

Bean Beat The American Soybean Association

ASA Keeps Soybean Interests Top of Mind

Soy Transportation Coalition

American Soybean Association (ASA) Board member Ron Kindred and ASA Washington, D.C. staff attended the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) meeting in Louisiana July 8-9. Kindred is also a member of the STC board.

After holding a board meeting, the group visited port facilities in New Orleans and South Louisiana, as well as a Bunge facility on the Mississippi River in Destrehan, La. The group saw firsthand the importance of the shipping and port facilities in the transportation of soybeans and other grains.

Those involved in the transportation industry stressed the need for greater federal investment in our transportation infrastructure, including locks and dams and rail, which are vital to the efficient movement and market competitiveness of soybean production.

ASA supports the maintenance and improvements of the U.S. waterway and navigation systems and supports STC efforts to address transportation issues affecting the marketing and transport of oilseeds, grains and their products.

Farm Bill Implementation

American Soybean Association (ASA) Washington, D.C. staff and representatives of other farm and banking groups met on June 30, with senior U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials to discuss implementation of two new farm bill programs, the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) and Supplemental Disaster Assistance (SURE) programs.

Issues discussed at the meeting with Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Floyd D. Gaibler, Farm Service Agency (FSA) Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs John Johnson and other senior officials, were the timeline for implementation of the programs, sign-up issues, payment limits across programs and calculations of whole farm revenue.

While most of these issues remain under review at USDA, participants learned that FSA plans to release regulations for the ACRE program by next spring. As Congress did not provide expedited rulemaking authority for the SURE program, its implementation will be slower than that for ACRE.

Growers Encouraged to Tell Their Conservation Stories

The American Soybean Association (ASA) wants to hear about the conservation activities on your farm. ASA is now accepting applications for the 2009 Conservation Legacy Awards Program. You are encouraged to share your story of environmentalism and conservation with others by submitting an application to the program.

The American Soybean Association wants to acknowledge your good stewardship of the land. The awards showcase management practices that are environmentally friendly and at the same time allow growers to reap economic returns from their farm.

Three regional conservation awards will be presented. All regional winners receive an expense-paid trip for two to Commodity Classic in Grapevine, Texas, February 26-28, 2009. Commodity Classic is the premier convention and trade show for the U.S. corn, soybean, wheat and sorghum industries.

At the ASA Awards Banquet at Commodity

Classic, a national winner will be announced from among the three regional winners. All winners will be featured in an issue of *Corn & Soybean Digest* magazine.

You must be a member of the American Soybean Association to enter the Conservation Legacy Awards Program. Join ASA online at www.SoyGrowers.com. The awards program is sponsored by ASA, Monsanto and the *Corn & Soybean Digest*.

Access the awards application online at www.SoyGrowers.com/clap. For more information, contact ASA Leadership & Corporate Development Manager Kathy Grunz at 314-754-1301 or email kgrunz@soy.org.



The American Soybean Association is a national commodity organization with 23,000 members and affiliation with 25 states. For membership details, call 1-800-688-7692.