

## ASA Does What Your Soybean Checkoff Can't Do

Since 1920, ASA has been the only national organization devoted to providing a voice solely for soybean growers in policy development and lobbying at the national level.

The law says your soybean checkoff can't do these things. But ASA can—and does. Here are some of the important issues ASA is involved in today:

### Extension of the biodiesel tax incentive beyond 2008

ASA helped create the first-ever biodiesel tax incentive, which has had a major impact on growth of the biodiesel industry and on soybean prices. Extending the incentive beyond 2008 is absolutely critical to the continued growth of this renewable fuel—and the higher soybean prices and greater profitability this market means for you.

### Favorable legislation for soybean growers

ASA lobbies for fair treatment of soybeans in farm legislation—working to get an adequate safety net for oilseed growers in the Farm Bill including an increased soybean target price. ASA also lobbies for increased federal dollars for market development and research related to soybean rust and other disease and trait issues.

### River transportation improvements

Even if your farm is far removed from central waterways, the ability to move U.S. soybeans on our nation's rivers has a direct effect on domestic and international markets and price for your crop. ASA fought for federal authorization of infrastructure improvements on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to help move soybeans to pivotal international markets. These improvements are needed in order to remain competitive with South America in terms of transportation costs—and ASA will continue to stay on top of this initiative to ensure this important work gets done.

### International trade agreements

International markets are critically important to the profitability of U.S. soybean farmers. ASA works with USDA, Congress and foreign officials to open global markets for soy products—from trade talks to the development of bilateral agreements. This isn't just about soybeans and soy meal. ASA also supports trade agreements that benefit pork and poultry—helping drive demand for soybeans and soy meal to feed domestic livestock.

If you believe this is important work that needs to be done, then you should belong to ASA and your state soybean association.

"As a soybean producer, I need to stay on top of what's going on in the industry and ASA keeps me informed," said Doug Morrow, a soybean grower from Marion, Ind. "My ASA membership has been a great investment. Without ASA's lobbying efforts, I doubt there would even be a biodiesel industry..."

Dennis Jaeger, a soybean grower from Goodwin, S.D. said, "Our state association and ASA are doing important legislative work in Pierre and Washington, DC. The checkoff rules don't allow checkoff dollars to be used for policy activities. If we don't stand up for what we believe, who will?"

Like it or not, the future of the soybean industry depends a great deal on what happens on Capitol Hill. You can't be there to make sure Congress considers what's right for the soybean industry. But ASA can, and does—every day.

Membership in ASA and your state soybean association is a choice—and it's the right choice for growers who truly want to ensure a strong future for the soybean industry.

If you believe soybean growers need to take charge of their future, then you should belong to ASA and your state soybean association.

If you believe, belong. Join online at [soygrowers.com](http://soygrowers.com) or call ASA at 800-688-7692.



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