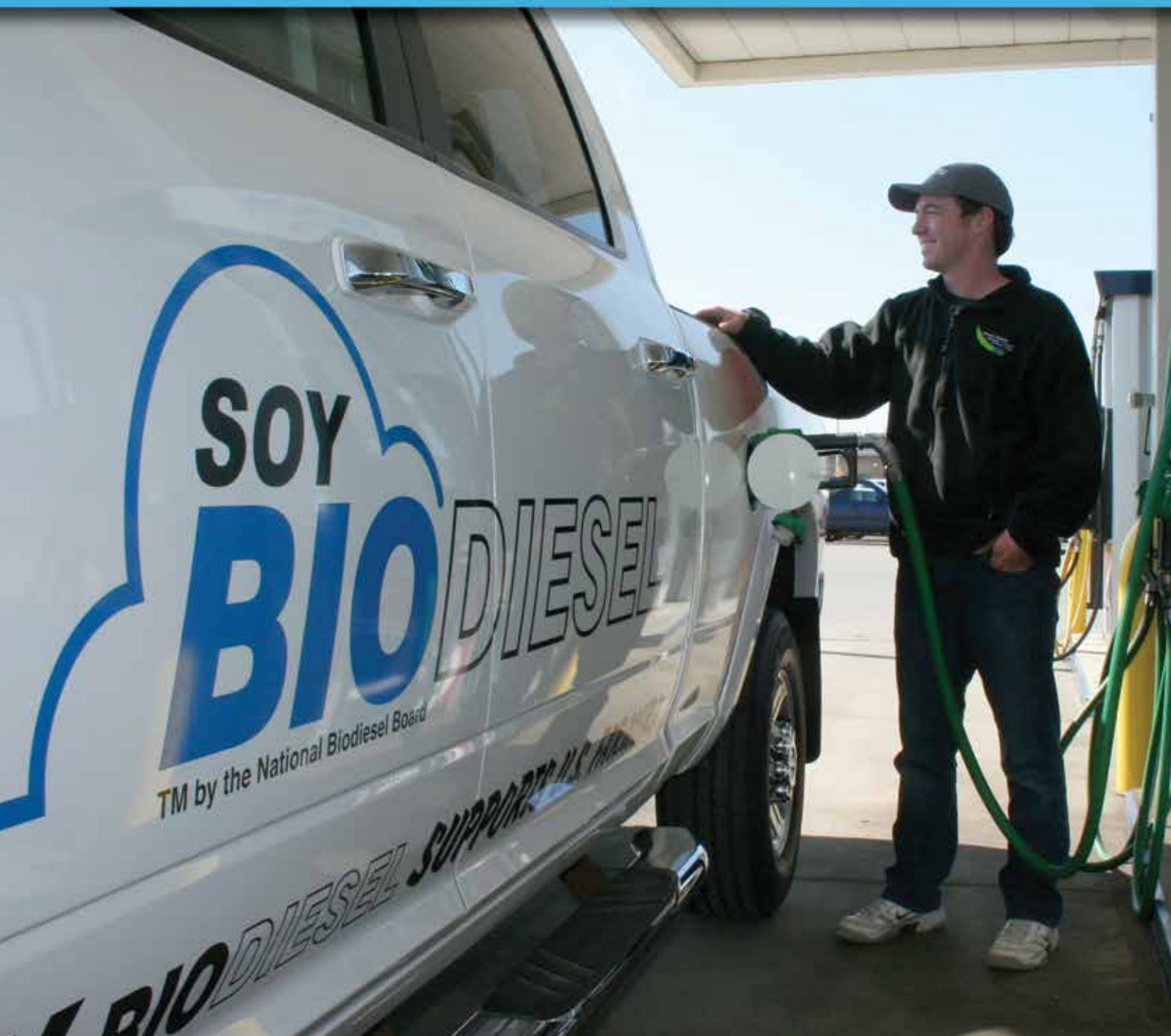


THE NORTH DAKOTA **Soybean** GROWER MAGAZINE

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 2
JUNE 2013





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NDSGA president Jason Mewes started using strip tillage in 2007. Fuel savings is a major benefit. More information on page 27.

Features

- 4 | **If You Believe...Belong**
NDSGA membership has benefits.
- 7 | **Legislative Assembly the Longest Ever**
An overview of N.D.'s 63rd legislative session.
- 9 | **Farmers Well Represented in Bismarck**
State Senator Terry Wanzek describes the past legislative session as "very intense and very busy."
- 12 | **Proper Disposal of Treated Seed Prevents Export Disruptions**
As the planting season ends, growers are reminded that pesticide treated seeds in grain shipments must be prevented.
- 12 | **Food Grade Soybean Industry**
The global food grade soybean industry is growing and the Northern Food Grade Soybean Association (NFGSA) is leading the way.
- 13 | **North Dakota Soybean Council Elects Officers**
- 14 | **Making Agriculture an Attractive Place for Rail Investment**
U.S. freight railroads are essential to the viability and profitability of the U.S. soybean industry.
- 16 | **NDSC Offering Scholarship**
- 17 | **Four Elected to the NDSC**
- 18 | **Biodiesel Coupon Offered at Various Locations**
- 19 | **2014 Northern Soybean Expo**
Set for February 18, 2014
- 20 | **Family Important for Casselton Farmer**
Casselton farmer Harvey Morken says he would not be farming today if it weren't for his father-in-law, Bill Sinz.
- 22 | **Biodiesel: Big Impact**
- 24 | **Farm Bill a Factor in North Dakota Soybean Growth**
- 26 | **Membership a Priority for New NDSGA Executive**
- 27 | **Strip Tillage Conserves Soil Moisture**
NDSGA president Jason Mewes started using strip tillage in 2007. Fuel savings is a major benefit.
- 28 | **ASA Details Impact of Continuing Resolution on Soybean Farmers**

Departments

- 5 Letters
- 30 Getting to Know the Grower

COVER PHOTO: Results Unlimited

If You Believe...Belong

"You've gotta show people the real value of becoming a member of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association or the American Soybean Association (ASA)," says Ed Erickson, Jr., North Dakota's representative on the ASA Board of Directors. Erickson serves on ASA's membership and corporate relations committee.

Working with ASA and the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), Erickson has put together a "cheat sheet" listing examples of vehicle discounts Soybean Grower members can earn on new vehicles from Ford, Chrysler and General Motors. Growers who become a member of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association automatically become a member of the ASA. Because ASA is a member of the NBB, NDSGA members can take advantage of the discounts negotiated by the National Biodiesel Board.

For instance, with a \$200, three-year membership, you could potentially save \$7,700 on a Ford F350 King Ranch, Crew Cab. The two-page list of incentives highlights examples of discounts available from

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Go to www.achieveLinks.com and sign up today. When you activate your account, you will be eligible to shop online and earn points from more than 850 participating companies, such as Target, Kohls, OfficeMax and Home Depot. With this program, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) members are rewarded for their loyalty.



Thanks to a partnership between the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and Chrysler, NDSGA members can cash in on the Preferred Price, which is one percent below factory invoice on the purchase or lease of most new Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicles.



All NDSGA members may take advantage of the Ford Partner Recognition X-Plan Pricing Program. This program offers NDSGA members exclusive savings on eligible Ford and Lincoln vehicles. This incentive is thanks to a partnership between the NBB and Ford.

Recently, General Motors also became a partner with the NBB. NDSGA members can take advantage of the GM Supplier Discount on GMC, Chevrolet, Buick and Cadillac vehicles.

ASA members can purchase Cabela's gift cards at a 10 percent discount. Visit the 'member benefits' link at www.soygrowers.com. Gift cards may be purchased in any amount from \$5 to \$5,000.

Contact the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association for more information on these membership incentives at 701-640-5215, especially for the vehicle discounts. You'll need your member number to take advantage of these programs.

the 'Big Three' automakers on pickups, SUVs and cars. More information about the program is at www.soygrowers.com/membership/representation.htm. You'll need your member number to take advantage of the program. If you need your member number, call 701-640-5215.

Erickson wants to show the people across North Dakota, and across the country, the value of being a member of ASA and the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. "You don't



ED ERICKSON

necessarily have to be a farmer to be a member of these organizations," according to Erickson, "But if we can show them

the value of becoming a member with these car deals, and/or a discounted Cabela's gift card, or something like that, that's where the education comes in."

Members will also get ASA's newsletter and magazine and read about what farmers are doing. "That's what I really like, there's value and education," says Erickson, "I want to educate everybody out there about soybeans and what the farmers are doing. Sending them an email once in a while, and the magazine, people will start realizing the

stuff we're actually doing in Washington, D.C."

There are other membership incentives. Children and grandchildren of ASA members who are pursuing degrees in agriculture are eligible to compete for the Secure Optimal Yield (SOY) Scholarship.

Erickson emphasized membership is more than just discounts and free inputs, "but, that's the way to show 'em the value, teaching them about the stuff we're doing."

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NORTH DAKOTA SOYBEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



Jason Mewes,
President
North Dakota Soybean
Growers Association



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Legislative Assembly the Longest Ever

North Dakota's 63rd legislative session is history, and it made history. This was the first time in state history that the Legislature met on the 80th day of the allotted 80-day session.

The legislature appropriated \$2.3 billion to rebuild and repair state highways, county and township roads and other infrastructure upgrades. That includes \$1.6 billion for highway improvements and \$617 million for county and township roads.

Lawmakers approved more than \$850 million in property tax relief.

According to Scott Rising, legislative director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, "basically the state is putting enough money into local education funding to provide 125 mills of property tax relief, which leaves 60 mills that local folks will have to pay for themselves."

Of the \$834 million need identified by the Upper Great Plains Transporta-

tion Institute for rural road and bridge infrastructure, state legislators funded over \$800 million. "We could not have asked for anything more," says Rising. "This will help alleviate some of the local tax pressure and is the first time that I'm aware of that we have made this kind of commitment to rural infrastructure, and we need to thank everybody in the legislature for doing that—it's magnificent!"

For agriculture, an appropriation of nearly

\$6 million was approved for agronomy labs at the Carrington, Central Grasslands, Hettinger and Langdon Research Extension Centers. This was part of the \$111 million State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) Initiatives bill. There's \$1.8 million to enhance crop development and protection research and \$1.2 million to research weed control and enhance the overall research capac-

Continued on next page

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ity at Research Extension Centers statewide.

A new humane animal treatment law is in place, an Outdoor Heritage Fund; there's more money for Rural Leadership North Dakota, and mediation services for farmers and ranchers impacted by energy development.

Rising says the key Ag story in the 2013 Legislative Assembly was how all the state's agriculture organizations worked together. "Across the board, the organizations have been willing information sharers on things like the animal humane treatment bill, the Heritage Fund bill, tax issues—from property tax reform to education to income tax, all of the road infrastructure issues, weight limits, any number of things, in a way that I've not seen before and I'm really excited that we're able to do that."

Part of the reason for working closer together is that the issues have perhaps gotten bigger: road infrastructure for instance. Rising says historically the state has only funded roads to what it needed for a federal match plus some tax dollars for maintenance. "We're in a rebuilding process for our rural infrastructure now and the numbers are approaching a billion dollars. They're big dollars and we realize we have to work together—I think that's the biggest driver."

Rising thinks legislators have to make tougher decisions in times of a



THE LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATED \$2.3 BILLION TO REBUILD AND REPAVE STATE HIGHWAYS, COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP ROADS, AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES.

budget surplus. "It's easy to say I don't have to invest when I don't have any money. It's much harder trying to make the good investment with the money I have."

Rising says a lot of the Soybean Growers' work focuses on taxes, but what's probably more important is where we're aiming in the future. Rising says oil is not the No. 1 resource in the state. "It's water, and we intend, in the next interim period between legislative sessions, to get a little bit more familiar with the key water issues." Rising has already begun interim work.

Rising describes a legislative session in terms of a hockey game. "In the first period the goal is to get what you need in the hopper. In the second period, the goal is to keep it in the hopper.

In the third period with crossover stuff, the goal

is to get out of the hopper the products we need."

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Farmers Well Represented in Bismarck

“What motivates me as a State Senator has always been my interest in agriculture and rural issues,” says Terry Wanzek, President Pro Tempore of the North Dakota Senate. The Jamestown area farmer and Senator (R-District 29) says he’s in a position to get elected and feels it’s incumbent upon him to go to Bismarck and represent those issues that are important to him.

“Farming is my passion. It always has been,” says Wanzek. “Those four months in the legislature help me realize I chose my right path in life. This is what I want to do.”

Wanzek recently completed his ninth legislative session, sitting out only one term in more than 20 years. Comparing the 2013 session to recent sessions, Wanzek says it was much more intense. “This session, and the previous session, I sat on the Appropriations Committee. Especially this session, with the prosperity that we have, but also addressing the challenges we face with the proper investments, it’s been very intense and very busy.”

So, how much anxiety is there for a farmer in late April who is working in the State Capitol rather than planting? “It’s not too difficult because I work in a family partnership with good qual-



STATE SENATOR TERRY WANZEK DESCRIBES THE PAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION AS “VERY INTENSE AND VERY BUSY.”

ity people I have a lot of confidence in. When I first got in the legislature, my brother was maybe a little more nervous because he counted on me more. Now we have these young guys. They’re the reason we got all this new technology.” Now, Wanzek’s brother Tracy tells him he can’t quit the Senate because he has help on the farm. ‘You gotta stay down there and fight for rural North Dakota.’

Terry and Tracy, along with their dad, Marvin, and sons Ryan and Jordan, work together on TMT Farms. In addition to farming, there’s also TMT Farms’ Bean and Seed Company, which sells registered wheat seed and is a bonded and licensed warehouse that receives pinto beans from other growers and processes their own beans and sell them to packagers and

canners and export them. The family business also includes Diamond W Feeds in Medina, N.D. Most of the corn they raise is processed through the feed business.

Wanzek gives the 2013 legislative session an A-minus or B-plus. “I feel really good about what we did for infrastructure in the non-oil areas,” says Wanzek. “The tremendous activity in the oil industry is really weighing heavy on the infrastructure and the roads, but I’m here to remind people that infrastructure needs are statewide. I keep reminding the folks down there that agriculture is still our No. 1 industry and a lot of what it’s contributed allows us to have that discretionary oil income to use for things other than the base needs.”

According to Wanzek, some \$350 to \$380 million was approved for infrastructure needs in non-oil counties. That includes an additional \$220 million for counties, cities and townships and that all came from oil revenue. “In the 2011 legislative session, approximately \$6 million went to either the townships in Stutsman County, the County or the cities for infrastructure. This year, it’s well over \$16 million.”

According to North Dakota Soybean Growers Association Legislative Director Scott Rising,

Senator Wanzek carried that bill. “His role on the Senate Appropriations Committee, his personal power or influence capability in the Senate, and how he gets along with all his Senate and House colleagues plays into that. He’s been critical to that success.”

Rising says almost all of the Soybean Growers Association’s work is focused on rural issues. “The first priority is to get the research efforts of the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) funded, as well as rural road and water infrastructure—it’s fundamental to our long-term well-being.”

Rising says Sen. Wanzek has championed several other rural issues that impact agriculture in a big way. “In this session, he’s been very helpful with a bill establishing an agricultural wetland credit program, or “wetlands Craig’s list”, through the Department of Agriculture. He’s worked on the issue of goose depredation; he sponsored a bill that dealt specifically with funding the repair and replacement of bridges, and he signed on to some property tax relief.”

The main thing Wanzek has learned as a legislator is patience. “You take the last day, when the House

Continued on next page

killed the education funding bill on the 80th day, the emails started coming in and they were heated. I emailed them back and told them to be patient. People don't understand how that works. It's not over until it's over."

By killing the bill, the House sent a message that the legislature was sent to Bismarck to do a considerable amount of property tax relief and felt more could be done. As a result, an additional \$200 million was put toward property tax relief.

What Wanzek heard before the 2013 session was the legislature didn't need

to spend it all, you need to save a little, provide some tax relief, fix roads. "And I think, if you sum it up that way, we made significant investments in infrastructure, and in the oil patch we made all those investments, we gave over \$1.1 billion in tax relief, and the projected ending balances of our rainy day funds, not counting the legacy funds, is \$2 billion-plus."

Wanzek thinks the legislature also did a pretty good job funding Ag research and Extension. We got funding for new agronomy labs, and funds for counties and

rural water projects.

Wanzek says being a legislator is not rocket science. "You can deal with people in an effective, assertive way, but do it in a gentlemanly manner. I've found out, whether it's a landlord or somebody in the legislature, I've gotten a lot further by stating my position and listening and being friendly, and trying to approach it in a diplomatic way."

According to Rising, agriculture is very fortunate to have Wanzek on the Senate Appropriations Committee, along with Sen. Bob Erbele

(R-District 28, Lehr), Sen. Dave O'Connell (D-District 6, Lansford), and several others that represent rural areas and are very familiar with the agricultural issues.

Terry and Tracy are the fourth generation to farm their great-grandfather Simon Wanzek's land. Terry is also very proud to be farming his maternal great-grandfather Baenen's land, as well as land from his wife's parents and grandparents. Having the fifth generation of Wanzeks working with him makes him even more proud.

ASA Announces Keynote Speakers for Soybean Marketing and Production College

ASA announces Matt Roberts and John Phipps as keynote speakers for its inaugural Soybean Marketing and Production College, July 29-31, in Minneapolis. The ASA Soybean Marketing and Production College will educate producers on growing trends and new technologies to maximize on-farm profitability.

Headlining the Marketing and Production College will be Dr. Matt Roberts, an expert in commodity markets, ag risk management, energy issues and biofuels. Roberts will be reviewing the current supply and demand

situation for grains and oilseeds in the U.S. and globally. He will discuss what this means for prices and how growers can best take advantage of these trends in their own marketing decisions.

Prominent ag TV personality John Phipps will be the closing keynote speaker. Phipps will speak about the financial collapse and how it has altered our decision-making process. He'll share strategies to not only endure, but prosper from an unpredictable future in agriculture by understanding which risks are worth worrying about.

The Soybean Marketing and Production College will also feature three in-depth breakout education sessions for attendees:

- Global Sustainability Requirements to Meet World Soybean Demand
- Weed and Herbicide Resistance Management/ Best Management Practices – presented by Bayer CropScience
- Utilizing Precision Agriculture to Maximize Yields – presented by AGCO Corporation

In addition, there will be a special presentation on succession planning.

The Soybean Marketing and Production College is

open to all U.S. soybean producers.

The Soybean Marketing and Production College is sponsored by:

- AGCO Corporation
- Bayer CropScience
- Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
- Delaware Soybean Board
- Kansas Soybean Commission
- Maryland Soybean Board
- Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council
- New York Soybean Board
- Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board



Diana Beitelspacher
Chief Executive Officer
North Dakota
Soybean Council

DEAR VALUED SOYBEAN PRODUCERS:

We hear a lot these days about the importance of “Sustainability”. What defines sustainability in agriculture and why is this important to you?

“Sustainable agriculture” is an integrated system of plant and animal production practices that will over the long term:

- Satisfy human food and fiber needs;
- Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends;
- Make efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources;
- Sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and
- Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.

Consumer demand for sustainable end products has reached an all-time high, which has manufacturers of those products looking to source ingredients that are sustainably produced. Since soy is used to make so many products, including food, feed, fuel and more, sustainable soy is a hot commodity.

Many studies the checkoff has funded to compare different aspects of U.S. soy production and how that relates to sustainability have shown very good marks for our industry. The checkoff polls U.S. soybean farmers twice every year on issues important to the future of U.S. soy. A portion of the most recent survey gauged farmer awareness of sustainability, including these findings:

- 54 percent of farmers say they’ve made changes to improve their farm’s sustainability performance.
- 72 percent believe using sustainable farming methods will enhance their bottom line.
- 79 percent say sustainable practices reduce pesticide use, increase soil fertility and reduce fuel use.

A “Sustainability Pledge” was recently developed and approved by the United Soybean Board, the American Soybean Association and the U.S. Soybean Export Council. The pledge covers the environmental, social and economic impacts of U.S. soy’s sustainability performance. It cites five categories of existing data that combine to prove U.S. soy’s sustainability performance, including:

- A checkoff-funded life cycle analysis of U.S. soy production and processing.
- Continuous improvements in U.S. soy sustainability performance.
- Soybean farmer adoption rates of best management practices.
- Farmer participation in voluntary conservation programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program, and Conservation Stewardship Program.
- Farmer compliance with mandatory conservation regulations, such as the Clean Water Act, the “Swamp buster” program and more.

Congratulations on your commitment to produce sustainable commodities. Your efforts will help protect your freedom to operate, increase soy sales among customers that demand sustainably sourced ingredients and boost your bottom line. I wish you a successful and profitable season!



Proper Disposal of Treated Seed Prevents Export Disruptions

As the planting season ends, growers are reminded that pesticide treated seeds in grain shipments must be prevented. Because many countries that import U.S. soy have very strict rules forbidding the presence of any treated seed in commodity soybean shipments arriving at its ports, U.S. laws governing what must be done by farmers for proper and legal disposition of treated seeds remaining on farm after the planting season is over must be followed.

Because U.S. farmer

compliance is critical to avoid disruption of U.S. soybean exports to overseas markets, disposal recommendations were included in the “Treated Seed Disposal” section of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website of the Center for Integrated Pest Management:

The best way to dispose of a small quantity of leftover seed that has been treated with a pesticide is to plant it in fallow or other non-cropped areas of the farm.

Other possible options include:

1. Disposal in an approved municipal landfill (only permitted in some states; plus permits may be required).

2. Use as a fuel source for electrical power plants or cement kilns.

3. High temperature incineration by a waste management facility.

4. Fermentation in an alcohol-producing process at an ethanol plant (but then the ethanol plant’s resultant mash or distillers grains must not be used as feed).

However, the farmer must first contact the

specific facility to determine if it can accept pesticide-treated seed. For disposal of large quantities of leftover treated seed, the farmer must contact the pesticide manufacturer if the farmer needs more information. If the seed treatment was applied by the seed company, the farmer should contact the seed company.

More information is available at <http://pesticidestewardship.org/disposal/Pages/treatedseeddisposal.aspx>.

Food Grade Soybean Industry

The global food grade soybean industry is growing and the Northern Food Grade Soybean Association (NFGSA) is leading the way. Great strides have been made in the ways of research, production, and marketing.

The introduction of new varieties and strong demand around the world creates excellent opportunities for producers to get involved. NFGSA is committed to support



the needs of the production community, promote growth and sustainability of international markets and promote awareness for our region’s soybean industry.

Recent developments around the world will continue to expand the food grade landscape for years to come:

- **U.S.-SOUTH KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT** – will allow free trade



North Dakota Soybean Council Elects Officers

Board officers were elected during the North Dakota Soybean Council's (NDSC) board meeting in March. Scott Gauslow of Colfax, N.D. was elected chairman of the board. Scott and his father raise soybeans, corn and sunflowers. Gauslow serves as a council member of the City of Colfax and served as chairman of the Colfax 125th Celebration. An NDSC Director since 2007, Gauslow has been vice chairman for two years; NDSC's Marketing Committee Chairman; and represents NDSC on the Soy Transportation Coalition as vice chairman.



SCOTT GAUSLOW



TYLER SPEICH



HARVEY PYLE



DUSTY LODOEN

"As soybean acres continue to increase in North Dakota, there are certainly a lot of opportunities and challenges in the state's soybean industry today," says Scott Gauslow. "I am honored to be elected as chairman of the

NDSC, and I look forward to working with my fellow board members and staff to achieve our mission of effectively investing and leveraging North Dakota soybean checkoff resources to maximize the benefits of North Dakota soy."

The board elected Tyler Speich of Milnor, N.D. as vice chairman. Tyler, along with his father, operates a farm in Milnor raising soybeans, corn, alfalfa and wheat. The Speichs also operate a cow/calf operation consisting of 250 head along with backgrounding calves. Along with farming, Tyler is also a Sales Representative with Pioneer. Active within his community and county, Tyler is involved in Sargent County Farm Bureau and serves on the Sargent County Crop Improvement board.

Harvey Pyle of

Casselton, N.D. was elected secretary. Having been involved in agriculture for most of his life, Pyle currently farms soybeans, corn and wheat. He was an owner and director of Gold Country Seed from 1990-2006, and director of Golden Growers Cooperative from 1995-2010. Pyle has been a board member of the Casselton Regional Airport Authority since 1992.

Westhope, N.D. soybean producer Dusty Lodoen was elected to the position of treasurer. Lodoen operates a family farm in Bottineau County and raises soybeans, small grains, corn and sunflowers. Along with farming, Dusty sells crop insurance at Artz Insurance in Westhope. Lodoen is also a member of North Dakota Farm Bureau and U.S. Durum Growers Association.

directly with large, qualified food soybean buyers

- **CHINA DEMAND** – it is projected that within the next couple of years China will no longer be self-sufficient in producing its own soy for food
- **GROWING ECONOMIES** – world populations and income levels are on the rise creating demand for better quality food

On a regional level, NFGSA continues to promote production awareness and producer opportunities for food grade soybeans. Coming this summer, you will notice field flags placed within food grade soybean fields to help promote the growth and awareness of food grade soybean production.

For more information, please visit our website at www.nfgsa.org.



Making Agriculture an Attractive Place for Rail Investment

U.S. freight railroads are essential to the viability and profitability of the U.S. soybean industry. Most of the leading soybean producing states—even those with river access—significantly depend on the rail industry to satisfy customer demands. As more soybean production occurs in western states and as export terminals at Pacific Northwest ports increasingly position themselves to address growing demand from Asia, the dependence on rail will likely become more pronounced. Each year, over 900 million bushels (27.5 million tons) of U.S. soybeans are transported by rail. By the year 2020/2021, the volume moved by rail is estimated to increase to 1.4 billion bushels (42 million tons).

Rail is among the most capital intensive industries in the overall economy. It contrasts with other modes of transportation in the fact that it is privately financed and maintained. Billions of dollars are spent every year by freight railroads to augment and maintain



their networks. However, despite this sizable investment, a recent study funded by the soybean checkoff estimates that a funding shortfall will likely occur between this planned investment and the future needs of the U.S. economy and the soybean industry. The study further highlights approaches that could be most effective in addressing this shortfall.

“More than any other state, North Dakota soybean farmers rely upon rail service to satisfy customer demands,” explains Scott Gauslow, a soybean farmer from Colfax, N.D., Chairman of the North Dakota Soybean

Council and Vice Chairman of the Soy Transportation Coalition. “This dependence will only continue. Between 2010 and 2020, we are projecting a 27 percent increase in the rail movement of North Dakota soybeans—from 146 million bushels to 187 million bushels. It is therefore essential that we encourage those proposals that will result in greater investment by the rail industry in North Dakota. Otherwise, our increased production will simply result in increased bottlenecks.”

The study, “Agriculture and Railroads: Maintaining a Track Record of

Success,” was performed by TRC Consulting. The analysis suggests that between 2012 and 2035 there will be an annual funding gap of \$1.55 billion between expected investment by our nation’s railroads and the needs of the U.S. economy.

The study further examined various financial investment incentives that could help address this funding shortfall including:

1. The Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program;
2. An investment tax credit of 25 percent;
3. Accelerated depreciation and “bonus”



depreciation of 50 percent;

4. General business tax rate reduction of corporate taxes from 35 percent to 25 percent.

That analysis concluded that the investment tax credit of 25 percent with accelerated depreciation produced the most incentive for rail investment.

"One of the reasons an investment tax credit for rail infrastructure is so attractive, is that the credit could be designed to benefit soybean and grain shippers—not only the rail companies," says Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition. "Given how constructing a single upgraded rail facility capable of loading large unit trains of soybeans and grain can cost a processor or cooperative \$20 million, we gravitate toward those proposals like the tax credit that will result in making agriculture an attractive place for rail investment."

The analysis documents that while the federal government would annually incur \$981 million in lost tax revenues by instituting an investment tax credit with accelerated depreciation, the total economic benefit to the U.S. economy would be \$2.3 billion per year, including \$98 million of

benefits to the soybean industry alone in the form of lower rail rates and higher speed handling.

"During this time of economic scarcity, our country is trying to determine the most cost effective way of enhancing the capacity of our transportation infrastructure," Steenhoek explains. "We naturally want the biggest bang for our buck. Our report suggests that approaches exist that will result in a favorable cost/benefit analysis and will practice better stewardship of limited resources. Instituting a rail investment tax credit will result in an improved infrastructure for agriculture and the overall economy in a manner that acknowledges our nation's limited resources."

The full results of the study can be accessed at www.soytransportation.org or www.unitedsoybean.org.

Established in 2007, the Soy Transportation Coalition is comprised of 11 state soybean boards, the American Soybean Association, and the United Soybean Board. The goal of the organization is to position the soybean industry to benefit from a transportation system that delivers cost effective, reliable, and competitive service.

NDSC Recognizes Former Board Members for Dedication and Service

At their March 26, 2013 board meeting, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) bid farewell to two veteran board members: Monte Peterson of Valley City (left) and Jared Hagert of Emerado (right). Monte served on the Council Board since 2006, and had held the positions of vice chairman and chairman. Peterson also represented NDSC on the North Central Soybean Research Program board and was chairman of NDSC's re-

search committee. Jared Hagert served on the Council Board since 2007, including serving as treasurer. Hagert sat on the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health board and the U.S. Soybean Export Council on behalf of NDSC. Hagert currently serves on the executive committee of the United Soybean Board. NDSC thanks Monte and Jared for their years of dedication and service to North Dakota's soybean industry.





Rural Leadership North Dakota Currently Seeking Applicants for Class VI

North Dakota Soybean Council Offering Scholarship

North Dakota State University Extension Service's Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Program is now accepting applications for Class VI. RLND is a statewide leadership program created in 2003 to develop leaders for North Dakota's future. The RLND Program is an excellent way to enhance the leadership skills of members in an organization.

RLND participants attend 10 seminars over 18 months. Seven of the seminars are in North Dakota. Participants gain knowledge and experience in many areas including:

- Creating networks with other leaders across the state,
- Learn effective leadership strategies,
- Identify strategies for managing conflict,
- Experience scenario planning processes to better plan for the future,
- Identify mismanaged agreement in groups,
- Visit agriculture and community businesses and organizations across the state, nation and world.

The other three seminars include a national seminar in Washington, D.C., a regional seminar in Minneapolis/St. Paul and an international seminar, location to be determined.

The current class, Class V, has 50% of the participants representing the agriculture industry in North Dakota. The goal for Class VI is the same, to have 50% of the participants representing the agriculture industry in North Dakota. Matt Danuser is a current RLND Class V participant

and owner of Northern Plains Crop Consulting, Inc. in Wyndmere. He also farms soybeans with his father near Marion, N.D. Matt's RLND tuition has been sponsored by the North Dakota Soybean Council.

"Participating in RLND has been an exciting and educational program. Having the opportunity to learn more about this great state, businesses, leaders, community development and myself alongside new lifelong friends has truly made this a great experience."

Class VI application deadline has been extended to June 30, 2013. The North Dakota Soybean Council will again sponsor one North Dakota soybean farmer to participate in RLND Class VI. RLND applications are online at the RLND website, www.ag.ndsu.edu/rlnd and are available from your county Extension Office. You can also nominate someone on the RLND website. Call the RLND Office at 701-231-5803 or email [marie.hvidsten@ndsu.edu](mailto:hvidsten@ndsu.edu) for additional information.



MEMBERS OF LAST YEAR'S RLND PROGRAM TOURED TITAN MACHINERY IN MOORHEAD WHERE THEY LEARNED ABOUT THE ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND THE IMPACT ON FARMING PRACTICES



Soybean Producers Elect Four Directors to the North Dakota Soybean Council

North Dakota soybean farmers elected four directors to the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) this past March. Each will serve a three-year term.

Troy Uglem, a soybean producer from Northwood, N.D., represents Grand Forks and Traill counties. Uglem farms soybeans, corn, wheat, dry peas, black turtle beans and spearmint. He is a member of the Northwood City Council, Northwood Ambulance and Northwood Fire Department. He has been a member of NDSC's Research Committee for several years, and has been president of the Grand Forks Marketing Club. He has also been a member of the Outstanding Farmers of America.

"I am optimistic about the future of soy, for I think soybeans will continue to play a large part in our ever evolving agricultural industry in North Dakota," says Uglem. "I look forward to being part of the promotion of soybeans by serving on the North

NDSC Welcomes Two New Members



RICK ALBRECHT



TROY UGLEM

Dakota Soybean Council."

Wimbledon, N.D. soybean farmer Rick Albrecht represents Barnes County. Along with his brother and sons, Albrecht raises soybeans, corn, wheat, pinto beans and barley on his family farm. He is a member of Barnes County Marketing Club and North Dakota Farmers Union, and serves as a township officer and church board member.

"Since research is

essential in keeping our soybeans competitive, I look forward to serving on the North Dakota Soybean Council and their research committee to see first-hand how our checkoff is benefiting soybean farmers in the area of production research," says Albrecht.

Charles Linderman of Carrington, N.D., was re-elected to a three year term representing Foster, Eddy and Wells counties. For over 35 years, Charles and his wife Ellen have

grown soybeans, wheat and corn. Linderman has also been a director and secretary of the Arrowwood Prairie Co-op Board, president of Foster County Farmers Union, and director and treasurer of the Foster County Agricultural Improvement Association board. He is also a member of North Dakota Farmers Union. Linderman previously served on the NDSC Board from 1993-1999.

Colfax, N.D. soybean farmer Scott Gauslow was re-elected to a three year term representing Richland County. Scott and his father raise soybeans, corn and sunflowers. Gauslow serves as a council member of the City of Colfax and served as chairman of the Colfax 125th Celebration. An NDSC Director since 2007, Gauslow has been vice chairman for two years; NDSC's Marketing Committee Chairman; and represents NDSC on the Soy Transportation Coalition as vice chairman. He currently serves as NDSC Chairman of the Board.



Funded by the **North Dakota** soybean checkoff.

ND Soybean Council Sponsors Soy Biodiesel Coupon Offered at Various Petro Serve USA Locations

In the months of July, August and October, the North Dakota Soybean Council and Petro Serve USA will be offering a coupon for 25-cents off per gallon of soy biodiesel sold at the pump. Petro Serve USA participating locations include fuel stations in Fargo, West Fargo and Bismarck.

Also starting in July, Petro Serve USA customers purchasing diesel and soy biodiesel fuel will view a short commercial promoting soy biodiesel while at the pump, sponsored by the North Dakota Soybean Council and Petro Serve USA.

North Dakota Soybean Growers Association

board member, Craig Olson, a soybean farmer from Colfax, N.D. assisted the North Dakota Soybean Council and Petro Serve USA May 7 with the filming of the advertisement by “acting” as a customer in the short video commercial. Craig can be seen filling up the North Dakota Soybean

Growers Association’s white diesel pick-up with soy biodiesel at a Petro Serve USA station in Fargo. Be sure to stop by Petro Serve USA in Fargo, West Fargo and Bismarck in July, August and October and take advantage of the 25-cents off per gallon of soy biodiesel coupon!



PHOTO COURTESY RESULTS UNLIMITED



Funded by the **North Dakota** soybean checkoff.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! “2014 Northern Soybean Expo”

The 2014 Northern Soybean Expo is scheduled for February 18, 2014 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. Special guest speakers include Peter Zeihan, Drew Lerner and John Phipps. Mark your calendar and watch for more information.

PETER ZEIHAN -- An internationally known economist, geopolitical strategist and forecaster, Peter Zeihan combines topography, economics,



PETER ZEIHAN

demographics, history and culture to craft the future.

DREW LERNER -- As President and Senior Agri-



DREW LERNER

cultural Meteorologist of World Weather, Inc. Drew Lerner has been forecasting international weather for 31



JOHN PHIPPS

years. He supports the agricultural industry by providing detailed short and long range weather predictions for each major crop area in the world.

JOHN PHIPPS -- John is managing editor and television host of US Farm Report. He will share strategies to not just endure, but to prosper from an unpredictable future in agriculture by understanding which risks are worth worrying about.



To commemorate their new office, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) held a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 15, 2013 in Fargo. The Fargo/Moorhead/West Fargo Chamber of Commerce was on hand that afternoon to help with the ribbon cutting ceremony, and guests were able to tour the new office located at 1555 43rd Street South, in Fargo. From left to right – NDSC Board Member Art Wosick of Minto; NDSC CEO Diana Beitelspacher; NDSC Chairman Scott Gauslow of Colfax; NDSC Past Chairman Monte Peterson of Valley City; NDSC Board Member Mike Satrom of Galesburg; NDSC Past Treasurer Jared Hagert of Emerado, and Charles Linderman of Carrington participated in the ribbon cutting.

Family Important for This Casselton Farmer

Casselton farmer Harvey Morken says he would not be farming today if it weren't for his father-in-law, Bill Sinz. "In 1984, he owned some land and rented some land. Bill talked to his landlords, Dale and Dick Peterson, to let them know I was interested in farming," says Morken, "I rented some beet stock from Bill, and rented the land from

the Petersons." Morken began farming full-time in 1985, and expanded when Sinz retired the following year.

Morken spent his early years on his family's farm between Kent and Wolverton, Minn., and later moved to Breckenridge. He spent summers during high school working at the Aigner farm. Once he and his wife, Mary, were

married, Morken started coming to Casselton to help his father-in-law on the farm. He worked for Westgo, Adams and RDO Equipment, prior to farming.

Morken lists Sinz, and the Petersons as three key people that allowed him to start farming. But he also says if Mary would not have had an interest in being a farmer, this

wouldn't have happened. He knows there are other soybean growers who have their fathers-in-law to thank for giving them the opportunity to farm.

Mary Morken says the decision to move back to the family farm has been a good one. "You can't beat raising kids on the farm. Having their grandma and grandpa just down the road from us was priceless



and now we are the grandma and grandpa that are just down the road from our grandchildren."

Morken has been growing soybeans on his farm since he started farming, and is now in his seventh year on the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association Board of Directors (NDSGA). It took some arm twisting to get him to agree to hold an at-large position, but Morken says it's been worthwhile. "Until you get involved with something, you never really know what it takes and how much it actually benefits all the growers. So it's very important for all farmers to be involved."

Trying to get farmers involved as members of the NDSGA is what Morken enjoys, which is why he's the membership chairman. "That's something that comes easy to me. I tell farmers there's a lot to this—we are not going to run this soybean show without this Association. We need your help. We need all the members we can have."

According to Morken, the NDSGA exists to conduct legislative activities in Bismarck and in Washington, D.C.; and to improve the profitability of its members and the entire soybean industry.

The incentive of getting more than \$300 worth of Optimize helps sell three-year memberships



HARVEY MORKEN

at \$200. Membership is a little over 600, but Morken says there's much more potential. He admits membership has not grown nearly as fast as soybean acreage in North Dakota. "Membership determines how many American Soybean Association directors the state can have. North Dakota only has one director. If we get up to 800 members, then we get another director. For each ASA director, the state is allowed three voting delegates."

The Morkens raise soybeans, wheat, sugarbeets, corn and navy beans. Harvey says soybeans produce well in a variety of conditions—they're not as fussy as some crops, and are an easy crop to grow. The best part of his job is change, from planting, to spraying, harvesting and getting equipment ready for the next year. What he doesn't like is when he can't attend an event he'd like to go to because something

on the farm needs to be done.

Morken's advice to younger farmers is not to leverage themselves too much. "Farming's hard enough without dragging that weight around." The high interest rates in the mid-'80s when he started farming helped him realize he couldn't just buy anything he wanted. "I prefer to save up and pay cash for some things."

The Morkens are thank-

ful they've had the opportunity to return to the farm, and that the next generation is here. Son Joe and his wife, Robin and son, Hayden live on the home farm where Mary grew up and they are expecting another son in August. Son Jason has his own farrier business and has recently joined a Fargo real estate company. All of the Morkens live within a mile-and-a-quarter of each other.



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Biodiesel: Big Impact

A recent study done by Informa Economics shows the U.S. biodiesel industry has increased the price of soybeans by 74 cents per bushel since 2006/07.

The objective of the study was to evaluate the broad impacts the biodiesel industry has had on the U.S. soybean complex, and determine if continued investment in the biodiesel industry is in the economic interest of soybean farmers and soybean industry stakeholders. The key takeaways of the study are summarized below.

Soybean oil use for biodiesel positively shifted demand for vegetable oil in the U.S. allowing soybean oil to price at comparable or higher levels to soybean oil stocks than during the pre-bio-

diesel era.

The impacts of biodiesel throughout the soy complex are a consequence of increased demand of soybean oil and an increased correlation or link between the price of biodiesel feedstocks—including soybean oil—and the price of energy. Energy markets now compete for vegetable oil in addition to food and other non-biodiesel uses.

From late 2006/07 to 2011/12, the combined impact of biodiesel to the price of soybean oil (and the overall soy complex) has been on average, an increase of 12.9 cents per pound; this value translates into a cumulative increase of soybean oil revenues alone of \$15 billion from 2006/07 to 2011/12. These 12.9 cents

per pound have effectively increased the price of soybeans by \$0.74 per bushel and decreased the price of soybean meal by \$25 per ton. This contribution is at stake if the biodiesel industry were to contract or collapse due to lack of policy support or economic viability; or if the use of soybean oil for biodiesel was restricted or excluded for sustainability issues in either Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)2 or state mandates, such as California.

Soybean oil share as a biodiesel feedstock

declined from 86 percent in 2005 to 54 percent in 2012. Informa found that the share of soybean oil is not a factor in the co-movement of energy and soybean oil prices.

While the RFS2 mandate supports use of 1.0 billion gallons, Informa understands that the Environmental Protection Agency has already examined the potential to support an increase in the mandate under RFS to 1.82 billion gallons of biomass-based diesel by 2022; this volume would contribute towards the



RYAN RICHARD, HORACE, N.D., PICTURED FRONT ROW, FAR RIGHT, REPRESENTS NDSGA IN THE ASA SYNGENTA LEADERSHIP AT ITS BEST PROGRAM.

PROBLEMS WITH GOOSE DEPREDATION?

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department and USDA Wildlife Services offer assistance programs for producers who are experiencing crop depredation by geese, including scare devices, harassment techniques and training.

For chronic problems, special depredation permits are available that allow the destruction of nests and eggs, and the direct killing of Canada geese and goslings.

Depredation permits require a site inspection from USDA Wildlife Services to begin the process, phone number is (701) 250-4405.

Qualified previous permit holders can renew their permit by contacting the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at (701) 328-6351.

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

701.328.6351 Email: ndgf@nd.gov
Web: gf.nd.gov



biomass-based diesel and the Undifferentiated Advanced Biofuel requirements. The takeaway is that there is potential beyond the initial 1.0 billion gallon by 2012 mandate to increase the use of soybean oil and solidify the position of the biodiesel industry.

In addition to the direct positive impacts to the soybean complex, the biodiesel industry has had positive effects on other sectors. Biodiesel provides a key market and supports the price for industrial (or distillers) corn oil (produced from DDGs), animal fats, and yellow grease (produced by the meat processing and rendering industry) In the past two years:

Ethanol companies realized \$0.03 to \$0.04 of extra margins per ethanol gallon by extracting distillers corn oil from DDGS and marketing it separately,

Rendering companies got higher prices for tallow (+17 cents/lb.), poultry fat (+15 cents/lb.), choice white grease (+16 cents/lb.), but the full impact on these feedstocks was felt only since 2009.

Livestock producers paid \$25 per ton less for soybean meal.

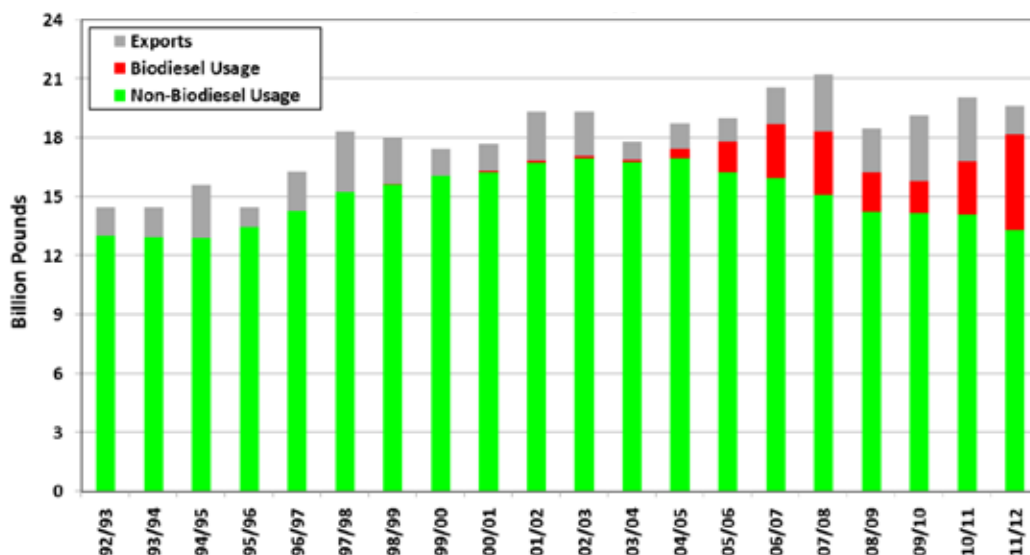
In summary, a viable biodiesel industry and unrestricted use of soybean oil helps maintain a link between soybean oil and energy values, creates

a floor for commodity values, and serves as a hedge against energy inflation for producers. Although soybean oil's market share within the biodiesel industry does

not have significant impact on these benefits, continued stakeholder support/investment in the biodiesel industry is needed to ensure biodiesel production remains

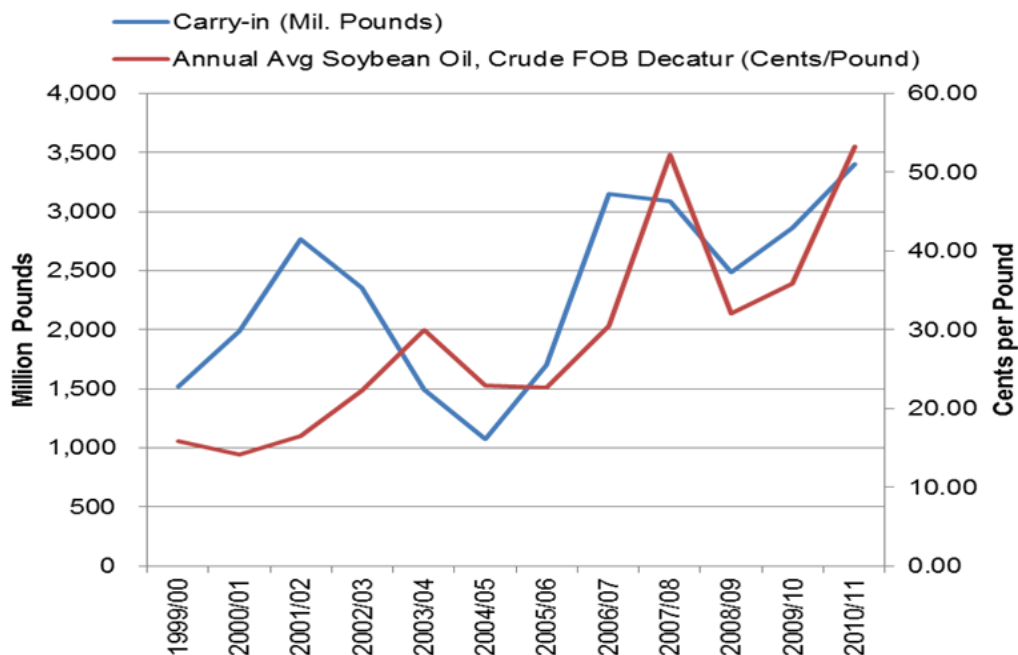
active and viable and the use of soybean oil as a major feedstock is not restricted or limited by federal or state policy.

U.S. SOYBEAN OIL USE BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY



Source: USDA, EIA, Informa Economics

CARRY-IN STOCKS AND SOYBEAN OIL PRICES, 1999/00 - 2010/11



Source: Informa Economics

Farm Bill A Factor in North Dakota Soybean Growth

Back in the 1980s, when John Gordley came to Washington, D.C. to work for Senator Bob Dole, soybeans were “proudly looking to the marketplace for their return and didn’t want to be part of the farm program, except for marketing loans.”

The president of Gordley Associates is now working on his seventh farm bill, representing the American Soybean Association. His lobbying firm also represents several other U.S. farm organizations on Capitol Hill. The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association went to the farm policy veteran to get some perspective on how soybean policy has evolved, and where it may be headed.

In the mid-’80s, Gordley says soybeans started to become non-competitive with the target prices and loan rates that were higher than market prices for some competing program crops. “Producers followed those crops that had that price and income protection and also, they had base acres and they were working to maintain them or increase them. Soybeans and other non-program crops were the losers in that scenario.”



GORDLEY ASSOCIATES PRESIDENT JOHN GORDLEY IS WORKING OUT HIS SEVENTH FARM BILL.

Soybean growers were still reluctant to have a target price in the 1990 farm bill, but the door was opened to allow the planting of non-program crops on program crop base acres and be eligible for 92 percent of any deficiency payment. “That was called the 0/92 program and it was in place for soybeans, sunflower, canola and a lot of other minor crops that are grown in North Dakota,” says Gordley. “Of course, when we got to 1996, the concept of decoupling, being able to grow a crop in response to

the market and be eligible for payments, went across the board with Freedom to Farm.”

Transition payments in the 1996 farm bill have since become direct payments and target prices were eliminated, but were brought back in the 2002 farm bill after some low price years in 1999 through 2001. However, target prices returned as a decoupled program so they would not distort planting decisions when prices fell.

That has not worked. “From first-hand experience back in the ’85, and

even the ’81 farm bill when I was on the Hill, there was no way to set target prices for different crops that would not, over time, have the effect of distorting planting decisions,” says Gordley, “no one’s that smart.”

Staffers who are trying to do that in the current House farm bill think they’ve got a way to set support prices that won’t distort plantings by using 90 percent of variable production costs as the formula for where to set reference prices in their Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program.

Gordley is doubtful. “They’re saying that this PLC program will protect producer income during several years of sustained low prices and indeed it would, except if you have sustained low prices, farmers are going to look to the payments they get under the PLC program as a factor in their planting decisions rather than looking to the marketplace.”

Gordley says efforts in previous farm bills to set target prices at 75 percent of the 5-year Olympic average, so they wouldn’t favor one crop over another, have failed. He thinks using production

costs to set support levels is even more perilous as an index for setting target prices. "Think about how different production costs are across the country for the same commodity. If you set, as they are in the House farm bill, target prices at 90 percent of variable production costs, that's going to be maybe only 80 percent or 70 percent of somebody's production costs, but it's going to be 110 or 120 percent of someone else's."

According to Gordley, when you've got 120 percent of your variable production costs guaranteed through a target price it's going to become a very attractive incentive,

especially when prices fall.

It's the marketplace that Gordley thinks has been the most important factor for producers of all the crops that are grown in North Dakota. "North Dakota is the home of crop diversity—there's probably 17 crops that are grown in different rotations, and decoupling government program payments from planting decisions has been the most important policy that we've had for North Dakota producers.

The weather and biotech soybeans, corn and canola have also been contributing factors behind the expansion of soybean



NDSU FARM MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST DWIGHT AAKRE GIVES THE FARM PROGRAM PARTIAL CREDIT FOR THE EXPANSION OF SOYBEAN ACRES IN NORTH DAKOTA.

acres in North Dakota, according to Gordley. Crop insurance is another major factor that has contributed to supporting income for all those crops.

North Dakota State University Extension farm management specialist Dwight Aakre thinks the expansion of soybean acres in North Dakota is

the result of a combination of factors—scab in wheat and barley, stronger oilseed prices, the changing climate, and the farm program. "Soybeans and corn are more of a full season crop. They need moisture late in the summer and that's what we started getting in the '90s."

Aakre thinks the government program has benefitted soybeans. "The market and weather forces would have increased soybean acres without any change in the government program but that certainly helped. The 2002 farm bill that allowed base acreage and proven yield updates was certainly a plus. If you updated base acres, it probably meant you brought in some oilseeds and reduced your wheat and corn base."

North Dakota soybean planted acres went from 475,000 in 1986, to 1.15 million in '97, to 2.15 million in '01, 3.15 million in '03, 4.1 million in '10, and to a record 4.75 million in 2012.

USDA's March Prospective Plantings report showed farmers intended to plant another record 4.9 million acres in 2013.

ASA Revises Position on Farm Bill

In an effort to resolve longstanding differences on new farm legislation and address higher projected costs, the American Soybean Association (ASA) is supporting a 2013 Farm Bill which includes updating and extending the current Counter-Cyclical Program (CCP). ASA will continue to support the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) included in both the House and Senate versions of last year's farm bills as a complement to federal crop insurance. ASA will also support offering a choice between "higher op-

tions" for these two programs, recognizing that producers in different growing regions have different priorities for protecting farm income. ASA notes that its support of a target price based program is contingent on the decoupling of payments from current year planting decisions.

ASA President Danny Murphy stated that "ASA strongly supported the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program in the Senate bill last year as an effective risk management tool designed to work with crop insurance. However," Murphy said, "because of ARC's higher cost and the

need to find additional savings in the farm bill, we have decided to support updating and extending the CCP program included in current law."

Murphy added that "the decoupled CCP allows producers to respond to market signals rather than government programs in making their planting decisions, which has been a key priority for ASA during the farm bill debate. It also provides a safety net against several years of low prices, which has been important to supporters of the House bill."

Membership a Priority for New NDSGA Executive

As the new executive director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, Nancy Johnson is an advocate for the state's growing soybean industry. Johnson says NDSGA has been busy monitoring legislation on a state and national level. According to Johnson, a focus on policy in legislation has been a core of the organization for the last 30 years.

One of the biggest initiatives during the North Dakota legislative session was infrastructure and she was pleased with the outcome. "Working with all of agriculture, we were able to get some nice funding for roads and bridges in North Dakota." That funding is key to ensure that soybean growers are able to get



their soybeans to market, she explains. On a national level, the farm bill is a major focus that includes many different sections, crop insurance, renewable fuels and biodiesel, Johnson explains are just a few.

Johnson's background in agriculture started on the corn and soybean farm she was raised on in southern Minnesota. Her

tie to production agriculture has continued on a farm north of Hillsboro, where Johnson and her husband have farmed for more than 30 years. Prior to joining NDSGA, Johnson held a position with an advertising agency in Minneapolis, where she worked on various agricultural accounts including crop chemical, fertilizers and seed companies.

The idea of being able to build something has always appealed to Johnson, so when given the opportunity to serve as executive director for the organization Johnson knew the sky was the limit. "It was an opportunity that had unlimited possibilities," she says. There is a lot of advocacy work coming up for the organization. Johnson says she is excited about her future with NDSGA and working with producers to grow the soybean industry in North Dakota.

Looking to the future, one of the biggest priorities for the organization is increasing membership. "If you're going to grow soybeans you want to make sure there's a market for them, that you can get them to market and that there's no unintended consequences in legislation; that you're supporting someone who is watching out for your interests," and that's just what Johnson intends to do.



Strip Tillage Conserves Soil Moisture

North Dakota Soybean Growers Association President Jason Mewes first started using strip tillage in the fall of 2007. Five years later, Mewes continues to use this tillage system on his Colgate, N.D. farm. In addition to strip tilling 50 percent of his acres, Mewes does custom strip tilling for some of his neighbors.

The driving force behind Mewes' decision to convert half of his acres from conventional to strip-till was his desire to conserve soil moisture and increase efficiency. "We were putting three or four different trips down the field, each time you do that you burn a lot of fuel and get rid of some of the soil moisture you have," Mewes explains.

For producers considering a switch to strip-till, Mewes says the upfront equipment costs can be a major hurdle, especially for a single purpose machine. In an effort to offset the equipment costs, Mewes does custom work for his neighbors.

When visiting with producers about strip-till, one of the most common concerns is controlling weeds. To control weeds on his strip-till ground, Mewes uses different crop and chemical chemistries. He admits weed control on his strip-till ground is not as cheap as tillage



NDSGA PRESIDENT JASON MEWES STARTED USING STRIP TILLAGE IN 2007. FUEL SAVINGS IS A MAJOR BENEFIT.

would be, but "it's important to us to be able to strip-till this ground."

The biggest benefit of strip tillage for Mewes is fuel savings and hours on the tractor. "We used to put 600 hours on a big four-wheel-drive tractor every year," Mewes explains. "Now we're down to about 350, because we're working the fields less and less all the

time."

It was roughly five years ago when Fessenden, N.D. producer Larry Skiftun started using strip-till. Today, Skiftun is on track to strip tilling 100 percent of his acres. "We'd like to be able to strip-till all the corn ground in the fall and then do the strip-till for the corn in the spring," explains Skiftun.

One of the struggles

with transitioning to strip-till for Skiftun has been finding a good strip-till machine. "We've been through a number of different machines, the biggest issue is to handle the trash," he says. Skiftun is currently using a John Deere machine and says he has had fairly good luck with that.

Compared to his conventional-till acres, Skiftun says there is not a major yield advantage to strip tillage for his soybeans, "it's not a big difference, in the five-to-six-bushel range." But, he adds, "I guess five, six bushels of soybeans definitely pays for it."

In his role as extension area agronomist at North Dakota State University's Carrington Research Extension Center, Greg Endres has done a considerable amount of research on the various tillage systems, including strip-till. Endres says there are advantages to strip tilling soybean acres including: increased soil productivity, increased soil moisture and reduced soil erosion.

But, Endres admits, there are challenges with strip tillage, these include: purchasing a new piece of equipment, purchasing a guidance system if producers do not have one, parts and service. In

Continued on Next Page

ASA Details Impact of Continuing Resolution on Soybean Farmers

In response to the signing into law of the Continuing Resolution (CR) by President Barack Obama in late March, the American Soybean Association (ASA) has examined the ramifications for soybean farmers contained in the measure, which funds the federal government through the

end of the 2013 fiscal year on September 30.

"This was a large piece of legislation with many different aspects affecting many different industries. While it's only a temporary extension for the next six months, it was necessary for us to step back and look at exactly which programs soybean farm-

ers use most will be impacted," said ASA President Danny Murphy, a soybean farmer from Canton, Miss.

Sequestration

While the sequestration is separate from the CR, Congress allowed sequestration to stand, resulting in an across-the-board

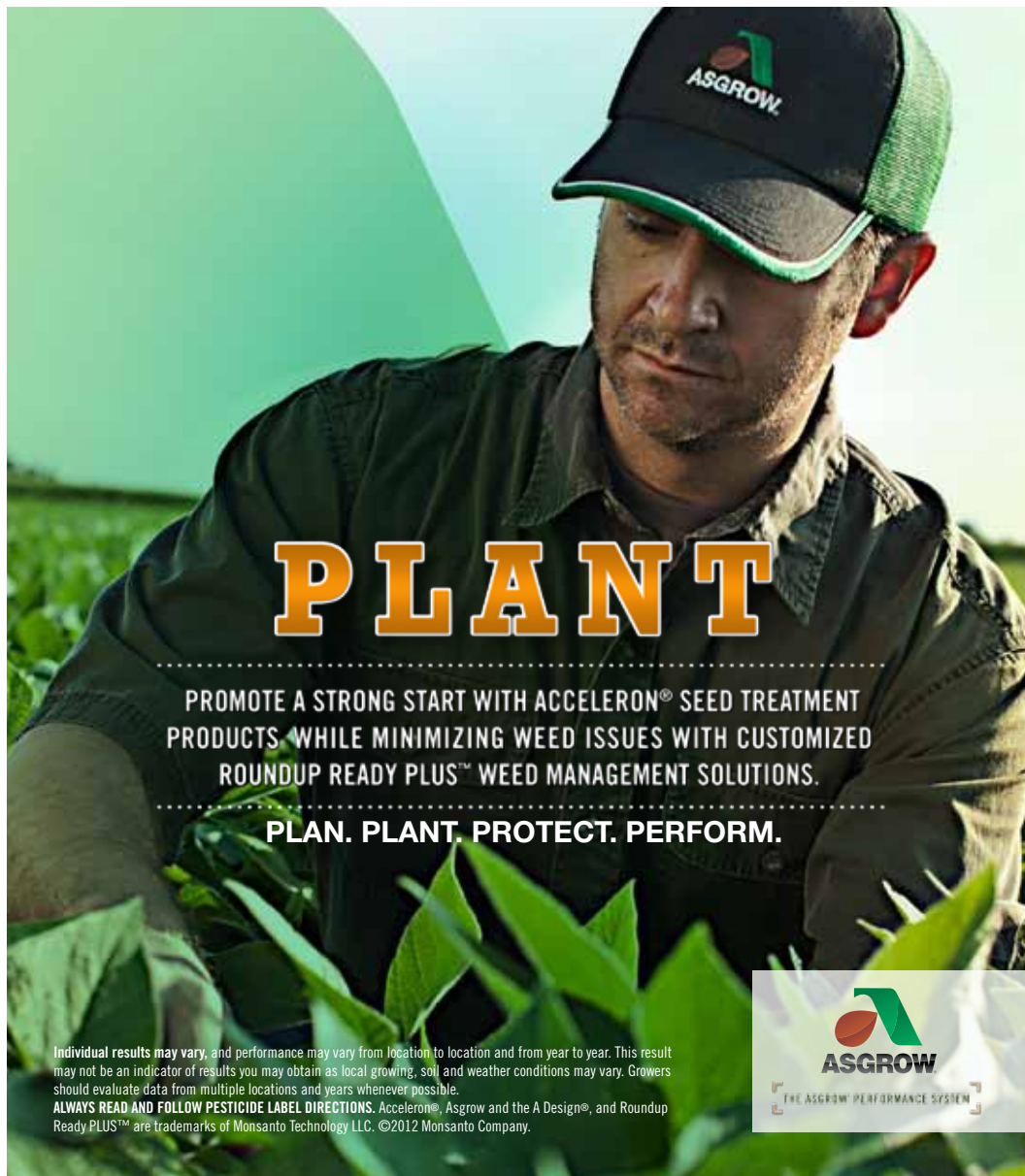
reduction in funding for most federal programs by 5.2 percent. This follows the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011, which placed caps on each of the annual appropriations bills through 2021, including the Agricultural Appropriations bill. Additionally, the CR includes an additional 2.5

Strip Tillage

FROM PAGE 27

addition, Endres says there is no guarantee of a yield increase. "I'm not confident telling people that you'll always get a yield increase," explains Endres, "I'm more comfortable saying you won't lose yield by going with strip tillage."

Mewes, Skiftun and Endres all agree that there are advantages and challenges to strip tilling soybean acres. And all three agree strip-till does good things for the soil. "In the long run we're very confident that good things happen with strip-till compared to long term conventional-till, but it's hard to put a dollar value on that," Endres adds.




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THE ASGROW PERFORMANCE SYSTEM

percent cut in discretionary spending that USDA will have to carry out before the end of FY13.

Research

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), a priority for ASA, was not only funded in the CR, but it was one of the few programs for which funding was increased. The program is now funded at \$274.8 million, \$10 million more than in FY2012. As a discretionary program, however, AFRI will be subject to USDA's 2.5 percent reduction within the next six months. Appropriations for research at land-grant universities (often called "capacity funding"), which fund ARS and

extension activities, all suffered a cut of 7.61 percent from last year's funding levels.

Conservation

The CR restores funding to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), but reduces the cap on acreage enrolled in the program this year by 740,000 acres. Following the reduction, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will enroll only 12 million acres in the program in FY2013. This was a priority for ASA within the larger discussion of budget constraints and farm programs.

Regulatory

The CR included an amendment introduced

by Sens. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) that postpones the enforcement date for the Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) specifications, which would have required that oil storage facilities with a capacity of over 1,320 gallons make structural improvements to reduce the possibility of oil spills. The plan would have required farmers to construct a containment facility, like a dike or a basin, which must retain 110 percent of the fuel in the container.

The rule is now postponed until the end of FY13 on Sept. 30. ASA strongly supported this postponement and is supporting legislation that would adjust the minimum capacity upward to 10,000 gallons while the aggregate level on a production facility would move to 42,000 gallons. The proposal would also place a greater degree of responsibility on the farmer or rancher to self-certify compliance if it exceeds the exemption level.

Biotechnology

Also included in the CR was the ASA-supported Farmer Assurance Provision, language that states farmers may continue to plant seeds bearing traits that have been deregulated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) without threat of interrup-

tion as a result of court decisions. The provision addresses the potential for protracted delays in commercializing new traits pending court-ordered environmental impact reviews. Finally, the provision only applies to biotech traits that have completed the required regulatory review process, and does not restrict the right to challenge USDA's determination that a trait does not pose a plant pest risk.

Livestock

Finally, ASA welcomes provisions included in the CR that shift funding within USDA to ensure the continuation of inspections of packinghouses and slaughterhouses, averting potential furloughs for the nation's meat inspectors and the resulting shutdown of slaughterhouses and processing plants that would have very negatively affected the livestock industry. More than 98 percent of the soybean meal produced in the U.S. goes to the livestock sector in the form of animal feed, and disruptions within that industry adversely impact soybean farmers as well.

ASA represents all U.S. soybean farmers on domestic and international issues of importance to the soybean industry. ASA's advocacy efforts are made possible through voluntary farmer membership by farmers in 30 states where soybeans are grown.

NDSG Officers Re-elected

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association's Board of Directors has re-elected all its officers. President Jason Mewes from Colgate, vice-president Brent Kohls from Mayville, secretary Luke Kuster of Grand Forks, and treasurer Harvey Morken from Casselton make up the officer team. Milnor farmer Ed Erickson, Jr. will also continue to serve as the American Soybean Association representative.

During the Association's annual meeting in February, the following producers were elected to serve on the board of directors: District 1, Craig Olson of Colfax, N.D.; District 2, Kasey Lien of Milnor, N.D.; District 3, Ryan Richard of Horace, N.D.; District 4, Eric Broten of Dazey, N.D.; District 5, Brent Kohls; District 6, Luke Kuster; District 7, Shane Heck of Cavalier, N.D.; District 8, Dennis Renner of Mandan, N.D.

During the reorganization meeting, Robert Runck, Jr. of Casselton, N.D., Mewes and Morken were appointed to at-large positions on the board. Jay Gudajtes of Minto, N.D., is the DuPont Young Leader on the board of directors. Jay Myers of Colfax, N.D., was re-appointed the industry representative on the board.



KASEY LIEN
MILNOR, ND

WHY ARE YOU A PART OF THE NDSGA OR NDSC? When I was asked to be a part of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association board, I felt it was a good opportunity for a learning experience. It's also a great opportunity to help the soybean growers in North Dakota.

average yields and that conditions aren't too dry.

WHAT'S THE ONE PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY OR FARM EQUIPMENT THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE WITHOUT? My cellphone.

HOBBIES? WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN? I like to ice fish, golf and hunt. I also enjoy spending time with my wife Kali and 6-month old son Hunter.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEAL/FOOD? Beef Stroganoff

ANY VACATION PLANS ON THE SCHEDULE? I'm planning to go to Miami in December to attend a Miami Dolphins football game.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF FARMING? The best part is putting in all the hard work and then getting to watch the crops grow.

WHY DID YOU GET INTO THIS BUSINESS? My dad farmed, so I've been around it my whole life, and have always enjoyed being out here and watching the crops grow.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FARM, CROPS RAISED, ETC.: I farm with my uncle Marshall and my cousin Jeff. We farm about 5,000 acres; we plant half of our acres to soybeans and the other half is corn.

WHY ARE SOYBEANS A PART OF YOUR CROP MIX? They fit well in our rotation with the corn we raise.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE '13 CROP? I'm hoping we have above



SCOTT GLAUSLOW
COLFAX, ND

The farm dates back to 1887. I farm with my father. Currently, we farm corn and soybeans.

WHY ARE YOU A PART OF THE NDSGA OR NDSC? I am entering my 7th year on the NDSC. I feel farming has given me a lot, so it is a way for me to give back to the farming community.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE '13 CROP? We came out of the fall dry but with good snow fall soils should be better. Hopefully with a little luck planting we could see a good year.

WHAT'S THE ONE PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY OR FARM EQUIPMENT THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE WITHOUT? The most popular choice I suppose is GPS but seed technology has pushed yields in both corn and soybeans. Also, I love air conditioning.

HOBBIES? WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN? I enjoy sports and following the NDSU football team. Also enjoy the outdoors like fishing

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEAL/FOOD? Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy with lutefisk and all the fixings.

ANY VACATION PLANS ON THE SCHEDULE? Nothing until the crop comes in.

FAMILY: Wife Jessica, and two daughters.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FARM, CROPS RAISED, ETC.: I am a fifth generation farmer.

WHY ARE SOYBEANS A PART OF YOUR CROP MIX? They are essential in our farm crop rotation not only for the soils but have also been profitable.



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Mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 27, for the Tenth Annual North Dakota Soybean Growers Association Golf Tournament. For more information about this outing, held at Rose Creek Golf Course in Fargo, please contact Nancy Johnson at (701) 640-5215.