



Lonestar Soybeans

Welcome to the sixth edition of the *Lonestar Soybeans* newsletter and 2009 Annual Report! Your Texas soybean checkoff has created this 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.

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Letter from the Chairman

This was an undeniably tough year for farmers across the Lonestar state. For many of us, particularly farmers in the South, we faced what has been called the worst drought in our state's history. This was by far the toughest year I've experienced farming. On my own farm, we were forced to cut our losses – and our beans, which we baled prematurely for hay. Despite the hardships, I'm optimistic for the future.

As farmers, we face difficult challenges ahead, and with challenges come opportunities. According to the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization, the world population



is projected to rise to 8.2 billion in 2030 from a current 6.7 billion, requiring a 50 percent increase in food production. It's a tough challenge, especially coming off of a tough year, but as farmers we have to increase production. And I believe that soybean farmers will continue to do what they do best, growing more food on less land with fewer inputs.

Farmers aren't alone on their mission to feed the growing world. Your soybean checkoff invests funding in programs to help increase soybean production. For nearly 20 years, U.S. soybean farmers have invested millions of checkoff dollars to help meet the most important food needs of a growing global population. This year Texas soybean farmers helped fund research to improve yields and fight drought in the Lonestar state. National checkoff funds helped map the soybean genome, established standards in seed varieties that claim soybean cyst nematode resistance and aided in the release of a new line of drought-tolerant soybeans. All of these checkoff-funded efforts could result in better U.S. soybean yields and more U.S. soy to meet global demand.

So despite the tough year, I look forward to helping meet the future food needs of our country and the world.

Good luck to you this year!

Sincerely, Tom Rotello

Chairman, Navasota



Soybean Farmers Feed the World

The United Soybean Board (USB) and the soybean checkoff are committed to helping farmers meet the future needs of our country and the world.

Growing U.S. Soy's Market Access Around the World

- Soybean checkoff farmer-leaders recognize the importance of gaining acceptance and support of biotech as part of the effort to gain market access for U.S. soy in all countries. Through its Biotech Initiative, USB aims to provide facts about how biotech can positively impact issues people care about, such as world hunger, high food prices and an improved environment.
- The soybean research pipeline currently holds as many as 12 key soybean biotech events that could be part of new, commercialized U.S. soybean varieties within the next five to seven years. These traits carry a variety of benefits for humans, animal agriculture, the environment and farmers, all of which can help feed a growing world. Biotechnology advances will not only increase overall soybean production, but also improve the health attributes of U.S. soybeans.

Growing a More Sustainable U.S. Soybean Industry

- To meet present needs and continue to supply the world with safe, nutritious soybeans, while improving the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, USB's Sustainability Initiative aims to help keep U.S. soybean farmers sustainable and promote sustainability.
- Checkoff farmer-leaders are increasingly aware of the need to preserve biodiversity; the possible challenges of climate change; and the potential degradation of soil, streams and rivers. The soybean checkoff remains committed to helping improve the environmental footprint of the entire U.S. soybean industry. The checkoff also helps raise awareness among farmers on why sustainability is important and profitable.

Checkoff Funds Research to Improve Production, Profit Opportunities

The Texas Soybean Board (TSB) invests soybean checkoff funding in research to help create opportunities to increase farmer profitability. The checkoff partners with Texas A&M and the Texas extension program to help identify solutions to pests and diseases unique to the Lonestar state.

Researchers studying stink bug control discovered a new soybean pest in Port Lavaca. Mo Way and Stephen Biles observed soybean defoliation by South American bean thrips and plan to investigate these pests in 2010.

Way continued to analyze stink bug control methods on the upper Gulf Coast and plans to use this research to develop new thresholds for stink bugs. According to Way, some new insecticides provided excellent residual control.

TSB also helps fund programs to develop new markets for Texas soybeans, including export opportunities to Mexico. Way is working with a crushing plant in Matamoros, Mexico, to explore options for Texas farmers. Currently the plant ships soybeans from the Midwest. Texas soybeans may offer a lucrative advantage due to reduced shipping costs.

The Texas Soybean Board is looking for directors. Please contact Dawn Howe at the TSB office if you're interested in serving on the board: 1-800-247-8691 or swsoy@aristotle.net.



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Checkoff-funded research in 2009

- 1 Evaluation of Experimental Soybean Lines for Drought Tolerance Under Greenhouse Conditions; Jim Heitholt (Texas A&M - Commerce); (\$6,308 funded).
- 2 *Bradyrhizobium* Inoculation and Nodulation/Yield Tests for Texas Soybean; Calvin Trostle, Jim Heitholt and James Grichars (Texas AgriLife Extensiona); (\$7,500 funded).
- 3 Agronomic Factors Involved in Soybean Production Along the Texas Gulf Coast; James Grichar, Joe Janak and Brent Batchelor (Texas AgriLife Research); (\$13,730 funded).
- 4 Development of Red-Banded Stink Bug Economic Injury Levels; Mo Way (Texas AgriLife Research); (\$2,000 funded).

FY 2009 FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Beginning Balance August 1, 2008	\$34,451.56
Income	
Collections	\$191,509.50
Late fees	\$408.39
Checkoff returned to neighboring states on soybeans sold in Texas	-\$15,081.20
50% of collections transferred to USB	-\$84,845.10
Total Income	\$91,991.59
Total Funds	\$126,443.15
Expenses	
Administrative (staffing, collection expenses, office expenses, election, audit, board travel, etc.)	\$26,764.70
Education (farm show exhibits, grower communications, field days, etc.)	\$7,954.01
World Initiative for Soy in Human Health	\$1,000.00
Research	
2008 final payment	\$5,960.37
2009 first payment	\$22,030.00
Mid-South Soybean Board	\$2,000.00
Total Expenses	\$65,709.08
Bank Balance July 31, 2009	\$60,734.07

Lonestar Soybeans

See How Your Checkoff Investment Is Benefiting Texas