

WINTER 2025

SOYBEAN NEBRASKA

A Publication of the Nebraska Soybean Association and the Nebraska Soybean Board

SHARING OUR STORY

15 | Learn how Emma Vogt (cover), a mother, nurse, farmer and rancher, is sharing her agricultural story.

20-21 | Meet Noah Young of The Shiloh Farm, a farmer near Kenesaw, who inspires and educates millions about agriculture.



**PLANT POTENTIAL.
HARVEST REALITY.**



 **STINE HAS YIELD**



LIVE YOUR LIFE YOUR WAY

SOYBEAN NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) and the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) are proud to share the FY25 Winter edition of this publication with you—members of our shared community.

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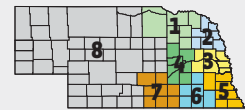


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The Nebraska Soybean Board is a private, nonprofit checkoff board responsible for the research and promotion of soybeans in an effort to increase the profitability of the state's 22,000 soybean producers.

Nebraska Soybean Board Directors

- District 1**
Anne Meis, Elgin
- District 2**
Jason Penke, Craig
- District 3**
Jay Hanson, Mead
- District 4**
Eugene Goering, Columbus
- District 5**
Mark Caspers (Chairman), Auburn
- District 6**
Mike Tomes (Secretary), Utica
- District 7**
Doug Saathoff, Trumbull
- District 8**
Blake Johnson (Treasurer), Holdrege
- At-Large**
Greg Anderson (Vice Chairman), Newman Grove



United Soybean Board Directors

- Greg Greving, Chapman
- Gregg Fujan, Weston
- Ed Lammers, Hartington
- Victor Bohuslavsky, Seward

Nebraska Soybean Board Staff

- Lisa Ablor
- Andy Chvatal
- Thomas Hoxmeier
- Lois Ronhovde
- Sophia Svanda
- Wesley Wach

On The Cover

Emma Vogt tending to their family's cattle near Naper, Nebraska.

Note from the
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



By Andy Chvatal

Happy New Year to all!

We have been working diligently to carry out the budget that our farmer-led board approved for this new fiscal year. Not only do we want to make sure U.S. soybeans continue to be seen as having the highest quality worldwide, we want to continue telling our story and forming that connection with the consumer. As we move into this new year, you will see consistency in local messaging to ensure consumers value agriculture and see it as the necessary backbone that it is, to spur growth in our local economies.

Soybean oil was the center of attention in 2024. California's demand for renewable diesel spurred the need and want for crush plants in the Midwest. The U.S. now has the expanded capability to turn more beans into meal and oil, versus just exporting whole beans. Value-added goods are a great thing for the local economy, as they create potential for local growth, add tax dollars and create new jobs. With a growing market comes competition as well, domestically and internationally. We will continue to educate and fight for Nebraska's soybean producers, and make sure that our quality and sustainability stories are told the right way.

Both Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) and the United Soybean Board (USB) will be selecting new members soon. There are three NSB seats up for election and two USB seats up for appointment. I would like to personally thank both Eugene Goering (NSB) and Ed Lammers (USB) for their many years of service to our industry as they both carry out their last year on their respective boards. Please consider running for an open position or reaching out to me to discuss the opportunities.

Wishing you a prosperous 2025.

Checking In With The Chairman

**PLANTING
OPTIMISM**



By Mark Caspers, NSB Chairman, Auburn

Greetings fellow soybean producers! My name is Mark Caspers, and I am a fourth-generation farmer from Nemaha County, Nebraska, serving as the District Five Director on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB). In November at our reorganizational meeting, I was elected to serve as NSB Chairman for the ensuing year. Joining me on the Executive Committee are Greg Anderson – Vice Chairman along with Mike Tomes – Secretary and Blake Johnson – Treasurer. At this meeting, we also welcomed new director Jay Hanson to our board. Together we are looking forward to an exciting, productive year serving the soybean producers of Nebraska in leveraging their checkoff dollars via research and promotional programs aimed at providing increased production knowledge to producers and benefiting the profitability of their operations. My involvement with NSB goes back more than twenty years having previously served four terms as the District Five Director from 2002-2014. In the interim, I continued to represent Nebraska on the boards of the Clean Fuels Foundation and the National Oilheat Research Alliance.

The 2024 production year was challenging for many of Nebraska's producers, who faced weather issues and lower prices. Farming is the most optimistic vocation I know of as you plant a seed in the ground, knowing it has to die to begin anew. It is the life cycle that optimistically will eventually return manifold in yield. So, just as farmers begin to look optimistically forward to the 2025 growing season, your NSB directors and staff are looking optimistically forward to successfully investing your checkoff dollars into programs, resulting in excellent returns to the Nebraska soybean producers. One way your soybean checkoff dollars can benefit you in planning for a successful season is by providing testing for soybean cyst nematodes (SCN). This pest is a silent yield robber, as it may negatively impact yields on your farm without you realizing it. Please contact your county extension agent for test kits and do the sampling to get your fields checked out to see if they are infested with SCN. If you happen to find out your fields have an SCN infestation, you can work with your seed advisor to find resistant varieties.

Wishing all a safe and productive 2025!

Soy Action Center

PREPARING POLICY FOR A NEW YEAR



By Kent Grotelueschen, NSA President, Octavia

As we launch into the new year, we prepare for a new administration in our nation's capital. That means several organizations representing ag interests are working to get issues before the incoming administration and elected officials.

As part of our outreach efforts from the soy industry, the American Soybean Association prepared a letter highlighting priorities within three areas to present to the Trump team.

Key priorities include the farm economy, trade, biofuels and transportation.

FARM ECONOMY: Implementing a new Farm Bill, enacting strong tax policy for farmers and ranchers and making sure we have a regulatory system that facilitates innovation for biotech, gene editing and having access to pesticidal tools.

TRADE: All trading partners are critical to the success of U.S. soybean farmers with more than half of the soybeans produced in the U.S. exported annually. We ask for help in maintaining and protecting our economic trade interests, and we need market access to China and other export markets.

BIOFUELS: The soybean industry will rely on EPA setting robust RVO's to spur the continued growth in the biomass-based diesel industry. RFS and federal tax credits spur additional industry investments needed to build out infrastructure

for growing biodiesel demand. The growth of the biomass-based diesel industry includes biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel.

TRANSPORTATION: Having a strong network including trucks, rail and waterways is paramount to getting our crops to the global marketplace. Aging roads and bridges hinder our ability to move crops in a cost-effective manner. Having continued federal funding for waterways infrastructure and maintenance is critical. The waterways system is the most cost-effective mode of transporting agricultural products.

Part of our work as a soybean association is to encourage the administration and our Congressional leaders to keep soybeans critical issues at the forefront. Especially at a time when it has been exceptionally hard for many of our country's farmers.

There is no better time than in 2025 for farmers to engage and make a difference. I challenge soybean producers to engage in conversation with elected leaders at the state and federal levels. Providing a firsthand perspective to our elected leaders on the issues and how they impact your farm makes a difference.

It has been rewarding to represent fellow Nebraska soybean growers on these issues, and I look forward to continuing the work in 2025.



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nesoybeans.org

2025 President

Kent Grotelueschen, Octavia - **District 4**

State Directors

- Brent Svoboda, Pender - **District 1**
- Lucas Miller, Randolph - **District 2**
- Clint Hostler, Grand Island - **District 3**
- Doug Bartek, Wahoo - **District 5**
- Daryl Obermeyer, Brownville - **District 6**
- Wade Walters, Shickley - **District 7**
- Craig Frenzen, Fullerton - **At Large**
- Chandra Blasé, Hordville - **At Large**
- Myles Ramsey, Kenesaw - **At Large**



A member-driven, grassroots policy organization that represents U.S. soybean farmers

American Soybean Association Directors

Dennis Fujan, Prague
Geoff Ruth, Rising City

soygrowers.com

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- Lori Luebbe Staff Writer
- Wesley Wach Staff Writer
- Dave Larson Sales Director

The 109th Legislature convened on January 8, 2025

Visit the official website of the Nebraska Legislature at nebraskalegislature.gov to contact your State Senator or subscribe to the Unicameral News Update.

NEBRASKA SOYBEAN BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) convened its inaugural board meeting for fiscal year 2025 on November 25–26, 2024, in Lincoln. During this meeting, restructuring of the board and committees transpired alongside routine board business.

The newly elected officers, chosen to lead the board for a one-year term, are as follows:

Executive Committee:

From left to right.

Secretary: Mike Tomes
District 6

Chairman: Mark Caspers
District 5

Vice Chairman: Greg Anderson
At-Large

Treasurer: Blake Johnson
District 8



The Nebraska Soybean Board also has four committees that review and approve projects that fit within the current NSB strategic plan.

Each director chooses two committees they wish to sit on during the fiscal year, and the committees elect their chairperson.

Production & Crop Research:

Doug Saathoff (*chair*), Greg Anderson, Jay Hanson, Eugene Goering, Mike Tomes

Community Engagement:

Jason Penke (*chair*), Anne Meis, Mark Caspers, Blake Johnson

Farmer Support:

Anne Meis (*chair*), Doug Saathoff, Jay Hanson, Mike Tomes

Demand & Utilization:

Eugene Goering (*chair*), Blake Johnson, Mark Caspers, Jason Penke, Greg Anderson

What does the board do?

- ▶ Sets an annual budget and approves projects aligned with NSB's strategic plan.
- ▶ Upholds the core values of integrity, leadership, collaboration, adaptability and innovation.
- ▶ Attend five annual board meetings (typically held in September, November, January, March and June/July). These meetings are required and are one to two days in length.
- ▶ Participate in trade missions, work with the media, represent NSB at events, meetings and more.
- ▶ Serve on two of four NSB committees each year. These committees lead the staff members' work and provide direction regarding board decisions.

Who serves on the NSB board of directors?

There is one director for each of Nebraska's eight crop reporting districts including one at-large director. Elections for open seats are held during the month of July.

Directors are elected to a three-year term and can serve four consecutive terms.

How can I learn more?

You can talk to any current director, especially the director representing your district, and ask about their experience with the board. You can also contact staff at the Nebraska Soybean Board to discuss your interests and goals within the Nebraska soybean industry.



NSB Board of Directors: Left to right: Doug Saathoff, Jason Penke, Anne Meis, Mark Caspers, Blake Johnson, Greg Anderson, Jay Hanson, Eugene Goering, Mike Tomes

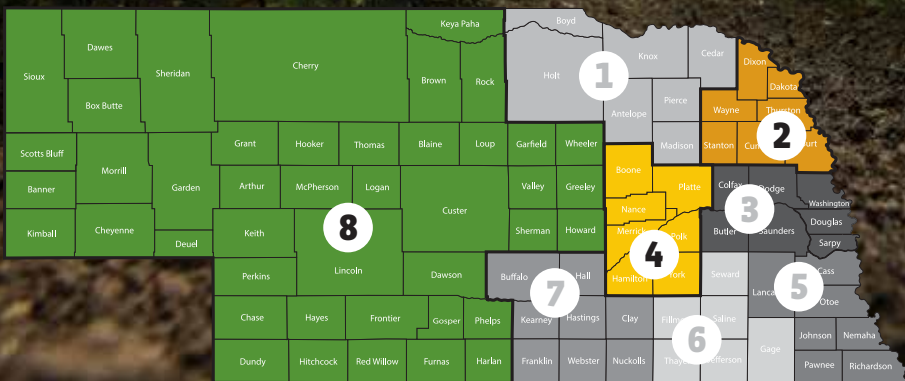
SOYBEAN FARMERS:

YOU ARE THE VOICE OF YOUR DISTRICT

MAKE AN IMPACT AND RUN FOR THE NEBRASKA SOYBEAN BOARD.



Districts 2, 4 & 8



Nebraska Soybean Board District Map

ELECTION SCHEDULE

2026

Districts 5, 7 & At-Large

2027

Districts 1, 3 & 6

The election will be conducted by mail-in ballot in July for Districts 2, 4 and 8. Soybean farmers who reside in counties that are up for election in 2025 will receive ballots and candidate information regarding NSB's election process via direct mail.

Election districts and counties are:

- ✓ District 2: Counties of Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Stanton, Thurston and Wayne
- ✓ District 4: Counties of Boone, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk and York
- ✓ District 8: Counties of Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Box Butte, Brown, Chase, Cherry, Cheyenne, Custer, Dawes, Dawson, Deuel, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Grant, Greeley, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Howard, Keith, Keya Paha, Kimball, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Morrill, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Thomas, Valley and Wheeler

To apply for a candidacy in District 2, 4 or 8 you must:

- ✓ Obtain an NSB Candidacy Petition by contacting NSB's executive director at (402) 480-1251
- ✓ Complete the petition and collect the signatures of at least 20 soybean farmers in the district
- ✓ Return petition to NSB office on or before April 15, 2025

Nebraska Residents Cast the Deciding Vote

Our shared soybean farmer community determines electoral winners. These voters must be:

- ✓ Nebraska residents
- ✓ District 2, 4 or 8 residents
- ✓ A soybean farmer who owns or shares the ownership and risk of loss for such soybeans because of being a partner in a partnership, or is a shareholder in a corporation or a limited liability company member during the current or immediately preceding calendar year.

ELECTION CALENDAR:

DECEMBER 1, 2024
Candidacy petition period began

APRIL 15, 2025
Candidacy petitions due to NSB office

JULY 2025
Ballots mailed to eligible voters

JULY 31, 2025
Final day to return ballots for consideration

OCTOBER 1, 2025
Newly elected directors' terms begin

We put soybeans first because you put performance first.



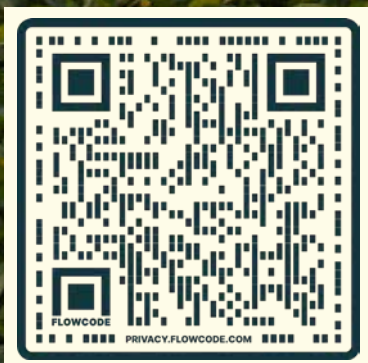
At Asgrow® brand, not only are we all about the beans, we're all about your success as well. That's why we offer localized products with leading genetics, weed management systems and maximum profit potential – all developed by soybean experts who put soybeans first.

DISCOVER HOW IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BEANS.

[Asgrow.com](https://www.asgrow.com)



*The developing and emerging
nations of today
are the home of tomorrow's
U.S. Soy customers*



wishh.org

PLAN TO ATTEND THE

2025 Nebraska Soil Health Conferences



Central Nebraska Soil Health Conference

Jan. 29, 2025

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Adams County Fairgrounds, 947 S. Baltimore Ave., Hastings, Nebraska

Eastern Nebraska Soil Health Conference

Feb. 11, 2025

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

West Point Nielsen Community Center, 200 Anna Stalp Ave., West Point, Nebraska

Key Topics for This Year's Conferences

This year's conference will explore four critical areas of sustainable agriculture: carbon stocks, crop-livestock integration, nitrogen management, and cover crop resources. Participants will dive into innovative strategies for enhancing soil health, including increasing carbon sequestration, improving nutrient cycling, optimizing nitrogen application, and implementing effective cover crop systems.



This conference presents an invaluable opportunity to engage with experts, share experiences, and gain insights into these critical topics in sustainable agriculture.

Pre-register to reserve your seat!

Registration and vendor exhibits begin at 8 a.m. with coffee and refreshments available, and lunch is provided at noon.

ASA Corteva Young Leaders Launch Training

The Nebraska Soybean Association recognizes Jacob and Catherine Frerichs of Minden and Travis Runge of Schuyler for participating in the 41st class of the ASA Corteva Agriscience Young Leaders Program at the Corteva's Global Business Center in Johnston, IA.

During training, the group heard from key soybean industry leaders, participated in DiSC® and communications training, toured Corteva's greenhouses, and received updates on the latest advancements in the soybean industry.

The second phase of training will take place Feb. 28-March 4 in Denver during the 2025 Commodity Classic tradeshow. Young Leaders was founded in 1984 and continues to set the bar for leadership training in agriculture.



Nebraska Leaders Serve on ASA Board

The American Soybean Association (ASA) Board of Directors welcomed Geoff Ruth of Rising City as Nebraska's representative at their December meeting. Ruth, a former Nebraska Soybean Association President, joins the ASA Board to advocate for key issues such as the farm bill, biofuels, and tax policy.

Retiring from the ASA Board is Ken Boswell of Shickley, who has served since 2016 and contributed to various committees and advocacy teams.

Congratulations to these leaders and thank you for your commitment representing soy grower's interests.



Geoff Ruth



Ken Boswell

NEBRASKA SOYBEAN BOARD FUNDING & EXPENDITURES

for Fiscal Year 2024

FUNDING REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUES: **\$8,289,806**

MISCELLANEOUS **\$53,707**

INTEREST **\$358,985**

CHECKOFF ASSESSMENTS **\$7,877,114**

NET ASSETS

BEGINNING OF YEAR:
\$14,879,074

END OF YEAR:
\$14,747,667

MISSION

Growing value for Nebraska farmers by maximizing their checkoff investments.

VISION

Feeding, fueling and innovating for the future.

EXPENDITURES

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: **\$8,421,213**

ADMINISTRATIVE **\$575,507**

FARMER SUPPORT **\$949,724**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT **\$1,144,597**

PRODUCTION & CROP RESEARCH **\$2,003,023**

DEMAND & UTILIZATION **\$3,748,362**

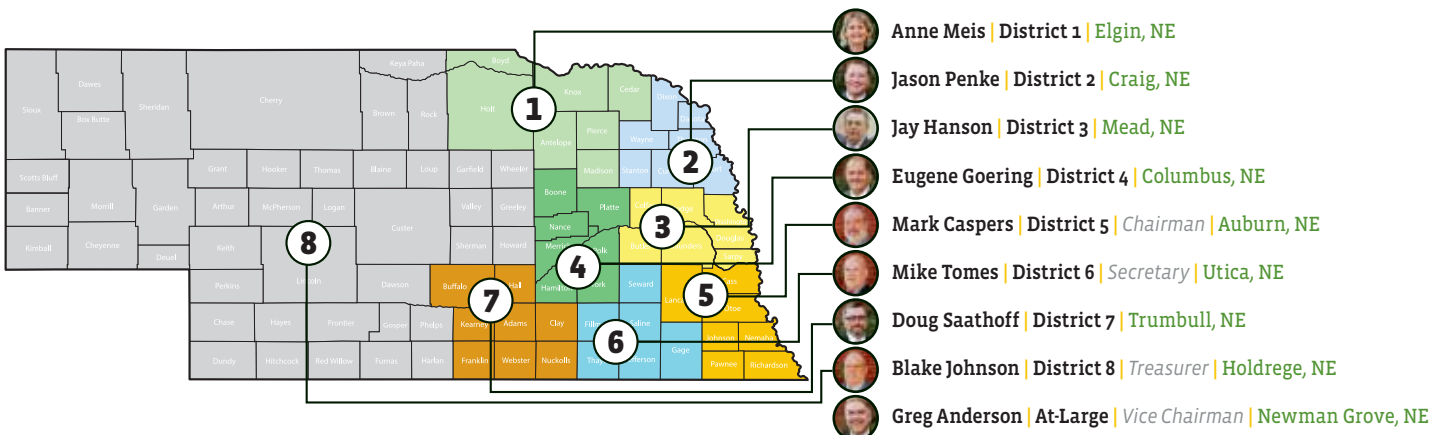
OUR INITIATIVES

Farmer Support: Share ideas and information to support and encourage Nebraska soybean farmers.

Community Engagement: Interact with our local communities to showcase Nebraska soybeans, farms and farmers.

Production & Crop Research: Invest in targeted research to improve Nebraska soy production and quality.

Demand & Utilization: Promote the power, versatility and sustainability of Nebraska soy.



Nebraska Farmers Bring Strong Leadership to the United Soybean Board



Gregg Fujan

Gregg Fujan of Weston has been reappointed to the United Soybean Board (USB), bringing his experience and dedication back to the national soybean checkoff program. A soybean and corn farmer, Fujan has previously served on USB and was a former chairman of the Nebraska Soybean Board. He also led the North Central Soybean Research Program as president. Greg is one of four farmer-leaders representing Nebraska on USB, helping drive initiatives that enhance profitability and market opportunities for U.S. soybean farmers.

Joining Fujan in USB leadership is Ed Lammers of Hartington who was recently elected to the USB Executive Committee. Lammers' focus on innovation makes him a key voice in guiding national soybean research, education and promotion priorities. His leadership has ensured that Nebraska farmers have a strong advocate as USB works to strengthen demand and develop new uses for soybeans.

Nebraska's leadership on USB is rounded out by Greg Greiving of Chapman and Victor Bohuslavsky of Seward, both dedicated farmer-leaders who bring valuable insight and experience to the board. Together, they represent Nebraska's soybean growers, ensuring the state plays an active role in shaping the future success of the industry and soybean checkoff.

THANK YOU, TONY!

The Nebraska Soybean Board also recognizes Tony Johanson of Oakland for his years of service. Tony served on the Nebraska Soybean Board from 2013 to 2019 and represented the state on the United Soybean Board from 2018 to 2024. During his tenure, he worked tirelessly to improve market opportunities and promote U.S. and Nebraska soybeans in innovative ways. While stepping away from USB, Tony is excited to continue full-time farming and looks forward to spending time with his family, participating more in 4-H and contributing to his local community.



Tony Johanson



Ed Lammers

Connecting

THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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A conversation with Noah Young, a Nebraska farmer and farm influencer.

22 | An Opportunity to Kickstart a Career in Ag

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute going strong after more than 50 years.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jason Penke (*chair*) | Anne Meis | Mark Caspers | Blake Johnson

Sharing OUR STORY

Hi, I'm Emma—a mom, wife, farm wife, rancher, nurse and proud volunteer with CommonGround Nebraska, living near Naper, Nebraska. Like everyone, I wear many hats, and while all of them are important, my family and our farm are especially dear to me.

I love sharing about our life in agriculture (although my dad would tell you I'd love to talk about anything!). My passion for sharing our agricultural story began unexpectedly when my oldest son, Grayson, was in the NICU at UNMC in Omaha. We spent the first ten weeks of his life there as he learned to grow and eat. During that time, we bonded with the amazing NICU staff, swapping stories about our lives. It was fall, and back home, our cows and calves were coming off grass and being weaned. When I shared this with one of the nurses, she was shocked. She had always assumed cows spent their lives in barns, not roaming open pastures.

That moment was a lightbulb for me—you truly don't know what you don't know if

you've never had a chance to learn. For that nurse, her understanding of where food comes from changed through a simple conversation.

Although I'm a nurse, I wasn't prepared for the world of the NICU. I learned how hard it can be for tiny babies to develop the ability to eat and how vital good nutrition is for growth. For Grayson, that meant a special formula containing rice and soy. Seeing how something grown on farms, like soybeans, played a role in helping my baby thrive deepened my appreciation for what we do as farmers.

As farmers, we have a unique opportunity to share our stories and connect with others. And sharing our agricultural story matters because it connects the dots for people, showing them how the food and products they rely on begin on farms like ours.

It's my hope that through conversations—whether in a hospital, a grocery store or on social media—I can help others understand and appreciate the hard work and care that go into raising crops, cattle and the next generation.



Emma Vogt of Naper, Nebraska



THE SPECTACULAR LIFE OF A SOYBEAN

Introducing a Fresh Educational Resource for Nebraska Elementary Students

The Nebraska Soybean Board is proud to introduce a new educational resource, "The Spectacular Life of a Soybean" educational booklet. Created for students in grades three through six, this engaging booklet guides young learners on a journey from the planting of a soybean to its many uses in everyday life.

This tool sheds light on a variety of topics such as soil composition, plant life cycles, soybean pests and diseases, renewable fuels, global exports and modern farming methods. It offers an in-depth exploration of the world of soybeans—a major Nebraska commodity—providing valuable and fun insights into the world of agriculture.

Thomas Hoxmeier, director of communications for the Nebraska Soybean Board, describes the booklet

as "a fun and engaging way to learn about one of Nebraska's most important agricultural products. It provides valuable information about agriculture and helps build a better understanding of our state's agricultural economy."

The booklet combines colorful illustrations and photography with fun, engaging copy. To enhance its educational value, it includes teacher-friendly activities at the end, designed to reinforce the lessons and encourage hands-on learning in the classroom and at home.

"We want young people who are disconnected from farming to read this book and gain a better understanding of the crops grown right in their own communities. Soybeans, for example, play a significant role in their daily lives in ways they might not realize—from the food they eat to the products they use. We

hope this resource sparks curiosity and inspires some to explore agriculture as a potential career path," says Hoxmeier.

Teachers will find a wealth of resources in the booklet, including a glossary of terms, lesson examples and discussion starters. It also provides links to additional resources for extended learning. As a testament to the versatility and sustainability of soy, the booklet is printed with soy ink.

We see this as a resource that educators will find helpful and rewarding in the classroom.

— THOMAS HOXMEIER
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
NEBRASKA SOYBEAN BOARD



To inquire about copies, please contact info@nebrasokaybeans.org.





WISHH leverages partnerships
for U.S. Soy to help meet the protein
needs of 8 billion consumers



wishh.org

Celebrating Soy-Based Innovation in Textiles

Winners Announced for NEXTILE: Soy in Textiles Design Challenge

When you think of soybeans, textiles might not be the first thing that comes to mind—but that’s exactly what students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) tackled in this year’s NEXTILE: Soy in Textiles Design Challenge. The competition, now in its second year, featured design students from 21 colleges and universities invited to leverage their creative and problem-solving skills to produce the next sustainable innovation in textile design. The catch? Students must create their products using one versatile ingredient—soybeans.

Each participating individual or team received a design kit with six sustainable, soy-based materials, including soy silk, soy cashmere, organic pigment, soy wax and other soy products. Project submissions leveraged three or more of these ingredients to produce new textile threads, dyes, paints, designs and more. Judges included representatives from the design and textile industries and soy farmers from around the country.

“Their designs are impressive. And their commitment to developing sustainable solutions using soy is impressive. I’m excited for the future of each competitor who participated and for the future of soy,” said Anne Meis, Nebraska soybean farmer representing U.S. Soy on the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB), who served as a judge of the competition.

The winners from each school receive a \$500 scholarship and the runner-up receives a \$250 scholarship. In addition, the winners from each school are invited

“
It’s incredible how these talented students use their creativity and technical skills to create new uses for our soybeans.

— ANNE MEIS, NSB DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

”
to participate in the national-level competition.

U.S. Soy has long been a critical ingredient for product innovation, going all the way back to Henry Ford, who used soy-based paints, textile materials and plastics for automobile design. Soy is used in every industry. Farmers can find their products in the streets they drive on, the shoes they wear and the biofuels for their vehicles. The possibilities are endless. There are more than 1,000 soy-based products currently on the market—from tires and firefighting foam to fabrics and turf. You name an industry, and U.S. Soy is almost always an essential component. NEXTILE was created to put sustainable soy materials into the hands of the brightest young minds in design to create the next generation of eco-friendly and biobased textile solutions.

The winning and runner-up teams from UNL were:



Winning Team: Gracelyn Wingett and Monica Samaniego and their floral appliqué wall hanging



Runner-Up Team: Graysan Guss and Holli Sauerbreit and their soy coaster



Learn more about NEXTILE, the participating schools and students and the next round of soy-based sustainable innovation at ussoy.org/nextile.



AG GOES

Social



Q&A With Noah Young of The Shiloh Farm

The Nebraska Soybean Board recently connected with Noah Young, who owns and operates The Shiloh Farm along with his wife Sierra and their four children near Kenesaw, Nebraska. Young isn't just a farmer; he's also become a full-time farm influencer and creator who has amassed over 617,000 followers on Instagram and 1.1 million followers on TikTok. Young shares inspiring and educational content that provides a glimpse into agriculture, homesteading and sustainable farming practices. In this Q&A, he shares his story and perspectives on what it means to be a producer in Nebraska.

Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB):

What inspired you to share your journey in agriculture with the world through social media?

Noah Young (NY): I wanted to show people that growing their own food and raising chickens isn't as intimidating as it might seem. If someone like me, with zero experience, can figure it out, so can they! Sharing my journey on social media makes agriculture relatable and approachable, especially for those who didn't grow up around it. My goal is to inspire others to give it a try and see how rewarding it can be.

NSB: How has your perspective on farming evolved since those first days working on your wife's family farm?

NY: I was fortunate to learn about agriculture through the lens of regenerative practices, with a focus on innovation and doing things differently. Watching my wife's family constantly seek ways to improve their farm inspired me to adopt the same mindset. Over time, my respect for the challenges of trying something new in farming has only grown. It's a humbling reminder of the dedication it takes to make meaningful change.

NSB: Why do you think it's important for producers to tell their stories, especially to audiences outside of agriculture?

NY: If we don't tell the story of agriculture, someone else will—and it might not reflect the truth. By stepping back, we allow others, like media and lobbyists, to shape the narrative for us. Sharing our experiences helps build meaningful connections, and stories are the most powerful way to connect with people on a human level. It's how we drive understanding, bridge gaps and inspire the next generation!

NSB: What do you hope your followers are

learning about agriculture through your content, and what lessons have they shared with you in return?

NY: I can say with certainty that I've learned more from my audience than I've ever taught them. Social media has given me access to a wealth of knowledge and an incredible support system that goes far beyond my own abilities. That being said, I hope my content inspires people to grow something of their own or, at the very least, think more deeply about where their food comes from and the work it takes to produce it. That mutual exchange of learning and inspiration is what makes this journey so rewarding.

NSB: As a first-generation producer, what challenges have you faced, and how have they shaped your approach to farming and ranching?

NY: As a first-generation producer, one of the biggest challenges has been finding land and raising the capital needed for tools, equipment and facilities. Beyond that, the hardest part has been identifying my true passion and turning it into a sustainable business through effective marketing. Unlike taking over an established farm



Noah and Sierra Young

with a set operation, I've had to navigate uncertainty about what to grow and how to market it each year. While it's been challenging, it's also pushed me to be creative and resourceful in building something uniquely my own.

NSB: How has being part of the Nebraska community shaped your journey, and what does the support from local people and other Nebraska farm influencers mean to you?

NY: Growing up in Nebraska, agriculture was at the heart of our community and being surrounded by it played a big role in shaping my journey. However, our farming methods differ from the majority of our area, which has made building a broader support network online incredibly valuable. The combination of local support and worldwide connections has given me the foundation I need to succeed.

NSB: What advice would you give to other producers who are hesitant to share their story, even if it's in a small way or don't know where to start?

NY: Your story will be told, whether you choose to share it or not, so why not be the one to control the narrative? By

sharing your journey, you can show people firsthand what your life and work in agriculture are really like. Social media gives you the power to cut through the noise and offer a genuine, unfiltered perspective. Start small, be authentic and let people walk a mile in your shoes—they'll appreciate the insight, and you'll be surprised how rewarding that can be.

NSB: Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future of The Shiloh Farm and the legacy you're building?

NY: Looking ahead, we hope to continue expanding our garden and nursery business while keeping the dream of a bison ranch on the horizon as we work out the logistics. Ultimately, our goal is to build something tangible and meaningful that our kids can inherit if they choose. We want them to have the opportunity to be a part of the farm, take it over and make it their own. Isn't that what life is all about? Creating something that outlives you and sets your kids up for success. Farming offers an incredible opportunity to do just that!

NSB: Anything else you would like to add?

NY: The world is more fascinated by agriculture than ever before. My

following exists because I share farming in a way that's relatable, achievable and entertaining—but at the end of the day, I'm just growing vegetables and raising chickens. There's so much more to agriculture, and the opportunity to showcase its diversity and uniqueness is wide open for anyone willing to tell their story. If you're passionate about it, your voice can make a difference.





The 2024 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute delegation group photo in Memorial Stadium after the state dinner.

An Opportunity to Kickstart a Career in Ag

Fifty-four years ago, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) realized it had to respond to the ever-increasing problem of young people leaving the farms and ranches of Nebraska.

The idea of an institute to expose young people to the opportunities available in agriculture was first organized in 1972. The original Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) program was developed through cooperation between the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and 18 college-age young men and women who formed the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC), which now carries on the tradition of passion for the agricultural industry.

Today, the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute is a weeklong experience for high school juniors and seniors from across Nebraska to learn more about career opportunities within agriculture. Held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus, it is the longest-running

program of its kind in the nation and had over 250 students attend in 2024. This conference features motivational speakers, agricultural education, career development, networking with industry professionals, leadership activities, a farm management game, a formal banquet, a dance and new friendships. Applications are made available in February and are due in mid-April, with delegates being chosen by their interests, involvement, leadership skills and achievements in agriculture.

"From the beginning, NAYI has shared the importance of agriculture with thousands of Nebraska high school students," said Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council Advisor Christin Kamm. "Students participating in NAYI continue the legacy of exceptional ag leaders in Nebraska by developing their leadership skills and by increasing their knowledge and passion for agriculture. If you know high school juniors or seniors interested in ag, encourage them to apply to NAYI."

Funding for NAYI activities comes from the former Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. Agricultural businesses and commodity organizations, like the Nebraska Soybean Board, also sponsor the majority of expenses for NAYI. This allows the event to be completely free to delegates, giving them a unique experience to share their ideas with local, state and national speakers, along with other young people from all across Nebraska.

Jadyn Tidyman, a 2024 NAYI delegate from Chadron said, "Those who attend NAYI are driven, ambitious people, and it is the perfect place to network with like-minded peers! NAYI truly is something you do not want to miss!"

NAYI is an ever-changing program that keeps pace with today's agriculture. While the program is constantly being developed and improved, the original goal will remain the same—to keep Nebraskans involved and interested in agriculture.



Delegates participate in "Games on the Green."



Over 250 students attend and network at NAYI.



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to take advantage of the
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FarmersforSoilHealth.com



FROM THE

Fields

TO

Fires

A yellow fire engine is the background of the page. The words 'ENGINE 30' are visible on the side of the engine. Below the main title, the words 'BRAINARD RURAL FIRE DISTRICT' are written on the side of the engine. The engine is parked in a garage or station.

**Brainard Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
Receives SoyFoam Firefighting Foam Donation**

At the 2024 Husker Harvest Days, soybeans took center stage in an unexpected way—fighting fires. The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) held a drawing for a donation of SoyFoam™ firefighting foam, a soy-based product designed to improve safety for firefighters. The lucky winner was Kyla Gewee, a volunteer EMT with the Brainard Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department and a paraprofessional at East Butler Schools. Kyla chose to donate the product to her local fire department, where it will support their efforts to serve the community.

SoyFoam TF 1122, developed through a partnership between the United Soybean Board and Cross Plains Solutions, is an excellent alternative to traditional firefighting foams that contain harmful per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) chemicals. PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” pose serious health risks to firefighters and can contaminate the

environment. In contrast, SoyFoam is 100% free of PFAS, biodegradable and certified as 84% biobased through the USDA BioPreferred® program. It’s also the first firefighting foam to achieve GreenScreen Certified® Gold status, setting a high bar for safety and environmental impact.

The foam works effectively on Class A and Class B fires, providing excellent performance while eliminating the risks associated with traditional foams. Another benefit of SoyFoam for the soybean industry is that it’s made with soy flour, derived from soybean meal.

NSB staff delivered 10 five-gallon pails of SoyFoam to the Brainard Fire Department. Established in 1923, the department has been a cornerstone of the community, offering fire protection and emergency medical services.

Brainard Fire Department Chief John Bongers expressed his enthusiasm for the product. “We are grateful that Kyla took the time to enter our

department in the drawing for the SoyFoam. Small departments run on tight budgets, so contributions like this help ease that burden. We look forward to using this product.”

Wesley Wach, NSB’s demand and utilization coordinator, explained the broader impact of SoyFoam: “This product is a win-win. It supports soybean growers by creating demand for soybean meal and provides firefighters with a safer tool. Cross Plains Solutions estimates that current applications of SoyFoam have the potential to use the protein from 12 million bushels of soybeans. We’re proud to help bring innovations like this to our communities.”

This donation is just one example of how the soybean checkoff connects soybean innovations to real-world applications, supporting the agriculture industry and local communities.



Wesley Wach, NSB demand and utilization coordinator (left), stands with members of the Brainard Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department alongside pails of SoyFoam. Following Wesley from left to right are Eric Hofpar, Seth Robeson, Sara Hofpar and John Bongers.

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Biodiesel and renewable diesel can reduce GHG emissions today in existing engine technology while operating seamlessly throughout the nation's rail system.



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Materials supported by United Soybean Board, soybean farmers and their checkoffs.

UNDERSTANDING SOYBEAN TENTIFORM LEAFMINER

An Update for Nebraska Farmers

University of Nebraska Extension researchers are asking soybean farmers to be on the lookout next growing season for the newest pest to appear on the scene.

The soybean tentiform leafminer was first spotted in Minnesota and Quebec soybean fields in 2021. Prior to that, the species of moth was known to dine on native plants. This new discovery was followed by positive identifications in the Dakotas in 2022 and 2023. In September 2024, the insect was identified in Nebraska's Madison County.

Wayne Ohnesorg is a Nebraska Extension Educator and Entomologist at Madison County Extension. He holds a PhD in entomology and was part of the team that helped lead the discovery of Nebraska's first known soybean tentiform leafminer.

"It was originally found by a producer, who contacted his agronomist and ultimately the Extension office to examine his fields and identify the new and unusual pest," Ohnesorg said.

The Madison County ID was made at the end of September during full-blown soybean harvest. That left very little time to search for other instances of the new pest. As such, Ohnesorg says, the task for the 2025 growing season is to work with farmers statewide to determine where—or whether—the pest has spread beyond Madison County.

In terms of being a cause for concern, Ohnesorg says it's too early to make the call.

"Right now we just need to figure out where it is," he said. "Results from Minnesota have been really mixed in terms of yield impact. As for spraying for control, there's not a good handle on that yet."

The soybean tentiform leafminer can be readily identified by a few unique characteristics. Most notably, unlike Nebraska's other soybean leafminer (a mostly benign and elusive, beetle), this one is a moth. It has multiple generations in a growing season. And it does most of its damage on the underside of the soybean leaf.

"You'll see the characteristic white blotches, and as the larvae grow there might be some puckering and discoloration on the top side of the leaf as well. This damage tends to accumulate over time."

Currently, by Ohnesorg's estimation, the case in Madison County is the only known reported sighting of the soybean tentiform leafminer in Nebraska. Yet growers are being asked to stay vigilant and report any sightings to Ohnesorg via email (wohnesorg2@unl.edu) or by dialing the Madison County Extension office at 402.370.4040.

"Pictures are great in terms of confirming this. The mines are telltale enough on their own that you can usually get an identification from a good picture of the back of a leaf."



STL larvae feeding on soybean causes trademark white blotches on the leaf.



Soybean tentiform leafminer larva.



Soybean tentiform leafminer pupae.

From Field to Customer

Making the Connection 7,845 Miles from a Nebraska Soybean Farm

Article & Photos by: Ritz Ag Consulting, Inc

Now that Nebraska soybean farmers have finished a successful harvest, many often wonder about the journey of their soybeans after delivering them to the local elevators. According to the USDA, 50-60% of U.S. soybeans are exported as whole beans, and 28% of soybean meal is shipped to customers worldwide. The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) invests some of your checkoff dollars into international programs to build and maintain market access for Nebraska soybeans and soybean meal.

NSB's District Eight Director, Blake Johnson of Holdrege, recently visited the Philippines as part of an annual Midwest farmers' trade mission to strengthen connections with soybean meal buyers. The Philippines is the top importer of U.S. soybean meal, using it primarily for poultry, swine and aquaculture feed. During the trip, the delegation met with key importers and shared insights from the recent harvest, emphasizing product



Blake visited the office of La Filipina Uy Gongco, one of the largest soybean meal importers in the Philippines.

quality. Such missions play a critical role in building trust and understanding between U.S. farmers and international customers.

Another key activity during the trade mission is the industry Christmas event, hosted annually by Midwest farmers. This brings together over 100 attendees to celebrate the strong partnership between Philippine buyers and the U.S. soybean industry. Johnson delivered a presentation about his farming operations, highlighting the importance of continued cooperation between the U.S. and Filipino soybean buyers.

During his visit to Subic Port, Johnson experienced a surreal moment. After over 20 hours of flying, covering 7,845 miles, he made a direct connection that many soybean farmers wonder about. At the port, Johnson saw a vessel named "Abigail" that had been loaded in early November and had traveled 18 days across the Pacific, captained by a Filipino national, coming from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and Ag Processing Inc.'s (AGP) terminal. The vessel of soybean meal from AGP likely processed soybeans that Johnson harvested in October, as his farm is only 60 miles away from AGP's Hastings plant. The soybean meal is already in the market to supply the customers Johnson had met with during his trip. It was a powerful reminder of the global journey of

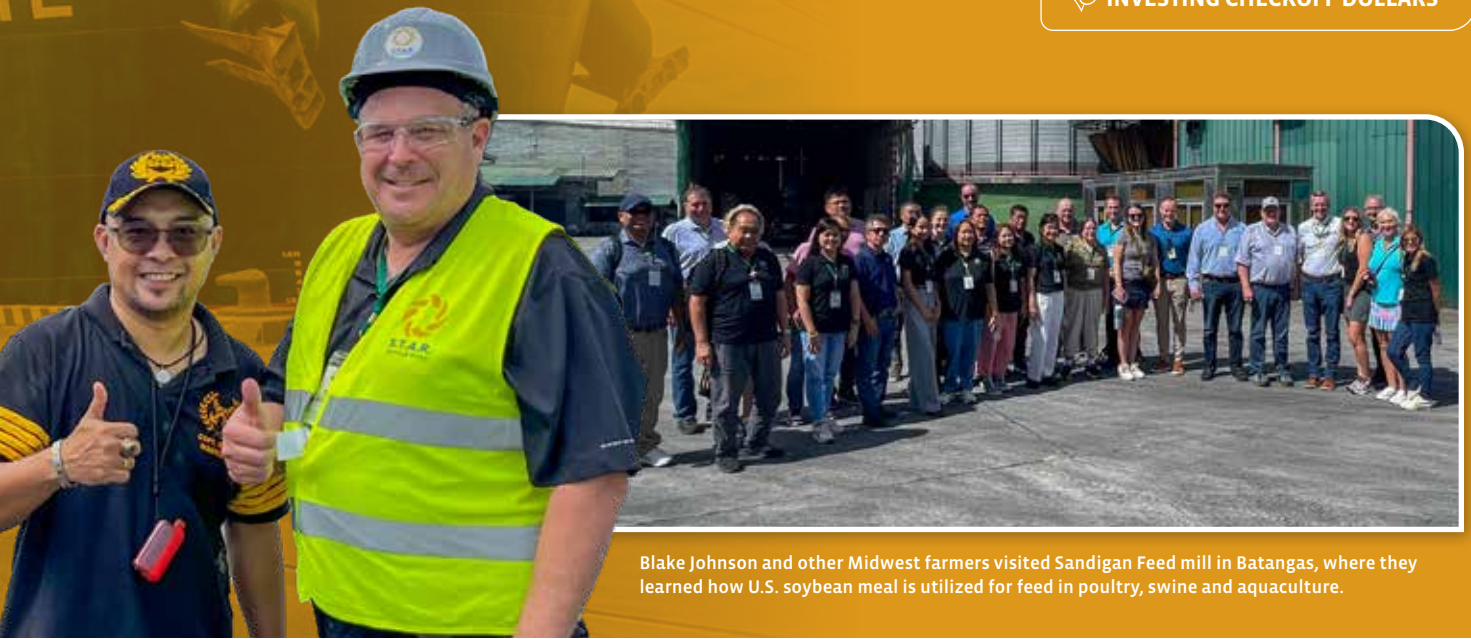


Blake beside some U.S. soybean meal at Subic Port.

U.S. soybeans and their crucial role in international markets.

The journey of U.S. soybeans, in the form of soybean meal shipped to the Philippines, reflects a well-established relationship that began in 2004. That year, AGP opened its PNW export terminal at the Port of Grays Harbor in Aberdeen, WA, becoming one of the first facilities to export soybean meal from the PNW to Southeast Asia. Initially, unit trains transported soybean meal weekly from Hastings, NE, to supply vessels bound for the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries.

Over time, Nebraska farmers have strengthened this connection by hosting Philippine trade teams during harvest seasons, offering them a firsthand look at the quality and productivity of Nebraska's soybean fields. With AGP's continued expansion, including the upcoming opening of its David City facility in



Blake Johnson and other Midwest farmers visited Sandigan Feed mill in Batangas, where they learned how U.S. soybean meal is utilized for feed in poultry, swine and aquaculture.

summer 2025, Nebraska soybean farmers are expected to send approximately 16 trains of soybean meal monthly to the PNW for export.

This long-standing partnership is mutually beneficial. It allows Nebraska farmers to retain value locally by supporting the renewable fuels industry with soybean oil and supplying domestic livestock feed. The excess soybean meal continues to serve as a vital protein source for the Philippines and other Asian markets.

Nebraska soybean farmers play a critical role in feeding the world, with their products traveling thousands of miles to meet the growing demand for high-quality protein sources. Through investments in international programs and partnerships with AGP, Nebraska farmers ensure their soybeans reach global markets efficiently. The recent trade mission to the Philippines underscored the importance of these relationships, showcasing the direct impact of Nebraska-grown soybeans on international customers. As AGP continues to expand with its new facility in David City, Nebraska's role in the global soybean meal market will only strengthen, bringing value back to local communities while supporting the nutritional needs of millions worldwide.



The group visited a Philippine soybean meal customer office that purchases from the PNW.



Blake gave a presentation on his farm to attendees at the industry Christmas event.



Manning Rail Infrastructure Grant Benefits Local Farmers

Kent with his grandchildren Rylee and Kaelyn after the railroad had been repaired.

“Local producer, world provider” is one way to describe Nebraska and its farmers. Despite being the only triple landlocked state in the United States, Nebraska’s world-class infrastructure allows producers to ship high-quality products, including soybeans, across the globe. Upkeep and continued innovation in this area allow for reliable transportation and supply to customers. To address this, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) created the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program.

Manning Rail, a Class III “short line” railroad, owns and operates a rail line between Fairmont and Burress, Nebraska, and recently received a \$5.4 million FRA CRISI grant to transform their facility. This seven-mile line connects to agricultural product storage and transshipment facilities, supporting over 100 local farms.

To this point, all the outbound agricultural shipments from facilities on the line have moved by truck. With the grant, plans for the facility are to construct a new rail loading siding and equipment storage tracks, replace worn-

out lightweight rail over a century old and restore at-grade crossing surfaces.

These improvements will revamp the region’s agricultural supply chain by providing access to a regular shuttle train service, one that uses industry-standard covered hopper cars. It is a long-awaited solution to decades of limited market access for producers ever since the original line shut down in 1998.

“We bought the line in 2005 when it was in disrepair and spent years clearing trees to drain water properly so the tracks weren’t in mud. Using old equipment, we have slowly replaced over 15,000 ties to date. This grant makes the goal of restoring the track to heavy-freight capability achievable—something we were beginning to think was impossible,” said Kent Manning, President of Manning Rail.

By investing in infrastructure, there will be extended reach into soybean markets that are further away than the current

trucking capabilities of the facility. These new markets would stretch across the U.S. and even internationally by export, increasing the competitiveness in the local area among soybean buyers and providing a direct benefit to producers.

“We are very excited for the opportunities this grant is going to provide for producers in Nebraska,” said Tyler Manning, Operations Manager for Manning Rail. The CRISI grant supplies the necessary funding for safe and efficient transportation of grain via rail. Once this project is completed, producers for generations to come will have access to 110-car shuttle trains on the BNSF railroad.”



Manning Rail and Manning Grain in Burress, Nebraska, an unincorporated community in Fillmore County.

UNVEILING ON-FARM RESEARCH RESULTS INSIGHTS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2025 ON-FARM RESEARCH RESULTS UPDATE MEETINGS!

The Nebraska On-Farm Research Network is pleased to announce the On-Farm Research Results Update Meetings for 2025, providing Nebraska soybean farmers with current and reliable research-based insights.

WHY ATTEND?

Accessing cutting-edge, on-farm research is key to making informed decisions that can boost your operation's success. This year's meetings will provide valuable insights and practical knowledge, helping you stay ahead in the ever-changing world of production agriculture.

DATES

FEB. 18, 2025
Holthus Convention Center
York

FEB. 19, 2025
Ag Park
Columbus

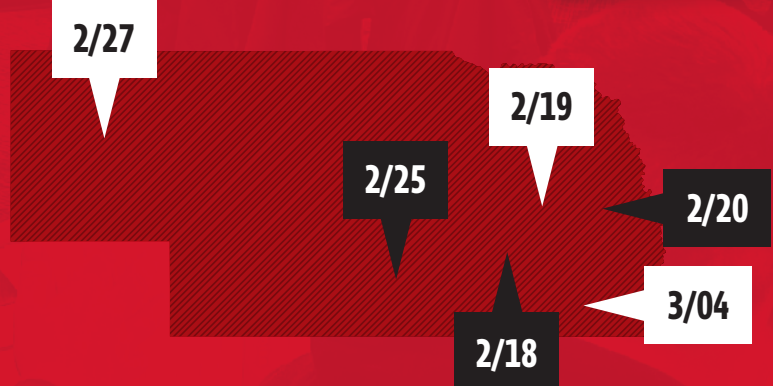
FEB. 20, 2025
Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center
Ithaca

FEB. 25, 2025
Buffalo County Extension Office
Kearney

FEB. 27, 2025
Knight Museum & Sandhills Center
Alliance

MAR. 04, 2025
Holiday Inn
Beatrice

All meetings will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at each location. Check-in and refreshments will be available 30 minutes prior to the start of each meeting.



SCAN TO REGISTER

Join us at the 2025 On-Farm Research Results Update Meetings. Getting started with on-farm research doesn't have to be hard, and the data you collect and learn about can benefit your operation for years to come!

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is **REQUIRED** for all attendees. Secure your spot to ensure you don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity.

HOW TO REGISTER

Visit our website and register for the location that suits you best. Attendance is free.

CCA CREDITS

We have applied for CCA credits, and approval is pending. Earn credits while staying abreast of the latest advancements in on-farm research.



There is a relentless spirit that unites us all in agriculture - a conviction we can dream big and that together, we become unstoppable.

As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.
Proverbs 27:17 NIV

