

ASA Works on Farm Bill and Aquaculture Issues








Farm Bill — American Soybean Association (ASA) leaders met in September with the Chairmen of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and other Senators closely involved in preparing to write the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill. In a meeting with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA), ASA President John Hoffman and Chairman Rick Ostlie stated ASA's position that the soybean target prices should be set at a minimum of \$6.30/bu. They also expressed support for a revenue-based counter-cyclical program, provided it is an option to continuation of the current price-based program.

Aquaculture Nutrition — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced the 2008-09 National Marine Aquaculture Initiative with up to \$8 million in competitive grants. The grants will be awarded to demonstration projects and research to develop sustainable marine aquaculture in the United States. Research priorities include: Nutrition research involving alternative protein-based diets and influence of diet on product quality. ASA Washington representatives and AgSource, Inc. have worked closely with the NOAA

Aquaculture Program managers to ensure that funding for research on soy-based diets is high on NOAA's list of funding priorities.

America's Heartland — The television series "America's Heartland," supported by the American Soybean Association (ASA) to communicate the value of agriculture each week, has now begun its third season. The magazine-style, half-hour series is available on public television and on RFD-TV, and is also available online at: www.americasheartland.org. The show is produced by KVIE, the public television station in Sacramento. In the 40 half-hour episodes produced throughout its first two seasons, America's Heartland reporters and crews brought in stories from more than 40 states. By the middle of the new third season, the show will have completed its first "tour" of all 50 states. Monsanto and Farm Bureau sponsor the show, and additional production and promotion assistance is provided by the American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, United Soybean Board, U.S. Grains Council and National Association of Wheat Growers.

American Soybean Association (ASA) 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		✓

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