

ASA Active on Multitude of Soybean Issues

ASA Hosts Biodiesel Stakeholder Meeting

American Soybean Association (ASA) leaders met with key biodiesel stakeholders in Washington, D.C., in February, to revisit key biodiesel strategies. The meeting was organized to strengthen ASA's legislative agenda with respect to biodiesel. Extending the biodiesel tax incentive, which expires in 2008, remains the top priority. But other issues, including fuel quality and biodiesel imports, are also top issues that require immediate industry attention.

ASA Working On Farm Bill And WTO Issues

American Soybean Association (ASA) Washington representatives met with other major commodity groups and general farm organizations in February to review Farm Bill policy and World Trade Organization (WTO) issues. Agriculture is the major focus of the current WTO Doha Development Agenda. ASA President Bob Metz, Past-President Ron Heck and ASA Washington staff also met with U.S. Trade Representative Chief Agricultural Negotiator Richard Crowder. They discussed ASA's views on the WTO, such as market access and reduction of tariffs by developing countries.

ASA Officers Meet With NOPA Officials

American Soybean Association (ASA) officers participated in the National Oilseed Producers Association (NOPA) annual meeting in February. ASA and NOPA officers meet routinely to discuss policy priorities and formulate strategies on issues of importance to the entire United States soybean industry. ASA and NOPA agreed to jointly fight allegations that U.S. soybean meal is being dumped in the Mexican market. Industry leaders also discussed the importance of securing a good deal for the U.S. soybean industry in the current round of World Trade Organization talks. Other agenda items included how to get expiring Conservation Reserve Program land back into production, and ASA plans for the next farm bill.

ASA Leads Meeting on Income And Conservation Programs

American Soybean Association (ASA) Past-Presidents Ron Heck and Bart Ruth, as well as ASA CEO Stephen Censky and Washington staff, met with other agriculture groups in late January to assess income and conservation programs for farmers. They laid out alternatives to international trade positions, as well as revenue concepts that would be key for U.S. soybean farmers and others. ASA organized the meeting held at the American Farm Bureau Federation's office in Washington, D.C. Representatives attended from the Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, USA Rice and National Grain and Sorghum Producers. A second meeting of the groups will take place in March.

WISHH Hosts Food Aid Conference

The American Soybean Association's (ASA) World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) program hosted its annual Food Aid Conference and Workshop in Washington, D.C., in February. The event attracted about 70 representatives from international private voluntary organizations, government agencies, soybean processors and more. This annual Food Aid Conference and Workshop addresses the need for better nutrition and sustainable development in developing countries. The conference also allows WISHH to encourage industry dialogue on logistical issues, such as government bagging requirements that are key to shipments of value-added soy products.

For more information about ASA policy initiatives visit the web at: <http://www.soygrowers.com/policy>.

ASA is the Soybean Grower's Advocate

The work of the American Soybean Association (ASA) is powered by the grassroots support of its dues-paying members. Become a member today. Complete ASA's membership application online at www.SoyGrowers.com or call the Membership Department at 1-800-688-7692, extension 1294.

The American Soybean Association is a national commodity organization with 25,000 members and affiliation with 25 states. For membership details, call 1-800-688-7692.

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