

ASA Gives Soybean Growers Political Clout in Washington

Nearly 90 years ago, the American Soybean Association (ASA) was formed as a voluntary membership organization. It was recognized that many soybean growers together would lend strength to one voice and a clear purpose, thereby achieving substantial political strength and accomplishing impressive results to grow the U.S. soybean industry.

And grow it has. In 1924, U.S. soybean farmers produced 5 million bushels of soybeans. In 2006, nearly 3.2 BILLION bushels of soybeans were grown in the United States.








Today, thousands of organizations vie for the attention of U.S. legislators and federal agencies. That means it is even more important that soybean farmers have a strong presence and impact in Washington, D.C. The more

soybean farmers that are members of ASA the stronger ASA's political influence and leverage in Washington.

It is important to know that without ASA there would be no national organization to represent the interests of U.S. soybean farmers in Washington, D.C. While all U.S. soybean farmers contribute to the mandatory checkoff, by law none of those dollars can be used to fund policy or lobbying work. Checkoff dollars fund domestic and international marketing activities, research and new uses.

The only way for soybean farmers to ensure that soybean interests are represented in Washington, D.C. is to support ASA. Membership in ASA is voluntary, and includes a state association membership. To become a member, visit www.soygrowers.com, or call 800/688-7692.

American Soybean Association Responsibilities Compared to the Soybean Checkoff

	Voluntary ASA Membership	Mandatory Soybean Checkoff
PURSUE fair and favorable legislation for U.S. soybean growers		
FIGHT for reasonable regulation		
NEGOTIATE for expanded trade		
LOBBY for Federal soy research		
INFORM and educate legislators about soybean issues		
PROVIDE direct access to lawmakers		
PROVIDE international marketing strategic direction to the U.S. Soybean Export Council		✓
IMPLEMENT soybean farmer-funded domestic marketing activities		✓
IMPLEMENT soybean farmer-funded research and new uses activities		✓