

ASA Celebrates Passage of Legislation for New Locks and Dams

The American Soybean Association (ASA) congratulates Congress for final passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which authorizes much-needed improvements to waterways that are vital to the transport of U.S. soybeans. On November 8, the Senate voted 79-14 to override the President's veto of WRDA. Two days earlier, the House of Representatives voted 361-54 to override the President's veto.

"Soybean growers appreciate the persistence of the Senate and House because the Water Resources Development Act is key to soybean sales," said ASA President John Hoffman, a soybean grower from Waterloo, Iowa. "U.S. waterways are the most economical and environmentally friendly way to move U.S. soybeans to domestic and foreign markets."

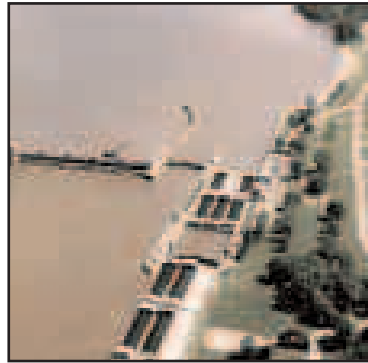
More than 70 percent of U.S. soybean exports move to world ports through the Upper Mississippi and Illinois

River systems. WRDA legislation will authorize funding for construction of seven new locks and other critical improvements on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

"On behalf of our grower-members, ASA and its 25 state soybean affiliates have been working in Washington for many years to improve our nation's waterways," Hoffman said. "Although these authorized projects must still be funded through the annual federal appropriations process, we are very pleased that this major step has been accomplished."

More than 50 percent of U.S. locks and dams have aged beyond their life cycle and many are crumbling. In addition, many are unable to handle today's barges that are twice as long as when the system was built in the 1930s. Because many barges must be split, higher transportation costs, lower commodity prices and fewer international sales for U.S. farmers occur.

ASA PHOTO BY BOB CALLANAN



ASA and John Deere Invite Growers to Precision Ag Education Meetings in Nebraska, Arkansas and Indiana

The American Soybean Association (ASA), in partnership with John Deere Ag Management Solutions (AMS), invites growers to take advantage of a unique event to learn about the value of precision ag systems.

"This is the winter education series of our 'Reach for the Stars' precision ag program," said ASA President John Hoffman, a soybean producer from Waterloo, Iowa. "These meetings provide a great learning opportunity for anyone who has considered integrating precision ag into their operation or wants to learn about the latest in precision farming technology."

Meeting dates and locations are: January 8 in Wahoo, Nebraska; January 28 in Jonesboro, Arkansas; and January 29 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Lunch will be provided free

of charge to those who pre-register for the meetings.

"Anyone who sees benefit in improving farming efficiency, regardless of farm size or equipment type, will gain valuable information from these sessions. It will also be a great opportunity for growers to see first hand some of the new technology that John Deere has introduced, including iTEC Pro," adds John Deere AMS Product Manager Kayla Reynolds.

The events will include presentations from the presidents of the Nebraska, Arkansas or Indiana Soybean Associations, an ASA executive committee member, and experts in precision farm management systems. These experts will discuss current topics and trends in precision agriculture.

In addition, John Deere AMS

personnel will present an overview of precision ag equipment and farm management software, which will be followed by an open panel discussion featuring growers who won the use of a premium level precision ag system in ASA's national "Reach for the Stars" contest.

Closing each session, participants will have an opportunity to take part in a ride and drive featuring the John Deere GreenStar™ 2 System including the AutoTrac™ Universal Steering kit and the newly introduced iTEC Pro! John Deere AMS personnel will be available as long as grower interest remains.

For more information, and to pre-register for these meetings, go to www.SoyGrowers.com/PA.

Eligible High School Seniors Can Apply for ASA Scholarship

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is pleased to offer the 2008-09 Secure Optimal Yield (SOY) Scholarship. The SOY Scholarship is a one-time \$5,000 award to an eligible High School senior who plans to declare agriculture as a degree area of study at the university of their choice. To be eligible the student must be the child or grandchild of an ASA member. The award is to be used directly for tuition, fees, and/or books, not to exceed \$2,500 per semester, and not to exceed tuition amount with other fee dedicated aid. The scholarship is managed by ASA and sponsored by BASF Corporation.

This scholarship is named in honor of Kip Cullers, the Missouri soybean producer who has set the world's record soybean yield for two years. In 2006 Cullers had a soybean yield of 139.39 bushels per acre and this year his soybean yield was 154.74.

"What Cullers did was show us that soybeans possess a lot more genetic yield potential than most of us would have ever imagined," said ASA President John Hoffman, a soybean producer from Waterloo, Iowa. "By providing financial assistance for college, the ASA is helping to cultivate the potential of a deserving high school senior."

The scholarship idea resulted from collaboration between ASA and BASF Corporation, who are partnering in a multi-faceted national field trials program that is demonstrating to growers the advantages of crop management practices that include the use of residual herbicides and fungicides on soybeans. More than 100 growers participated in the SOY field trials this year.

"As we look back to where the agriculture industry has come from and where it is expected to go in the next decade, it's clear that education is a critical key to success," said Andy Lee, Director, US Business Operations, Crop Protection Products for BASF.

"We are very pleased to support the American Soybean Association and help the next generation of soybean growers succeed."

Scholarship applicants must be the child or grandchild of a current member of the ASA (membership in state soybean association is the same as membership in ASA), and meet all necessary requirements to apply. Non-members can take advantage of this opportunity by first joining the ASA. For more information about membership, go to www.SoyGrowers.com.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted. Complete details and applications are available at: www.SoyGrowers.com/sym/. The deadline for submission of all required information and documentation is December 31, 2007.

Selection will be made and the winner will be notified in January 2008. The scholarship winner also will be recognized at the ASA awards banquet, and at a breakfast with BASF representatives and Kip Cullers, during the annual Commodity Classic, Feb. 28-March 2, in Nashville. The scholarship award will be sent directly to the student's school of choice after enrollment has been verified.

"This is a great opportunity for your son or daughter, or your grandson or granddaughter," Hoffman said. "Be sure to share this information with them so they can compete for this scholarship."

Visit www.SoyGrowers.com/sym/ for details and to apply by the deadline of December 31, 2007.

