

Texas Soybean News



SPRING 2016

Meet David Gibson, Your Texas Soybean Board Executive Director



Executive Director David Gibson

The Texas Soybean Board (TSB) kicked off 2016 by welcoming David Gibson as its new executive director in January. With 16 years of experience serving as the executive director of the Texas Corn Producers Board (TCPB) and executive vice president of the Corn Producers Association of Texas (CPAT), Gibson has now expanded his leadership to the soy checkoff and says he's honored to serve Texas soybean farmers.

Gibson has been involved in farming his entire life and holds over 35 years of professional experience in agriculture. In addition to his involvement with the TCPB and CPAT, Gibson served 18 years as a county agent for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and managed a grain company in the Texas Panhandle, providing him extensive experience in the industry.

In his position with TCPB and CPAT, Gibson represents corn farmers all across the state by promoting the use of corn, working toward favorable farm policy for corn farmers, encouraging research and many other initiatives that benefit Texas corn farmers. Now, Gibson looks forward to the opportunity to serve Texas soybean farmers by managing production research, education and soybean-promotion programs throughout the state.

To contact Gibson or farmer-leaders of TSB, please visit www.TexasSoybeans.org for current contact information.

Glyphosate-Resistant Pigweed a “Ferocious Enemy” for Texas Soybeans

First documented in Texas in 2006, glyphosate-resistant pigweed has continued its spread throughout the state, and is now more feared than ever before by Texas soybean farmers.

“Though a couple years behind other areas of the country, the spread of resistance in our state is now a ferocious enemy in Texas,” says Texas A&M Professor and Extension Weed Specialist Paul Baumann.

The two glyphosate-resistant pigweed species in Texas are common waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. Both of these have been found in higher concentrations in two specific areas: waterhemp in eastern Texas and Palmer amaranth in the High Plains.

Past overreliance on glyphosate is likely the cause of the resistance situation Texas farmers are seeing now. For this reason, Baumann and other Texas extension experts hope farmers will implement herbicide-resistance-management programs.

“In an attempt to be cost-conscious in recent years, farmers only sprayed Roundup® after weeds had already emerged,” says Baumann. “They must understand the value of preventative herbicides and take early weed-control steps with pre-emergence applications to avoid weeds from the start.”

According to Baumann, weeds begin competing with the crop and impact yield as soon as they emerge.

“If you manage weeds only with post-emergence approaches, the weeds will pick your pocket for however long they are out there.”

Baumann says pre-plant applications of dinitroaniline herbicides, more commonly known as yellow herbicides, have been very effective in killing pigweed. And the use of trifluralin or Prowl® H2O have historically set a good foundation for weed control.

Though Baumann stresses the importance of establishing a proactive, preventative weed-control approach that includes pre-emergence herbicide applications, he says there is still no substitute for a post-emergence herbicide application to follow up on escaped weeds.

“In the state of Texas, Roundup® is too good on too many weeds to do away with,” says Baumann. “If you do apply Roundup® as a post-emergence option, be sure to use it in combination with another approved product somewhere in your pre- or post-treatment to provide multiple modes of action in your application.”

It is never too late in the season to implement a weed-management program. If you were unable to apply a pre-emergence herbicide before planting this year, be sure to continually scout your fields throughout the growing season and be prepared for every situation.

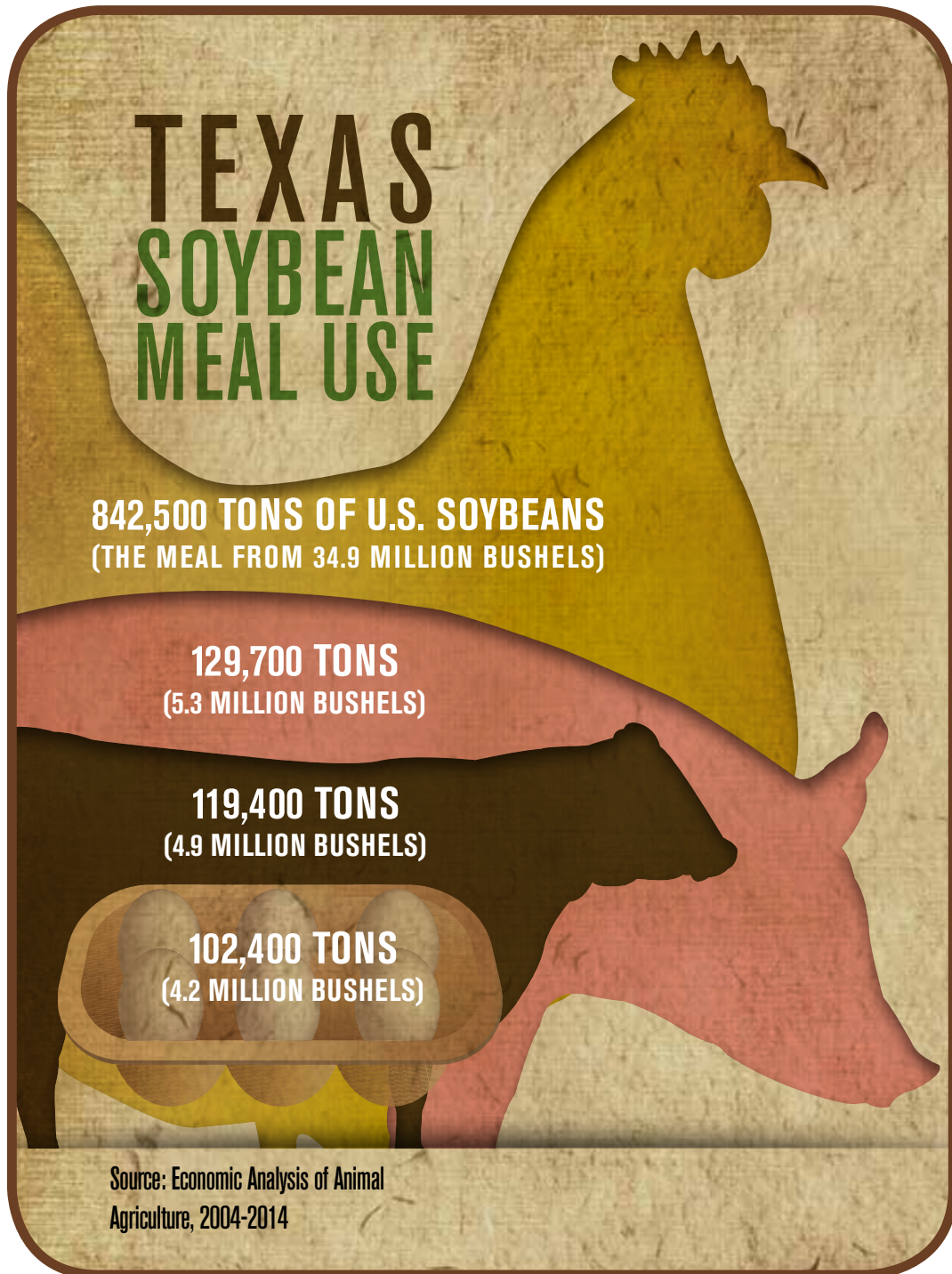
“It is important to stress that herbicide-resistance management does not stop at harvest,” says Baumann. “Pigweeds that emerge after harvest still have the capability to produce thousands of seeds. Weed management is a year-round process, and scouting and awareness of late season emerging weeds are something to be very vigilant on.”

For more information on what you can do to fight herbicide-resistant weeds, visit www.TakeActionOnWeeds.com.



Palmer amaranth pigweed (middle), and common waterhemp (either side) growing in a Texas soybean field.

Animal Agriculture Important to Texas



As an excellent source of amino acids and protein, it is no surprise that 97 percent of U.S. soybean meal is used to feed poultry and livestock throughout the country.

In Texas specifically, animal agriculture consumed 1.3 million tons of soybean meal in 2014, or the meal from about 53.9 million bushels of soybeans. Broilers dominated the use of soybean meal, consuming 64 percent of all soybean meal in the state. Hogs, beef cattle and egg production were also among the top consumers of soybean meal in Texas.

The connection between the state's soybean farmers and animal ag producers is an important part of Texas agriculture. The success of this relationship also has an impact on state and regional economies. In 2014, animal ag in Texas contributed to economic output by more than \$9.4 billion, boosted household earnings by \$1.7 billion, contributed 63,914 additional jobs and paid \$354.6 million in additional tax revenues.

The high demand for animal agriculture in Texas and throughout the country means more opportunities for soybean farmers. Visit www.UnitedSoybean.org to learn how you can raise high-quality soybeans and support your No. 1 consumer.

Look inside for the latest news from the Texas Soybean Board.