Summer 2017

Michigan Soybean News©

Volume 9 - Issue 3

From the University of Hawaii to MSU, Welcome Dr. Marisol Quintanilla, Nematologist

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Michigan Soybean News

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MSA
MICHIGAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

Visit the Michigan Soybean Association website at www.misoy.org

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Comments and suggestions can be submitted to:
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Michigan Soybean Association's Mission Statement
To improve and advocate for the Michigan soybean industry.

From Your MSA President...


David Williams

My message in the last issue of *Michigan Soybean News* (MSN) was about the importance of trade to our bottom lines. I encouraged you to contact your representatives in Congress to emphasize this importance. Nothing has changed.

We now know that the Trans Pacific Partnership is not supported by Washington. This is unfortunate because it allows other countries to move in and control the markets we have been selling to. Southeast Asia is a growing market with a preference for U.S. Soy. If we don't move quickly, we could see this market diminish. This could be an unfortunate change.

It also appears that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is going to be renegotiated. NAFTA affects two of our biggest trading partners, Mexico and Canada. Keep in mind that we export over 60% of the soybeans we produce in Michigan. We can't afford to jeopardize these markets.

I had the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill in March along with Laurie Isley, who was a participant in the Leadership at Its Best program which is sponsored by Syngenta, and Matt Stutzman who is an MSA Director and MSA's representative to the ASA Board of Directors. We visited as many Senators and Representatives as we could possibly schedule into one day. We told them how important trade is to all farmers. We also emphasized the importance of passing a Farm Bill during this session of Congress.

We let them know that tax reform could be a good thing for farmers but not at the expense of farmers having to change to an accrual basis of accounting, (instead of a cash basis which most of us use).

Other topics discussed included environmental regulations (WOTUS), biotech and food regulations (GMO labeling), biodiesel (favoring a producers credit over a blenders credit which has been in place for several years), transportation and infrastructure (locks and dams, roadways and waterways).

We need to keep Congress focused by telling them our story. You don't have to go to Capitol Hill – just email them or call their office. Don't give up because you think they're not listening – they are – just turn up the volume.

I hope you were able to get everything planted and everything is good in your part of Michigan.

Regards,
Dave Williams
MSA president

Seeking MSA Director Nominations

See page 4 for more information.

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For a list of member benefits and the member application, see pages 6 and 7.

Visit our website at: www.misoy.org

Seeking MSA Director Nominations

The Michigan Soybean Association (MSA) is seeking nominations for board positions in the following districts:

- District 2 – Calhoun, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham and Jackson
- District 5 – Arenac, Bay, Lapeer, Saginaw and Tuscola
- At-large – any county in the state

In order to appear on the ballot, nominations must be received by October 24, 2017. All elected directors will hold the office for a term of three years. To be eligible for a seat on the board you must be a soybean farmer in the district that you are applying for and a member of the MSA in good standing.

According to the current By-Laws, elections will be held via U.S. Mail. Ballots will be mailed to all members on November 7, 2017, and must be returned to the Michigan Soybean Association office by December 7, 2017.

Election results will be announced at MSA's Annual Meeting which will take place during the Great Lakes Crop Summit on January 31, 2018.

MSA is working on important issues such as trade, transportation and protecting your right to farm. Your service on the board will help Michigan soybean farmers' voices be heard and have a greater impact in Lansing and Washington, D.C.

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the above districts or be placed on the ballot yourself, please contact MSA's executive director, Gail Frahm at gfrahm@michigansoybean.org or 877.769.6424.

Thank you for your dedication to the Michigan soybean industry.

Government Affairs News

By: The Frederick Group

In our last contribution to the *Michigan Soybean News*, we were excited to report that House Bill 4850, the biobased products procurement bill, was signed by the Governor on December 21, 2016, becoming Public Act 376 of 2016. Public Act 376 amends the Management and Budget Act to require the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, all other things being equal, to give preference to biobased products that have the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified biobased label, when making purchases.

Representative Jason Sheppard (R-Temperance) was the primary bill sponsor of Public Act 376 of 2016. He arranged for a ceremonial bill signing with Governor Snyder and invited both Michigan Soybean Association (MSA) and Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC) Directors to be his guests for the event. Farmer directors from both boards were able to pose for a photo with the Governor and Rep. Sheppard. Again, we thank Rep. Sheppard for his relentless dedication on behalf of soybean farmers and the entire biobased products industry.

As we approach the final stages of the state's budget process for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, know that MSA serves as a voice for the Michigan soybean industry and advocates for favorable policies at the state level.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if we can be of service. Do note that the Frederick Group has changed addresses and the new one can be found below:

115 W. Allegan Street, Suite 200
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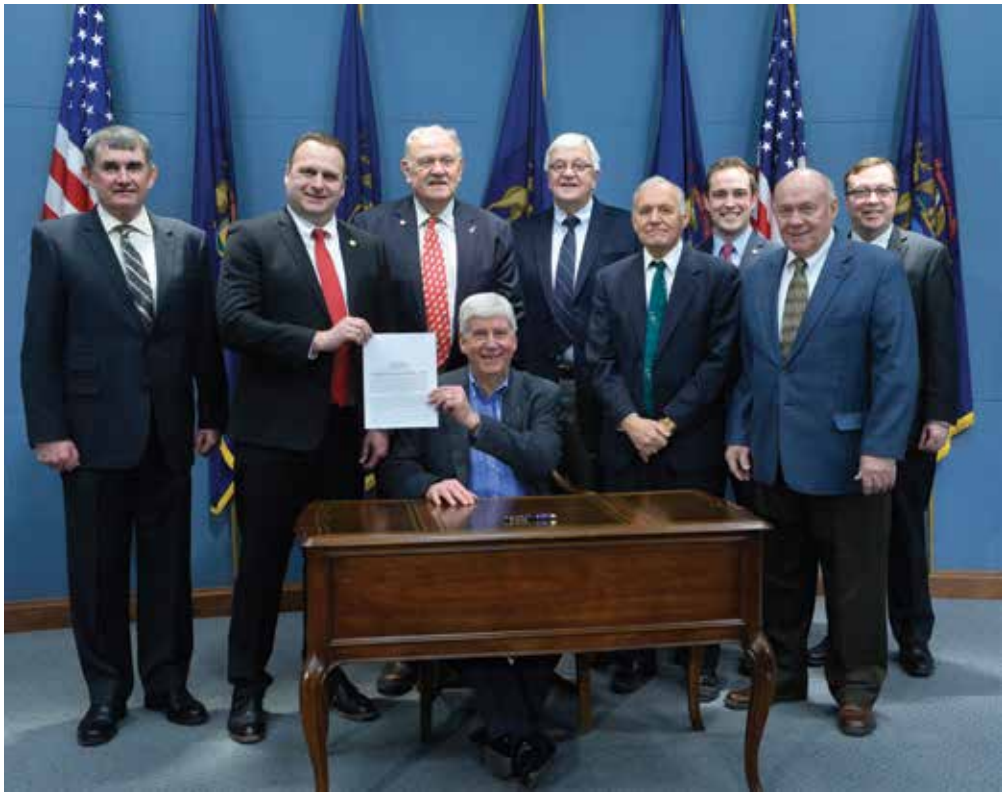


Left to right - back row: Pete Crawford - farmer director from Dansville, Rep. Jason Sheppard, David Williams - farmer director from Elsie, Keith Reinholt, Justin Clement and Michael Frederick - The Frederick Group.
Left to right - front row: Gov. Rick Snyder, Alan Moore - farmer director from Bannister and Bill Spike - farmer director from Owosso.

MEMBER BENEFITS

People making decisions in Lansing and Washington, D.C. are getting further and further away from the farm. In the past, families had someone who was a farmer they could visit, but now generations are far removed and don't have a direct connection. "I've met several legislators that have never set foot on a farm. We as farmers need to be visiting with legislators and representing our land," stated Jay Ferguson, MSA director. "There is a lot of education that needs to occur to our politicians and the public."

Paying the soybean checkoff does not make you a Michigan Soybean Association member. Checkoff dollars cannot be used for lobbying.

NEW LIFETIME LOYALTY MEMBER PROGRAM

As of October 1, 2016, if you have been an MSA member for 15 consecutive years, you will no longer need to pay dues - you have become a LIFETIME LOYALTY MSA MEMBER!

Call the soybean office at 989.652.3294 to check on your membership.

Are you receiving the *MSA eNews*?
Email soyinfo@michigansoybean.org to sign up for this informative membership e-newsletter.

Protect your farm and way of life, join the Michigan Soybean Association today!

Some Membership Benefits:

- *VoterVoice*: an advocacy tool to connect you directly to your legislator
- 5% member discount purchase incentive on all IntelliFarms equipment and free admission to grain school and workshops
- Through Auto-Owners Insurance/Cedar River Insurance Agency, an offer of premium discounts up to 10% on select policies is available
- Scholarship opportunities for your children and grandchildren
- Preferred pricing on the purchase or lease of most new Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicles
- Cabela's gift card purchase discount
- Discounted registration to the Commodity Classic
- A 20% discount on an annual subscription to eLegacyConnect

3-year or Lifetime Memberships:

- $50 certificate good for either Great Lakes Hybrids Roundup Ready® or Genuity™ Roundup Ready 2 Yield® soybean seed **AND** a $50 soybean seed certificate good for Renk Seed
- 2-$25 Soy Biodiesel certificates or 2-$25 Soybean Meal Bucks certificates
- Monsanto BioAg™ is offering three options for use on your soybeans: 50 units of QuickRoots®, 100 units of Optimize® or 100 units of TagTeam® LCO

The MOST IMPORTANT MSA membership benefit: *Having a voice in Lansing and Washington, D.C.!*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name:_____

Last Name:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone:_____

Cell Phone:_____

Email:_____

Payment Amount & Method:

☐ **1-yr: $75** ☐ **3-yr*: $190** ☐ **Lifetime*: $750**

Check (Payable to MSA) or Credit Card

Credit Card Type:_____ Expiration Date:_____

Credit Card #:_____

Signature:_____

Mail application with payment to:

Michigan Soybean Association
PO Box 287, Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes, but may be deductible as a business expense. 18% of member dues are allocated to lobbying activities and are not deductible.

*3-year and Lifetime memberships can choose between receiving either (check one):

☐ 2-$25 Soy Biodiesel Bucks certificates or
☐ 2-$25 Soybean Meal Bucks certificates

Date of Birth:_____

Number of Soybean Acres:_____

Total Farm Acres:_____

Occupation (circle one):

☐ Farmer ☐ Retired ☐ Other

What issues interest you most?
(Check all that apply)

☐ Biodiesel/Biobased Products
☐ Farm Bill
☐ Transportation Infrastructure
☐ Trade Agreements
☐ Conservation
☐ Soybean Rust
☐ Biotechnology
☐ Freedom to Operate
☐ International Marketing
☐ Soy and Nutrition
☐ Other:_____

MSU's New Applied Nematologist

By: Sonja Lapak, Communication Director

As a young girl growing up in Chile, Dr. Marisol Quintanilla was always more interested in the world around her then she was in typical children's hobbies. From an early age Marisol was fascinated by bugs, soil and plants. While her peers took time to play sports and play with dolls, Marisol spent most of her time outdoors on her family's farm.

Her family farms about 300 hectares in Chile, which is equivalent to about 750 U.S. acres. Their major crop is table grapes for export and her family also grows some row crops and vegetables for local markets in Chile. The grapes grown on her family's farm are exported to the United States and Europe. Her mother handled the export side of the farm and often took Marisol with her on trips to a port in Philadelphia, as well as to wholesale fruit markets. Marisol would spend part of each year in the U.S. and part in Chile, so Marisol spent part of high school in Philadelphia and part in Chile, and finally, to reduce the amount of switching schools, she and her siblings were sent to a vocational boarding school that placed a strong emphasis on agriculture and practical work in Arkansas. This agriculture academy had a great impact on her, as that is where she was first exposed to agriculture science, soil health, soil science and many other topics.

After high school, Marisol studied agriculture engineering at a university in Chile, but ended up finishing her undergraduate degree in agriculture at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. From there, Marisol moved into a graduate assistantship at Michigan State University. Agriculture and biology were key interests of hers, so studying something in that field was a natural fit. Marisol earned her Master's and Ph.D. at MSU and studied entomology and nematology with Dr. George Bird. Her graduate research was conducted in a corn/soy/wheat rotation at Kellogg Biological Station in Battle Creek.

After earning her Ph.D., Marisol worked as an entomologist and nematologist in the Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean. From there, she transitioned into a similar role working with insects and nematodes at the University of Hawaii.

When the new applied nematologist position opened up at MSU, Marisol thought the role might be a great fit. She had fond memories of her time as a student in Michigan, and liked that the position would allow her to work solely with nematodes. She was also drawn to the opportunities for collaboration that were available at MSU, and was excited to join a group of faculty that are highly regarded and work well as a team.

In her new role, she is looking forward to working to meet the needs of the industries she will be working with. She will be working with a variety of crops including soybeans, corn, sugarbeets, potatoes, vegetables, fruit crops and ornamentals. She is excited about the agricultural diversity of Michigan and the possibilities for her to have an impact.

When it comes to soybeans, Marisol, along with other experts in the field, believe that soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is the biggest yield robber of the crop. It is serious, hard to manage and is often overlooked as it doesn't show characteristic visible symptoms above ground. Rather, SCN symptoms are often mistaken for things like nutrient deficiency or water stress.

This summer Marisol plans to conduct on-farm research on two mid-Michigan farms. In Shiawassee County, she plans to look at the effect of chicken manure applications on SCN populations, as studies have shown a decrease in populations of other plant parasitic nematodes when manure has been applied, and Marisol is interested in seeing if something similar happens with SCN. In Saginaw County, Marisol plans to look at SCN populations in relation to rotating the source of SCN resistance between PI88788 and Peking varieties. This study will help identify the viability of rotating sources of resistance, which is increasingly important as nematodes develop resistance to resistant varieties.

Marisol is also looking forward to conducting more research and joining the new nationwide SCN Coalition. She wants to thank MSU, MSPC and farmers in Michigan for affording her the opportunity to come to Michigan and study nematodes. She also places a lot of emphasis on soil health and sustainability and plans to incorporate that into her research.

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee is excited to have Marisol on board to help tackle SCN and looks forward to working with her on many projects to come.

Michigan Foliar Fertilizer Trial Results

By: Mike Staton, MSU Extension Soybean Educator

Producers across Michigan are interested in applying foliar fertilizers to soybeans even though the practice has produced mixed results in hundreds of university trials conducted across the U.S. and is rarely profitable. The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee has recognized the growers' interest and has supported research projects including 97 foliar fertilizer trials conducted by Michigan soybean producers over the past seven years.

Nine foliar fertilizers (3-16-16, 3-18-18, 2-14-14-2, 26-0-0, three boron products, manganese sulfate monohydrate and 0-0-25-17) were compared to an unfertilized control in on-farm replicated trials in Michigan between 2009 and 2014. In 2016, field-specific prescription foliar fertilizer mixtures were compared to an unfertilized control. Cooperating producers were encouraged to equip and operate their sprayers to maximize canopy penetration and leaf coverage. We also eliminated sprayer tracks from being a factor by ensuring that tracks were either present or absent from all treatments in each trial. Each of the projects will be briefly summarized in this article.

A 3-16-16 foliar fertilizer was evaluated at 27 locations in 2009 and 2010. The fertilizer contained trace amounts of chelated micronutrients and was applied with 1 qt/ac of sugar at R1 and again at R3. The first application was at 1gal/ac and the second was at 0.5 gal/ac. A controlled-release nitrogen fertilizer was included in the second application. The 3-16-16 increased yields and income at two of the 27 sites (7% of the time) and decreased yields at one site. When all sites were combined, the 3-16-16 was less profitable that the unfertilized control.

A 3-18-18 foliar fertilizer was evaluated at 24 locations in 2009 and 2010. The fertilizer was applied alone at 1 gal/ac at R1 and at 2 gal/ac at R3. The 3-18-18 foliar fertilizer treatments increased soybean yields and income at two of the 24 sites (8% of the time) but were less profitable than the unfertilized control treatment when all locations were combined.

A 2-14-14-2 foliar fertilizer was evaluated at two sites in 2011. The product was applied at 2.25 gal/ac with sugar at the V3 to V4 growth stages. The yields produced by the foliar fertilizer and the unfertilized control were not significantly different at either location.

The 26-0-0 foliar fertilizer was evaluated at 18 locations in 2011 and 2012. The fertilizer also contained trace amounts of micronutrients. A single application of 26-0-0 at 1 gal/ac was applied between R2 and R4. The 26-0-0 increased soybean yields at two of the 18 locations (11% of the time). When all 18 sites were combined, the 26-0-0 also produced 0.6 bu/ac more than the untreated control. However, this was not enough to cover product and application costs.

Three boron fertilizers were compared to an untreated control at nine locations from 2011 to 2013. The trials were conducted on potentially responsive sites (coarse-textured soils low in organic matter). In all trials, the boron fertilizers were applied at 0.25 lb/ac. of actual boron at R1. The foliar boron treatments never increased soybean yields over the untreated control.

Two trials evaluating the effects of manganese foliar fertilizer applications on soybean yields were conducted in 2013. The first trial compared manganese sulfate monohydrate fertilizer to a popular EDTA chelate manganese fertilizer at two highly responsive sites (muck soils). The manganese sulfate monohydrate increased soybean yields by 1.9 bushels per acre and income by $23 per acre over the EDTA chelate. The second on-farm research trial evaluated the effect

of applying a manganese foliar fertilizer to soybeans without visible manganese deficiency symptoms. This trial was conducted at two potentially responsive sites (lakebed soils with pH levels of 7.4). The trial results confirmed that manganese foliar fertilizer applications made in the absence of visible deficiency symptoms will not increase soybean yields

A single application of potassium thiosulfate (0-0-25-17) was compared to an unfertilized control at four locations in 2014. The 0-0-25-17 was applied at 1 gal/ac at the R1 growth stage. The 0-0-25-17 did not increase yields at any of the locations. The lack of response to the potassium provided by the fertilizer is easily explained by the fact that the soil test potassium levels were high to very high in all of the trials.

In 2016, field-specific prescription foliar fertilizer mixtures were compared to an unfertilized control at nine locations. The foliar fertilizer mixtures were based on composite soil samples collected from the trial areas. Foliar fertilizers were applied at V4 when the row spacing was 15 inches or less and at R1 when the rows were wider than 15 inches. The prescription foliar fertilizer mixture increased soybean yields at two of the nine sites (22% of the time). However, the yield increases did not cover the cost of the fertilizer mixtures.

Due to the low probability of realizing an economic return (6 out of 97 trials conducted in Michigan over seven years), applying foliar fertilizers to soybeans is not recommended unless manganese deficiency symptoms are present. However, foliar fertilizer applications are more likely to produce an economic return when nutrient levels in the soil are low or root uptake is reduced due to restricted root growth.

Know the Fundamentals and Simplify Commodity Marketing

By: Austin Meyer, Cargill farm marketer, East Region

Commodity marketing is not always the easiest or most enjoyable part of being a farmer. And as any farmer will tell you, every marketing year is different and offers many unexpected price moves. For example, the past few years have seen record-breaking crops in both corn and soybeans. With all the time and investments that go into raising a crop, marketing is just as important as producing a high-yield crop.

As a grain buyer for Cargill, I have daily contact with growers all along southwestern Michigan, and a common theme I hear is that it's tough to know when and how to make marketing decisions. The time growers invest in raising a crop makes it difficult not to be bullish in an upward trending market and bearish in a downward trending market. This is where I partner with the grower to help them look at the profitability of their individual operation. Like me, a majority of Cargill grain team members actively farm or grew up involved in agriculture, making them well-equipped to work directly with producers and understand farm operations.

So the main question becomes this: How do you get farmers to take advantage of the market in good or bad conditions? The answer to this question is profit. With projected soybean acres coming in at 89.5 million (a record number) acres for the 2017/18 crop year, 400 million bushel carryout, and Brazilian production coming in at an estimated 113.5 MMT, all indicators are pointing to a huge supply of beans. The question farmers need to start asking themselves is: 'Am I profitable at current futures levels?' Yes, the market can always go higher and yes, there is a lot of time between getting the crop in the ground and harvest. But in your eyes, do you see the market going higher or lower when referring to the fundamentals? Weather and the funds will always be a wild card, but the one thing we know for certain are the fundamentals. I like to refer to figure 1 as "The Dollar Ahead Chart."

With land rent around $200/acre, inputs around $175, and other costs (labor, time, depreciation on equipment) around $100, it appears that 50 bushel beans will break-even around $8.50-9.00, depending on input prices. 1000 acres x 50 bushels will give you 50,000 bushels to market. The Dollars Ahead Exercise should make it easier to market your beans. Figure 1 outlines the total production (50,000 bushels) and the futures price (9.50) to come to total revenue for the crop. For example, (50,000 x 8.50 = $425,000).

The good news is that over half these levels are profitable. The bad news is that farmers don't always see that. If you were to market your beans today at $9.60 rather than $8.60 that leaves you $50,000 ahead.

According to the USDA, total input cost to raise one acre of soybeans for last year was $479. This varies by operation, but on average this is where the trend line came to focus.

Figure 1 is a basic outline of profitability every farm needs to take into consideration when it comes time to marketing their grain. Cargill puts professional marketers like myself on the farm to have these tough discussions on topics including break evens, profitability, and looking one or two years ahead. We offer a range of solutions through Options, HTA's, and even specialty solutions that utilize Cargill's unique bias through our worldwide perspective to help growers diversify their marketing portfolio. It is never too early to start thinking about next year, so feel free to contact your local Cargill farm marketer to start initiating a plan for the upcoming year.

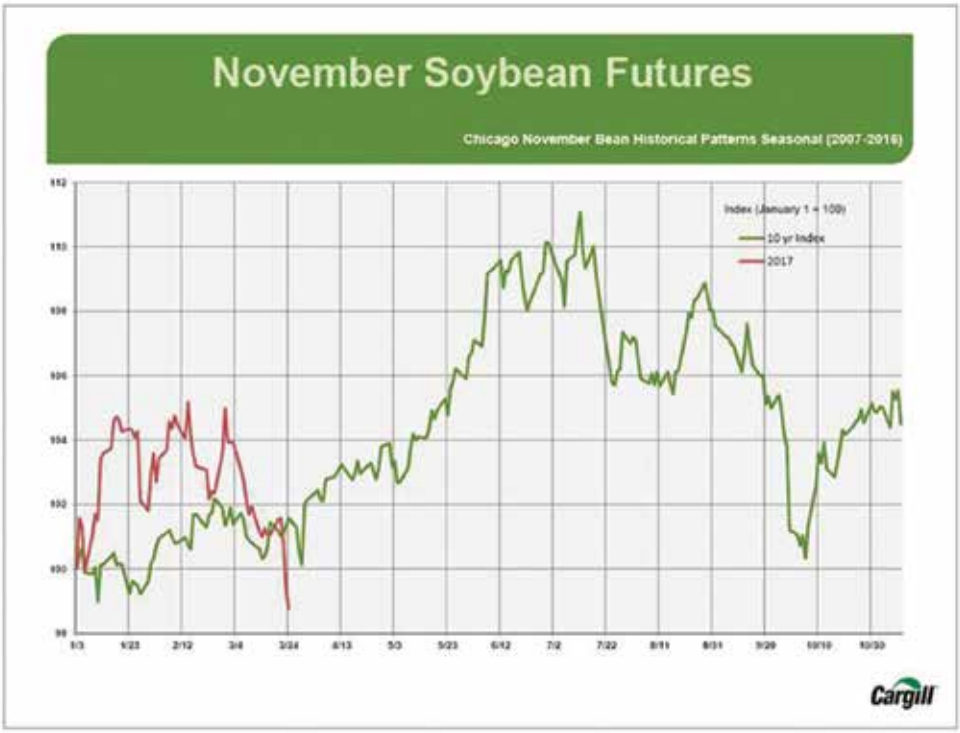
Figure 2 shows the 10 year Index of November Soybean Futures. While every year is different, the 10 year average tends to show that planting season/early summer is the best time to price beans.

Austin Meyer is a farm marketer for Cargill covering the East region. He grew up on a farm in Kansas. Cargill provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services to the world. Together with farmers, customers, governments and communities, we help people thrive by applying our insights and 150 years of experience.

Figure 1

50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
$7.50	$8.00	$8.50	$9.00	$9.50	$10.00	$10.50
=$375,000	=$400,000	=$425,000	=$450,000	=$475,000	=$500,000	=$525,000

Figure 2



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The mission of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee is to manage checkoff resources to increase return on investment for Michigan soybean farmers while enhancing sustainable soybean production.

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SOYBEAN EXTRA

ASA DuPont Young Leaders at Commodity Classic

The 33rd class of American Soybean Association (ASA) DuPont Young Leaders completed their training, Feb. 28 – March 3, 2017 in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show in San Antonio, Texas.

Thank you to Matthew and Jessica Swoish of North Branch and Andrew and Kirstin Crawford of Dansville for representing Michigan soybean farmers in this program.

"For more than 30 years, the ASA DuPont Young Leader program has identified new and emerging leaders for the soybean industry. The program provides training that strengthens their voices while networking opportunities create a connected and more collaborative organization," said ASA President Ron Moore. "We're grateful to DuPont Pioneer and DuPont for their commitment to this program and for helping secure the future of the soybean industry."

While in San Antonio, the Young Leaders participated in leadership and marketing training, issues updates and discussion and were recognized at ASA's annual awards banquet.

Soybean Leaders in Washington

Three soybean leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. in late March to promote soybeans and agriculture. Dave Williams is an MSA director who attended as part of an advocacy scholarship program, Laurie Isley is an MSPC director who attended as part of the Leadership at Its Best program, sponsored by Syngenta and Matt Stutzman is an MSA Director who serves as the American Soybean Association representative. We are lucky to have directors so willing to serve as great advocates for soybeans and agriculture!

Soybean Policy Resolutions

The 2017 Commodity Classic concluded in San Antonio with ASA's voting delegates, representing its 26 state and regional ASA affiliates, gathered to decide policy priorities for the nation's soybean farmers in the coming year. For the 2017 ASA policy resolutions, visit https://soygrowers.com/about-asa/policy-resolutions/.

Your Michigan Soybean Association directors were there and submitted 2 of the new/updated resolutions:

- 1.2.15 ASA requests the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to recognize the increased value of specialty soybeans when calculating plug yields when producers switch from commodity soybeans to specialty soybeans.
- 4.3.3 ASA supports USB's efforts to educate the general public about the positive aspects of production agriculture inclusive of biotechnology, conventional and organic systems with particular emphasis on soybeans and allied commodities. (2017)

Update from the Agricultural Leaders of MI

As members of the Agricultural Leaders of Michigan (ALM), the Michigan Soybean Association and Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee take part in a wide range of activities to educate policymakers and the media about Michigan agriculture. Early in 2017, ALM hosted two lunch events with state legislative staff, as well as a meeting in Washington, D.C., with many members of Michigan's Congressional delegation and also reached out to the media on a range of topics. In particular, ALM has been a strong voice for international trade and worked hard to set the stage for the coming Farm Bill discussions.

- Highlighting agricultural trade
- Outreach to policymakers in D.C.
- Additional outreach to policymakers and the media

ALM Agricultural Leaders OF MICHIGAN

Legislators Learning about Soys!

By: Gary Parr, farmer from Charlotte and Gail Frahm, Executive Director

On Wednesday, March 29, we had the privilege of making a joint soybean presentation to the House Ag Committee at the invitation of Chairman Barrett. We shared how the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC) and Michigan Soybean Association (MSA), while being two separate entities, are so helpful and important to each other.

MSA is a membership organization that serves as the voice for Michigan soybean farmers in Lansing and Washington, D.C. MSA advocates on behalf of farmers and works to protect farmer interests. It's funded through membership dues and corporate support.

MSPC is the soybean checkoff, funded by all soybean farmers when soybeans are sold at Michigan's grain elevators. These "checked off" funds cannot be used for political work, but they can educate, research and promote the use of soybeans in Michigan and beyond.

Since few of the members on the House Ag Committee have deep roots in ag, we were delighted to have the opportunity to share facts about soybeans and emphasize the importance of soybeans to the state of Michigan. Some highlights included sharing that 2016 was a record year for Michigan's soybean farmers. Not only did we average 50.5 bu/acre across the state, but we harvested our second highest number of acres. Those two feats combined yielded our first ever production of over 100,000,000 bushels!

Additionally, we pointed out the top three soybean producing counties: Sanilac, Lenawee and Saginaw, and gave them a map breaking down acreage in the rest of the counties too – totaling an overall economic impact to the state of over $1.6 billion.

We talked about partnerships, not only with each other, but with fellow commodity groups and agri-businesses with our efforts through the Ag Leaders of Michigan and Michigan Ag Council. We also mentioned the advocacy work The Frederick Group helps both of our organizations out with in Lansing.

We discussed soy processing in the state and how we are hoping that the industry will grow with the added pork processing facility in Coldwater and the new livestock feed mill planned for Owosso. Soybean processing and its tie to soybean meal consumption by Michigan's livestock and poultry was also shared. Currently dairy is the number one consumer of soybean meal in Michigan, consuming over 300,000 tons annually. MSPC and MSA are also hopeful for the potential additional processing plant in Ithaca to help process more of our soybeans in the state.

We then got into several issues the MSPC and MSA work on jointly such as soy biobased product promotions, our joint work on promoting aquaculture, bringing trade teams into Michigan and encouraging soybean exports (Michigan's number one commodity exported), transportation and infrastructure issues as well as water quality needs across the state.

It's never too late to take time to visit with those who need to be more understanding of our industry and Michigan's soybean farmers are the voice of our industry. If you'd like to be more involved with MSA or MSPC, please contact Gail Frahm at 877.769.6424.

Gary Parr, Rep. Barrett, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Gail Frahm

Rollin' Rollin' Rollin'

By: Mark Seamon, Research Coordinator

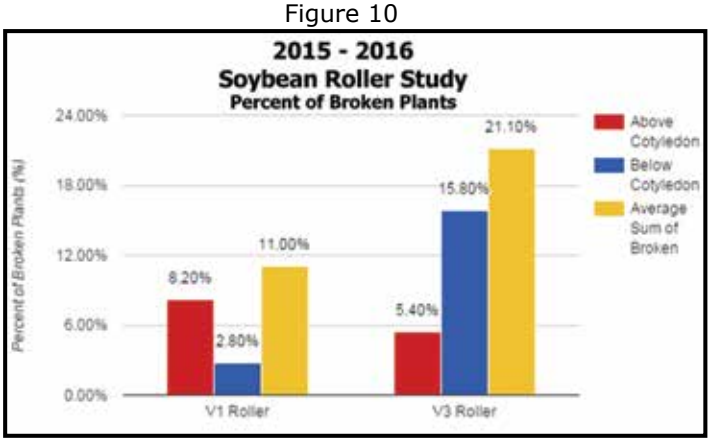
Field rolling has been added as a soybean production practice on many farms in recent years. The primary motivation for most growers to use a roller is as a harvest aid. By flattening the soil surface, the soybeans can be cut lower at harvest with less soil going through the combine. For those growers who have the chronic burden of dealing with rocks, rollers push them down and out of the way so that they are not breaking knife guards, sickle bar sections and making their way onto cutting platforms or further into the combine. An added benefit is the reduction of operator fatigue at harvest when a 20 to 40 feet wide area is constantly watched through flowing soybean plants, clouds of dust, shadows and reflected sunlight.

Once the decision is made to roll soybean fields, the choice of timing will need some thought. Most of the benefits mentioned above can be accomplished in a broad window of rolling. The range of timing that has been used begins before planting and extends well into early growth, notably through the third trifoliate (V3) growth stage. Like most production practices, there are exceptions that can cause negative effects if the timing is wrong. A couple potential problems that could result from field rolling are soil crusting resulting in emergence issues, excessive runoff and erosion from heavy rains. The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee has funded a couple of carefully designed research projects to identify the optimum timing and effect of field rolling. Missy Bauer of B&M Crop Consulting conducted trials on three farms in each of the past two years in southern Michigan. Additionally, Mike Staton, Michigan State University Extension Soybean Educator coordinated SMaRT on-farm trials at seven locations across the state in 2016.

The B&M Crop Consulting trials compared five practices; no rolling, rolled after planting but before emergence, rolled at emergence of first trifoliate (V1), rolled at emergence of third trifoliate (V3) and an application of Cobra herbicide at V3. Some of these treatments were expected to impact only harvest considerations while others may have multiple effects including a response to crop stress. One interesting observation was seen in the trial that included no-till, which showed a reduced number of plants with broken stems as compared to tilled fields. This suggests the possibility of the corn residue holding the roller a little higher above the soil and/or the possibility that soybean plants were shorter than soybeans at the same growth stage in tilled fields.

Soybeans have been noted to respond, in some cases, to induced stress. The treatments of rolling at the V3 stage and the Cobra application at the V3 stage were both expected to cause a crop growth response. The mechanical stress caused by the late rolling was in broken stems. Where stems were broken below the cotyledon, many of the plants died because there were no nodes for the plant to use in adding branches and new growth. This damage was seen in almost 16% of plants. (see figure 10) Where stems were broken

Figure 10



above the cotyledons, the stress caused increased branching. In some cases this was positive in that there were more nodes per plant that contained pods. On the other hand, other examples of plant response included branching so low on the plant that the cutter bar cut through some pods or cut the plants off above them. This treatment actually showed an increase in harvest loss compared to all other treatments. The Cobra application was made to measure the effect of chemical induced stress. The effect on the soybeans was variable but generally caused a shorter bushier plant. Yield effect was inconsistent but averaged 0.7 bushels per acre higher where Cobra was applied which did not cover the cost of the chemical. Missy Bauer commented "Stressing plants with a chemical is more risky than the mechanical stress".

Two other mainstream timings of rolling showed more promise for positive crop response; post plant and V1. The post plant rolling treatment showed an improvement in yield of 0.8 bushels per acre of which about 50% came from reduced harvest loss. The remainder of the yield improvement is not well understood at this time. The mechanical stress of rolling at the V1 stage resulted in a 2.4 bushel per acre yield improvement with an economic return of $16.02 per acre when both years and all sites were considered. (see figure 11) The yield response is due to an improvement of plant yield components such as the nodes per plant, number of pods and seeds per plant as well as reduced harvest loss. (see figure 12)

The six trials over the two years of the B&M research support the recommendation of using a field roller at the V1 growth stage to improve yield components, reduce harvest loss, increase yields and improve economics.

Seven field rolling trials were conducted by the SMaRT program in 2016. Four of these compared an unrolled control treatment to rolling at V1. The trials were conducted in Bay, Lenawee, Monroe and Tuscola Counties. Rolling at V1 increased soybean yields by 4 bushels per acre at the Bay county site but did not significantly increase soybean yields at the other three sites. When all four locations were averaged together, the V1 rolling treatment increased soybean yields by 1.6 bushels per acre and income by $6.00 per acre.

The SMaRT program will cooperate with soybean producers to conduct field rolling trials again in 2017. The trials are designed to allow the cooperating producers flexibility in selecting the rolling timings most meaningful to them and compare these under the residue and soil conditions on their farms. If you would like to conduct a field rolling trial on your farm in 2017, please contact Mike Staton by phone at: 269.673.0370 ext. 2562 or by email at: staton@msu.edu.

Figure 11

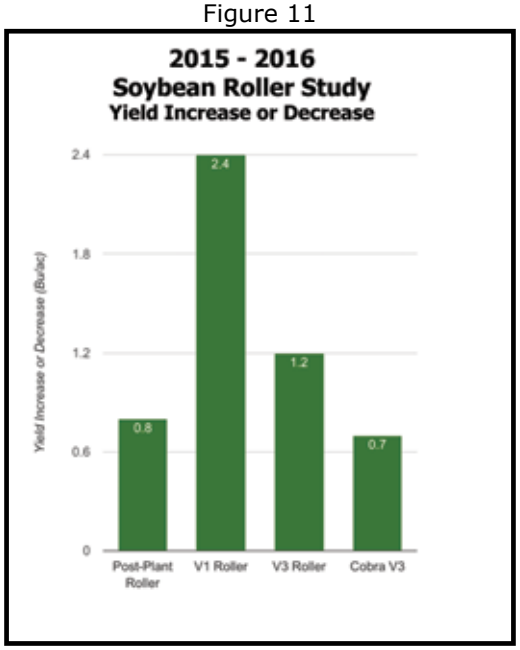
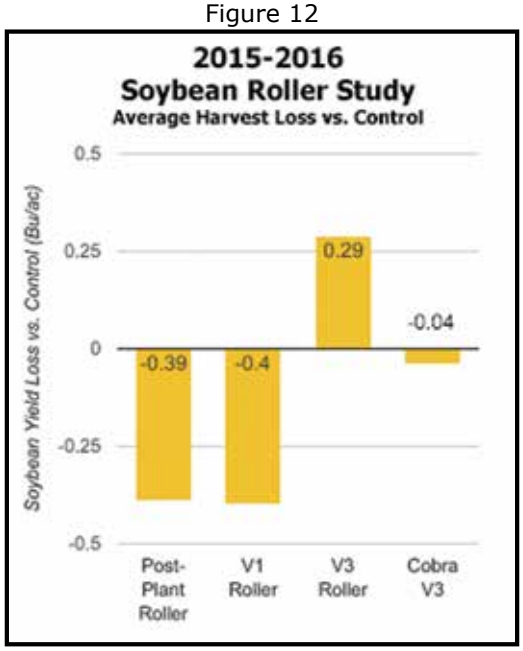


Figure 12



Building Relationships, Selling Soybeans

By: Kathy Maurer, Financial and International Marketing Director

Soybeans are a global product and our direct competition is from South America. The way U.S. soy makes its mark in the world is by building relationships, farmer to buyer.

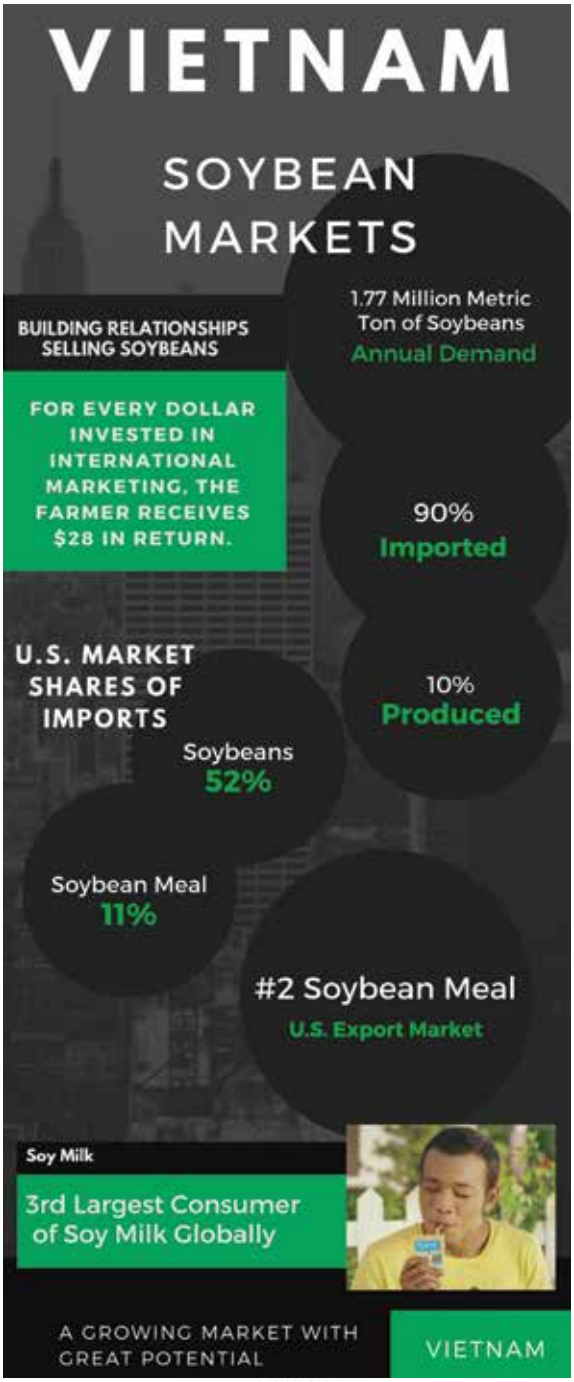
Alan Moore, an MSPC director from Bannister, and I traveled to Vietnam on a trade team mission. Alan was part of a team from eight different states participating on a panel discussion at the 11th Asia Grain Transportation Conference held in Ho Chi Minh City.

By talking with soybean farmers, soybean buyers better understand farming operations in the U.S. They are able to see how farm land has been in families for multiple generations and gain insight into the passion and commitment to sustainability found on family farms. Building these relationships between farmers and buyers promotes confidence in quality and sustainability and is an important way to continue selling U.S. soybeans while holding existing markets.

"Vietnam has a young, hard-working population that is eager to learn and improve their diet and living," said Alan. "This provides a tremendous opportunity for U.S. soy."

While in Vietnam, we also had the opportunity to visit aquaculture operations, chicken processing plants, fish processing plants, feed mills and a port. The aquaculture farm we visited uses 7,920 metric ton of U.S. soybean meal annually in their 11 ponds.

Global buyers are looking for sustainably raised inputs for their products. As younger populations are growing, and as technology advances, people are becoming more eager to learn about the nutrition of their food, where it comes from and how it's grown. In response to the desire of the consumer to be better informed, the United Soybean Board, U.S. Soy Export Council and American Soybean Association created the U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol. It is a third-party certification which promotes environmental and social responsibility across the soy value chain.



2017 Green Fair Project

By: Sonja Lapak, Communication Director

Twenty-four fairs have been selected as Green Fair Project participants for 2017. Three fairs were also chosen to receive larger Green Fair Renovation awards.

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee recognizes the importance of fairs as a way to connect consumers to agriculture. The rural exhibits including plants, livestock, farm equipment and more help illustrate to the general public who grows the food they eat and how it is raised. MSPC is proud to partner with fairs throughout Michigan to increase the use and awareness of soy products at these events. Participants this year are utilizing everything from soy biodiesel to soy-based paints, stains, dust suppressants, cleaning products, hand sanitizers, asphalt sealants, soy cooking oil and more. The diversity of the products being used demonstrates the versatility of soy and helps educate the public on the many uses of soybeans.

The 2017 Green Fair Project participants are:

Alcona County Fair	August 15-19, 2017
Calhoun County Fair	August 13-19, 2017
Chelsea Community Fair	August 22-26, 2017
Chippewa County Fair	August 27 - September 4, 2017
Clare County Fair	July 24-29, 2017
Eastern Michigan State Fair	July 25-29, 2017
Emmet Charlevoix County Fair	August 20-27, 2017
Gratiot County Fair for Youth	July 29 - August 5, 2017
Hillsdale County Agricultural Society	September 24-30, 2017
Huron Community Fair	July 30 - August 5, 2017
Ingham County Fair	July 31 - August 5, 2017
Ionia Free Fair	July 13-22, 2017
Iosco County Fair	July 24-29, 2017
Kent County Youth Fair	August 7-12, 2017
Manchester Community Fair	July 11-15, 2017
Midland County Fair	August 13-19, 2017
Monroe County Fair	July 30 - August 5, 2017
Oakland County 4-H Fair Association	July 7-16, 2017
Ogemaw County Fair	August 14-19, 2017
Osceola County 4-H & FFA Fair	July 23-29, 2017
Saginaw County Fair	August 1-5, 2017
Saline Community Fair	August 30 - September 3, 2017
Shiawassee County Fair	August 6-12, 2017
Wayne County Fair	August 7-12, 2017

Stop by a participating fair in your area and look for a Green Fair Project sign at the fairgrounds!

GFP
Green Fair Project

2017 Funded Research Projects

By: Mark Seamon, Research Coordinator

The MSPC board of directors has approved twenty two competitive research projects for 2017. This program provides funding to experts who are skilled at conducting meaningful research in the area of Michigan soybean production. Although reduced somewhat from previous years, the twenty two projects include about $575,000 in funding. The job of selecting projects to be funded was especially difficult this year due to an increase in requests for funding from high quality researchers and the reduced budget available. Funding decisions follow a strategic plan to allocate funds to the most critical needs of Michigan soybean growers.

Many projects build upon previous funding and contribute to multi-year projects while others are for just one year. These are the funded projects in 2017:

Nematology (Mitigate Yield Reduction from Nematodes)

Researcher: Dr. George Bird, Michigan State University
Funded amount: $15,000
Description: Third and final year of the evaluation of multiple species and cultivars of cover crops on soybean cyst nematode populations including the search for a SCN trap crop.

Determination of Phytophthora sojae Populations and Assessments of Management Strategies

Researcher: Dr. Martin Chilvers, Michigan State University
Funded amount: $30,000
Description: Survey of pathotypes of Phytophthora and the evaluation of control strategies including genetic resistance and fungicides.

Soybean SDS Management: Detection, Fungicides and Resistance

Researcher: Dr. Martin Chilvers, Michigan State University
Funded amount: $49,000
Description: Seed treatments, including Ilevo, will be evaluated. A diagnostic assay will be refined. Collaboration with the MSU soybean breeding program as well as field screening of aerial imagery technology will continue.

Improving White Mold Management: Epidemiology, Fungicide Timing and Plant Resistance

Researcher: Dr. Martin Chilvers, Michigan State University
Funded amount: $21,000
Description: Study white mold epidemiology to improve control strategies. Evaluate fungicide control and profitability. Screen public soybean varieties for resistance. Help growers to understand and manage white mold.

Maximizing the cover crop potential of cereal rye before soybean through alternative termination timings - Year 2

Researcher: Dr. Erin Hill, Michigan State University
Funded amount: $9,895
Description: Evaluation of cereal rye cover crop termination timing and methods to optimize the benefits of the cover crops while sustaining soybean production.

Options for glyphosate resistant horseweed (marestail) management in soybean

Researcher: Dr. Christy Sprague, Michigan State University

Funded amount: $18,107

Description: Field research including cover crops and genetic traits to strengthen control recommendations for a growing problem of very difficult to control populations of marestail.

Weed control programs for non-GMO soybean growers

Researcher: Dr. Christy Sprague, Michigan State University

Funded amount: $8,179

Description: Field research to evaluate herbicide effectiveness and economics of these systems for use in non-GMO soybeans.

Glyphosate resistant waterhemp management strategies

Researcher: Dr. Christy Sprague, Michigan State University

Funded amount: $21,000

Description: Evaluate control methods for herbicide resistant waterhemp including deep tillage, Liberty Link and Roundup Ready 2 Xtend herbicide programs.

2017 MSU Extension On-Farm Research, Education, and Communication Projects

Researcher: Mike Staton, Michigan State University Extension

Funded amount: $17,468

Description: This grant includes several projects which are coordinated by MSU Extension educators throughout the state including a soybean harvest equipment field day, on-farm agronomic studies, use of products and management practices and a tillage for soybeans project.

Soybean seeding rate, nutrient input and management intensity interaction studies

Researcher: Dr. Kurt Steinke, Michigan State University

Funded amount: $42,789

Description: Evaluate the impact of seeding rates and soybean's response to management, optimizing the benefit of chicken manure and high input soybean management.

Enhance research in soybean field evaluations in Michigan

Researcher: Dr. Dechun Wang, Michigan State University

Funded amount: $47,268

Description: Enhancement of the capacity to perform soybean field research especially in soybean breeding and variety development.

Continuation of sudden death syndrome and soybean cyst nematode research at the soybean disease research center in Decatur

Researcher: Dr. Dechun Wang, Michigan State University

Funded amount: $16,800

Description: Continue the support of a unique research site in southwest Michigan that has conditions which favor high levels of soybean cyst nematode populations and sudden death syndrome disease pathogens.

Soybean breeding and genetic improvement for Michigan environments

Researcher: Dr. Dechun Wang, Michigan State University

Funded amount: $100,000

Description: Development of new soybean varieties with high yield, resistance to white mold, soybean cyst nematode, sudden death syndrome and/or soybean aphids. Also development of desirable seed composition traits including high oleic acid, low linolenic acid, low saturated fatty acids, high protein content and/or high oil content.

Center for Excellence Re-loaded

Researcher: Lindsay Garrison, Lenawee Conservation District

Funded amount: $16,000

Description: Evaluation of agronomic products and practices utilizing strip trials in southeast Michigan including tillage systems, nutrient management, drainage water management and soil health effects. Two grower educational events will also be conducted.

2017 Michigan Soybean Yield Contest

Researcher: Ned Birkey
Funded amount: $6,000
Description: Continuation of the soybean yield contest to provide verification of high yielding production. The collection of production practice data will help other soybean growers to evaluate the fit of practices in their system.

Soybean planting date and tillage interactions for variable rate seeding across management zones

Researcher: Missy Bauer, B&M Crop Consulting
Funded amount: $21,450
Description: While variable rate seeding is accepted by some growers, the interaction of other management considerations such as planting date and tillage practices is not clearly understood.

Improving white mold management with variable rate planting and foliar applications in soybean

Researcher: Missy Bauer, B&M Crop Consulting
Funded amount: $14,800
Description: Evaluate the effect of the variable seeding rates, chemical manipulation of plant growth and fungicide use on white mold incidence and soybean yield.

Soybean cyst nematode and sudden death syndrome management with Ilevo seed treatment and genetics

Researcher: Missy Bauer, B&M Crop Consulting
Funded amount: $18,300
Description: Compare soybean yield, Fusarium disease symptoms and SCN populations within the treatments of Ilevo seed treatment and genetic SCN resistance.

Management strategies to improve yield and profitability in soybean under different planting dates

Researcher: Dr. Maninder Singh, Michigan State University
Funded amount: $39,919
Description: Earlier planting dates have shown yield benefits in many trials but the interactions of management practices such as seed treatment, population and maturity groups need more evaluation.

Cass County Assessment Pilot Project

Researcher: Michigan Gateway Community Foundation
Funded amount: $50,000
Description: Measure and monitor surface and groundwater supplies to accurately inform the regulatory process in allowing the use of water for irrigation.

Soybean cyst nematode management through genetic resistance and manure

Researcher: Dr. Marisol Quintanilla, Michigan State University
Funded amount: $5,000
Description: On-farm research projects will evaluate the population dynamics of SCN under varying sources of genetic resistance and poultry manure applications.

Understanding the dynamics of nutrients in surface water

Researcher: To be determined
Funded amount: $15,000
Description: Efforts to further understand the issues of nutrients in surface water which may inform the stewardship practice choices of Michigan soybean growers and/or quantify the contribution of nutrients by source.

Soybean Office Welcomes Soybean Production Specialist

By: Gail Frahm, Executive Director

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC) welcomes its newest employee, Ty Bodeis. Ty is from Mayville, Michigan, not far from MSPC's headquarters in Frankenmuth, and is familiar with the area and its farmers. Ty recently earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Crop and Soil Sciences from Michigan State University.

The new position of soybean production specialist will have Ty executing field research in collaboration with MSPC's research coordinator, Mark Seamon. Ty will assist in the design, development and evaluation of MSPC's field research and will collaborate with on-farm cooperators for the development of precision agriculture field prescriptions and the analysis of resulting trial data. He will help communicate soybean checkoff research results to farmers through presentations, printed research reports, and via both media and web platforms. He will also coordinate the commercial evaluation and commercialization of MSU soybean varieties.

Through his previous employment and work on his family's farm, Ty has experience with scouting fields, collecting tissue and soil samples, performing edible bean field inspections, and operating and repairing heavy equipment. He also has experience in agronomy and custom application.

Ty said he'd like to work for MSPC so he can pursue his interest in finding the most profitable way for a grower to raise a crop of soybeans. He's looking forward to working with the data produced from the plots by analyzing the results via precision technologies and translating that data into useful information for farmers.

I'm excited to begin with MSPC so I can apply my experience from my family farm, MSU and work experiences to effectively manage plots and communicate the results in an informative, effective and understandable manner to growers.

Take a Consumer to Breakfast on the Farm

By: Noelle Byerley, Executive Assistant

For some, just knowing a farmer makes a consumer more positive toward agriculture. At Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF), Michigan farmers open their doors so consumers can see how farmers care for animals, protect the environment and produce safe, nutritious food. Visitors meet the families responsible for raising the food they eat and learn about agriculture from those who know it best – the farmers. Thousands attend these events for a free breakfast and to learn firsthand how modern farms work while sharing the experience with family members.

Sponsored by Michigan State University, Breakfast on the Farm events build trust between consumers and farmers. Evaluations from attendees at BOTF events show a marked increase in trust toward farmers and an increased level of confidence in Michigan food and grain products.

Plan to take some non-farm friends to one of the two events scheduled in 2017:

- June 24, hosted by J&J Dairy in Marne, Ottawa County
- August 19, hosted by DeSaegher Dairy in Middleton, Gratiot County

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee will sponsor and attend each BOTF event to provide information on the health benefits of cooking with soy, the importance of livestock as soybean's largest customer and the environmental benefits of soy-based products.

All events begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. There is no cost to attend or take the tour, but tickets are required for the free breakfast. For more information about Breakfast on the Farm and a list of ticket locations, visit www.breakfastonthefarm.com.

Thank You to the MSPC Soybean Promoters

By: Noelle Byerley, Executive Assistant

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee would like to THANK our volunteers in the Soybean Promoter Program: Ellen Vanderwal of Lake City, Amanda Ferguson of Yale, Heather Feuerstein of Belding and Richard Janssens of Monroe. These soybean promoters have represented the Michigan soybean industry and soybean growers at a variety of events including Breakfast on the Farm, Project RED, Ag in the Classroom, farm shows more. Our soybean promoters make a difference by getting soybean messages out to a wide variety of audiences, both statewide and locally.

The soybean promoter program is designed to promote soybeans, soybean products and soybean program information to farm and non-farm families throughout Michigan. The key objective of the Soybean Promoter Program is to expand Michigan's soybean representative base to reach more Michigan consumers at the local level. The more promoters we have sharing the importance of soybeans, the more opportunities we have to share our message.

If you are interested in becoming a soybean promoter, visit the Soybean Promoter Program page at www.michigansoybean.org for more information and a soybean promoter application.

Have an article idea?

We are always looking for new and interesting soybean topics!

Send suggestions to
soyinfo@michigansoybean.org
or
PO Box 287
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Leadership Opportunities

Ed Cagney

Commodity Classic is a great venue to meet with some of the best producers in the country. Not only do you have the opportunity to gain and share information in the commodity production business, but you can see the leaders in the soybean industry at work. There are several meetings going on at the Classic, one being the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP). I have been a board member on NCSRP for several years and a past president of the program. We met the day before Classic opened as one of our three meetings for the year. My involvement with NCSRP has taken me to the Commodity Classic which has shown me how the next level of leadership works.

Mark Seamon

The 2017 Commodity Classic offered many opportunities to learn from and interact with ag industry people from across the country. Especially helpful to me were the discussions with production research directors from other states. Sharing perspectives on issues such as the successful rollout of Xtend soybeans, soybean quality improvements and new product development can help Michigan soybean growers learn from experiences in other places. The NCSRP board meeting and Extension researcher meetings were integrated into the conference which made the investment in travel and time more efficient.

Ned Birkey

The 2017 Commodity Classic was my third in the 22-year history of the combined event. It is an amazing compilation of education, information and equipment. Also amazing was that no local person could tell me who Henry Gonzalez was, even though the convention center was named after him. Hint: he was a longtime U.S. Congressman from San Antonio. Most interesting to me this year was a Friday meeting of the 17 states that conduct a soybean yield contest. This meeting was attended by Randy Dowdy, who holds the unofficial world record for both corn and soybean yield, who was advocating for a national soybean yield contest.

Mike Staton

Commodity Classic was very beneficial to me in my position as the MSU Extension soybean educator. I participated in the NCSRP meeting on Wednesday, March 1, and listened to excellent presentations on the CRISPR technology. At the conclusion of the NCSRP meeting, I participated in the multistate on-farm research meeting led by Nathan Paul from the Iowa On-Farm Network. We reviewed the projects conducted in 2015 and 2016 and identified the 2017 projects. I also met with soybean agronomists from land grant universities across the U.S. and strengthened working relationships with my colleagues. It was decided at this meeting that a nationwide database should be developed to contain all the university research trials evaluating the effect of nitrogen fertilizer applications on soybean yield, income and protein levels. The Michigan Soybean Management and Research Technology (SMaRT) program contributed data from five projects and 22 trials to the national database. Participating in the extensive trade show was also beneficial as it helped me keep up with the new products and equipment available to soybean producers.

Commodity Classic
America's farmers meet with success.

SAVE THE DATE!
February 27 - March 1, 2018 in Anaheim, California

Abound at Commodity Classic

Laurie Isley

Attending Commodity Classic for the first time was a bit overwhelming. The number of attendees, the size of the trade show and the many options for educational and leadership sessions made for difficult decision-making. The sessions I participated in gave me a broader (national) view of issues I face on my farm. These included marketing advice, planting techniques, resistant weeds and ideas for promoting my product. The benefit of the trade show in developing leadership potential was the opportunity to visit with specific companies and organizations, gather examples of their materials and discuss specific concerns. Overall, it was a great opportunity to interact with other producers, hear top-notch presenters and see new technology.

Kathy Maurer

Commodity Classic got me thinking about how farmers reach consumers. Beyond that, how do consumers get their information on food? We have a generation that is more interested in where their food comes from ... some to the point of taking butchering classes in order to learn about the process and different cuts of meat. This level of interest should impact how we try to reach the consumers who are buying our products. In the social media world, tribes are formed of people who have like-minded ideas and values. The issue for farmers is people believe what their tribe is saying and not necessarily what the facts are. We need to get in front of the food conversation and not just react. We need to reach out to different groups and find what we have in common to build trust before we share facts, and be good advocates for the ag industry.

Dan Keenan

Some Commodity Classic highlights for me this year included sitting in on a taping of the marketing roundtable discussion for "U.S. Farm Report" and sitting in on a lecture from Randy Dowdy. But, the real highlight for me this year was being part of the Michigan delegation for the American Soybean Association (ASA). This year we worked hard to bring two policy changes to the ASA policy resolution session, both of which were accepted as new policy. The two changes included both a crop insurance APH issue regarding non-GMO soybeans and a statement highlighting ASA's support of "all" soybean production practices and not just GMO production. Both issues were brought to the board's attention by Michigan Soybean Association (MSA) members. As a result, both issues will be part of ASA policy as they move forward this coming year in the fight for the soybean industry and soybean producer. This is what a membership in MSA is all about.

Dave Williams

At Commodity Classic I'm able to learn about new things in agriculture, ag technology and agronomics. Classic also affords me the opportunity to hone my leadership skills. I'm able to spend time with DuPont Young Leaders from Michigan and other states. I spoke with a young man and his wife from Louisiana and learned more about sugar cane than I thought was possible – this helps keep me open to new ideas and farming methods – and gives me perspective on the big picture. (I'm not planning on raising cane). Since Commodity Classic is the annual meeting of soybean, corn, wheat and sorghum growers, all the associations have policy sessions. I've attended all the sessions since 2010 – these annual policy meetings keep me up to speed on the direction of the American Soybean Association and provide me with the background I need to serve effectively as a director on the Michigan Soybean Association.

Michigan Pork Processing Facility Impacts more Agriculture than Just Pigs

By: Emily Schmitt, Program Director, Michigan Pork Producers Association

With Michigan being the second most agriculturally diverse state in the country, our industries and agricultural commodities are closely linked. When one aspect of agriculture succeeds or declines, other areas of agriculture usually feel an impact.

The construction of a pork processing plant coming to Coldwater, Michigan, has had the agricultural industry in the state and surrounding states buzzing since the announcement was made in December 2014.

Over the past several months, residents and visitors to the Coldwater area have been able to watch the Clemens Food Group pork processing facility take shape, from groundbreaking to a large structure. Located near I-69, the facility is set to open by Labor Day 2017.

Construction on the project began in July of 2015, but Community Relations and Workforce Development Coordinator Earnest Meily said the ball on the project started rolling nearly eight years ago.

"We started looking about eight years ago for growth and for sustainability for the future," he said. "It was two or three years ago now that we started working with the producers here in Michigan and the feasibility study came into play. We finally got together in the southwest Michigan area. Heading up the site selection team, it really came down to the ag prevalence in that area, workforce availability – we felt there was a good opportunity there –, the location of the hogs, and the proximity to I-69 and I-80/90. Plus, the Coldwater area has responded very well to us. They have been very welcoming and great to work with."

Meily moved to the Coldwater area from Pennsylvania, where he headed up human resources at the other Clemens Food Group processing plant.

"Part of the goal of someone coming early was to get into the community and let people know about the culture of the organization," he said. "Clemens Food Group is a sixth generation family-owned business that focuses on building for the future through long-term relationships."

As a way to get involved with the community and to help create a workforce for the facility, Clemens Food Group has been working with the local Intermediate School District to create a program for adults and high school students to learn more trade skills. The facility will provide jobs for approximately 800 people in the Coldwater area.

The plant is expected to process 10,000 hogs per day. This is a fresh pork facility, so there will be no further processing – a large majority of the product will be shipped for further processing.

"As we get comfortable, we will evaluate a second shift potential," Meily said. "The biggest opportunity will be the workforce. For a second shift, there needs

to be some growth. Ultimately, it will be a supply and demand decision. We feel really good about the supply."

This facility will have numerous impacts on the area. With this large of a plant, there will be a lot of resources going into making this plant operational. A large number of the hogs will be coming from Michigan. Meily said they are looking locally for other resources too.

"We have been very diligent to look at local contractors," he said. "On the supplier side, we have people registering that may want to sell us gas, boxes and everything that the plant may need. What you do well, do better than everybody else – what you don't, find someone who does. We process pork. That is what we feel we do well. What the producers in Michigan do well is raise pork. Ultimately that is how the partnership came together. It's the same thing with sanitation, security and transportation. There will be a lot of different intersections to make this plant a success."

Not only will this plant affect the local economy, it will have great impacts on agriculture throughout the state.

As the demand for hogs is on the rise in Michigan to fulfill the needs of the plant, other commodities will be feeling the effects, too. There will be a higher demand for corn and soybeans in Michigan to feed more pigs, especially if a second shift opens at the plant within a few years.

To put into perspective how important soybeans are to the Michigan pork industry, soybean meal is one of the main ingredients in grain that is fed to pigs. While the mixtures of grain will differ from farm to farm, on average, once a pig starts eating feed grains, it will consume approximately 15 bushels of grain before it is ready for market. Second to dairy cattle, hogs in Michigan consumed 130,334 tons of soybean meal in 2015.

In 2016, more than two million acres of soybeans were planted in Michigan to meet the demand for soybean meal for livestock, along with the other demands for soybeans. Last year's record yields of 50.5 bu/acre totaled more than 104 million bushels of soybeans grown in Michigan. Over 2.3 million acres of soybeans are expected to be planted in 2017 to continue to meet the demands for soybean products and livestock feed.

Over the next few years, we look forward to seeing continued growth in the pork industry and the agriculture industry as a whole in Michigan.

Michigan pork producers Harley Sietsema, Ed Reed, Fred Walcott, Pat Hunter and Joel Phelps celebrate the groundbreaking of the new processing plant, as they all played an instrumental role in the making this plant a reality.

Pork producers, family members and Clemens Food Group representatives gather at the ground-breaking ceremony for the pork processing plant in Coldwater in July of 2015.

Biodiesel: America's Fuel

By: Noelle Byerley, Executive Assistant

When Rudolf Diesel invented the diesel engine in the late 1800s, he probably couldn't imagine how far his vision would have come by 2017. In the U.S., nearly 3 billion gallons of clean, renewable fuel was produced last year, replacing its petroleum counterpart. Furthermore, according to a recent study, the biodiesel industry supports about 62,000 jobs nationwide. For soybean farmers, the biodiesel industry means an additional 63 cents per bushel in value.

Biodiesel helps the environment by reducing harmful emissions, and it sustains natural resources by using solar energy and increasing the amount of protein in the food supply.

America's advanced biofuel demonstrates its sustainability and continues to provide benefits from coast to coast. Here are nine biodiesel facts:

1. Biodiesel is Cleaner-Burning – It burns much cleaner than petroleum diesel, reducing particulate matter, carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons, and other smog causing particles.
2. Biodiesel emissions 86 percent less than petroleum diesel – Lifecycle emissions are greatly reduced by using biodiesel. The 2 billion gallon biodiesel market last year cut carbon by some 18 million metric tons or the annual greenhouse gas emissions of 3.8 million cars. This is more emissions than from all of the cars in Colorado and Connecticut combined.
3. Biodiesel is renewable – Biodiesel is made from renewable resources like soybean oil, animal fats, and recycled cooking oil. It has the highest energy balance of any commercially available fuel, returning 5.5 units of energy for every one unit needed to produce it.
4. Biodiesel is less toxic than table salt – On land and in water biodiesel's low toxicity is a major benefit of handling the fuel. Regular table salt is nearly 10 times more toxic than biodiesel so the environmental concerns associated with transporting fuels aren't a problem with biodiesel.
5. Biodiesel biodegrades faster than sugar – Biodiesel degrades four times faster than petroleum diesel. Within 28 days in water, pure biodiesel degrades nearly 90 percent, or slightly faster than the dextrose test sugar used as a scientific baseline. This is another reason it is much safer to handle and transport than petroleum.
6. Biodiesel is the American alternative to foreign oil – Biodiesel is produced from coast to coast

in nearly every state with regionally diverse raw materials. It is made from locally available byproducts and coproducts – soybean oil in the Grain Belt, recycled cooking oil in urban areas, animal fats from rendering plants in the Southwest and more.

7. Biodiesel supports 62,000 U.S. jobs – The biodiesel industry supports thousands of domestic, green energy jobs from lab technicians to engineers to truck drivers. All aspects of the US economy are supported by biodiesel production.
8. Biodiesel can be used in existing diesel engines without modification – Biodiesel has widespread support across all diesel applications because it is easy to use with existing infrastructure. From 4-door sedans to bulldozers, from street sweepers to school buses, from snow plows to semi-trucks, and even in boats and home heating systems, the use of biodiesel is as diverse as the diesel engine itself!
9. Biodiesel is supported by all major engine manufacturers – Detroit's Big Three Automakers – Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler – have supported high biodiesel blends for nearly a decade. Although vehicle manufacturers don't warranty fuel, rather just their own parts and workmanship, nearly all now formally support blends of 20 percent biodiesel (B20) in their equipment. More than 78 percent of the diesel vehicles coming off production lines today cite biodiesel use in their owners' manuals.

For more information on cold flow basics, the 2016 diesel vehicle list, the biodiesel supply chain fuel quality and much more, visit http://biodiesel.org/what-is-biodiesel/biodiesel-fact-sheets.