



SOYBEAN NEBRASKA

SPRING 2025

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

GROWING THROUGH RESEARCH

12-13 | Learn how checkoff investments deliver strong ROI, bring value back to farmers and support the broader economy.

14-22 | Discover how we invest in research led by top experts to drive innovation and offer farmers opportunities to get involved in the Production and Crop Research feature section.

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HARVEST REALITY.**



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LIVE YOUR LIFE YOUR WAY

SOYBEAN NEBRASKA

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

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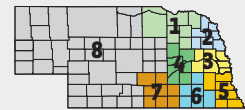


4625 Innovation Drive
Lincoln, NE 68521
402-441-3240
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The Nebraska Soybean Board is a private, nonprofit checkoff board responsible for the research and promotion of soybeans in an effort to increase the profitability of the state's 22,000 soybean producers.

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On The Cover

Steve and Joshua Johnson planting soybeans near Ithaca in the spring of 2024.

Note from the
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



By Andy Chvatal

We're back to knocking on the door of spring, and for many, the wheels are turning in some capacity. The heightened awareness of new sights, sounds and smells is abundant and exciting.

Spring in Nebraska's ag industry also means that many of you just completed the gauntlet of winter meetings, farm shows, applicator trainings and other various educational events. The closing of winter at the Nebraska Soybean Board always coincides with our annual research meeting. Research proposals are voted on by our nine elected farmer-leaders, with some being continuations from the previous year and others being new proposals. Our board continues to emphasize the need for novel and creative ideas in moving the industry forward while respecting the foundation for what has made the Nebraska soybean industry so respectable on a regional and national stage.

Hopefully, you've all had the chance to receive and review our Annual Research Report. The report highlights the funded projects and their outcomes from the previous calendar year, with many promising results. The inclusion of high oleic soybeans and products in feed rations continues to show great promise in both milk and protein production. As a proud beef state, there was also a successful feedlot study conducted with roasting soybeans and its correlation to average daily gain, showing a significant advantage compared to other ration formulations.

As always, please exercise caution this spring and keep safety at the forefront of your mind. The most important part of the day is returning home safely at night. Cheers to a prosperous 2025 growing season.

Checking In With The Chairman

**SPRING
KICKOFF**



By Mark Caspers, NSB Chairman, Auburn

Greetings fellow Nebraska soybean producers. The ides of March are upon us as I write this, and we once again find ourselves on the cusp of another soybean production season. While it is still a few weeks away from planting soybeans, preparations are well under way with seed being delivered, fertilizer being applied and getting the planter ready. Yesterday was a beautiful day with the temperatures reaching to the low 80s and the spring seeding began on my farm by no-tilling oats and clover into last year's soybean stubble. As the adage goes, "If you don't like the weather in Nebraska, wait a day," as below-freezing temps are forecasted for part of tomorrow.

The Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) has also been at work as we held our spring meeting in March, which focuses on evaluating and funding research proposals. In preparation for this meeting, NSB members, along with our Research Advisory Team comprised of experts throughout the industry, evaluated and ranked 20 research proposals. The majority of these proposals were aimed at ways to achieve improved soybean production through enhanced breeding and genetics, studying nutrient and fertility issues, dealing with soybean pests and weed control issues. The first day of the meeting consisted of a discussion among the Advisory Team and NSB regarding the merits of the various proposals. During the second day's meeting, funding decisions were made as the Board selected the projects we believed would be most beneficial to Nebraska's soybean producers.

Your checkoff dollars have funded many worthwhile projects over the years, resulting in a plethora of information available on improving soybean production in Nebraska. I highly encourage all producers to take advantage of the information gleaned from these projects to enhance production on their farms. A good way to begin this process is to take advantage of NSB's soybean cyst nematode (SCN) testing by getting sample bags from your County Extension Office and sending in your samples. SCN is known as the "silent yield robber," but if you discover it is present on your farm, you can plant resistant varieties to combat this pest.

Wishing you all a safe and productive growing season.

Soy Growers Continue to Push for

NON-TARIFF SOLUTIONS

By Kent Grotelueschen, NSA President, Octavia



4435 O Street, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: 402-441-3239
association@nebrasokasoybeans.org
nesoybeans.org

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- Myles Ramsey, Kenesaw – **At Large**

Members of the American and Nebraska Soybean Association (ASA & NSA) continue our push for actions on the tariffs that seem to be inflicting further financial damage for growers. ASA and NSA have consistently held our position that we do not support the use of tariffs as a negotiation tactic which threatens important soy export markets that we have worked so hard to build and maintain.

International trade is a critical part of U.S. agricultural goods, with soybeans being our country's largest exported commodity. Over 50% of our domestic soybean crop is destined for customers all over the world. Without these export destinations, especially China, which is the largest export market for U.S. soy, Nebraska soybean producers would feel the impact. Nebraska's annual export value of soybeans is over \$1.5 billion annually to China and Mexico.

The implementation of these tariffs could have far-reaching consequences beyond soybeans

for Nebraska's agricultural industry. Nebraska's corn, beef and pork trade would also see trade disruptions. Soybean growers have not fully recovered the market volumes from the impacts of the 2018 trade war.

With the anticipation of Brazil and other countries expecting abundant crops this year they are ready to meet the demand to fill the orders that the U.S. once had with China. Nebraska farmers are reliant on imports from Canada as well. Approximately 87% of U.S. potash, a critical fertilizer input, comes from Canada.

Continuing cross-border trade between our three nations, the U.S., Mexico and China, is vital to the success of U.S. agriculture. NSA continues to push forward with ASA advocating for soy growers' interests and working to make certain our concerns are heard. As a membership organization, that's what we do. We are your No. 1 advocate. Thank you for your support.



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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Nebraska Soybean Association Represents Growers in Washington, D.C.

Soy growers from across the U.S. met in Washington, D.C., for ASA's annual spring board meeting in mid-March. Nebraska directors had the opportunity to hear about timely issues from senior ASA staff and industry representatives during the soy issues forum. Topics included tariffs, trade, biofuels, climate-smart ag, tax package impacts and ESA and regulatory issues.

State leaders participated in Hill visits with Nebraska's U.S. Congressional offices to discuss top priorities such as tariffs, trade and biofuels.

Participating in the D.C. meetings were Nebraska ASA directors Dennis Fujan of Prague and Geoff Ruth of Rising City, as well as NSA directors Chandra Blasé of Hordville and Lucas Miller of Randolph.



Growing TOGETHER

Livestock Expansion Creates New Opportunities in Nebraska

By Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska Staff

What an exciting time for Nebraska agriculture! As the state's number one economic driver, any growth in the industry is cause for celebration. At the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN), our mission is to support the expansion of the state's agricultural economy, with a specific focus on livestock development.

Nebraska's dairy industry has experienced significant growth in processing, addressing a long-standing need in the state. A notable example is the expansion of Milk Specialties in Norfolk, Nebraska. Now operating as ACTUS Nutrition, the company completed an \$85 million expansion, increasing the demand for approximately 3 million more pounds of milk—equivalent to the production of 40,000 cows. This expansion creates new opportunities for milk producers to enter the market and find a reliable outlet for their products.

Additionally, we have welcomed numerous out-of-state dairy producers interested in relocating their operations to Nebraska. Our state's abundant water

supply and feed resources make it an attractive option. Moreover, Nebraska's collaborative agricultural community fosters partnerships between local farmers and new dairies, particularly in utilizing manure as a valuable resource, benefiting both parties.

The poultry industry is also poised for significant expansion in the coming years. The Lincoln Premium Poultry (LPP) project, completed several years ago, has had a major impact on Nebraska's economy. According to a recent study by the Bureau of Business Research in the Department of Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, LPP generates \$1.007 billion in annual business activity, including \$205.9 million in labor income and an estimated 2,945 jobs. Our organization has been actively working with LPP to explore the potential for a second phase of this project, which would require another processing plant, feed mill and an additional 500 producer barns. Such an expansion would provide tremendous benefits to Nebraska's economy and local family farms.

Beyond LPP, Tecumseh Chicken, known as Smart Chicken, is also planning to grow its operations. The company aims to establish 200 more barns in southeast Nebraska within the next two years, further strengthening Nebraska's poultry sector.

Beef continues to be the state's number one livestock economy. The state's largest roller-compacted concrete feedlot has recently started feeding cattle in Dundy County. We anticipate that we will continue to see feedlot owners move to roller-compacted concrete lots now and into the future. Confined cattle barns also continue to be a topic of interest throughout the state, and for good reason. The benefits of time to check pens and increased nutrient value is a win-win for the producer.

Legacy Beef Co-Op is still looking for cattle producers to invest in their co-op by buying shackle spaces. They are also offering an innovative contract feeding opportunity to producers willing to finish cattle out under roof through their heritage beef brand.



The pork industry has been experiencing slower growth compared to other livestock sectors. While a few new barns have been established, others are navigating local zoning regulations. Current interest rates and lower market prices have contributed to this slower pace, though conditions may change in the future to stimulate further expansion.

Crop farmers should take note—an increase in livestock numbers means greater availability of organic nutrients to enrich farmland across the state. This enhances soil quality and boosts yields and improves overall profitability for farmers.

With so many promising developments on the horizon, Nebraska agriculture is well-positioned for continued success. Let's embrace these opportunities and work together to strengthen our agricultural economy for the benefit of all.

Return on Investment

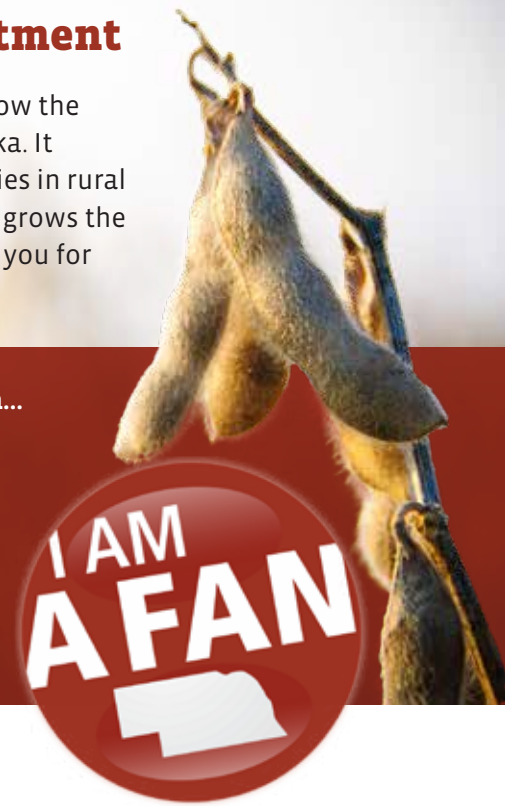
Investment in AFAN helps grow the livestock industry in Nebraska. It creates business opportunities in rural and urban communities and grows the economy of the state. Thank you for your investment in us!

Our 2024 projects resulted in...

Total 2024 capital investment
\$110,040,000

Increased corn consumption by
4.8 MILLION BUSHELS

Increased soybean consumption by
842,000 BUSHELS



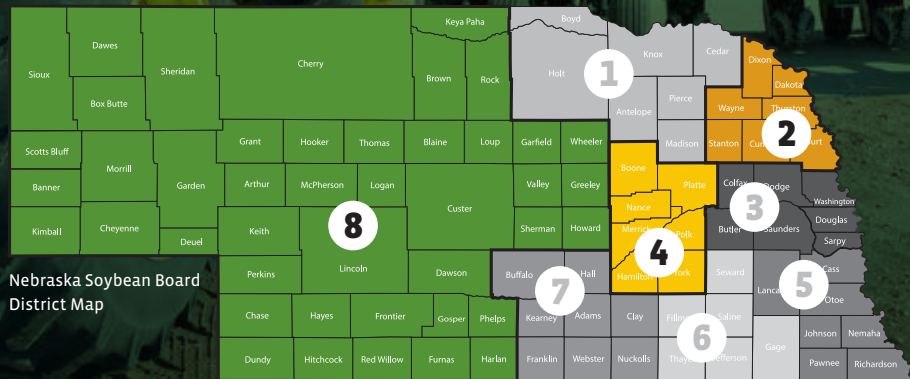
For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact our office at 402-421-4472 or visit our website at becomeafan.org.

SOYBEAN FARMERS: MAKE YOUR IMPACT

TAKE PART IN THE 2025 NEBRASKA SOYBEAN BOARD ELECTIONS



Districts 2, 4 & 8



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

City of Lincoln's Journey to Biodiesel Success

By MEG Corp Staff

The City of Lincoln's Climate Action Plan includes a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, with a goal of converting the city fleet to 100% electric, renewable, or alternative fuels by 2040. To help reach this goal, the City of Lincoln began using B20, a blend of 80% petroleum diesel and 20% biodiesel, during the summer of 2024. B20 results in a 15% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions compared to petroleum diesel, helping to move the city fleet significantly closer toward their goals.

Their biodiesel journey began in January of 2023 when Patrick Wenzl, City Fleet Manager, and Bill Fleisher, Superintendent of Fleet Services, attended the Clean Fuels Conference as guests of the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB). NSB has been bringing fuel suppliers and fleet managers to the conference for several years to be immersed in all aspects of the biodiesel industry, to network and explore opportunities to expand biodiesel use in

Nebraska. Patrick and Bill brought back what they learned and encouraged the city to investigate biodiesel as an option for meeting the city's sustainability goals. The City of Lincoln partnership is a product of this successful program.

NSB offers an incentive for fleets to conduct a trial of B20, with the hope that they will continue to use it once the trial is complete. It was no surprise that the City of Lincoln had a successful experience with B20. Over the summer, the city used nearly 80,000 gallons of B20 in 130 pieces of equipment. It then used B5 all winter without issue, proving biodiesel can be used in all seasons when managed correctly. They now intend to use B20 again this summer, estimating an additional 215,000 gallons will be used between May and September. They are even looking into specialized equipment that can be installed on their current vehicles that will allow them to operate on 100% biodiesel year-round.

“ We are trying to get the message out that using sustainable fuels in the city fleet is not just an option but a necessity, in order to meet the city's sustainability goals. We appreciate the support from NSB and hope as others see the success demonstrated by our city fleet, that they consider renewable B20 for their own applications.

— PATRICK WENZL, CITY OF LINCOLN FLEET MANAGER

”



These diesel engines, as part of the City of Lincoln's fleet, began incorporating B20 biodiesel as a fuel source last year.



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



wishh.org



FAQ's

What makes SoyFoamruTF 1122 different than existing conventional foams?

SoyFoam™ TF 1122 is a wetting/ smothering agent capable of extinguishing Class A and Class B fires while eliminating intentionally added PFAS chemicals. There are also no detectable fluorines (less than 1 part per million) in the composition of the foam concentrate.

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are chemicals that contaminate many communities in the United States. PFAS are used in a wide range of products, such as non-stick cookware, water and stain repellent fabrics, and fire-fighting foam, because they have properties that repel oil and water, reduce friction, and resist temperature changes.

PFAS can leak into the environment where they are made, used, disposed of, or spilled. PFAS exposure has been linked to a number of adverse health effects, including certain cancers, thyroid dysfunction, changes in cholesterol, and small reductions in birth weight.

Sources:
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/guidance-on-pfas-testing-and-health-outcomes>

Firefighting SoyFoam™ TF 1122

- ✓ First And Only Firefighting Foam GreenScreen Certified Gold.™
- ✓ PFAS Free
- ✓ 100% Fluorine Free – *less than 1 part per million*
- ✓ Ingredients Grown By U.S. Farmers
- ✓ Certified Ready Biodegradable

SOY U.S. soybean farmers supported the testing and development of this product through their soy checkoff and the United Soybean Board.



Our mission at Cross Plains Solutions is to create an effective firefighting foam to be safe for firefighters, first responders, military personnel, and our environment.

Ag Secretary Rollins Joins Commodity Classic as Delegates Shape Policy

Commodity Classic attendees had a unique opportunity to hear directly from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, who spoke on the Commodity Classic Convention Main Stage on March 2 in Denver, Colorado. Secretary Rollins, along with other Commodity Classic speakers, addressed key topics such as the farm bill, pesticide regulations, biofuels, trade, tariffs and USDA payments.

The American Soybean Association's (ASA) voting delegate session set the course for soybean policy in the year ahead. Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) directors reinforced their commitment to the process by approving ASA's guiding principles for the next 12 months during the convention.

Nebraska's 2025 Young Leaders, Jacob and Catherine Frerichs, along with Travis Runge and Jennifer Alexander,

participated in the second phase of their leadership training during the event.

More than 10,500 attendees registered for Commodity Classic, which is presented annually by the American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Sorghum Producers and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.



NSA voting delegates (left to right): Dennis Fujian, Daryl Obermeyer, Geoff Ruth, Wade Walters, Lucas Miller and Myles Ramsey.



NSA Director Lucas Miller engages in policy discussions during the voting delegate session.



Young Leaders (left to right): Jennifer Alexander, Travis Runge, Jacob & Catherine Frerichs.

Checkoff Investments Yield ROI of \$12.30, Drive Value Back to Farmers and Support the Broader Economy

In a challenging economic landscape of low commodity prices and tight margins, the United Soybean Board (USB), in addition to the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB), continues to deliver economic returns to U.S. soybean farmers through strategic investments. This remains critical to ensure farmers receive measurable value on-farm and through expanded market opportunities. A recent study confirms the soy checkoff's positive return of at least 4.5-to-1* on investment across the categories of export market development, domestic demand-enhancing research, on-farm production research and soybean promotion.

Beyond growing export markets for food and feed, finding new industrial uses domestically, delivering value for animal agriculture, or disseminating production research to grow a more resilient soybean, the real takeaway from this study is economic value. The soy checkoff creates more jobs, supports higher labor income, increases tax revenue and has a tremendous impact on U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).

The study by Dr. Harry M. Kaiser of Cornell University highlights USB and the QSSB's return on investment in improving the demand for U.S. soybeans and increasing the efficiency of soybean production. It also provides perspective on the soy checkoff's significant impact on U.S. employment and income. Cumulatively, soy checkoff-funded initiatives at the national and state level supported nearly 31,000 jobs, added \$2.6 billion in labor income, contributed \$5.9 billion in total value and increased the U.S. GDP by \$9.8 billion.

"USB's programs add distinct value to the economy, from supporting job growth to providing tax revenue gains," said Dr. Kaiser. "When it comes to ROI, I'm most encouraged by the staggering growth in domestic demand research as soybeans seem to have no limits when it comes to versatility and performance in new formulations across industrial uses as well as delivering value for animal agriculture. Exports play a crucial role for U.S. soybeans, with over half of the crop reaching 80+ global markets, underscoring their importance to the industry's growth and sustainability."

These findings emphasize the soy checkoff's continued success in driving economic benefits and ROI for farmers. Every dollar invested returned \$12.30 in net revenue to the soybean industry. In addition to fostering new revenue streams on-farm, USB's efforts in research and promotion create positive spillover effects. Whether it's increased demand for soybean products, supporting more jobs in agriculture or opening up new export markets to support a prolific harvest, USB and QSSB investments of the half-million U.S. soybean farmers create a stronger foundation for your farm's future.

"Rest assured, your soy checkoff continues to invest in high-impact opportunities to support U.S. Soy. We're funding research to fight pests and increase yields, improving waterways, rails and ports, supporting cost share for cover crop adoption, growing demand in emerging, expanding and mature markets abroad, identifying soy uses in petroleum replacement and furthering high oleic utilization across the country," shared USB's CEO Lucas Lentsch.

**Across all categories of export market development, domestic demand-enhancing research, on-farm production research and soybean promotion, soy checkoff investments had a positive return of at least 4.5-to-1 (i.e., benefit-cost ratio (BCR)). Export market development had a BCR of 14.26-to-1. In other words, an extra dollar invested in export market development returned \$14.26 in net revenue to soybean farmers. Domestic demand-enhancing research had a BCR of 42.88-to-1 or \$42.88 returned. On-farm production research had a BCR of 5.78-to-1 or \$5.78 returned. Soybean promotion had a BCR of 4.5-to-1 or \$4.50 returned. Overall, the combined BCR for all USB/QSSB activities was 12.30-to-1, i.e., an extra dollar invested in all activities returned \$12.30 in net revenue to the soybean industry.*

THE POWER OF YOUR SOY INVESTMENT



Global demand. Local return. The value of your state and national soy checkoff is stronger than ever. In the last 5 years, your investments have...


CREATED JOBS AND
GROWN THE ECONOMY

\$9.8B

added to the U.S. GDP

~\$1B

generated in tax revenue
in 2023 alone

\$36M county | \$244M state | \$655M federal


30,932
U.S. jobs created

***\$2.6B**

in U.S.
employment
income

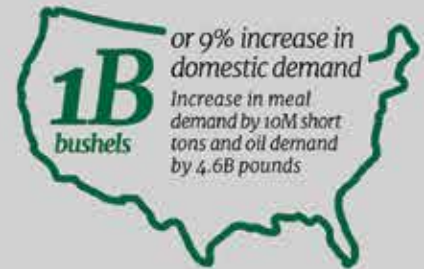


DRIVEN DEMAND FOR U.S. SOY

***1.8B**
bushels



or 18% increase in U.S. soybean exports
Increase in meal exports by 5.2M short tons and oil
exports by 3.4B pounds


1B
bushels or 9% increase in
domestic demand
Increase in meal
demand by 10M short
tons and oil demand
by 4.6B pounds

DELIVERED VALUE TO YOUR FARM

\$12.30

return for every \$1 invested

AT LEAST 4.5-TO-1 RETURN ACROSS FOUR CATEGORIES:

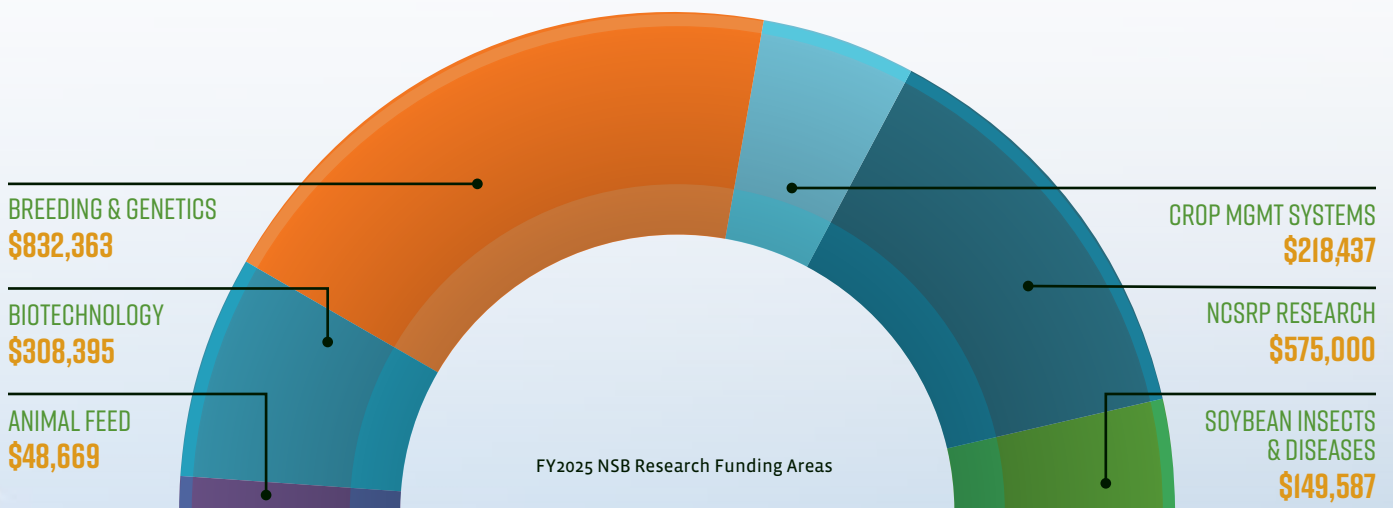
- 1 Export market development
- 2 Domestic demand-enhancing research
- 3 On-farm production research
- 4 Soybean promotion

Learn more at unitedsoybean.org

*Export initiatives supported by United Soybean Board, Qualified State Soybean Boards, the U.S. Soybean Export Council and USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Source: Kaiser, H.M. 2024. An Economic Analysis of the United Soybean Board and Qualified State Soybean Boards' Demand-and Supply-Enhancing Programs. Cornell University.

GROWING THROUGH RESEARCH

How collaboration, innovation and research combine to propel Nebraska's soybean industry.



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NSB relies on collaboration to deliver value to farmers and support the industry.

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Dr. George Graef has been a driving force in soybean research for over three decades.

19 | Bringing Research to Farmers
Access to your 2024 Research Report is available now.

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PRODUCTION & CROP RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

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

Research Decisions to Real-World Impact is a Collaborative Road

Nebraska's soybean industry thrives because of its people. Farmers, researchers, industry leaders and future generations all play a vital role. Each contributes to the success of the industry, with no single part greater than the whole. Every decision, innovation and field operation supports the larger mission of sustaining soybean farming for generations to come.

Just as we build on the hard work of those before us, today's efforts maximize available resources and address current challenges.

When investing checkoff dollars in research, the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) is committed to both transparency and collaboration. Research that drives progress isn't chosen in isolation. It's reviewed by a dedicated advisory group of experts who help ensure funding decisions align with the real-world needs of Nebraska farmers.

Thank You to the FY25 Research Advisory Team

NSB extends its sincere appreciation to this year's advisory team members. Their dedication helps drive innovation and progress in the soybean industry.

"I especially want to thank our research advisors, who dedicate their time to evaluating each project," says Doug Saathoff, Nebraska soybean farmer and NSB director from Trumbull. "We could not do this without them. I also want to thank everyone involved in helping make Nebraska soybean producers the most productive and efficient growers in the world."

- Ed Anderson, Ph.D.** | North Central Soybean Research Program
- Wade Walters** | Nebraska Soybean Association
- Katherine Drake Stowe, Ph.D.** | United Soybean Board
- Wayne Fithian** | Rob-See-Co
- Brandon Hamer** | Aurora Cooperative

How Research Decisions Are Made

NSB relies on a collaborative process to ensure checkoff dollars fund research that delivers the most value to Nebraska farmers in support of the industry as a whole.

EACH YEAR:

- ▶ NSB identifies key challenges facing soybean farmers and invites research proposals to address them.
- ▶ The Research Advisory Team carefully reviews each proposal, evaluating strengths, weaknesses and potential impact.
- ▶ Their feedback helps guide funding decisions, ensuring research remains relevant and beneficial to farmers.
- ▶ While the advisory team plays a key role in evaluating proposals, final funding decisions rest with NSB.

This farmer-driven approach keeps research focused on industry needs and long-term sustainability.

The Role of the Research Advisory Team

YOUR NSB RESEARCH ADVISORY TEAM DOES:

- ✓ Reviews and ranks research proposals based on strengths and weaknesses.
- ✓ Provides expert insight to ensure transparency in the funding process.
- ✓ Helps align research with real-world challenges Nebraska farmers face.

YOUR NSB RESEARCH ADVISORY TEAM DOES NOT:

- ⊘ Make decisions on which projects receive funding.
- ⊘ Allocate checkoff dollars.
- ⊘ Conduct the research themselves.



- Tom Hoegemeyer, Ph.D.** | Corn breeder & retired UNL professor
- Tim Mundorf** | Central Valley Ag Cooperative
- Jim Specht, Ph.D.** | Retired UNL researcher & professor
- Ray Ward, Ph.D.** | Ward Laboratories, Inc.
- Chris Zwiener** | Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.



Larry Tonniges RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025

For more than three decades, Dr. George Graef has been a driving force in soybean research, dedicating his career to improving soybean genetics and enhancing the crop's value for Nebraska farmers. In recognition of his great contributions, Graef has been named the recipient of the 2025 Larry Tonniges Research Achievement Award by the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB). The award was made possible by the family of the late Larry Tonniges, a longtime Nebraska farmer who was dedicated to production research as part of NSB, honors researchers who have made significant contributions to soybean research

As a professor and the Presidential Chair of Soybean Breeding in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agronomy and Horticulture Department, Graef has led a research program focused on increasing soybean yields, developing disease-resistant varieties and improving seed composition traits.

Graef's journey in soybean breeding began with a strong foundation in plant genetics. After earning his B.S. in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Connecticut in 1982, he pursued graduate studies at Iowa State University, where he obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics. His deep knowledge and experience have made him a leader in the field, driving important progress in soybean breeding programs in Nebraska and beyond.

His research has consistently focused on three key objectives: increasing soybean yield, protecting that yield from diseases and environmental stressors and improving seed composition for better protein and oil content. By conducting evaluations on farmer-cooperator sites across Nebraska, Graef and his team gather data directly relevant to producers, allowing them to develop soybean varieties specifically suited to the state's growing conditions.

One of the significant achievements of Graef's research program has been the development of soybean lines with strong resistance to soybean cyst nematode (SCN), a persistent pest that can cause

substantial yield losses. His work has resulted in elite soybean varieties that maintain high yields and offer enhanced resistance to multiple SCN populations. These advancements provide Nebraska farmers with more effective tools to combat this widespread problem and maintain profitability.

Through strategic breeding and integration of genetic, agronomic and imaging data, the program has successfully shared 48 unique soybean lines with companies and research institutions in 2024, contributing to a broad network of variety development. Additionally, the Winter Nursery Project in Puerto Rico and Chile has been instrumental in accelerating research. By leveraging five additional growing cycles per year, researchers can rapidly advance generations, conduct essential DNA analysis and refine selections for traits critical to Nebraska farmers. The nurseries provide an efficient platform for developing resistant soybean lines, refining seed composition and supporting ongoing research collaborations that benefit producers across the north-central U.S.

Graef's impact extends beyond research plots and laboratory findings; he has also played a crucial role in training the next generation of soybean breeders. Through his courses, he has mentored countless students who have gone on to leadership positions in the seed industry, university research programs and other agricultural sectors. Additionally, Graef's research has explored soybeans for human food uses, further diversifying the potential applications for the crop.

In 2014, NSB demonstrated its commitment to supporting Graef's research by establishing the Nebraska Soybean Producers Presidential Chair in Soybean Breeding. This endowment, made possible through a \$3 million investment by NSB, has provided ongoing resources to advance soybean breeding efforts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The long-term support has enabled Graef and his team to make significant strides in breeding soybeans with improved quality traits, stress tolerance and marketability.

Nebraska soybean farmers have benefited from Graef's research in ways that go beyond improved yields. His work has contributed to the development of soybeans with higher protein and oil content, offering increased value for processors and end-users. With another new soybean processing facility set to open in Nebraska in the coming months, these advancements will play a crucial role in expanding market opportunities for growers.

Graef's commitment to the industry is evident in his continued engagement with NSB. He regularly attends NSB meetings, where he listens to producers and gains firsthand insights into the challenges they face. This connection to farmers informs his research priorities and reinforces his dedication to developing solutions that directly benefit soybean producers.

Upon receiving the 2025 Larry Tonniges Research Achievement Award, Graef expressed his deep appreciation for the recognition and for the support he has received throughout his career.



“

I am honored to be selected to receive the 2025 Larry Tonniges Research Achievement Award from the Nebraska Soybean Board. Thank you for your consideration and your constant, unwavering support. From my first days in Nebraska more than 35 years ago, I felt welcomed by the Board and all the producers I had the good fortune to meet and work with over the years. I could not have asked for a better place to learn and grow both professionally and personally. I continue to learn so much from attending board meetings, and I have tremendous admiration and respect for what you do on your farms and in your service to agriculture here and around the world. That is motivating for me to contribute in some small way from the variety and genetics perspective to help reach our shared goals for a productive and sustainable future.

— DR. GEORGE GRAEF

”

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



wishh.org

BRINGING RESEARCH TO FARMERS

Access to Your 2024 Research Report is Available Now



Soybean-focused research is known to generate innovative and agronomic technologies that:

- ▶ Enhance on-farm soybean yields
- ▶ Improve resistance and tolerance to biotic pests and abiotic stress
- ▶ Improve seed compositional traits to optimize soybean use in human food products, livestock and aquaculture rations and non-food industrial products

Ultimately, research leads to scientifically verified farm practices that increase crop and animal productivity, reduce production costs and improve overall profitability and sustainability.

— **DR. JIM SPECHT, RETIRED UNL PROFESSOR & NSB RESEARCH ADVISOR**



Nebraska farmers know success starts with the right information.

Every season brings new challenges, from weather shifts to pest pressures, and having research-backed insights can make all the difference. That’s why the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) invests checkoff dollars into shared production research that directly benefits your operation and the entire U.S. soybean industry.

The NSB Annual Research Report isn’t just a summary; it’s a tool built for you.

And just like years past, it breaks down complex research into a clear, easy-to-navigate format so you can quickly see what studies were conducted, what the findings mean and how they apply to your farm.

Whether it’s improving yield, enhancing resistance to pests and disease or optimizing seed composition for various markets, the insights in your yearly report are designed to be practical and actionable for Nebraska farmers.

Research institutions, including trusted University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) partners, play an important role in these

advancements. They have the experts and equipment to dig deep into the challenges that matter most such as pest management, agronomic practices and seed genetics—providing solutions tailored to Nebraska’s unique conditions.

This work doesn’t just benefit today’s farmers. It also shapes the future of the industry.

Students studying agronomy, genetics and related fields gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge research, preparing them to become the next generation of leaders in soybean production.

These research efforts are driving innovation today while laying the groundwork for a stronger, more resilient future for Nebraska soybean farmers. By staying informed and leveraging these insights, you can make decisions that help keep your operation successful for years to come.



YOUR VOICE IS A DECISION-MAKER. YOUR OUTCOMES ARE OUR PRIORITY.

Scan the QR code to explore the full 2024 Research Report and reach out to NSB or your district director to discuss—our doors are always open.

ADVANCING REGIONAL SOYBEAN RESEARCH

Q&A with Ed Anderson, Ph.D.

Ed Anderson plays a key role in driving soybean research and innovation as the Executive Director of the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP). This 13-state collaboration, supported by checkoff funds, focuses on advancing soybean productivity, profitability and sustainability through farmer-focused research and outreach.

An Iowa native, Anderson holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural biochemistry from Iowa State University and a doctorate in molecular plant virology and plant pathology from the University of Missouri. He has spent much of his career leading research initiatives that address real-world challenges for soybean farmers.

Through NCSRP, Anderson works closely with state soybean organizations, including the Nebraska Soybean Board, to fund and coordinate cutting-edge research on disease resistance, pest management, soil health and agronomic practices. His leadership helps ensure that research dollars translate into practical solutions for farmers, strengthening the future of soybean production across the 13 states that represent nearly 355,000 soybean farmers.

Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB):

How does NCSRP work, and how is Nebraska represented in this collaboration?

Ed Anderson (EA): NCSRP is a 13-state, Midwest-based regional soybean checkoff research collaborative dedicated to advancing basic and applied soybean research. Its mission focuses on improving soybean yield potential (genetic gain) and yield protection from weeds, insects, diseases and abiotic stressors. Through research, teaching, Extension and outreach, NCSRP helps farmers produce higher-yielding, higher-quality, more profitable and more sustainable soybeans. Founded in 1992 by a small group of states, NCSRP has expanded to formally include 13 member states: IA, IL, IN, ND, SD, NE, KS, MO, MN, MI, WI, OH and PA. It also maintains strong partnerships with other soybean-producing states, regions and the United Soybean Board. For many years, NSB31 and Nebraska soybean farmers have been active contributors to NCSRP, recognizing the value of regional research and Extension efforts with broad benefits. Nebraska has a farmer serving on the NCSRP board and provides research and technical staff support, in addition to contributing significant checkoff dollars to research, communications and operations. Researchers, educators and Extension experts at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln have long played a key role in NCSRP-funded projects, driving innovation and progress for soybean farmers across the region.

NSB: What are some of the key challenges that soybean farmers in the Midwest are currently facing, and how is NCSRP working to address them?

EA: In the various areas of production and supply research, Midwest soybean farmers are focused on yield improvement, enhancing the quality and composition of soybean seed (especially oil and meal) and protecting yields from weeds, insects, diseases and abiotic stressors such as Iron Deficiency Chlorosis (IDC), salinity, temporal flooding, drought and heat. Other priorities include fertility, soil health, optimized fertilization, new advances in precision agriculture, scouting, best management practices, modeling, forecasting, risk management and AI-driven technologies to improve decision-making and management practices. While we cannot control soybean prices or the threats of tariffs and trade wars, we can support farmers by prioritizing, funding, monitoring and reporting on the best, most collaborative and highest-impact research. Key areas of focus include breeding for genetic gain and quality, developing new technologies and tools for disease-resistant genes and other beneficial traits, and increasing awareness and management strategies for soybean cyst nematode (SCN). Additional efforts target soybean gall midge, aphids, stink bugs, *Diuraphis* stem borer and other insect pests through biology studies and integrated management solutions.



Ed Anderson engages in discussion at an NSB March meeting as part of the NSB Research Advisory Team.

Research also includes weed studies, herbicide-resistant weed surveys and the development and validation of integrated management solutions. Agronomic research helps to survey, develop, test and communicate improved best management practices for production, profitability and sustainability. Studies on soilborne and foliar disease biology focus on infection cycles and management strategies while ongoing innovations explore new technologies and tools for long-term advancements.

NSB: How does NCSRP prioritize and select research proposals, and what criteria are used to determine which projects are the most beneficial for farmers?

EA: NCSRP has a tradition, mission, vision and a set of actionable goals and objectives. As described in the NCSRP Research Portfolio document on the ncsrp.com website, it also has an established process for listening to farmers, staff, industry experts and researchers to identify high-priority, ongoing research and Extension needs. This includes setting funding strategies for each research area. Furthermore, NCSRP has a long-standing commitment to funding larger, more holistic research programs rather than smaller, potentially redundant or overlapping projects. This approach allows for tackling bigger, more complex challenges and opportunities in an efficient and effective manner.

NSB: What are some top highlights of NCSRP-funded research over the past year?

EA: NCSRP-funded research continues to drive advancements in soybean production by improving the management of key challenges and enhancing breeding efficiency. Notable progress includes better awareness and management of SCN, stress tolerance research focused on soilborne and foliar fungal pathogens and predictive modeling tools like Sporecaster. Cutting-edge breeding methods leverage germplasm, advanced technologies and modeling to accelerate genetic gain and enhance beneficial traits. Researchers are also developing integrated tools for weed, insect and disease management, including scouting and decision-making tools for pests like soybean gall midge, which is a major concern in Nebraska. Additionally, improved agronomic practices and production management strategies are being refined and promoted through collaborations with farmer-friendly groups such as GROW, Science for Success and the Crop Protection Network.

NSB: How is NCSRP advancing management strategies for SCN and other pests?

EA: NCSRP supports research through the SCN Coalition, which explores how nematodes infect and infest soybeans while developing novel strategies to minimize their impact. Efforts focus on improving

detection, resistance breeding and management tactics to help farmers combat SCN and other key pests like soybean gall midge.

NSB: How is NCSRP research improving precision weed management and herbicide efficiency?

EA: Researchers are evaluating innovative approaches such as prescription and precision spraying, mechanical control methods like electrocution and seed harvest destruction, and best practices for herbicide application. These studies also explore crop rotations and integrated management solutions to enhance weed control while maintaining long-term sustainability.

NSB: How does NCSRP balance immediate agronomic needs with long-term soybean research goals?

EA: NCSRP takes a strategic approach by developing, vetting and continuously updating its research portfolio. Projects are carefully reviewed to ensure they provide practical solutions for today's farmers and long-term advancements in soybean genetics, pest management and production systems. Publicly available documents outline these priorities to maintain transparency and accountability.

Soybean TAPS Competition: A Successful First Year

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) program capped off its eighth year with an exciting awards banquet on January 25, 2025, drawing nearly 140 attendees. One of the standout moments of the evening was the debut of the Soybean TAPS competition, held at the Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center (ENREEC) near Mead, Nebraska.

The first-ever soybean competition was integrated into the longstanding Soybean Management Field Days (SMFD) and featured 18 teams making key management decisions on small, replicated plots under center pivot irrigation. Participants determined crop insurance, variety selection, seeding rate, nutrient management, pest control, herbicide applications and marketing strategies—all mirroring decisions made on a simulated 1,500-acre soybean farm.

A major takeaway from this year's competition was the impact of seeding

rates. Teams planted between 110,000 to 180,000 seeds per acre, with final stand counts ranging from 90,307 to 108,900 plants per acre due to natural "self-thinning." The data reinforced previous UNL research showing that higher seeding rates did not necessarily lead to increased yields, providing valuable insights for Nebraska soybean farmers looking to optimize seed costs without sacrificing productivity.

Awards for the soybean competition included Greatest Grain Yield, Lowest Cost of Production and Most Profitable. Brian Stehno of Stratton, Nebraska, earned the top yield award, while the team of Philip Swantek (Kearney), Roger Farr (Wellfleet), Shawn McDonald (Gothenburg) and Chad Lammers (York) won both profitability and cost-efficiency honors.

Check out the SMFD Results Report, co-packaged with this spring issue, for more insights from the 2024 competition.



“TAPS gives us a chance to put ideas

to the test before applying them on our own farms. The soybean competition brought a new layer of learning that will help us make more informed decisions moving forward.

— **BLAKE JOHNSON, FARMER, NEBRASKA SOYBEAN BOARD DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR**



Brian Stehno (right) of Stratton, Nebraska, received the top soybean yield award.



Roger Farr (center) and Shawn McDonald (right) received team awards in profitability and cost-efficiency.



The success of the first Soybean TAPS competition highlights the value of hands-on, real-world farm management experience in a risk-free environment. Farmers interested in learning more or participating in future competitions can visit taps.unl.edu or follow UNL-TAPS on social media.

FROM INVESTMENT

TO INFRASTRUCTURE



In the last five years, soy checkoff investments have generated a 4.5-to-1 ROI in export market development and an 18% increase in U.S. soybean exports.¹ Investing \$400,000 for infrastructure research, analysis and design at the Port of Gray's Harbor helped to expand the facility and increase capacity for the export of soybean meal.²



Learn more at unitedsoybean.org

¹ROI Study: Kaiser, H.M. 2024. An Economic Analysis of the United Soybean Board and Qualified State Soybean Boards' Demand-and Supply-Enhancing Programs. Cornell University. ²United Soybean Board, 2022. © 2025 United Soybean Board

Tools For Navigating 2025 Soybean Price Risk Management

By Mike Zuzolo, President of Global Commodity Analytics & Consulting LLC

We contend with weather each and every year; what we don't contend with each and every year is record-high soybean stocks or weakening soybean demand in the product and export markets. I am trying not to assume too much right now until we get past the first 100 days of the new administration, but I am also not assuming a U.S.-China trade deal yet either.

As planters begin to roll, the biggest question on the minds of producers I work with here in the U.S. (other than the obvious tariff-related question) seems to be: How do they cope with a potential Western Corn Belt drought this year while knowing that, heading into the Northern Hemisphere growing season, we already have a record-high world soybean ending stocks number? In other words, are we looking at a potential 2012 price action or a 2018 price action? Right now, we simply can't know. But I have some ideas to consider in the meantime.

Unlike wheat and corn, world soybean stocks are at a record level. This makes

demand more critical, especially domestically. This is where the soy product market has been failing to provide any encouragement for potential lost U.S. soybean exports to China and the EU in case tariffs worsen. My assumption is that the administration is utilizing tariffs as a trade policy and a foreign policy. Therefore, I take the tariffs very seriously and will incorporate them into my S/D outlook, especially as it pertains to China and its outright imports of soybeans in 2025-26—as well as the U.S. share versus South America this year—after President Trump's first 100 days have passed if no trade deal is reached.

For instance, in the chart on page 25, I am assuming that China is unlikely to surpass 105 MMT of total imports in the new crop year. This is due to continued deflationary pressures and weak consumption—weak consumption that is keeping their animal numbers slightly declining until the last quarter of this year. As such, even with a smaller acreage base, I am forecasting the U.S. average cash price this year at \$9.20 per bushel. If U.S. tariffs move up to 60% against China, this price could be lowered.

Conversely, if the U.S. and China sign a trade agreement within the first 100 days of the Trump administration, I can raise this average price.

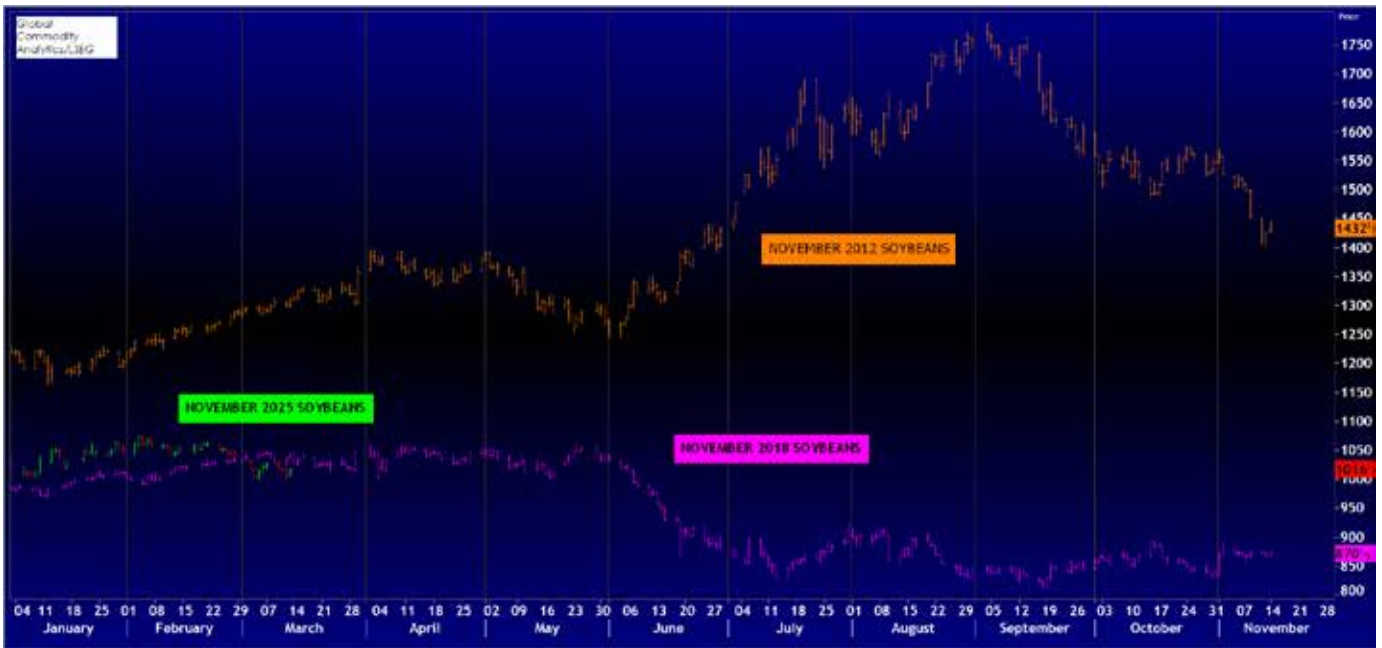
But for now, product demand shows little sign of improving for livestock or sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), and managed money funds have turned net short in soybeans while pushing toward a record net short in soybean meal.

What we see in the annual soybean price chart on the next page is a fairly clear delineation at three key price levels going all the way back to 1973: \$10.40, \$9.40, and \$8.40 per bushel. Note that last year's low was just under the \$9.40 level. If this low is violated to the downside, I could foresee the S/D fundamentals pressuring prices further to the up-trending support line. If that fails to hold, the next major support appears to be \$8.40.

In order to avoid these potential lower levels, I think a monthly close back above \$10.40 per bushel is very critical in the short term. Will the threat of smaller U.S. soybean acres be the catalyst? If it is, my plan currently is to recommend scale-up hedges.



You can contact Mike at 866-471-2588 if you have questions about this article. Learn more at globalcommresearch.com.



Aside from important crop insurance tools that help protect producers' revenue per acre from weather extremes, another powerful tool, in my experience, can oftentimes be the use of local cash basis. Basis can be a local drought tool and possibly the best we have in our marketing toolbox. Recall that the cash price for producers is a combination of futures plus basis.

Therefore, it's worth considering for your soybean risk management plan in 2025. If you are already dry going into planting and your basis is already wide, leaving basis open for now could be something to consider.



Information is provided for educational purposes and is not intended to influence legislation, government policy or action.

Commodities involve substantial risk of loss and are not suitable for all investors. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. The information and data contained herein was obtained from sources deemed reliable. Their accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. Any decision to purchase or sell based upon such information is the responsibility of the person authorizing the transaction. Prices could already have factored into them the seasonality or cycles of the market.



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

ENJOYING THE RIDE WITH BIODIESEL

What's more Nebraska than the Huskers and harvest time?

Pride

Ask any farm family around here what they're listening to while working the fields, and they'll tell you, **"The game's on."**

Since 2023, Husker Athletics, Arrow Stage Lines, and the Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) have taken that pride on the road with a biodiesel partnership.

"Biodiesel not only promotes the use of locally grown feedstocks but also aligns perfectly with the sustainability goals of the University," said Andy Chvatal, NSB executive director.

Arrow Stage Lines also announced in 2023 that it was switching to biodiesel for its entire Nebraska fleet. What started with three Husker team buses has expanded statewide and is now spreading nationwide as part of a broader adoption of sustainable fuel alternatives.

"The two things we really like about the biodiesel blend are that it's a sustainable, renewable alternative that supports local farmers and economies," said Alex Busskohl, sales and business development manager for Arrow Stage Lines. "Every gallon of biodiesel used means fewer emissions and more support for local farmers."

The overall switch to B20 and B5 biodiesel, depending on seasonal temps, was a simple process integration between Arrow Stage Line's fuel cards and its online routing app, requiring

zero mechanical modifications or extra maintenance to its vehicles. All drivers are trained to utilize biodiesel fill-up stations on their routes as a regular part of the journey.

"Making the switch to biodiesel blends felt like a no-brainer," said Busskohl. "As a renewable alternative supporting local farmers and the environment, Arrow Stage Lines is proud to run on biodiesel as much as we possibly can year over year."

According to Busskohl, feedback on the fuel conversion has been overall positive, with most farmers understanding the value immediately. Those outside the industry have their curiosity met with the logical advantages that just make sense as an overall benefit. It's another reason for many Nebraskans and farm families in the region to be hometown proud.

"Arrow Stage Lines has been around for more than 100 years. We're nationwide, but our roots are here," said Busskohl. "My great-grandfather, who founded the company, was a corn and bean farmer. And four generations removed, we remain connected to those agricultural roots through this partnership."

Busskohl added, "As a company using millions of gallons of fuel annually, we plan to continue to support the farming community by sourcing sustainable fuel as a way to give back and support our local people."



Biodiesel Blends Across Arrow Stage Lines' Footprint



- ▶ Six locations converted across Arizona, Iowa, and Nebraska
- ▶ Hundreds of biodiesel fill-up stations incorporated into nationwide routes
- ▶ Five million miles fueled yearly, at a minimum estimate

Biodiesel at a Glance



- ▶ Biodiesel can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 86% compared to petroleum diesel
- ▶ Blends up to B20 work in diesel engines without modifications
- ▶ Supports local economies and job growth



markets. This was accomplished through meetings with industry partners, U.S. Soy importers, food & livestock companies, and others.

Why visit Guatemala and Honduras?

- Central America is a critical market for U.S. soybeans, mainly through exports of soybean meal. Guatemala is the 15th largest importer of U.S. soybean meal and both are emerging markets with potential to grow.
- Both markets utilize soy to feed their population in the form of value-added products, mainly through poultry and pork.

U.S. Soy Farmers Experience Checkoff's Global Impact Firsthand

10 participants, including Nebraska farmer Cale Buhr, journeyed across Honduras and Guatemala on the "See for Yourself" mission to learn how the soy checkoff grows exports of U.S. soybeans and poultry.

Photos provided by the United Soybean Board

Stretching from Nebraska to North Carolina and Michigan to Mississippi, ten U.S. farmers who have started careers in production agriculture recently journeyed to Honduras and Guatemala. As part of United Soybean Board's See for Yourself mission, the group experienced an in-depth look at the soy checkoff's investments in international market growth. With about 60% of the U.S. soybean crop exported, in addition to value-added poultry and meat products traveling overseas, these next-generation U.S. farmers experienced the global impact of U.S. soybeans.

"With these U.S. soybean farmers across several states contributing to the soy checkoff, this mission allowed them to see firsthand how their investments



Buhr (back) and fellow See for Yourself participants at Mercado Villa de Guadalupe in Guatemala City. The USA Poultry and Egg Export Council hosted the visit to showcase meat fed with U.S. soy. Guatemala is Central America's largest market for U.S. soybean meal and oil.

grow export markets," said Philip Good, USB Chair and farmer from Mississippi. "Not only that, but better understanding how the ports and infrastructure affect U.S. Soy products internationally and the importance of the Panama Canal were critical to the discussion. Whether it was seeing poultry and egg products fed U.S. soybean meal or the Soy Excellence Centers equipping soy professionals with practical skills, the global footprint of U.S. Soy made a lasting impression with this group."

Guatemala is the 15th-largest market for U.S. agricultural exports, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service, and with Honduras sourcing a vast majority of its soybean meal demand with U.S. product, Central America serves a critical market for U.S. farmers. During the mission from February 1-9, the See for Yourself participants met with Guatemala's Minister of Agriculture Maynor Estrada. They also visited Guatemala's largest port, Terminal De Granos Del Pacifico, which services more than 50 million bushels per year and imports 80% of of the country's food and livestock products. In addition, the mission comprised visits with feed manufacturers, egg producers and food companies using soy protein.

The attending farmers posted daily blogs and videos, and farmer Cale Buhr from Inland, Nebraska, who was a participant on the mission shared:



The See for Yourself farmer participant learned about the U.S. Soybean Export Council's partnership with El Zamorano University in Honduras, which hosts Soy Excellence Center (SEC) in-person trainings. SEC Americas trained 5,165 participants in 13 countries in the poultry, swine, dairy, aquaculture and feed milling sectors.

"I joined the See for Yourself mission to become a walking testimonial for the soy checkoff and share my experience with farmers back home who aren't fully aware of what the checkoff does."

The mission included presentations from soy checkoff partners the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), the American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) and the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC). The participants learned about USSEC's partnership in Honduras with El Zamorano University on its Soy Excellence Center. In addition, the group heard from the Food and Agriculture



Terminal de Granos del Pacifico in Guatemala handles over 50 million bushels of U.S. soybeans every year and imports 80% of Guatemala's food and livestock industries.

Organization of the United Nations and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service about trade in the region and global agrifood challenges at WISHH's Food Security Dialogue.

Upon returning from the mission, Buhr presented his experiences to the Nebraska Soybean Board at its March 10-11 meeting in Lincoln. He highlighted key takeaways from the trip, including the importance of partnerships in expanding markets, the necessity of sustainability as a benchmark rather than a trend and the significance of every market, big or small, for U.S. soy. Buhr also emphasized the value of U.S. infrastructure in maintaining export efficiency and reinforced that the soybean checkoff is working hard to deliver results for farmers. "We need to keep up the good work to ensure a strong future for U.S. soy," he said.



At Guatemala's largest port, Terminal De Granos Del Pacifico, See for Yourself participants included (from left to right): Andrew Armstrong (OH), Gentry Clark (MS), Cody Clift (KY), Elizabeth Pfaff (IN), Cale Buhr (NE), Jonathan Griffel (IL), April Bowar (SD), Luke Bellar (KS), Landon Moore (NC) and Jenna Maher (MI).



See for Yourself participants with Guatemala's Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Maynor Estrada and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Agriculture Counselor Marcela Rondon for Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Belize, at the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health Food Security Dialogue.



Buhr (second from left) and fellow See for Yourself participants make a pork lunch at U.S. Meat Export Federation's "Porkshop," which is aimed at educating and promoting U.S. pork to butchers and retailers in international markets.

“ I can highlight different partnerships and how they maximize the money we pay into the checkoff with certain investments. This mission aims to develop the next generation of farmer leaders, and someday, I hope to put my name in the ring to be on the United Soybean Board.

— CALE BUHR, NEBRASKA FARMER

” To find out more about USB's See for Yourself program and a recap of the mission in Central America, visit unitedsoybean.org/see-for-yourself-2025.



NEBRASKA'S CORN AND SOYBEAN BOARDS INVEST IN GRAIN BIN SAFETY

Every second counts in a grain bin emergency. When a farmer becomes trapped, quick and efficient response from a trained rescue team can mean the difference between life and death. Recognizing the urgency of grain bin safety, the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) and Nebraska Soybean Board (NSB) are stepping up to help protect farmers and first responders.

In partnership with Nationwide Insurance and the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), NCB and NSB are donating two grain rescue tubes and sponsoring two hands-on training sessions for Nebraska fire and rescue departments. This initiative ensures that rural emergency responders have access to life-saving equipment and the skills needed to handle grain bin entrapments.

Grain bins are essential for on-farm storage, but they also pose serious risks. Between 2007 and 2023, there were 573 documented grain entrapments across the U.S., and nearly half of all confined space accidents in 2023 were grain-related. Once a person is trapped in flowing grain, they have only seconds to act before they become engulfed.

“Grain bin accidents can happen in an instant, and without proper training and rescue equipment, they can quickly turn fatal,” said Andy Chvatal, NSB executive director. “This partnership helps ensure that Nebraska’s rural emergency responders have the tools and knowledge they need to respond effectively.”

To determine which departments received the rescue tubes and training, NSB and NCB launched an application process, inviting community members, farmers and first responders to nominate their local fire and rescue teams. Following the April 10, 2025, nomination deadline, NECAS is reviewing applications and is scheduling training sessions for the selected recipients.

Grain Bin Safety Best Practices

To further promote grain bin safety, it's essential to follow key safety practices that protect those working in and around grain bins. The best way to reduce the risk of grain entrapment on your farm or facility is to discourage entry into bins unless absolutely necessary. If entry is required, be sure to consider these seven safety steps:

- ✓ Ensure all equipment and power sources for grain handling equipment have been shut off, secured or properly locked.
- ✓ The person entering the grain bin must wear a safety harness and lifeline attached and properly secured or be seated in a boatswain chair.
- ✓ Wear an appropriate dust mask or respirator when entering grain bins to protect against dust and mold exposure.
- ✓ Never enter a grain bin alone.
- ✓ There must be an observer located outside of the grain bin who can monitor the person inside.
- ✓ Ensure the observer and person in the bin can easily communicate.
- ✓ Ensure that rescue resources are available if the person does become entrapped.

With the support of Nebraska’s commodity boards, fire departments across the state will be better equipped to handle grain bin rescues, ultimately helping to save lives and promote safer farming practices.



Tackling the Food Industry and Farmer Disconnect

By The Center for Food Integrity Staff

The food and agriculture industries often talk about the disconnect between food production and consumers. However, the food industry and farmer disconnect is just as real, according to Roxi Beck with The Center for Food Integrity (CFI).

“Because consumers are so far removed from food production, they’re skeptical of industrial ag and big food and fear these industries put profit ahead of people,” said Beck. “But what we’ve found through our work at CFI is that bringing consumers and farmers together to listen and learn from each other can bridge the gap and serve as a pathway to earning trust.”

It’s an approach that’s needed with farmers and the food industry, too, she said. “The broader food system is focused on engaging consumers and rightly so. But conversations between farmers and food companies should be happening more frequently to forge relationships. Through this process of engagement, we expect alignment of values and goals will emerge and help determine the best path forward.”

Over the past few years, CFI and the United Soybean Board have brought representatives from the two industries together to discuss sustainability topics.

The series of small-group virtual meetings has empowered agricultural and food industry representatives to engage in deeper discussions and learn from each other.

“Both entities have been enlightened. Soybean farmers have come away with a much better understanding of the unprecedented pressure food companies face to produce food more sustainably—and that it’s coming from multiple stakeholders, including the public, activists, investors and others. Food companies have heard directly from farmers about their on-farm sustainability commitments, challenges and continuous innovation,” said Beck.

“These discussions have helped me understand how food companies are navigating sustainability decisions. Being in these talks also gives farmers opportunities to share that we’re focused on sustainability too,” said Laura Isley, who farms corn and soybeans with her husband near Palmyra, Michigan. “We highlight the benefits of no-till, cover crops, soil testing and even discuss how we precisely apply crop protection products and water only when and where needed. It’s not often that we get together with food industry representatives to talk about important issues impacting all of us.”

“Topics around sustainability certainly are complex,” said Justin Ransom, senior director of sustainable food strategy at Tyson Foods, who served as a roundtable panelist. “While these conversations may not result in answers to every tough question, they provide an opportunity to start with the same information and discuss challenges, trade-offs and potential solutions.”

Keeping the conversation going between all vested parties is pivotal if true sustainability is to be achieved.

“Without collaborative efforts, decisions run the risk of be made in a silo without taking into account the greater ramifications across the supply chain,” said Beck. “The result can unintentionally and negatively impact overall sustainability, supply chain continuity and food access and affordability.”

Farmers and food companies are clearly headed in the right direction when it comes to sustainability, she said. “Our goal is for ongoing, strategic collaboration to continue, to encourage deeper understanding and empower food companies to weigh the benefits and options of each decision.”



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

