



THE NORTH DAKOTA **Soybean** GROWER MAGAZINE

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Palmer Amaranth:
Early Detection,
Rapid Response

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Battling an Abnormal Spring

By definition, normal means usual, typical or expected. You'd be hard pressed to find a farmer in the Upper Midwest who has had anything resembling a normal spring.

Cold, wet weather led to planting delays in many areas, heavy rains either chased farmers out of the fields or kept them from getting started, and winds topping 100 miles per hour in some areas destroyed buildings, bins and some young, emerging crops. Despite the difficulties in many areas, farmers are exhibiting the resilience and determination to get crops planted.

"To just get in as much as we can is still our number one goal," says Jason Gross, of Edgeley, North Dakota.

By late May, Gross had nothing planted. Trouble started early as Gross estimates he had over five inches of rain in April, which saturated the soil. A few nice days allowed him to get some field work done and fertilizer put down, but regular rains have kept the soil too wet to work.

"Any time we get any sort of precipitation, it just makes it muddy," Gross says. "It's to the point where you can't even walk in the field."

Kasey Gehrels of Wentworth, South Dakota was able to get his corn planted, and the majority of his beans were in by late May. Still, Gehrels says the planting process has taken way longer than it should.

"There really is no normal. It's one extreme to the other and it's caused plenty of challenges," Gehrels explains. "There was dust blowing weeks ago, now there's mud holes and ducks swimming in the puddles that three weeks ago you could have planted right through."

Winds in excess of 110 miles per hour in the Wentworth area did damage to some



emerging seedlings, which Gehrels expects will need to be replanted.

Collin Gengerke of Groton, South Dakota, welcomed the rains last fall that brought relief from drought in 2021.

"We had been really dry last summer, so those soaked up pretty nicely," Gengerke says. "We were fairly full going into spring."

Gengerke says spring rains added to the soil moisture profile. By mid-May, he says one field had more than 9 inches of rain above the 10-year average. He estimates he's gotten an additional two inches of rain on that quarter since. He's continuing to push to get as much crop in the ground as he can.

"We're going to keep trying for a while, but we need a two-week window here with absolutely no precipitation, some sun and breeze and hopefully we can get a portion of it in anyway," Gengerke explains.

By late May, Chip Grube of Appleton, Minnesota had a small portion of his crop in the ground but ran out of fields dry enough to plant. Storms in mid-May brought heavy rains and high winds that wreaked havoc on fields and farm sites alike.



"We got about seven inches of rain in five days," Grube says. "We've got water standing where I've never had water standing before."

Farming presents new hurdles every year, but 2022 has thrown growers more than most years.

"I've been farming a lot of years and it doesn't get any easier. It's just kind of the point in life where you farm for the averages, and you take the good with the bad," Grube contends. "It's a full-time job just to keep handling your emotions, so you just take each day as it comes."

Mustang Seeds sales manager Eric Brandenburger confirms that conditions have varied around the region, with some farmers having success getting crops planted while others may be forced to go the route of prevented planting. He says Mustang Seeds worked with their customers to accommodate changes brought about by spring weather.

"We are a diverse company, so we've been able to shuffle maturities for farmers who needed to change seed out," Brandenburger says.

While prevented planting acres are likely in portions of Minnesota and North Dakota, with strong commodity prices and the innate desire to get crops in the ground, farmers will push to the end to get as much planted as they can in this challenging spring of 2022. Brandenburger says Mustang Seeds is committed to working with farmers to get them the seed they need.

"The will is there to get crops planted," Brandenburger says. "As long as the conditions are there, farmers are going to try to get the crops in."

Learn more about what Mustang Seeds has to offer at www.mustangseeds.com.



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n the cover

There are many reasons farmers dread discovering Palmer amaranth in their fields. Palmer is vigorous, is a prolific seed producer, and is resistant to many herbicides. For those and other reasons, early detection and treatment of weeds like Palmer amaranth are in the farmer's best interest.

—Photo courtesy of
Dr. Joe Ikley, NDSU



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The Nature of the Job

During the time between North Dakota legislative sessions (20 months), my job is about covering that work which legislators do in committees.

Called interim committees, they are mostly about exploring topics that may need some new laws. Sometimes, committees find that nothing of importance can be done about what they covered in the interim, but often, bills come forward to try and better our state.

There has been little committee activity pertinent to soybean growers since I last wrote you, although Water Topics met in late June and discussed irrigation. About 60% of water for irrigation comes from aquifers, and 40% is from surface waters, according to Dani Quissell, the executive director of the North Dakota Irrigation Association (NDIA). NDIA reported on lobbying in Washington, D.C., for our government to deliver on a promise made when the dam and Garrison Diversion came in to being. Called Project Pumping Power, this provision was to deliver electrical power to irrigators at a reduced rate. The plan has gone through a few revisions over the decades, and the irrigators are looking to help with rates a bit more. Director Quissell also told the committee that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has contributed \$2 million or so through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and she thanked the federal government for its support.

The Interim Taxation Committee was very accommodating with continuing the tax incentive for canola and soybean crushing facilities.

As a contractor who works at the behest of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) board, I pay attention to items that the board and the NDSGA executive director discuss with me. During election years such as 2022, we pay attention to the primaries and the resulting general elections. It looks like we will have around 35 new faces in the North Dakota state legislature come January, which is considered to be a very

high turnover. I thought that, perhaps, it would be helpful to you as a voter to obtain a perspective for the qualities you might want to consider in your candidates with November coming.

Having served six years as a state senator on committees such as Agriculture, Natural Resources and others as well as working for the NDSGA for six years as an educator, I would like to encourage you to get to know your district's candidates. Personal relationships are very important when doing business as, I am sure, you have experienced in your careers dealing with so many folks, including various sales and service people. Knowing people affords the opportunity to speak more frankly with them, so attending their caucus fundraisers and social events is a way to start or to maintain an association with lawmakers. Going to water, energy, transportation or research conferences and Zoom calls is a good way to keep up with the latest happenings, not to mention those interim committees which are very informative. When I see a legislator habitually showing up for these activities, I know that, for one, this person takes his/her job seriously and, for another, he/she is going to be way ahead of his/her peers who do not make the effort. Keep in mind that we have a citizen legislature (very part-time compared to many states), so most of the time, legislators will not have a chance to attend many events.

Are candidates curious about how things work? Are they lifelong learners? Being in the legislature brings pressure to learn about topics completely outside one's expertise, so often, life experience and work habits can be huge contributors to making informed decisions. I find that a legislator who is accessible and friendly, a "people person," will get a lot more done because he/she welcomes opinions and discussion. As in all walks of life, there are less-amenable people who are able to find success in their careers, including lawmaking, but any legislator sponsoring a bill will eventually need to approach others to build a coalition so that the bill can become a law. This year saw appreciable



Veteran lawmaker and educator Phil Murphy is the NDSGA liaison between legislators and farmers.

and even unprecedented changes that will affect how the next session will flow; both the house and senate majority leaders have retired along with the senate minority leader. The big money committee (Appropriations) will also have new leadership. Old alliances are, therefore, broken up, and new ones will need to be formed. Is your candidate a team player?

Another factor for many lawmakers is the relationship with the individuals who enforce the law and see it implemented: the executive branch, people such as the governor and Lt. governor, along with their staff; the attorney general, the Commerce Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, etc. As we, in rural North Dakota, find our state becoming more urban, therefore having more legislators less directly connected to farming, what links to agriculture might your candidate have? A legislative candidate, especially a rural one, will benefit from having decent relationships with farm and commodity groups, such as the Farmer's Union, Farm Bureau, corn, wheat, grain growers, soybeans, stockmen's and others. All the aforementioned groups and many others are in the mix that culminates every two years for a session that starts in January and ends in April. May we all choose wisely.

**Follow what's happening
in the North Dakota
Legislature with agriculture
policies and issues**

Phil Murphy, NDSGA's liaison
between legislators and farmers,
writes the "Murphy's Law" blog.

Scan to subscribe to
"Murphy's Law" blog today!



Not Just a Cliché

We've probably all been told countless times that it is important to make sure that our voices are heard. We've likely heard that phrase so many times that it may have become cliché with the true importance of the words diminished.

Because such a small percentage of our population is involved with agriculture, it really is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are active and educated about the issues that affect us as farmers.

One of the big pieces of legislation that affects agriculture is the farm bill. Every five years, lawmakers debate and craft another bill that touches nearly every farmer and non-farmer across the country in one way or another. Important titles such as crop insurance, commodity programs, marketing programs and nutrition all reside within the farm bill. We, as farmers, have to live with what's in the legislation for the next five years, so we want to do our part to help make sure that Congress gets it right.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) undertook an arduous process to obtain feedback from state soybean groups, such as the

North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA), regarding what we'd like to see included or changed with the 2023 Farm Bill. The ASA also reached out to the general farm population to get feedback about issues of importance. These collective voices helped the ASA craft its priority issues, which both staff and farmer leaders will share with lawmakers as the next farm bill is crafted.

Many North Dakota soybean farmers took part in the ASA's farm bill meetings and were able to share perspectives about what's important to growers in our state. Some of that information was included in the ASA priorities and will be shared on Capitol Hill in the coming months as the new farm bill is written and debated.

The farm bill is certainly an important piece of legislation, but with an election coming in November, there is another opportunity for us to share our voice through our votes. State and local races may not have the widespread effect of a farm bill, but they do have the potential to influence issues that affect our farms and communities. For that reason, it's important that we take the opportunity to take our votes seriously.

At the risk of sounding cliché, I encourage you, as farmers, to not underestimate the im-



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portance of sharing your voice, whether that action is with our lawmakers in Washington D.C. or Bismarck or is seen at the local ballot box. No one else has your perspective. Please feel free to share it.



Membership Application

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

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Spouse: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Farm/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

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Email Address: _____

Occupation (Please check all that apply)

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Do you raise:

- ☐ Cattle ☐ Hogs ☐ Poultry ☐ Dairy

Do you currently grow soybeans?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Soybean Acres: _____ Total Acres Farmed: _____

How did you hear about NDSGA? (Please circle one)

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Passion for AGRICULTURE



Kevin Wolsky never really pictured himself doing anything but farming. Growing up near Carrington, North Dakota, Wolsky is carrying on the family tradition of working the land.

"I'm the third generation on my farm," Wolsky says. "My grandpa started the farmstead and everything. My dad maintained it well."

Wolsky planned to slide right into farming after high school, but someone had other plans.

"I was going to farm. That was the only thing I knew. I would have probably stayed right at home after high school, but my mom was like, no, you've got to leave. You've got to go to college," Wolsky recalls. "I'm glad I did because I met my wife there. Jen and I currently have eight children, and we are foster parents of three children."

Wolsky graduated from North Dakota State University in 2001 and returned to Carrington to farm with his father before taking

over the operation.

"A lot of times older farmers have a tough time giving things up. My dad was never like that," Wolsky explains.

Constant Change

Wolsky started farming at a time when changes were happening to North Dakota's crop mix. He says that the primary crops in the early 2000s included canola, flax, barley, wheat, some soybeans and a lot of sunflowers. Gradually, soybeans and corn became more staple crops in the region.

Wolsky typically plants some pulse crops, but due to weather conditions in 2022, half of his farm is planted with soybeans; the other half is split between corn and wheat.

"That is really what has changed in North Dakota, what has changed in our area," Wolsky states. "There's corn and soybeans everywhere we look now."

Wolsky believes several factors have contributed to the change in crop rotation for the region,

including seed options.

"I would say number one would be variety. We have so much more control. You can put a 77-day corn in and still actually get 120-bushel corn," Wolsky asserts. "We can stretch it out to an 86-day corn and get 200-bushel yields. The same goes for soybeans."

Wolsky describes how shorter-maturity soybeans have made growing soybeans in the area possible and profitable.

"I would say, if you wanted to know what crop you could not take away in (the) Carrington area, it would be soybeans. Not even close," Wolsky contends. "That is what every farmer puts in, what every farmer banks on."

Wolsky is cautiously optimistic that the increased processing capacity in North Dakota will have a positive influence on soybean markets and will increase the long-term profitability of soybeans in the state.

"Hopefully, it will affect local markets," Wolsky says. "I definitely

think it does help with basis."

Regardless of the crops being planted, the past couple of growing seasons have given farmers plenty of challenges. Wolsky explains how, in 2021, the spring started out well with timely rains coming until mid-May. Then, Wolsky's farm didn't receive rain again until October 13. This year, the rain and snow didn't stop.

"Those extremes are hard to manage. It's been a while since I've had a really great growing season," Wolsky admits.

Speaking Out

Wolsky is a representative on the Northern Pulse Growers Association (NPGA), although weather conditions prevented him from planting pulse crops in 2022. In his role with the NPGA, Wolsky has a chance to interact with lawmakers on issues that affect North Dakota farmers. This summer, he took part in a roundtable discussion about government programs and the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill; that event was organized by North



Soybeans are an integral part of Kevin Wolsky's crop rotation. About half of his farmland is planted to soybeans in 2022.

Dakota Senator John Hoeven.
In addition to having a passion

for farming, Wolsky states that he
does like politics and some areas of

policy. Participating in discussions
with policymakers at many levels
is another opportunity to share
his point of view regarding what
farmers most want from govern-
ment programs.

"In general, most of the farm
groups want to just grow crops
and not be penalized for grow-
ing those crops. No matter if
you're sugarbeets; if you're peas,
chickpeas, and lentils; or the big
boys like soybeans and corn, you
just really want to grow crops,"
Wolsky asserts. "I find that is a
common theme between all of
our commodity groups. Any time
that we can get any opportunity
to grow crops; sell crops; (or)
make our products available to
either the people of North Da-
kota, the United States, or other
countries, we would be gladly able
to do that."

Wolsky says that, to a large
extent, the 2018 Farm Bill was
favorable for farmers and offered a
good working system. His frustra-
tion is evident, though, with how
bureaucracy and administrative
inefficiencies have hampered the
delivery of programs that are in

place and have sufficient funding.

As discussions about the 2023
Farm Bill heat up in the coming
months, Wolsky believes that it is
important to emphasize that the
farm bill is about much more than
agriculture programs.

"Food is truly a national
security issue, and there are many
cogs in the wheel of farming that
supply jobs and opportunities.
Really, we just have to be able to
feed people," Wolsky explains.

Wolsky contends that, even
though individuals and organiza-
tions in North Dakota have varied
opinions and points of view, the
state's groups have a strong track re-
cord of working together on proj-
ects with wide-ranging benefits.

"We are the only state that has
a state mill, a state bank, and we
are probably more supportive in
using the government as a tool to
help fund some of those projects.
I think changing that mindset
of we're red or blue and there's
nothing in between, when you get
out here and see that is untrue. We
all try and work together."

—Story and photos by Dan Lemke



Wolsky enjoys farm policy and is passionate about advocating for North Dakota farmers.

MEMBERSHIP: A Small Price to Pay



Farmers and consumers alike are dealing with higher prices for everything from fuel and fertilizer to food and entertainment. Given the stable price and the value it provides, membership in the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) may have never been more affordable or vital.

The NDSGA represents the state's soybean farmer members on important policy issues in North Dakota and nationwide. Josh Gackle spent part of his career working in the political system. Gackle, who now farms near Kulm, is still active in state

and national policy as a member of the NDSGA's board of directors and is on the executive team for the American Soybean Association (ASA).

"When we go to (Washington,) D.C., as an organization, whether it's American Soybean Association or North Dakota soybean growers, there's power in numbers," Gackle says. "Having that strong grower support and grower involvement is really meaningful when we are advocating for these things on the Hill."

Gackle participated in recent ASA efforts to elicit input from farmers regarding farm bill priorities. The farm bill is just one issue

that the state and national soybean organizations address on behalf of farmer members.

"An individual calling or writing a letter or meeting with a congressperson or senator is really important, but when you can engage a number of farmers and come as one united voice to Washington or to Bismarck, they listen," Gackle contends. "They hear that message, and they listen, and they respond. There's also some accountability there. You can come back to them and just remind these policymakers the things that we've been talking about for months."

Gackle describes how legislative

staff and lawmakers know that, when they meet with NDSGA or ASA members, the positions the farmers are presenting have been well thought out.

"There's a reason that we're asking for the things we're asking for or are expressing concerns about the challenges that we're facing," Gackle asserts. "I think policymakers appreciate that understanding, and it helps them put together a better product in the end."

Most soybean farmers are already contributing to the growth of the soybean industry through the checkoff. Those funds are used for efforts such as research, education and trade development. Checkoff funds cannot be used for lobbying. That's where membership is important.

"When it comes to a return on investment for a farmer, I just think it's invaluable to be to be a member of your state and national organizations," Gackle explains.

Membership in ag organizations such as the NDSGA and ASA is increasingly important as more groups seek to have a hand in how farmers operate. Gackle says that farm groups also need to address the critics of the agriculture policies coming from Washington and Bismarck.

"We need to be united as farmers, as soybean growers, as other ag groups in addressing some of those critics," Gackle contends. "So being united and speaking with one voice is becoming more and more important as we move forward."

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photo by Wanbaugh Studios

To learn more about all the benefits of NDSGA membership, please visit bit.ly/2022BecomeAMember



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Humbled and Excited for the Future

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After serving on the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) for four years, my fellow council directors have elected me to serve as the NDSC chair. It is really a privilege and an honor to be selected to that position. To have your peers have confidence in you and respect for you to be in this position means a lot, and it's very, very humbling at the same time.

I farm with my father and a business partner, along with my wife and three children. We all work together. I see the same thing happening within the soybean industry here in North Dakota.

There are a lot of opportunities developing in the state for soybeans and soybean products. My goal as the NDSC chair is to do my part to keep the industry moving forward. Having two soybean processing plants coming online in the state will present some real opportunities for North Dakota farmers. With soybean oil in demand for products such as renewable diesel and soybean meal, which is available as a high-quality livestock feed, the future looks very bright.

As council members, we want to do our part to keep developing those markets and to make the best use of the checkoff dollars that farmers invest. We are committed to forwarding the

mission and the goals of the North Dakota Soybean Council, and hopefully, that makes opportunities better for all producers and the entire industry.

Farming is all about adjusting to change and reacting to opportunities. I believe that we are on the verge of another exciting period for North Dakota soybeans. The amount of change that we are likely to see in the next 2-to-10 years is going to be unbelievable. I think things are going to grow and expand and to change as much as they have in the last 25 years.

In addition to the opportunity with biofuels, the growth for the soybean processing capacity in North Dakota could mean big things for the livestock industry. We will be in a position to help grow that sector, which will be a win not only for livestock farmers, but also for soybean producers and all of agriculture in general.

It is an honor to serve the soybean industry and the producers of North Dakota. As a board, the primary objective is to keep moving the soybean industry forward and to spend our checkoff dollars wisely. As the newly elected chair, my main goal is really to help keep the soybean industry in a good position for generations to come. I want there to be opportunities for



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our kids and grandkids to have farm profitably in North Dakota. Above all, I just want to help make the agricultural community a better place.

—Photo by Wanbaugh Studios

Palmer Amaranth Testing Available at the National Agricultural Genotyping Center

Palmer amaranth—recognized as the most problematic weed in the United States—has invaded North Dakota fields. Palmer amaranth is a troublesome weed because it grows and reproduces rapidly and prolifically; it is prone to develop resistance to multiple herbicides. It can dramatically cut crop yields, too.

Correct identification of Palmer amaranth is an important, but challenging task for growers and crop consultants because Palmer amaranth can be hard to distinguish from other pigweed species. The most reliable way to confirm Palmer amaranth and other pigweed species is to supplement the visual diagnosis with a DNA test.

The National Agricultural Genotyping Center (NAGC) has partnered with North Dakota State University (NDSU) weed scientists and the North Dakota Soybean Council to make DNA tests available to the agricultural community. The tests can identify pigweeds and can detect resistance to two site of actions that is currently available at the NAGC. Rush testing is available, with the results reported in a matter of hours.

—Story and photo by staff

Learn more about Palmer amaranth testing at NAGC at bit.ly/NAGCPalmerAtesting



The reliable way to confirm Palmer amaranth and other pigweed species is to supplement the visual diagnosis with a DNA test.

North Dakota Soybean Council Elects Executive Officers

Pierce County Soybean Producer Chris Brossart Elected Chairman

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Investment



Executive board officers were elected during the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) board meeting on June 29. Chris Brossart of Wolford was elected to be the chairman of the board. Brossart represents soybean farmers in District 11, which consists of 13 northwest North Dakota counties. He grows soybeans, spring wheat, barley, corn and canola with his wife and parents on a third-generation family farm in Pierce County. He graduated from North Dakota State University (NDSU) with a degree in crop and weed sciences, and agribusiness. Brossart is active with the North Dakota Farm Bureau and the Nodak Insurance Board. From 1998-1999, Brossart was a North Dakota Future Farmers of America (FFA) state officer. He is also involved with his local church.

"It is really a privilege and an honor to be elected chair after serving on (the) NDSC for four years," Brossart said. "To have your peers have confidence in you and respect for you to be in this position means a lot, and it's very, very humbling at the same time."

The board elected Rob Rose of Wimbledon as vice chairman. Rose represents soybean producers in Barnes County. He farms with his wife, Dawn, and they produce soybeans, corn, wheat, barley and pinto beans on a fifth-generation centennial farm. He is a member of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association and has an agricultural economics degree from NDSU.

Mike Schlosser of Edgeley was

elected to be the secretary. Schlosser represents soybean farmers in District 3: LaMoure and Dickey Counties. Along with his father, Schlosser grows soybeans, corn and wheat. He graduated from NDSU with a bachelor's degree in plant protection as well as crop and weed sciences. He is active with the North Dakota Farmers Union and is a member of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association.

Page soybean producer Jim Thompson was elected as the treasurer. He represents soybean producers in Cass County. Thompson farms with his wife, Jennifer. He serves as the chairman of Rich Township and the president of the Cass County Township Officers Association. Thompson and his wife grow soybeans, corn, wheat and dry beans. He has a degree in aviation administration and business management from the University of North Dakota.

—Story and photo by staff



Back row, from left to right: Chris Brossart, Wolford; Rob Rose, Wimbledon; and Jim Thompson, Page. Seated: Mike Schlosser, Edgeley.

On June 8, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) was presented with an appreciation award from the North Dakota Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation for 30 years of support. NDSC Past Chairman and Richland County FFA alumnus Scott Gauslow of Colfax (left) accepted the award, on behalf of the state's soybean farmers, from FFA Foundation President Rueben Weigelt (right). Thank you to all North Dakota soybean producers for supporting the next generation of agriculture leaders!



—Story and photos by staff



CONNECTING Teachers AND Students TO Ag AND Biotech

Time away from class during the summer is cherished by students, but it's also valuable to teachers. Nearly 30 middle school and high school science teachers from North Dakota and Minnesota devoted two days to professional development at North Dakota State University for the Exploring Biotech and Biofuels Workshop, which was sponsored, in part, by the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC).

The Exploring Biotech and Biofuels Workshop introduced teachers to the ways that biotech skills are incorporated into agriculture through inquiry-based, hands-on labs.

Jane Hunt, director of education for educationprojects.org, which organized and led the workshop, says that a key purpose of the training is to make science relevant to students.

"We try to connect the industry to the classroom and to inspire teachers to use that industry-relevant information to teach students not only about what they have to already teach in the classroom, but also about potential careers," Hunt states. "Students need to understand

how the world works, but they also need to know what they're going to do for a job. And right now, it seems like kids don't have a whole lot of direction in that area. We try to increase the amount of relevance in the curriculum that we're using."

Hands On

Workshop participants made biodiesel from plant oils for one lab-

oratory exercise. The teachers toured an ethanol plant to see science in action on a large scale.

Attendees also conducted DNA extractions; participated in an activity about fermentation; examined the growth stages of soybean and corn plants; and had lab exercises regarding bioinformatics, taxonomy, and phylogeny.

All of the exercises were designed

to give teachers content and ideas to take back to their classrooms in fun and memorable ways. After the teachers made biodiesel, they tested the fuel in a unique competition.

"We tested their biofuels in pop-pop boats. They're little steamboats where you put the biodiesel in, light it on fire, and you see how long it will work," Hunt explains. "We were testing different varieties of oils and



Deb Hatlewick of Gackle Streeter School and Josh Rogers of Davies High School in Fargo weigh material for a hands-on project.



Biology teacher Molly Werner of Davies High School in Fargo makes biodiesel from cooking oil.



From left to right: Josh Rogers, David Schultz, and Molly Werner of Davies High School in Fargo learned how to connect their students to the expansive world of agriculture and biotechnology during the workshop.



The hands-on sessions were designed to help teachers incorporate agriculture and biotechnology into classroom lessons.

trying to see if they lasted longer or if they were from a particular plant. Everyone perked up during this exercise and thought it was so cool. There was a lot of excitement in the room to end the workshop, which is exactly what we wanted.”

Hunt describes how teachers are required to teach so that the students are able to meet certain standards. Sometimes, the subject matter can be somewhat sterile, so finding fun, hands-on ways to make often-complex topics more interesting and relevant benefits both the teacher and the students.

Ag Focused

NDSC Outreach and Education Coordinator Shireen Alemadi says that the North Dakota Soybean Council supported the workshop to help drive home the importance of agriculture and to highlight opportunities which the industry provides.

“We were hoping that the teachers would come away with a new or expanded understanding of the important role agriculture plays as well as the innovative work that is being done in the biofuels and agronomy spaces in relation to soybeans,” Alemadi states.

Agriculture is a very dynamic industry that is heavily reliant on technology and science, which makes agriculture fertile subject matter for an education workshop.

“In the fields of biotech and biofuels, there are new discoveries each year,” Alemadi explains. “Making sure teachers are up-to-date on the latest in these fields is important, so their students are learning the latest science and will be prepared for college or a career.”

Alemadi described how the participating teachers were excited to have the hands-on, in-depth professional development experiences in the lab setting. Many instructors

were already thinking about different ways to incorporate what they had just learned in their classrooms during the upcoming school year. The teachers also received an entire set of supplies that they could use to assist with conducting lab exercises with their students.

“The activities we took part in taught me how to better engage my students in learning about our land and how it is used,” says Kelley Larson, a biology; physical sciences; chemistry; and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teacher at West Central Academy in Moorhead. “I’m excited to take these lessons back to my school and get my students doing science that will benefit them and possibly interest them in agriculture careers for their futures.”

“Everything I have learned has increased my knowledge and will allow me to incorporate new things into my classroom,” explains Deb Hatlewick, an ag educator at Gackle Streeter School.

Hunt stated that the post-event feedback was very positive. All of the participants said that they’ll use three to five pieces of the curriculum in their classroom.

“That’s a huge win,” Hunt asserts. “A lot of times, you can go to a whole science conference and find one useful thing. Teachers tend to use this material for seven years or more, depending on how long they’re planning on staying in the district and in the profession.”

To learn more, please visit educationprojects.org. North Dakota middle school and high school science teachers interested in participating in future workshops, please email Shireen Alemadi at salemadi@ndsoybean.org.

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photos by staff and North Dakota Corn Utilization Council



Biodiesel and Renewable Diesel are NOT the Same

Did you know that North Dakota is the second-largest renewable diesel producer in the U.S. and a top 10 producer of biodiesel? Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) is involved with the production of both products in North Dakota, with an ADM-owned biodiesel facility in Velsa and the new Green Bison Soy Processing Facility, a partnership between ADM and Marathon Petroleum, in Spiritwood. The

Velsa facility works in partnership with ADM's canola crush plant to make biodiesel from canola oil, and the Spiritwood facility will provide soybean oil to Marathon Petroleum's renewable diesel facility in Dickinson.

With North Dakota being a major player in both the biodiesel and renewable diesel industries, you may have heard these fuel names used almost interchangeably. However, they are very different fuels that are produced

and managed in different ways.

What's the Same?

Biodiesel and renewable diesel are made from the same feedstocks: vegetable oils (including soybean oil), animal fats and used cooking oils. Therefore, the two products compete for the same feedstock pool. With the expansion of the renewable-fuel market, the feedstocks for those fuels are highly sought-after, which is contributing to high soybean prices right now.

In the California market, under the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, fuels are given carbon-intensity (CI) scores which consider the initial feedstocks from which the renewable fuels were made. Feedstocks such as used cooking oils are given the most desirable CI scores because those oils are seen as by-products and more environmentally friendly than vegetable oils. However, used cooking oils only account for a small percentage of the total use for renewable

Checkoff Investment



fuels due to availability; vegetable oils are much better poised to fit the supply volume needs for renewable fuels.

What's Different?

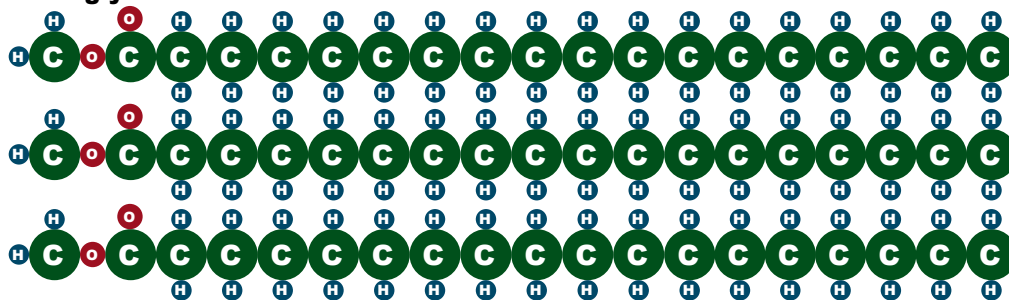
Biodiesel is made with a process called transesterification; this word is a complex one for a simple method that uses alcohol to separate the glycerin backbone from the fat, leaving methyl esters and glycerin. The methyl esters are sold as biodiesel, and the glycerin is sold as a byproduct for industrial processes, including soap-making.

Renewable diesel has a more complex production process. Depending on the feedstock, a pre-treatment step may be required to remove impurities in order to protect the catalyst that is utilized later in the process; this need is especially true for used cooking oil. Once properly treated, hydrogen reacts with the feedstock and a catalyst to remove oxygen and to create straight hydrocarbons. Finally, more hydrogen is added with a separate catalyst in order to branch the hydrocarbons to improve cold flow and to optimize cetane. This process generates more byproducts, including propane and naphtha, than biodiesel.

Because of these processing differences, biodiesel production is cheaper than renewable diesel, largely due to the lower capital investment; renewable diesel requires an enormous capital investment. Therefore, the petroleum industry is becoming a major player for renewable diesel. It is

Biodiesel

C-18 Triglyceride – Steric Acid



Methanol (alcohol) X3



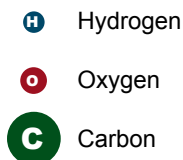
Biodiesel – C-18 Steric Acid Methyl Ester X3



Glycerol



C-18 + Methanol = Biodiesel & Glycerin



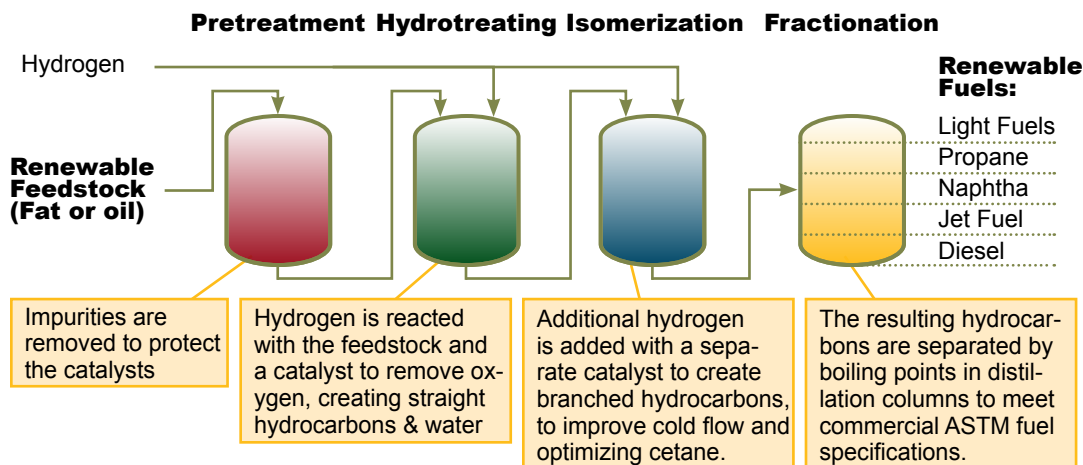
Where is biodiesel sold in North Dakota?

Learn more at bit.ly/NDSCBiofuels



Renewable Diesel

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are in an exciting position with these burgeoning renewable-fuel markets: demand for them is consistently increasing while the supply of feedstocks is working to keep pace. This translates to market optimism for soybean oil, especially in North Dakota.

—Story by staff, graphics courtesy of the Clean Fuels Alliance America and Above & Beyond Marketing Communications

more cost-effective to convert a petroleum refinery to a renewable diesel facility than to build one from nothing. This detail makes the cost of producing renewable diesel much more attractive.

Also aiding the cost incentive to produce renewable diesel is the fuel's demand. Biodiesel often (but not always) requires blending with petroleum diesel prior to use, most often in blends incorporating 20% or less biodiesel. This process requires a blending infrastructure and the use of petroleum diesel. On the other hand, renewable die-

sel does not require any blending prior to use. In fact, renewable diesel is chemically identical to petroleum diesel; the only way to scientifically distinguish the two fuels is through carbon-dating. This is, perhaps, the biggest difference between the fuels to the end user. This ease of handling makes renewable diesel the desired diesel fuel for large markets, such as California, that can utilize subsidies to pay more for renewable diesel and can pull market share to their state. Essentially, all the renewable diesel produced in the

United States right now is pulled into the California market, including the renewable diesel which is produced in Dickinson.

Biodiesel use offers benefits to equipment, including improved lubricity to save on the engines' wear and tear. The California market recognizes this benefit and often utilizes a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% renewable diesel. This blend makes a fully renewable fuel while capturing the benefits of both at the same time.

The Bottom Line

North Dakota soybean farmers

Biodiesel Makes Cents for N.D. and For You!

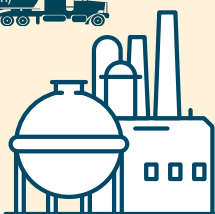
Did you know that the North Dakota Soybean Council is offering a rebate to soybean farmers who utilize biodiesel? You may qualify for up to \$1,500 in rebates if you use biodiesel. Free technical support is available if you haven't used biodiesel before. To learn more, visit bit.ly/NDSCbiodieselsebate22



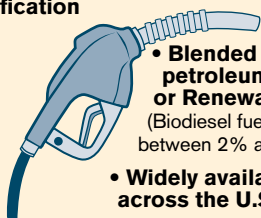
Biodiesel and Renewable Diesel are NOT the same

BIODIESEL

Made from:



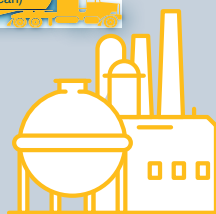
Transesterification



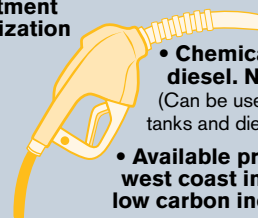
- Blended with petroleum diesel or Renewable Diesel (Biodiesel fuel makes up between 2% and 20% of blend)
- Widely available across the U.S.

RENEWABLE DIESEL

Made from:



Hydrotreatment and Isomerization



- Chemically identical to petroleum diesel. No blending required. (Can be used in existing pipelines, storage tanks and diesel engines)
- Available primarily on the west coast in markets with low carbon incentives

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August Scouting Report



August is the best time for farmers to scout for four important soybean diseases that began with root infection early in the season. Identifying threats in your field now provides critical information that you can use to manage crops in future years.

Just like scouting crop fields, the scouting and reporting for our favorite National Football League (NFL) teams heat up during the August pre-season. What would a scouting report look like if soybean diseases were NFL teams?

Soybean Cyst Nematode (Patriots)

Scouting Report: Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is consistently a threat. SCN continues to expand its dynasty.

What to Watch for: Carefully dig the roots and look for white, lemon-shaped cysts. Focus on areas where SCN is known to be present or where soil is most likely introduced to a field.

Notables: SCN can cause up to a 30% yield loss before you see above-ground symptoms. Consider soil sampling near, at or after harvest in order to identify SCN and to determine the egg number.



SCN cysts on a soybean root.

Charcoal Rot (Bengals)

Scouting Report: Charcoal rot showed up in a big way last year, but the disease can go from a

no-show to first and back to a no-show in a few seasons. Charcoal rot is heavily dependent on external factors.

What to Watch for: Areas of the field start to prematurely senesce. Leaves will remain on the wilted plants. Use a pocket knife to carefully scrape off the outer tissue on the lower stem, and look for very small, dusty, charcoal-colored microsclerotia. These lesions increase as the season progresses.

Notables: Charcoal rot heavily favors a wet spring, followed by a hot and dry August. The yield loss in favorable environments can reach 30% or greater.



Microsclerotia of the charcoal-rot pathogen on soybean stems.

Sudden Death Syndrome (Chiefs)

Scouting Report: Sudden death syndrome (SDS) is flashy, high powered and always in the national conversation.

What to Watch for: Highly visible, bright yellow and brown areas are seen between leaf veins. The leaves eventually drop from the plant, leaving naked petioles. The roots are rotted. Using a pocket knife, slice the lower stem longitudinally; if the stem's center is white and healthy,

but the outer stem tissue is browning, you may be looking at SDS.

Notables: SDS is capable of causing significant yield loss, but to date, SDS has only been confirmed in Richland and Cavalier Counties. SDS is more likely to cause damage when SCN is present.



Advanced foliar symptoms of sudden death syndrome.

Brown Stem Rot (Lions)

Scouting Report: Brown stem rot (BSR) is not the biggest threat but should not be ignored.

What to Watch for: Leaf symptoms (when they appear) are nearly identical to SDS. Using your pocket knife, slice the lower stem longitudinally; if the stem's center is brown and the outer stem tissue is relatively healthy (like lead in a pencil), you may be looking at BSR.

Notables: BSR ranks #5 to #10 in the "top-10" disease threats to U.S. soybeans, occurs in North Dakota and is an important consideration when SCN is present.



Severe brown-stem-rot symptoms in a soybean stem. (Courtesy D. Malvick, University of Minnesota)

—Story and photos courtesy of Dr. Sam Markell, NDSU

For more information about soybean diseases, visit bit.ly/NDSUsoydiseses



NDSU-Led Coalition Awarded for Soybean Cyst Nematode Awareness Campaign

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NDSU Extension plant pathologist and SCN Coalition leader Sam Markell (far right) attends the Public Relations Society of America's celebration honoring Silver Anvil Award winners. Others photographed (left to right) are Greg Tylka, a nematologist at Iowa State University; Max Wenck, MorganMyers; and Julianne Johnston, MorganMyers.

SCN causes more than \$1.5 billion in yield losses each year in the United States. First detected in North Dakota in 2003, SCN has continued to spread throughout the state and is overcoming genetic resistance in much of the U.S. Recommendations and resources, which were developed by the SCN Coalition, can be found at thescncoalition.com or bit.ly/todesnd



The SCN Coalition Received a National Award for Its Outstanding Public Relations Campaign

The Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) Coalition, a national, public-private partnership led by North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension, received the Public Relations Society of America's prestigious Silver Anvil Award in Issues Management at a ceremony which was held May 19 in New York City. The Silver Anvil recognizes the best strategic public relations campaigns and outstanding organizational excellence.

The SCN Coalition was formed to raise awareness about the SCN resistance problem as well as its effect on yield and the need for more farmers to actively manage

SCN, the most damaging pathogen for soybeans in North America.

"Even the most conservative estimates show the messaging campaign has likely saved farmers hundreds of millions of dollars annually," says Sam Markell, NDSU Extension plant pathologist and a leader of the coalition. "The coalition's SCN recommendations are reaching farmers, and the farmers are responding."

The SCN Coalition combines research knowledge from university scientists across the nation, including NDSU nematologist Guiping Yan, with financial and logistical support from major agrochemical companies and grower

checkoff organizations, such as the North Dakota Soybean Council, the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) and the United Soybean Board. With help from the strategic-communication firm MorganMyers and strong relationships with agricultural media, the SCN Coalition bridges cutting-edge science with targeted communication.

"A coordinated effort from many committed partners is starting to make a big difference for soybean farmers," Markell states. "Winning a Silver Anvil Award is a testament to how a public-private partnership and Extension awareness campaign can success-

fully tackle the biggest problems of modern agriculture."

"The SCN Coalition's work is an example of NDSU's land-grant mission in action as we work to develop partnerships that increase value for North Dakotans," explains Greg Lardy, vice president for agricultural affairs at NDSU.

—Story by NDSU Agriculture
Communication, photo
courtesy of MorganMyers

SCN Information from NDSU
can be found at bit.ly/NDSUscn





Palmer Amaranth: Early Detection, Rapid Response

Few problems get better by being ignored. That theory certainly holds true when it comes to weed management. Whether the culprit is Palmer amaranth or waterhemp, the presence of troublesome weeds demands action.

“One of the favorite phrases to use there is early detection, rapid response,” North Dakota State University Extension Weed Specialist Dr. Joe Ikley says. “We use this approach a lot for noxious weed control. The main reason is, especially with Palmer amaranth and waterhemp, they can just be such prolific seed producers that a few escaped plants can easily be hundreds of thousands to millions of plants next year.”

Dr. Ikley states that, if even a few escaped Palmer amaranth or waterhemp plants are discovered, it’s worthwhile to pull those weeds by hand to keep them from going to seed.

There are valid agronomic reasons to keep prolific seed producers such as Palmer amaranth and waterhemp from producing seed. There are also economic considerations.

“If you have a field that has a major waterhemp or Palmer infestation, you can basically count on spending two to two and a half

times more on a herbicide program to control just one of those weeds, compared to a more typical program focusing on a general weed spectrum,” Ikley explains. “If you take some time to go out and hand weed a couple of those plants, that is cheaper than focusing on spending two times more on that field in future years because a small patch of weeds grew into a larger infestation within the field.”

Dr. Ikley describes how weeds such as waterhemp and Palmer amaranth have a roughly three-year progression. If weeds go undetected, there’s likely to be a scattering of plants the first year, with much larger patches in the field the second year.

“Then, you might have wall to wall Palmer or waterhemp in the third year,” Dr. Ikley asserts.

Dr. Ikley says that hand weeding or spot spraying as soon as an infestation is detected will likely save money and headaches compared to dealing with a widespread problem in future years. Practices such as harvesting fields with weed infestations last to avoid spreading the seeds or harvesting around trouble spots to keep from distributing seed can be simple management practices that pay dividends.

2022 Concerns

Dr. Ikley states that, with a

shortened planting window across much of North Dakota in 2022, many farmers had to forego herbicide applications as simply getting crops planted was the priority. That situation will likely lead to weed-management challenges throughout the growing season.

One or two escaped Palmer amaranth plants in a field can turn into a major issue the following year.

Because of wet conditions, not all fields or areas within those fields were able to be planted. Prevented planting acres will require attention to keep them from causing bigger problems in future years.

“We’ll have a lot of fields this year that maybe the whole field or a portion of the field is prevent plant. As those wet spots dry out, they will become problems, and with pigweed seed like waterhemp that tends to float on water and will settle in low spots, those areas can be problems,” Dr. Ikley explains.

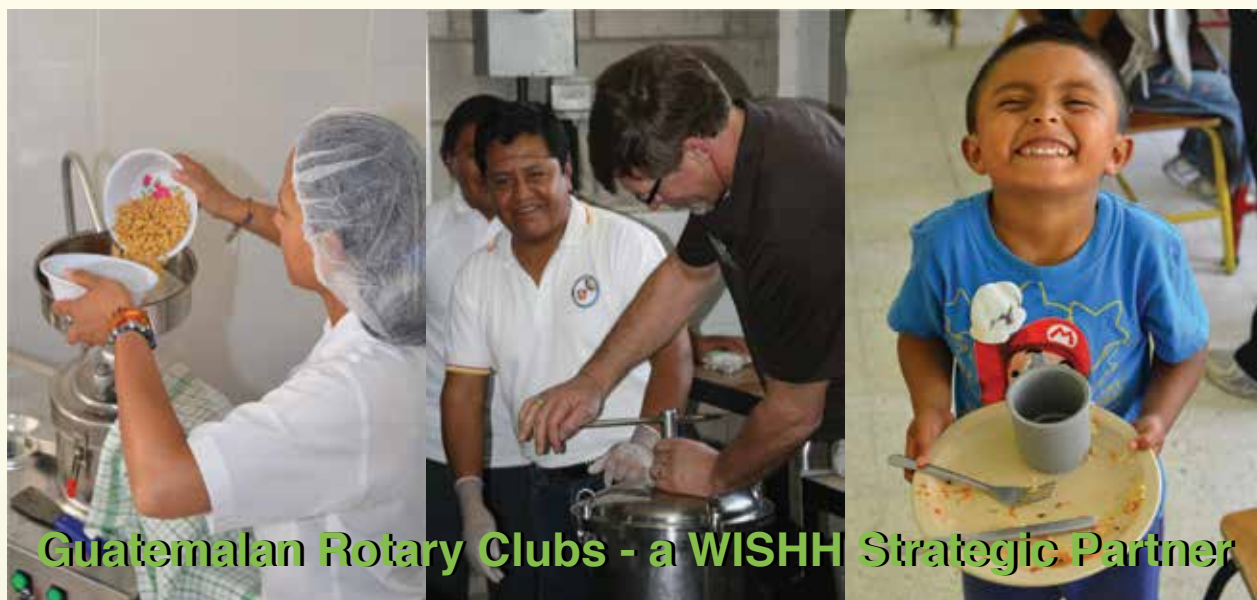
Late in the season can be a good time to manage those prevent plant areas and to keep a watchful eye looking for weed escapes in other areas because there’s never a bad time to do the right thing.

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photos courtesy of Dr. Joe Ikley, NDSU

Condition	Passes	Brand/Application	Approx. Cost/A
No Waterhemp or Palmer amaranth Present	Pre	Boundary 1.6 pt/a	\$16.70
	Post	Flexstar GT 1.75 pt/a	\$9.90
		AMS	\$1-\$2
Total Chemical		\$27.60 - \$28.60 / acre	
Enlist			
Waterhemp or Palmer amaranth Present	Pre	Kyber 1.5 pt/a	\$41.00
	Post	Enlist One 2 pt/a	\$11.20
		Liberty 2 pt/a	\$14.60
		Dual Magnum 1.33 pt/a	\$13.50
		AMS	\$1-\$2
Total Chemical		\$81.30 - \$82.30 / acre*	
Xtend			
Waterhemp or Palmer amaranth Present	Pre	Kyber 1.5 pt/a	\$41.00
	Post	Xtendimax 22 fl oz/a	\$10.60
		Roundup Powermax 32 fl oz/a	\$8.30
		Warrant 1.5 qt/a	\$13.10
		DRA	\$2.00
		VRA	\$2.00
		Water Conditioner	\$1-\$2
Total Chemical		\$78.00 - \$79.00 / acre**	

*If second post is needed, add \$26.00-\$27.00/a ** If second post is needed, add \$24.00/a
NOTE: Products used are for educational purposes only and should not be considered an endorsement.

On World Food Day and every day, WISHH'S strategic partners take local action.



Connect with WISHH
wishh.org



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

Green Bison Soy Processing Breaks Ground



Ground has been broken on North Dakota's first dedicated soybean crushing plant that will soon be processing as much as 150,000 bushels of soybeans a day.

In early June, leaders from ADM and Marathon Petroleum Corporation (MPC) joined local, state and federal officials to celebrate the groundbreaking for North Dakota's first dedicated soybean processing facility. The joint venture between ADM and MPC has been named Green Bison Soy Processing. The plant, which is scheduled to be operational in time for the 2023 harvest, will produce approximately 600 million pounds of refined vegetable oil annually, which will be supplied exclusively to MPC as a feedstock for renewable diesel.

"The need for lower-carbon, more sustainable products is one of the fundamental trends underlying ADM's strategy and purpose, and we're proud to continue to scale up our leadership in this critical area," Ken Campbell, ADM's president of North America Oils, Biodiesel and Renewable Chemicals says. "Renewable diesel is a potentially transformative opportunity for the oilseed industry, for farmers and for the sustainability of our

transportation system. We're excited to celebrate our bright future, and we look forward to working with MPC and producers across North Dakota as we bring this state-of-the-art plant online in less than a year and a half."

"The Green Bison Soy Processing facility represents another step in MPC's commitment to investing in a sustainable, energy-diverse future," Dave Heppner, MPC's senior vice president of Strategy and Business Development states. "The Green Bison Soy Processing facility will help us further optimize our renewable feedstock

sourcing, and we are excited about the opportunity to partner with ADM and the state of North Dakota as we move forward with the development of this facility."

When complete, the approximately \$350 million complex will feature state-of-the-art automation technology and is expected to have the capacity to process 150,000 bushels of soybeans per day. Vegetable oil from the plant will be supplied exclusively to MPC to serve as feedstock to produce a targeted 75 million gallons of renewable diesel annually.

Construction of the new

complex is supporting hundreds of jobs in the region, and the facility is expected to employ approximately 75 people once it is operational.

"This project is great for the short- and long-term success of North Dakota soybean producers," North Dakota Soybean Growers Association President Kasey Bitz explains. "I'm excited to see the impact this project will have on the entire state, and hopefully, this will bring more value-added projects to North Dakota."

"As a Top 10 soybean-producing state, the ADM-MPC joint venture is a game-changer that will provide lasting benefits for North Dakota soybean growers," North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum says. "Green Bison will add value and expand the market for one of our farmers' most important crops while also creating 75 direct jobs and diversifying our economy to support our communities, our citizens and the entire state. It's also a shining example of the growing synergy between our agriculture and energy sectors in North Dakota."

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photos by staff



Construction is well underway at the Green Bison Soy Processing facility near Spiritwood, North Dakota. The facility should be operational by fall of 2023.




unitedsoybean.org

RESEARCHING A BETTER BEAN

Whether you're dealing with drought, flood, heat or other climate-related stress, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to diversify U.S. soybean genetics and increase stress tolerance. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at unitedsoybean.org

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New Directors Elected to the North Dakota Soybean Council; Rose Re-Elected in District 5

The North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) recently welcomed three new directors to its board.

Their official terms began on July 1, 2022.

Grand Forks soybean farmer Evan Montgomery was elected to the NDSC. He represents soybean producers in District 7: Grand Forks and Traill Counties. Montgomery has been involved with farming his entire life, and his family farm has grown soybeans since the 1980s. He also helps with his family's livestock operation, including cows and a large horse boarding and training facility. As a graduate of North Dakota State University (NDSU), Montgomery holds a music degree in vocal performance; he sings with the Grand Forks Master Chorale and his own vocal band. He is involved with the North Da-

kota Farm Bureau and the Brenna Township board. He is currently the vice president of the Grand Forks Master Chorale board.

"I am honored to be elected to the North Dakota Soybean Coun-

cil," Montgomery says. "I look forward to learning as much as I can and discuss ideas and solutions with different stakeholders and board members."

Jeremiah Blahna, a soybean farm-

er from Carrington, was elected to represent District 9: Foster, Eddy and Wells Counties. He and his wife grow soybeans, corn and wheat in addition to running a cow/calf operation. Besides farming, Blahna



From left to right: Evan Montgomery, Grand Forks; Dallas Loff, Wahpeton; Jeremiah Blahna, Carrington; and Rob Rose, Wimbledon.

SCN Sampling Program Q&A



Q: How does the SCN sampling program work?

A: The NDSC covers the cost of up to 2,000 SCN samples for growers in N.D. NDSU labels, codes and distributes sample bags. Growers bag and mail sample bags to the lab.

Q: When will the sampling program begin?

A: Sample bags will be at County Extension offices in mid-late August.

Q: How do I receive sample bags?

A: Each N.D. grower can get up to three bags at their County Extension office

Q: When is the best time to sample?

A: The number of eggs and cysts in the soil increases throughout the growing season, making SCN detection most likely if you sample at the end of the season; from just before harvest to just before freeze-up is generally recommended.

Q: What do the results tell me?

A: Results indicate how much (if any) SCN is in your soil. If you don't find SCN, excellent! If you find SCN at any level, you want to manage it immediately. If you are already managing SCN, and your levels are still high, it may be time to evaluate additional management options.

Contact Sam Markell at NDSU with questions: samuel.markell@ndsu.edu • (701) 231-8362

also custom combines and provides snow removal services.

"I'm proud to represent District 9 soybean farmers," Blahna states. "I look forward to working with the board to promote the next generation of new uses for soybeans."

Dallas Loff of Wahpeton was elected to represent District 1: Richland County. Loff has been producing soybeans, corn, and sugarbeets with his father and brother for the past 20 years. He has a bachelor's degree in crop and weed sciences from NDSU. Loff has been involved with his

local township and school boards, and he is the president of his local elevator board. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, water skiing and pool.

"It's always important to continue learning, and I think there's a lot that I can learn on the North Dakota Soybean Council," Loff asserts. "I look forward to working with farmers from around the state to help the soybean industry grow."

Soybean producer Rob Rose from Wimbledon was re-elected to represent soybean farmers in District 5: Barnes County. Rose

farms with his wife, Dawn, and they produce soybeans, corn, wheat, barley and pinto beans on a fifth-generation centennial farm. He has an agricultural economics degree from NDSU.

"In my first term on the North Dakota Soybean Council, I have focused on the board's investment in the Clean Fuels Alliance America," Rose explains. "With two crushing plants coming online in the near future in North Dakota, I look forward to continue the promotion and education of biodiesel and renewable diesel in the state."

"We welcome Evan, Jeremiah and Dallas to the board," said Stephanie Sinner, NDSC executive director. "We are eager to work alongside them in their role of representing their fellow North Dakota soybean producers. We congratulate Rob Rose on his re-election to the board. All four will bring strong expertise and excellent perspective to the work of the North Dakota Soybean Council."

—Story and photo by staff

Many Thanks!

At the end of June, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) said farewell to three of its directors: Austin Langley of Warwick, Mike Langseth of Barney and Brian Jodock of Northwood. The NDSC is proud to recognize these directors for their combined 15 years of service to the board. Langley served as the chair for 2 years during his 6-year term, and Langseth served as secretary for 3 years during his 6-year term.



NDSC Executive Director Stephanie Sinner, far left, presents an appreciation award to NDSC Past Chairman Austin Langley, left. Mike Langseth, center, and Brian Jodock, right, receive appreciation plaques from NDSC Past Chairman Austin Langley.

The NDSC is grateful for their willingness to serve North

Dakota's soybean producers, and the NDSC thanks their families

for supporting them. Thank you, Austin, Mike and Brian!

—Story and photos by staff

Thank you, Jay!

After many years representing soybean farmers statewide and nationally, Jay Myers of Colfax completed his final term on the United Soybean Board in March.

In the early 2000s, Myers served on the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association board. In 2012, Myers was appointed by the U.S. secretary of agriculture to represent North Dakota soybean farmers on the United Soybean Board (USB).

In June, NDSC Past Chairman Austin Langley, left, recognized Myers, right, for many years of dedication, hard work and service.

—Story and photo by staff



Asian Soybean North Dakota for



North Dakota hosted company leaders from eight Asian countries for soy procurement training at the Northern Crops Institute (NCI). This group was the first international delegation to meet in-person at NCI since

the beginning of the pandemic. The participants were from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam, and they use food-grade soy for tofu and soymilk production in their home countries. The World Initiative for Soy

in Human Health (WISHH) and the Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance (SSGA) recruited individuals to attend by utilizing funds from the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC).

The participants had the opportunity to work with WISHH

to attend virtual trainings about identity-preserved soybeans, provided by SSGA, prior to coming to the United States. This process is beneficial for the program because the instruction ensures that all attendees have the same base-level knowledge prior to



To celebrate the completion of their training, the group enjoyed a “graduation dinner” in Fargo with North Dakota guests, including NDSC staff members and several North Dakota food-grade soybean suppliers.

Trade Team Hosted in Food-Grade Soy Training



coming to the U.S.; this is a good example of cooperation between soy partners, using both virtual and in-person communication, to improve overall program success. Adam Redmann, NDSC and WISHH director, says, “U.S. soybean growers welcome these valued customers who have continued to work with WISHH and NCI in virtual training sessions during the pandemic. It is great to host face-to-face trainings again and show them the benefits of using quality, U.S.

food-grade soybeans.”

After traveling over 7,000 miles, the group covered a variety of topics related to food-grade soybean production in the region. The information included a trading overview from Dr. Frayne Olson, North Dakota soybean production synopsis from Dr. Hans Kandel and tours of local specialty soybean processing facilities. The group also enjoyed a local soybean farm tour and had the opportunity to meet with local food-grade soybean companies to ask specific

The size of the equipment and the fields in North Dakota is often shocking and impressive to buyers who have not had previous firsthand experience with U.S. farming.

Checkoff
Investment



procurement questions and to learn about buying strategies.

Container-shipping issues are a major topic in the food-grade soybean industry and have been for some time. During the pandemic, these shipping headaches worsened due to supply chain shifts. Participants focused on understanding container-freight transportation and recent challenges, and people engaged with a local supplier for a question-and-answer session to address individual concerns.

Although North Dakota was an important first stop for this group due to the state’s significant food-grade soy industry, the group concluded its tour in Minnesota, meeting with container-export companies and touring an inter-modal rail loading facility. The Midwest food-grade soybean tour ended with an event highlighting the “Fork to Farm” path which food-grade soybeans take, including a hands-on tofu-production demonstration.

“Having the opportunity to meet our customer(s) face-to-face

and show them where their food is grown is crucial to maintaining export markets,” says NDSC Director of Market Development Jena Bjertness. “Events and trainings like these allow buyers to connect faces to their food production, which strengthens bonds with our trading partners. We also have the opportunity to uniquely highlight the benefits of Midwest-grown U.S. soy.”

The team was in the Midwest from June 6-11, and communication with buyers has continued through WISHH and SSGA since the program’s conclusion. The experiences and training which these buyers received will ensure that U.S. soy is front-of-mind for the participants’ future procurement strategies.

To learn more about WISHH, visit wishh.org. To learn more about the SSGA, please visit soyagrainsalliance.org. To learn more about the NCI, please visit northern-crops.com.

—Story courtesy of WISHH and staff, photos courtesy of NCI



Farm tours are often soy buyers’ first look at where the food originates. Brian Sorenson, program manager at NCI, explains North Dakota farming techniques to the international buyers.



Alan Pook (pictured second from left), director of WISHH’s Asia Division, was instrumental in recruiting buyers from Cambodia and Myanmar to attend the training.



Prepping for a Potential Late Harvest



Farmers across North Dakota wrestled with challenging weather conditions this spring, which meant that some growers' soybean planting window stayed open much longer than normal. Later planting could mean a later soybean harvest, which worries some growers and farm organizations.

If farmers face a condensed and later harvest season, there could be added pressure on the transportation system to make sure that the flow of soybeans from the farm to market goes smoothly. One of the key components for moving soybeans from North Dakota is rail.

Stuart Letcher, executive vice president of the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association, doesn't foresee major transportation issues affecting farmers this fall.

"I don't think a delay in harvest will translate into rail delays unless it becomes a weather issue for the railroads," Letcher says. "It may actually give them more time to

resolve current rail delay issues."

Timely movement of soybeans is a big deal in North Dakota because about 94% of the crop currently leaves the state, with about 70% bound for export markets through the Pacific Northwest. Tie-ups along the system can have a ripple effect going all the way back to the farm.

Planning Ahead

Matthew Jensen, ag development manager for BNSF Railway, states that the peak ag-shipping season in North Dakota coincides with harvest. Shipping, specifically of soybeans, largely begins in September and ends after February. About 90% of the soybeans that BNSF handles are bound for export markets through the Pacific Northwest. Jensen describes how BNSF railroad plans for a smooth fall harvest by being prepared.

"While late planting often means a later harvest, we don't anticipate this affecting our ability to ship the grain, but we keep frequent, direct interactions between

our people and our customers for vital information sharing that helps us to better prepare and adjust," Jensen explains.

Jensen says that, prior to harvest, BNSF prepositions locomotives to key field locations in the north in order to allow for quick deployment. BNSF has also adjusted the mechanical process for storing locomotives to help reduce the time it takes to bring a locomotive into service. Jensen states that BNSF has upgraded the braking system on over 9,000 rail cars and will stage over 10,000 cars at strategic locations to prepare for the harvest. All mainline maintenance projects will be completed before harvest, so they don't cause disruptions during the busy time.

Logistics are vital to smooth operations, but so, too, are the human resources necessary to keep the systems operational.

"I see the biggest potential challenge being manpower," Letcher explains. "All of the Class I railroads are short on labor

and are currently hiring, but it is a slow process, and the labor market is tight."

Jensen describes how BNSF plans to call back all furloughed crews prior to harvest, and the railway has added 100 additional crew van drivers to position train crew members.

"Additionally, this year, BNSF plans to hire 3,000 employees across our Transportation, Engineering, and Mechanical departments," Jensen says. "To meet these goals, we're offering hiring incentives to new employees, a referral bonus to current BNSF employees, and we've streamlined our application process to on-board employees more efficiently."

Jensen explains that BNSF has hired over 1,400 new employees thus far in 2022, with more than 800 people coming on board since April. More than 1,700 of the 3,000 new employees will be additional train, yard and engine (TY&E) employees. According to Jensen, more than 650 new TY&E

employees have either been hired or have completed training, and about 300 more employees are expected to complete training in the next 90 days.

"We have also added more than 700 new employees in our Engineering, Mechanical and Dispatch departments in 2022," Jensen adds.

Because crop production in North Dakota has increased, Jensen says that BNSF has made a substantial infrastructure investment over the last five years in the railroad's Northern Corridor, which stretches from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest. He describes how BNSF investments have totaled more than \$4.1 bil-

lion in order to increase safety and to enhance product flow.

Investments include over 200 miles of centralized traffic control; about 30 miles of double track; about 31,000 miles of track surfacing; over 1,400 miles of replacement rail; and over 6.2 million railroad ties. Jensen states that BNSF is also continuing the construction of a second main-line bridge that spans Lake Pend Oreille at Sandpoint, Idaho.

Communication

As the growing season progresses, farmers and people involved with the entire soy value chain will have a better idea about when the harvest is likely to begin

and when the shipping demand will be at its peak. Letcher recommends that, as harvest approaches and gets underway, farmers should stay connected to their local grain elevators to stay abreast of current conditions.

"Be in contact with your local elevator and get information on any rail delays; be flexible and able to store grain on the farm, as well as being ready to haul when needed is probably the best preparation," Letcher explains.

Whether the soybean harvest gets underway later than normal remains to be seen. However, Jensen says that BNSF is prepared to handle the increased soybean flow regardless of the timing.

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"Our challenge is to position our assets to effectively address changes to the market and crop yield in order to transport the presented commodity to its desired destination," Jensen states. "Through constant communication with our customers, we have successfully navigated these changes for many years, and we expect to continue that success this year. When the crops come off the fields this fall, BNSF plans to be prepared to have rail cars available to ship."

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photo by Wanbaugh Studios

North Dakota Farmer Elected as the Secretary/ Treasurer of a Regional Soybean Organization: Spiekermeier to Serve as the Northern Soy Marketing Officer

Dan Spiekermeier, a farmer from Sheldon, North Dakota, and a North Dakota Soybean Council director, was elected as the secretary/treasurer of Northern Soy Marketing (NSM) when the board met June 24 to discuss plans for fiscal year 23 (FY23).

NSM, a coalition of soybean checkoff boards comprised of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, met to set the direction for FY23 and to hold board elections.

"In a sea of messages, it is important for us to make the parts of the world seeking protein for animal and human use aware of the high-quality soybeans we have to offer," Spiekermeier said. "I think it is equally as important we remember to promote the U.S. farmer and the care and consideration that goes into producing high-quality crops."

Patrick O'Leary, a farmer from Benson, Minnesota, as well as a Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council director, was tabbed to chair NSM. South Dakota Soybean Checkoff director Mike McCranie from Claremont, South Dakota, was elected as the

vice chair for a second year.

"NSM looks forward to promoting high-quality, northern-grown soybeans to our customers," O'Leary stated

—Story and photo courtesy of
Northern Soy Marketing

To learn more about NSM,
visit soyquality.com or
bit.ly/NSMsoyquality



From left to right: Mike McCranie, South Dakota; Patrick O'Leary, Minnesota; and Dan Spiekermeier, North Dakota.

SCAGLIA: NEW NDSU ANIMAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT HEAD

Checkoff
Investment



Dr. Guillermo Scaglia has been selected to lead North Dakota State University's (NDSU) Department of Animal Sciences. Scaglia comes to NDSU from the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, where he was a professor at the Iberia Research Station.

Scaglia earned a bachelor's degree in crops and livestock production from the Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay, in 1989. He continued his education at Texas A&M, where he earned a master's degree in animal science in 1994 and a Ph.D. in nutrition in 2002.

Scaglia says that he was interested in the position because he was already aware of some research that NDSU faculty members were conducting. "Once I came for the interview, it was not only that work, but also the huge opportunities for growing in research infrastructure, collaboration with research and extension centers, and development of working

relationships with stakeholders," Scaglia explains, "not to mention the charm and nice environment that NDSU possesses."

"We're really excited for Dr. Scaglia to join our leadership team here, and certainly his background in beef cattle production is going to be valuable to the state," states Dr. Greg Lardy, NDSU vice president for agricultural affairs. "He comes to us from Louisiana State University, and did a lot of research there on grazing management and grazing systems in his native of Uruguay. He understands livestock production systems from a global perspective. I think his set of leadership skills are going to lend themselves well to managing and leading our Department of Animal Sciences and engaging with producers across the state."

Scaglia expounds that his primary functions are in administration, including the management of budgets and personnel. He's also working to increase the visibility of the animal sciences department, networking with commodity

groups and other stakeholders, and promoting the development of research/extension teams on and off campus.

"First, I want to learn about their work and needs," Scaglia explains. "Next, establish or develop a plan of action to address these needs to the best of our possibilities as well as to coordinate outreach efforts that would benefit our ag industries."

Scaglia says that he was amazed to learn how many different agricultural products are available in the state for livestock feeding. With soybean processing plants under construction and in the planning stages, Scaglia sees that as a tremendous asset for the state.

"The key is collaborating among crop and livestock industries for the development of North Dakota," Scaglia asserts.

Lardy describes how Scaglia's arrival fits nicely with NDSU's initiative to help grow the state's livestock industry.

"If you compare North Dakota to our neighboring states, the



Dr. Guillermo Scaglia comes to NDSU from Louisiana State University.

percentage of gross ag receipts that we get from livestock production relative to crops here is about 15% to 16% of our gross ag product," Lardy states. "When you look at Minnesota, South Dakota or Montana, it's much closer to 40%, 60% or (a) 50-50 ratio even in terms of receipts from livestock versus crops. We know that, with the soybean and corn acres that we have in the state, there are definitely opportunities for more livestock production here, and that's one of the things that we want is for our state to enjoy a more diverse agricultural economy, including more livestock production."

Scaglia will take part in numerous field days and producer meetings across the state. Lardy encourages soybean producers to connect with Scaglia when the opportunity arises.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photos courtesy of NDSU
and Stacy Wang, NDSU

To learn more about NDSU's Department of Animal Sciences, please visit bit.ly/NDSUanimalsciences



During Carrington's NDSU REC Field Day on July 19, Dr. Scaglia introduces himself to ranchers and farmers.

Keeping Kids Safe **ON THE FARM**

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Investment



Agriculture is a unique occupation in many ways, including the fact that farm kids often work with the family operation at a very young age.

"If you think about it, the only worksite or job site that youth are allowed to be on is on a farm or a ranch," says North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Farm and Ranch Safety Coordinator Angie Johnson. "Kids aren't allowed on a construction site; they're not allowed to go with their parent who may be a nurse at the hospital. Kids aren't allowed to be at those different work sites, but for farming and ranching they are."

This spring, Johnson and NDSU Extension staff held two youth tractor-safety camps to help teens aged 14 and 15 learn the basics of safe tractor and machinery operation, general farm hazards, how to use personal protective equipment, and basic first-aid and first-response procedures. That knowledge is important to have, but it's also required if kids are going to work on other farms. Under the Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture, federal law requires that youth under the age of 16 receive certification of training prior to employment on farms operated by anyone other than a parent or guardian.

Communication, Boundaries and Expectations

Safety is critical whether kids plan to work for other farmers or to contribute to their own family's operation. Johnson states that familiarity with equipment is important, but so, too, is communication. Completely understanding what parents or guardians want youth to do plays a role in farm safety.

"How do we ask for help? That's really hard for young teenagers, especially when their

employer is essentially their parents," Johnson explains. "It's embarrassing to have to ask for help. You know, Dad showed me how to do this, but gosh, I can't remember. I don't want to make him upset by asking again, so by not asking that question again, that's when accidents happen."

Establishing boundaries is a key factor with farm safety for kids, especially younger children. Because entire farmsteads can be work sites, establishing areas where children know it's safe to play can reduce the risk of accidents and injuries.

Johnson asserts that tempering expectations of what kids can do on the farm can't be overlooked. She stresses the importance of matching the child's physical, mental and emotional ability with a farm task.

"If you've got a child who is 15 years old, maybe they're not physically ready to do that task. Maybe they don't have the muscle strength or the stamina to do that task," Johnson says. "So, it's key to make sure that you are very intentional about finding an appropriate task that they are physically, mentally, emotionally ready to handle."

Driving a tractor or operating other farm machinery that costs tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars can be an intimidating experience for a young person. Not all of them may be ready for the responsibility.

"Some kids just aren't mentally or emotionally ready to take on that challenge, and that's okay. We want them to be open and honest with their parents or guardians to say, 'Hey, look, I'm not ready to do this, and I want to help, but can we find something else that I feel more comfortable doing,'" Johnson explains.

Johnson stresses that, while farm youth who participate in the NDSU camps get immersed in safety considerations, those mes-

sages need to be reinforced at the home farm.

"We need parents and guardians to support the concepts we're teaching," Johnson states. "We need their help to enforce, to be role models and to take ownership in safety on their operation."

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photos
courtesy of NDSU Extension

For more information about farm and ranch safety, visit the NDSU website at bit.ly/NDSUfarmsafety



NDSU Extension held farm safety camps in Fargo and Washburn.



Farm safety camps are designed to familiarize teens with the most common farm safety hazards.



Camp activities included operating farm equipment of various sizes.



SETTING FARM BILL PRIORITIES

The farm bill is arguably the most important piece of legislation for U.S. farmers. The farm bill contains 12 titles, covering issues such as conservation, commodities, nutrition, energy and crop insurance, all of which affect farmers. Because of the bill's far-reaching influence, it stands to reason that farm organizations and grower groups spend substantial time and energy formulating

positions about the issues covered in the bill.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) has undertaken a rigorous process to gather input from soybean farmers across the country in order to establish priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill. The ASA has 26 affiliate organizations that represent more than 500,000 soybean farmers from 30 states.

ASA Executive Director for Government Affairs Christy

Seyfert says that the organization began its internal farm bill review last fall.

"We didn't want to just get feedback. We wanted to make sure everyone had the full scope and appreciation for what the farm bill actually includes and covers," Seyfert states. "Last September, our advocacy teams went through a series of educational sessions, and then, we initiated a survey of ASA, and that was pushed out broadly across the country."

Seyfert describes how the ASA leadership then moved into a phase of gathering feedback through listening sessions. The ASA conducted five listening sessions with the ASA board and the state soybean affiliates' boards of directors in January.

"We looked at the farm bill by topic, and that was very informative about needs and concerns across farm country," Seyfert explains. "Another series of listening sessions was held in February—seven sessions by region—and those were opened to soybean farmers broadly. The 12 total sessions combined with the survey were helpful in grassroots development of our farm bill priorities."

Farmer Voices

Kulm, North Dakota, farmer and ASA director Josh Gackle took part in many of the farm bill meetings and discussions.

"The feedback and the input from farmers were extremely valuable, and especially from those growers who may not be regularly engaged with ASA, but they participated in this process," Gackle asserts. "It's good to hear different voices and different viewpoints, opinions and priorities from growers from different regions. That was really important because we're obviously advocating for national policy, but it's different whether you farm in North Dakota or Arkansas. Getting that broad perspective was very helpful in putting together our priorities."

Fellow North Dakota ASA Director Monte Peterson was also pleased with the process of gathering input.

"It was all encompassing across the entire soy family," Peterson says. "Perspectives are different across the country, but it was still easy to reach consensus. I was very happy with the process."

Through the meetings and opportunities for feedback, the



Kulm farmer Josh Gackle serves on the American Soybean Association Executive Committee and participated in several sessions seeking farm bill input.

ASA compiled its list of priority issues for the upcoming farm bill negotiations:

- Improving the Title I farm safety net for soybeans
- Continuing the voluntary, incentive-based, flexible approach for conservation programs
- Investing in the global promotion of U.S. commodities
- Building biobased and biofuel opportunities
- Ensuring that broadband coverage is accessible throughout rural America

Seeking Improvement

Many farm organizations viewed the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 as a largely positive bill for agriculture. However, as the process of writing the 2023 Farm Bill commences, Seyfert contends that there are areas where soybean farmers would like to see improvement.

“We heard loud and clear that it’s important for farmers to maintain access to crop insurance in the next farm bill. We also heard that, with respect to the farm safety net programs of Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), there are real gaps that need to be addressed,” Seyfert explains.



ASA Executive Director for Government Affairs Christy Seyfert says the organization sought broad input to establish 2023 farm bill priorities.

Seyfert describes how the soybean reference price is significantly low compared to where market prices are today. ASA leaders also recognize the need for farmers to be presented with an option to update base acres, upon which ARC and PLC benefits are determined.

“We want to see a combination

of those two: an option to update base acres and an increase in the soy reference price,” Seyfert states. “I would say in all of our farm bill listening sessions and our survey, comments were all very consistent in the need to improve the farm safety net for soybeans.”

Budget Constraints

While the ASA and other constituents affected by the farm bill’s contents have their lists of priority issues, there are likely to be constraints that have to be overcome. Among them are budgetary concerns.

Seyfert acknowledges that the current economic picture will influence how much can be done with the farm bill. In addition to adjusting the farm safety net, the ASA is also calling for a doubling of trade promotion programs.

“All of that takes money,” Seyfert says. “We can reasonably expect every farm bill constituency will have needs for increased resources in various titles.”

Peterson explains that, while each agriculture organization

may have its own specific needs and wants, collectively addressing common concerns will be needed to get favorable legislation.

“Those of us in ag understand that we are a small population group,” Peterson asserts. “Agriculture needs to speak with one voice to get things done legislatively.”

Seyfert expects that farm bill oversight hearings will continue throughout 2022. Once the new Congress is sworn in, committee assignments will be made in January.

“At that point, we’ll see who is chairing the committees and who is serving on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Those will be the committees that have the first opportunity to draft the legislative text of the next farm bill next year,” Seyfert states.

The process of crafting comprehensive legislation, such as the farm bill, can be arduous, so, too, is the process of gathering feedback from farmers to help set organizational priorities.

Even though ASA staff members and farmer leaders spent many months obtaining input from growers, Seyfert says that it was important for the organization to have a transparent and inclusive process which gave farmers a voice.

“We really appreciate the opportunity to represent soybean farmers, and we do our best to make a difference for them,” Seyfert says. “They have been integrally involved in this process so far, and I have no doubt they will help us carry the message to Capitol Hill at the right time as well.”

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photos courtesy of ASA

To learn more about the ASA’s farm bill priorities, visit bit.ly/ASA-2023FarmBillPriorities



Valley City farmer and ASA director Monte Peterson says since agriculture represents a relatively small population group, establishing consensus on issues is important.




unitedsoybean.org

MAINTAINING OUR REPUTATION TO DELIVER

Whether shipping by river, road or rail, the soy checkoff is committed to ensuring America's infrastructure is a significant advantage for U.S. soybean farmers. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at unitedsoybean.org



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Team PBK Seed Sales, this year's NDSGA Jamestown Golf Tournament Winners



Fore! the Fun of it



Thank you for making the 9th annual Jamestown golf tournament successful! The tournament is a way for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) to say thank you to members and supporters. Your membership dues and sponsorship of NDSGA events help to provide the necessary funds to continue policy and advocacy work in Bismarck and in Washington, D.C. We're proud of our past successes and are continually working to make things better for soybean growers throughout North Dakota.

Congratulations to our Jamestown tournament winners:

First Place: Team PBK Seed Sales: Randy Blaskowski, Nick Blaskowski, Jacobi Lux and Weston Readel.

Second Place: Team Ellingson Companies: Corey Haag, Jeff Schroeder, Jordan Kautzman and Don Kautzman.

Third Place: Team Country Grain Cooperative: Thomas Readel, Lucas Torgerson, Myles Torgerson and Nick Smart.

Congratulations to the Jamestown contest winners:

Closest to Pin #4: Jed Truax

Longest Drive #6: Andrew Geggelman

Longest Putt #9: Gannon Van Gilder

Closest to Pin #12: Joe Ericson

Longest Putt #16: Ken Daus

Longest Drive #17: Jordan Kautzman

Thank you to our Jamestown golf tournament sponsors:

Hole Sponsors: Advance Trading, Inc.; AgCountry Farm Credit Services; BASF; Butler Machinery Co., Central Sales, Inc.; Centrol, Inc.; Clean Fuels Alliance America; Green Bison Soy Processing, LLC; Innovative Agronomy; MEG Corp. Biodiesel; Mustang Seeds; Midwest Seed Genetics; NK; North Dakota Soybean Council; Nutrien Ag Solutions; Proseed; Visjon Biologics

Lunch Sponsor: MEG Corp.

Dinner Sponsor: BNSF Railway

Signs: D-S Beverages

Golf Balls: Asgrow

For more photos of the tournament, check out facebook.com/NorthDakotaSoybeanGrowersAssociation

Two NDSGA tournaments are scheduled for 2023. The first tournament will be at the Jamestown County Club July 25, 2023. More information is available at ndsoygrowers.com/events.

—Story and photos by staff

Young Leader a Willing Learner

Courtenay, North Dakota, farmer Dustin Helmick knew long ago that farming was his future.

“Grandpa asked me back when I was 12 or 13 years old if I’d ever be interested in taking over his farm,” Helmick recalls. “I said, absolutely, so that’s kind of what I’ve been doing my whole life now.”

Helmick attended North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton. He began gradually taking over the farm in 2018 and expects to have the process completed by 2024. He raises corn, soybeans and some pinto beans. Helmick, who got married last October, lives with his wife on the farm where his great grandparents raised his grandfather.

Helmick was the 2022 North Dakota representative for the American Soybean Association’s (ASA) Corteva Agriscience Young Leader program. The Young Leader program was founded in 1984 to identify and train new, innovative and engaged growers to serve as the voice of the American farmer. Participants commit to attend two training sessions.

The Young Leader program not only enhances participants’ skills through leadership, communication and issues-based training, but it also builds a strong peer network, generating increased success in the attendees’ businesses and communities.

Helmick says that he wasn’t familiar with the program, but a neighbor who is on the North Dakota Soybean Council encouraged him to take a look. Helmick checked the program information online, watched testimonials from past participants and felt compelled to apply.

“I just thought it would be a good opportunity to, maybe, go meet some other people, see some other people’s operations in different regions,” Helmick states.

Helmick applied and was accepted to the Young Leader program. He describes how he learned a lot about the industry and about sharing his voice.

“It was good to listen to some of the people that had been very involved in these boards for years and to understand how global our soybeans markets are,” Helmick says. “Before I did the Young

Leader program, I was one of those guys who just checked the markets every day to see what the price was. I didn’t have the thought process that I do now.”

Helmick says that he also learned about interacting with people who may have questions about why farmers do what they do.

“People are going to ask you questions about things that, before this program, I had no idea were even really topics of concern. We learned how to address them and how to handle those questions,” Helmick explains. “We got some really good information on how to be a good representative for your fellow farmers.”

As the current Young Leader, Helmick participates as a member of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA).

“I’m really looking forward to serving my time on the NDSGA board trying to do my part. A lot of farmers just want to do their own thing, which I don’t blame them for that at all, but there has to be somebody that is willing to be a voice for everybody.”

The Young Leader program took participants to training sessions in Johnston, Iowa, and to the Commodity Classic, which was held in New Orleans in 2022. Participation was a commitment, one that Helmick was more than happy to make.

“I don’t regret any of it. I loved every minute of it. I would 100% recommend this program to anybody who’s interested, for sure.”

—Story and photo by Daniel Lemke



Dustin Helmick was selected as North Dakota’s ASA Corteva Young Leader and is an enthusiastic advocate for the program.

To learn more about the ASA’s Corteva Agriscience Young Leader program, visit bit.ly/CortevaAgriscienceYoungLeader22



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

Getting to Know the Grower



Dallas Loff
Wahpeton, North Dakota

Tell us about your farm.

Our fifth-generation family farm is located south of Colfax, North Dakota, and we raise soybeans, corn and sugarbeets. I farm with my dad, Doug, and my brother, Grant.

What do you like best about farming?

Every day is a little different than the previous and different than the next. There's a lot of freedom in farming, but certainly challenging at times, too. All of that is a good recipe for excitement.

Did you always know that farming was something you wanted to do?

Yes, at an early age, I knew I wanted to farm because I looked up to my dad, grandpa and uncle. I started in the tractor when I was probably 10-11 years old and began driving the combine at 12 years old. I went to college at NDSU (North Dakota State University) for agriculture and received a crop and weed sciences degree.

What's most exciting about this growing season?

It will be interesting to see how decent of a crop we'll hopefully make with the adversities that we've faced: too wet, too late, too dry.

How and why did you get involved with the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC)?

My friend Scott Gauslow called and asked me to consider running. Since I had participated in the See for Yourself program to the Pacific Northwest in 2013 with the North Dakota Soybean Council, I had

been observing their programs and activities for a number of years. I was interested in the serving on the board, and I decided to run.

Why are soybeans part of your crop mix?

Soybeans are pretty versatile in our rotations and still provide a profit at the same time.

If you could change something about the current operating climate for North Dakota farmers, what would it be?

It would be great if there was more opportunity (market access) for North Dakota farmers with additional crush plants.

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

Technology has now certainly been integrated in all aspects of our farm. The marketing climate seems to be much more volatile than when I started farming.

What changes do you expect to see on your farm in the next 5 to 10 years?

I would expect, with the help of technology, to be more efficient when it comes to our agriculture practices, financially and agronomically.

What do you like to do outside farming?

My family and I enjoy going to the lakes in the summer. My oldest daughter and I enjoy hunting together. My daughters are pretty busy with basketball, so we like to watch their games in the winter.

If you could go anywhere, where would it be?

My wife and I were lucky enough to visit Denmark a few years back, and I would really like to see more of Europe someday.

What's the one piece of farm equipment or technology you wouldn't want to be without?

The scraper. In my opinion, it's the cheapest piece of equipment on the farm that can potentially return the most value.

—Story and photo by staff

Bean Briefs

ASA Lauds New Biobased Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced available funding for the Bioproduct Pilot Program, which was established through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The pilot program, which was a priority for the American Soybean Association, will provide \$10 million over two years to study the benefits of biobased products for construction materials and consumer products.

Dave Walton, an Iowa farmer, American Soybean Association (ASA) director and the chair of ASA's Biofuels and Infrastructure Committee, said, "The Bioproduct

Pilot Program will provide a great opportunity to expand upon what we in the soy family have been doing for years: creating plant-based, sustainable construction materials and consumer goods using U.S.-grown soy."

The Bioproduct Pilot Program is administered through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and more information can be found at nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/bioproduct-pilot-program

ASA Seeking Nominations for Annual Soy Recognition Awards

The American Soybean Association (ASA) wants to recognize

exceptional soy volunteers and leaders. During the 2023 Commodity Classic, individuals will be recognized and honored for state association volunteerism; distinguished leadership achievements; and long-term, significant contributions to the soybean industry. The nomination period is open through October 24, 2022.

The award categories are:

- **Outstanding State Volunteer Award:** This award recognizes the dedication and contributions of individuals who have given at least three years of volunteer service in any area of a state soybean association's operation.
- **ASA Distinguished Leadership**

Award: This honor is for distinguished and visionary leadership of the ASA or a state soybean association; this award is given to either a soybean grower-leader or association staff leader with at least five years of leadership service.

- **ASA Pinnacle Award:** This award is an industry-wide recognition of those individuals who have demonstrated the highest level of contribution and lifetime leadership within the soybean family and industry.

More information about the awards and the nomination forms can be found at soygrowers.com/about/awards/asa-recognition-awards/

Getting to Know the Expert



Dr. Michael Ostlie
Director, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Carrington
Research Extension Center

Where did you grow up?

I grew up near Northwood, North Dakota.

Tell us about your education.

I attended NDSU for my bachelor's and master's degrees, and Colorado State University for my Ph.D.

What led you to take the career path that you chose?

I knew I wanted to be involved in agriculture, but I was never sure where it would take me. But one decision at a time led me into ag research and now into my role as an agronomist with NDSU.

What led you to NDSU?

I've always admired the way that NDSU addresses real-world problems. While growing up, my involvement in 4-H, FFA and on the farm, it was clear that NDSU was making an impact in our state. I was excited to have the opportunity to be a part of that.

What has been the focus of your research?

My research has been very diverse. Weed management and variety selection has been the things I've spent the most time with, but I have also been involved with many projects related to cover crops, precision agriculture and specialty inputs.

You were recently promoted to director of the Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC). What does that entail?

My new role at CREC has ensured that I will continue learning. CREC has crops research,

livestock research and Foundation Seedstocks. Each aspect is unique both in the impact they have to our surrounding areas as well as in the way they operate. This will keep me on my toes for a while!

What is the best part of your work?

Easily the best part of my job has always been when visiting with producers and having frank discussions about practices and, especially, when these lead to new ideas and on-farm experimentation with concepts. This goes both ways. Many times, on-farm experimentation has also led to testing concepts in our research plots!

What are some of your interests outside work?

My wife, Lindsay, and I have three kids that keep us pretty busy most days. We also have a small-scale farm with fruit, vegetables and chickens.

—Story and photo by staff

All nominations must be received online by October 24, 2022. A judging committee will make final selections. The awards will be presented at the 2023 Commodity Classic, March 9-11, in Orlando, Florida.

ASA Now Accepting Applications for the Conservation Legacy Awards

Share the story of how conservation is part of your farm operation, and you could be recognized with an American Soybean Association (ASA) Conservation Legacy Award. This honor recognizes U.S. soybean growers' farm-management practices that are both environment friendly and profitable.

Cover crops, reduced tillage and water-quality improvement techniques are just a few conservation

practices which are used on some farms today that can help produce sustainable U.S. soybeans. Different regions of the country have their own unique challenges and ways to approach conservation and sustainability. The ASA wants to hear your farm's conservation story!

All U.S. soybean farmers can enter to win a Conservation Legacy Award. The entries are judged on soil management, water management, input management, conservation, environmental management and sustainability.

The selection process for these awards is divided into four regions: Midwest, Upper Midwest, Northeast and South. One farmer from each region will be recognized at the 2023 Commodity Classic in Orlando, Florida, and one person will be named the National Con-

servation Legacy Award recipient.

More information about past winners and how to submit an application is available in the "About" section under "Awards" on the ASA website: soygrowers.com

All applications must be submitted by August 15, 2022.

National Ag Associations Urge the SEC to Exempt Ag from a Proposed Rule

A coalition of 10 national agricultural organizations, including the American Soybean Association (ASA), submitted comments to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regarding its Proposed Rules on the Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors. The organizations argued that the SEC should exempt agriculture from the

proposed rule because it would be "wildly burdensome and expensive" for farmers, especially small and mid-size growers who couldn't afford the overhead required to comply.

The proposed rules would require a corporation to disclose information about its direct greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, indirect emissions from purchased electricity or other forms of energy, and supply chain emissions. While the proposed rule is aimed at public companies, mandating the disclosure of supply chain emissions would place a burden on growers who supply commodities to public entities.

In addition to an ag exemption, the coalition asked the SEC to increase the liability protections for

—Continued on page 38

—Continued from page 37

emissions data that companies disclose and urged the commission to drop a requirement that companies provide location data for emissions, which could potentially be used to identify individual farms.

EPA Announces Two Endangered Species Act Pilot Projects

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the release of two Endangered Species Act (ESA) pilot projects aimed at improving pesticide program compliance with ESA. The EPA expressed plans to develop these pilot projects as part of its ESA Work Plan that was released in April 2022. The pilot projects take different approaches to develop mitigations for specific pesticides or groups of pesticides as well as to develop protections for species which are identified as uniquely vulnerable.

According to the EPA, the first pilot project—the Federal Mitigation Pilot Project—will help federal agencies and stakeholders gain a common understanding about how to reduce pesticide exposures to listed species by implementing feasible mitigations earlier in the pesticide registration process. With this pilot project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) identified a dozen species, and the EPA selected three pesticides: a herbicide (glyphosate), an insecticide (imidacloprid) and a fungicide (pyraclostrobin). The EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), USFWS and NMFS will develop a proposed list of mitigations for using these three pesticides and will consult with stakeholders in the fall of 2022 once the proposed mitigation list is ready.

The EPA also announced a second pilot project—the Vulnerable Species Pilot Project—aimed at identifying protections for 27

species that were identified by the EPA as high or medium vulnerability. This pilot project's goal is to identify general mitigations to protect these species and their habitats from an entire group of pesticides (e.g., herbicides). The EPA will spearhead the development of the proposed list of protections and will announce when it plans to implement the proposed mitigations.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) has frequently and consistently expressed to the EPA and other implementing agencies that growers must be consulted and given an opportunity to comment on proposed mitigations. Additionally, any developed mitigations must be both flexible and workable for the growers and the farmers' ability to use pesticides. The ASA will continue to emphasize these themes to the regulators as they work to develop the pilot projects.

ASA Among Grower Groups Pressing ITC on UAN

The American Soybean Association (ASA), the National Association of Wheat Growers and the Agricultural Retailers Association submitted a letter to the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) asking for ITC consideration of the grower groups' comments regarding the workings of the fertilizer market and the effects of the ITC's pending decision regarding duties on Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) from Russia as well as Trinidad and Tobago.

Few inputs have exhibited more price inflation than UAN. During a recent public hearing, the ITC heard how the rate of the price increase for UAN is jarringly high due, in large part, to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Those two countries are important crop and energy producers as well as producers of fertilizers and fertilizer input products, including natural gas for UAN. CF Industries, a U.S.

producer of UAN, has stated that prices have been significantly affected by the resulting economic and financial sanctions against Russia as well as the conflict's practical effects on shipping logistics in the region.

The ag groups have asked the ITC to consider how the price pressure experienced by commodity farmers has cascading effects that reverberate through the economy. With the general inflation rate al-

ready at a 40-year high, adding further costs in the form of duties will, in turn, must be passed forward in the supply chain toward consumers and would further compound an already-difficult situation. The groups have asked the commission to take the full context of the data being examined with the ITC's trade case into consideration when making an injury determination.

—Story by staff

NDSGA Officer Elections; Kasey Bitz of LaMoure Re-elected President

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) held officer elections during a recent Board of Directors meeting. NDSGA officers re-elected included President Kasey Bitz of LaMoure, Vice President Ryan Pederson of Rolette, Secretary Greg Gussiaas of Carrington and Treasurer Spencer Endrud of Buxton.

Monte Peterson of Valley City and Josh Gackle of Kulm will continue to serve as the American Soybean Association representatives to provide a voice for North

Dakota soybean producers on national farm policy. Dustin Helmick, Courtney, is the Corteva Agriscience Young Leader on the board of directors.

NDSGA is a statewide, not-for-profit, member-driven organization. It conducts legislative activities in Bismarck, N.D., and Washington, D.C., to improve the sustainable prosperity of its members and the entire soybean industry. The North Dakota organization is one of more than 25 affiliated with the American Soybean Association.



Kasey Bitz, LaMoure, ND



Greg Gussiaas, Carrington, ND

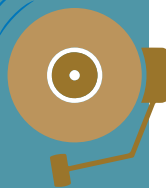


Spencer Endrud, Buxton, ND



Ryan Pederson, Rolette, ND

SCN Coalition: TAKING THE GLOVES OFF



SOYBEAN RESEARCH &
**INFORMATION
NETWORK**

1

**THE MOST DAMAGING
SOYBEAN PATHOGEN
IN THE COUNTRY**

PERSISTENT OPPONENT

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) was first discovered in the U.S. in 1954, spreading from North Carolina to the Midwest and eventually into most soybean production areas. By 1974, it had become the most damaging soybean pathogen in the country. **Today, it remains more damaging than any other disease or pest**, causing about \$1 billion in soybean yield losses annually.

PUTTING SCN ON THE ROPES

With soybean checkoff funding through the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP), the SCN Coalition was created in 1997. The goal was to encourage farmers to "Take the Test. Beat the Pest." Training and education were provided to agronomists and farmers, along with free SCN soil sample processing to test and take control of SCN. University SCN testing labs in 1999 reported **an increase from 11% to 736%** the number of SCN samples submitted.



GOING FOR THE KNOCKOUT

By 2015, the list of SCN-resistant soybean varieties in the Upper Midwest showed nearly 90 percent had PI 88788 as a source of resistance. So, in 2016, a newly focused **SCN Coalition was created to prevent a resistance crisis**. The goal is to increase the number of farmers testing and actively managing for SCN across all soybean states. "Know Your Number" is the new aim for farmers to quantify their problem, decrease SCN populations and increase yield potential.

4



READY FOR THE NEXT ROUND

USB and NCSRP developed a National Soybean Nematode Strategic Plan for 2018-2022, which includes funds for the SCN Coalition to explore additional economically important soybean nematodes like root-knot and reniform nematode. **The expansion addresses the growing need of farmers who manage multiple nematodes and associated diseases**. NCSRP is also funding research into the durability of SCN resistance, breeding to improve resistance, relationships to related soybean diseases, and outlining best management practices.



3

ONE, TWO PUNCH: RESISTANCE AND RESISTANCE TO THE RESISTANCE

Farmers for about two decades were able to manage SCN with genetic resistance found in many soybean varieties: PI 88788. However, using the same resistance source over and over began to lead to soybean yield losses. **Aggressive SCN populations were able to slowly overcome the genetic resistance**. Checkoff funding shifted to finding breeding solutions for SCN resistance.



**13 NCSRP MEMBER STATES REPRESENT MORE
THAN 355,000 SOYBEAN FARMERS**



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The Soybean Research and Information Network (SRIN) is a joint effort of the North Central Soybean Research Program and United Soybean Board. The online resource contains checkoff-funded soybean production challenge research findings with direct links to the respective underlying scientific studies housed in the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database.

Funded by the soybean checkoff.

**NORTH DAKOTA SOYBEAN
GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

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