



# Lonestar Soybeans



**W**elcome to the *Lonestar Soybeans* newsletter! Your Texas soybean checkoff has created this biannual newsletter to keep you informed about what's happening at the state and national levels. Covering the latest issues in the soybean industry, *Lonestar Soybeans* is just one more way your checkoff is working for you.

## **SOYBEANS AND LIVESTOCK: A NATURAL COMBINATION**

It's no secret that livestock is extremely important to the state of Texas. Cattle provided over \$21 billion in output, with poultry adding another \$4 billion and hogs nearly \$400 million to the state of Texas in 2004. In total, Texas animal agriculture accounted for over 210,000 jobs and \$827 million in tax revenue in 2004.

More important to soybean farmers, livestock and poultry are the number

one consumers of U.S. soybean meal. Livestock and poultry consume 94 percent of the U.S. soybean meal consumed in this country. For that reason, it's important to make sure livestock can survive and thrive. What's good for the livestock and poultry industry is good for the soybean industry.

That's why the soybean checkoff encourages soybean farmers to publicly support livestock and poultry operations. Many battles over regulations are fought on the local level, so it is important to encourage growth of the livestock industry.

Texas has seen growth of its pork industry. In 1997, there were 580,000 hogs and pigs in Texas, but by 2004 that number had grown to 980,000. Those pigs consume a lot of soybean meal, so it is important for Texas soybean farmers to show their support of the state's surging pork industry.

## **TSB FUNDS RESEARCH TO PAVE WAY FOR FUTURE**

*In 2005, the Texas Soybean Board funded over \$48,000 worth of research on soybean production in the state of Texas. The funded projects should yield results that can help Texas farmers improve crop management and become more profitable.*

*Among the topics addressed by TSB were a planting study to determine stinkbug damage and flat pod syndrome, agronomic factors along the Texas Gulf Coast, phytoplasmas and flat pod syndrome, stress and pests in North Texas, irrigation technology and pest management in the Texas Panhandle and identifying varieties from South America that could be used in the United States.*

*In addition, the national soybean checkoff funds research on environmental stresses like drought, as well as a number of yield-robbing pests and diseases, such as soybean rust, white mold, soybean cyst nematodes, aphids and sudden death syndrome.*



## BIODIESEL ADDS FUEL TO THE FIRE OF SOYBEAN DEMAND

Soy biodiesel is the fastest-growing alternative energy source in the country, and that popularity has bolstered the demand for soybean oil.

Today, about one out of every two soybean farmers uses soy biodiesel in their operation. That is an impressive number, but the soybean checkoff will

continue working until that number is 10 out of 10. If every farmer and rancher used a 2 percent biodiesel blend, we could utilize 70 million gallons of pure biodiesel, or the soybean oil from nearly 48 million bushels of soybeans annually.

Biodiesel has been becoming more readily available. It is offered at nearly 3,000 terminals, distributors and retailers nationwide. Today in Texas, biodiesel

plants have to ship in soybean oil from outside the state or run on other vegetable oils, because there is not a soybean processing plant in Texas. However, anything that increases demand for soybeans is good for soybean farmers. The soybean checkoff continues to work with the National Biodiesel Board to promote biodiesel usage and availability.

