also lead to areas of further research.”

Kandel is looking for 250 North Dakota soybean farmers to participate in the survey. Personal information will not be shared, but soybean-cropping details will be used to develop an aggregated data set. Each participant will receive his or her own data, which he or she can use to compare with trends.

The survey is a three-year project which is funded by the soybean checkoff. The survey involves farmers from North Dakota, Minnesota and throughout the Midwest.

“Growers can compare their information with the trends and see how they stack up,” Kandel adds.

Farmers interested in participating in the survey should contact Kandel at 701-231-8135 or Hans.Kandel@ndsu.edu.

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# 30 Thirty Years of CRP

## Signed into law in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) became the

largest private, land-conservation program in the United States. Farmers who enrolled in the program received an annual rental payment in exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production.

Three decades later, North Dakota farmers are still among the nation's leaders in CRP participation with 1,503,785 acres currently enrolled.

"North Dakota enrollment has remained fairly static," says Jay Hochhalter, program specialist for the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "(Enrollment) has stayed right around 1.5 million acres the past few years."

North Dakota CRP enrollment peaked at 3.3 million acres in 2007. Hochhalter says that, because of commodity prices and land rental rates, what CRP had to offer then was not as appealing as farming. As acres expired, many went back into production, and enrolled acres dropped sharply across the state. The current farm economy has FSA officials expecting to see an uptick for CRP enrollment.

"CRP is the most successful volunteer conservation program in USDA history," says Aaron Krauter, FSA state executive director. "The program has evolved from enrolling

sandy hilltops and washed out gullies to enrolling environmentally sensitive land into a resource conserving use."

### Conservation Focus

Hochhalter says that, over its 30-year history, the CRP program has always emphasized conservation but with slightly different focuses. When it was created, the program targeted erosion control. Planting sensitive acres with grass or other cover provided protection against wind and water erosion while, at the same time, providing habitat for wildlife such as game birds, deer and even song birds.

The focus now includes water quality, according to Hochhalter. Targeted acres in CRP help to reduce the sediment load that could reach rivers and streams.

### Additional Acres Authorized

The CRP program was reauthorized with the 2014 Farm Bill. This summer, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that an additional 800,000 acres of CRP would be made available across the United States. Currently, about 16 million acres are in the nationwide program.

"For 30 years, the Conservation Reserve Program has supported

farmers and ranchers as they continue to be good stewards of land and water. This initiative has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding; reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent, respectively; and even sequester 43 million tons

of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road," said Vilsack. "This has been one of most successful conservation programs in the history of the country."

Hochhalter says that the North Dakota FSA office requested and received approval for an additional 45,000 CRP acres in the state.

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Those acres are available for enrollment during the general sign-up period which runs from December 1, 2015, to February 26, 2016.

“CRP in North Dakota provides over \$68 million in annual rental rates to North Dakota landowners,” Krauter adds. “It keeps perennial cover on environmentally sensitive land, providing habitat for wildlife; improves water quality and controls erosion.”

Farmers and landowners who are interested in learning more about the additional CRP acres, or who would like assistance with enrollment, are encouraged to contact their county FSA office.

—Story by Daniel Lemke

## NDSGA Scholarship Recipient

Each year, the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) funds a scholarship at North Dakota State University (NDSU). This scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior in crop and weed sciences, soil science, food science, animal science, agribusiness or agricultural economics, whose parents or grandparents are NDSGA members and who have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

This year, Daniel Landman of Northwood, North Dakota (right) was awarded the scholarship. Nancy

Johnson, NDSGA executive director, congratulated him at NDSU’s

Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on November 5.



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# ASGROW® BRAND ROUNDUP READY 2 XTEND™ SOYBEANS EXPECTED IN 2016 TO ENABLE POWERFUL WEED CONTROL OPTIONS

North Dakota farmers who battle glyphosate-resistant and other tough-to-control weeds may have an additional weed management tool with the anticipated introduction of Asgrow® brand Roundup Ready Xtend 2 Xtend™ soybeans expected in 2016.

The Asgrow brand is expected to offer the largest number of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™ soybeans, the first biotech trait in soybeans to combine glyphosate and dicamba herbicide tolerance. With 25 products spanning eight maturity groups, it is expected to be the largest trait introduction in the brand's history.

"Asgrow Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans are designed to enable enhanced weed control while providing the leading genetics and yield performance farmers have come to expect from our products," said Asgrow Brand Manager Dipal Chaudhari.

Upon receipt of approval for in-crop use of dicamba, benefits of the Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System will include:

- **Weed control:** Designed to enable controls of over 270 species of weeds, including the top five glyphosate-resistant weeds.
- **Flexibility:** Can provide up to 14 days of soil activity on certain small-seeded broadleaf weeds\* with an application window that includes before, at and after planting up to and including beginning bloom (R1) growth stage.
- **Yield potential:** Powered by Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® technology, offers choice across a broad range of maturities.

\* Includes waterhemp, common lambsquarters and Palmer amaranth (pigweed). Use in conjunction with recommended traditional residual herbicides, along with other diversified weed management practices.

Following are Asgrow brand Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean products that are expected to be offered regionally for 2016.

AG06X6	AG09X6	AG12X6	AG17X6
AG23X6	AG25X6	AG28X6	AG29X6

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ROUNDUP READY 2 XTEND SOYBEANS VISIT [ASGROW.COM/XTEND](http://ASGROW.COM/XTEND)**



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## Bean Briefs

### EU Biotech Opt-Out Defeated

Soybean farmers are applauding the European Parliament's overwhelming rejection of a proposal that would allow individual European Union (EU) member states to opt-out of importing and using foods that contain biotechnology for non-scientific reasons.

Soybean organizations are looking to expand European markets for animal feed, edible oils, biodiesel and bio-based products. Europe is a top-five market for American soybeans.

### Soybean Farmers Push for TPP Approval

The American Soybean Association (ASA) endorses the recently released Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement and is calling on Congress to approve the agreement as quickly as possible.

"The TPP is a good deal for soybean farmers and our livestock customers. We back it, and we will push Congress to do the same," said ASA President Wade Cowan. "We know that this will further expand our access to valuable markets in Asia and Latin America, but specifically, there are several key sections of the agreement that will move our trade significantly forward. The sanitary and phytosanitary provisions contained in the TPP will help eliminate many of the non-scientific barriers to market entry that hang us up in particular markets, and the biotechnology provisions in the agreement will help to ensure that, from export partner to export partner, science is the common framework on which our soybean technology is regulated."

If approved, the TPP will

eliminate tariffs on soybeans, soybean oil and soybean meal for each of the 12 TPP nations within set time frames. Tariffs on soybean oil will be eliminated within 6 years in Japan. In Vietnam, tariffs will be eliminated in 11 years per the agreement, and in Peru, the TPP eliminates tariffs by 2018. The agreement immediately lifts tariffs for soybeans, meal and oil in New Zealand, Malaysia and Brunei, as well as for soybean meal in Japan.

### House Passes Highway Funding Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Surface Transportation Reauthorization & Reform Act of 2015 by a wide margin. The bill is a multi-year reauthorization of highway-transportation programs, which will provide certainty for state and local governments to maintain and move forward with transportation projects. The bill also provides new flexibilities and streamlines the environmental review and permitting processes to accelerate projects.

The bill also establishes a National Highway Freight Policy, Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program, and National Multi-Modal Freight Network which aim to improve freight movement and to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness. An amendment was also approved to provide an exemption for agriculture-industry drivers who have Class A commercial driver's licenses from needing a Hazardous Materials endorsement, enabling them to transport more than 118 gallons of fuel, up to 1,000 gallons, without the additional certification.

The bill does not, however, address the ability for states to



Brent Kohls, Mayville, N.D., hosted a Chinese USSEC team.

allow increased truck weights on federal interstates. An amendment which would have given states the option to increase truck weight limits on federal interstates was defeated.

### USSEC Recognized

The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) has received the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) "highly effective" rating based on the USSEC's processes, including its Unified Export Strategy. USSEC works to create a preference for U.S. soy products in markets around the world.

USSEC CEO Jim Sutter says that the USSEC also received higher FY16 allocations from both the Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP).

"We are pleased that our international marketing program has reached this highest level of effectiveness as measured by FAS," said ASA Secretary Ron Moore, who serves as chair of the Trade Policy and International Affairs Committee. "The entire soy family—USSEC, United Soybean Board, and ASA—have been working to continuous-

ly improve our international marketing efforts, coordination, strategies, evaluation, and success stories. This recognition by FAS recognizes the effectiveness of our marketing efforts as well as the wise investment of both taxpayer funding from FAS and checkoff resources from farmers."

— Staff reports

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# Getting to Know the Grower



**Matt Danuser**  
Marion, N.D.

## Tell us about your farm.

We are a fifth-generation farm founded in 1881. My dad and I work as partners, growing corn and soybeans.

## What are the other organizations with which you have been active?

I am involved with the Adrian Betterment Club, which is a local organization that helps with parks and activities in our community. I served as the president for the North Dakota Independent Crop Consultant Association, and I have been a leader in 4-H. I am also a member of the Rural Leadership North Dakota Alumni Association.

## If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?

I'd love to visit Australia sometime. The agriculture and the people over there really fascinate me.

## Why did becoming a North Dakota Soybean Council director interest you?

I've been a crop consultant for 20 years, and I wanted to give back.

I felt I could contribute to North Dakota soybean farmers and the soybean industry through my expertise in ag production to help focus some of the dollars to benefit growers.

## If you could change something about the current operating climate, what would it be?

Develop new, local markets that could promote the use of soybeans and help improve revenue. As producers' expenses get tougher and tougher each year, we need to find more demand out there.

## What has changed the most about farming since you've been involved?

We're getting across more acres in less amount of time. Our windows of opportunity seem to get smaller each year for harvesting

and planting so we have to get a lot done in a short period of time.

## What do you like best about farming?

The freedom that farming allows us to have. Not punching a clock, working on your own schedule and the accomplishment of getting something done.

## What do you like to do outside farming?

Hunting, fishing and golf!

## It's a beautiful North Dakota summer night, and you're sitting down for dinner. What's on the menu?

A North Dakota-grown meal of venison steaks and sweet corn.

— By Ethan Mikelson

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Ryan Pederson  
Rolette, N.D.

**Tell us about your farm.**

I farm with my dad raising primarily small grains, including wheat, barley, canola and soybeans. I've been farming full time for about 15 years.

**What has changed most about farming since**

**you've been involved?**

The advancements in technology and what we're able to do with it have been the biggest change. I would say technology has even become more usable within the past five years. Companies have really embraced the technology and have focused on getting more useful things out to farmers.

**How would you describe this year's growing season?**

We had an early spring frost, so we had to replant some canola, but it didn't really hurt the soybeans. We could have used some rain in July and August, so the soybean yields were down a little.

**How did you get involved with the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association?**

I've been on the Northern Canola Growers Association and the U.S. Canola Association. Through them, I got involved with the National Biodiesel Board where I got to know some people in the soybean industry. My time on the canola board is about up, and I'm interested in advocacy, so I agreed to join the North Dakota Soybean Growers board.

**What do you like to do outside farming?**

I'm married and have children aged 7, 4 and 2. I like to hang out with them and be around to help my wife.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?**

Ireland. The history and the landscape look interesting.

**What do you like best about farming?**

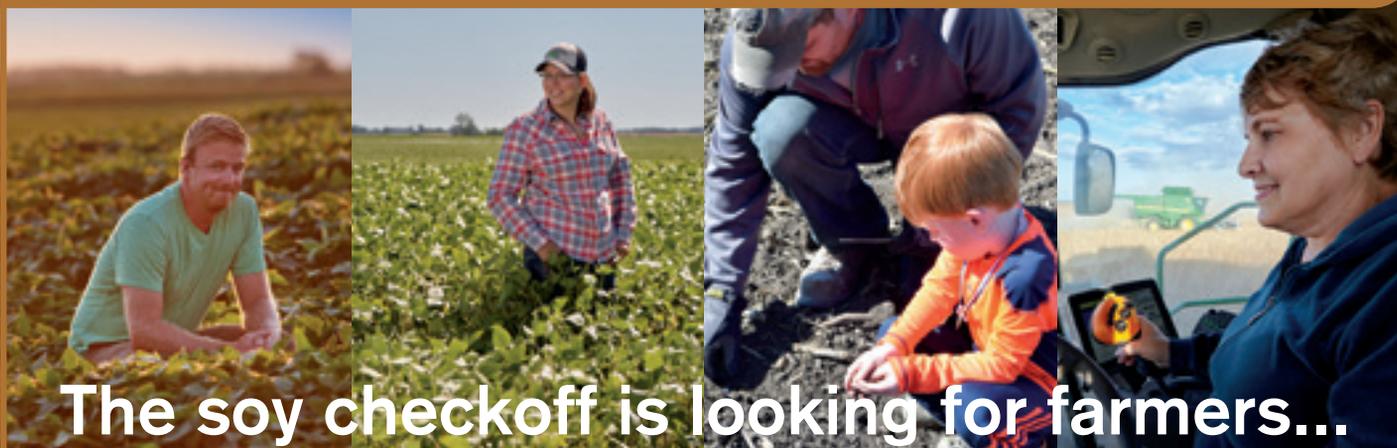
Every day is a new day. You can have plans in place for the day, and by 10:00 a.m., those plans could be out the window. Of course, that also can be the most challenging part. Each season presents its own challenge.

**If you could help non-farmers understand one key issue from a farmer's perspective, what issue would you choose?**

Sustainability. I would like to get the perspective of consumers on how they define it. We, in agriculture, try to define it, but it may not match our customer's definition.

— By Daniel Lemke

# Grow Your Impact as a Soybean Leader



## The soy checkoff is looking for farmers...

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