

Bean Beat The American Soybean Association

You Can't Always be on Capitol Hill—But ASA Can

Fact: Some of the most important decisions affecting your soybean operation are made by people who have never set foot in a soybean field.

One vote in the halls of Congress can have as much to do with your profitability as all the work you put into your crop. Like it or not, the future of the soybean industry depends a great deal on what happens on Capitol Hill: the Farm Bill; renewable fuel incentives for soy biodiesel; trade agreements for soybeans, soy meal, pork and poultry.

Since 1920, ASA has been the only national organization devoted to providing a voice solely for soybean growers when policy and legislation are being created.

You need someone to represent U.S. soybean interests on Capitol Hill. That is what ASA does—everyday.

Fact: Just because you pay the soybean checkoff does NOT make you a member of the American Soybean Association.

Paying the soybean checkoff is mandatory for every soybean farmer. 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.

The law says soybean checkoff dollars cannot be used to lobby Congress, create legislation or influence trade policy. But these are important initiatives that can make or break the soybean industry. That's why ASA is on the job for you.

Fact: ASA initiatives have already put money in your pocket.

You have already felt the positive, profitable impact of ASA success. Your bottom line is proof of that. Soybean prices today are significantly higher than they otherwise would be thanks in great part to ASA's policy success on the biodiesel tax incentive.

Soybean farmers continue to benefit from billions of dollars of increased soybean exports because of trade agreements and provisions championed by ASA. For example, because ASA worked with U.S. trade officials to block a proposed soybean import quota by China in 2000, China's soybean imports

now total over 1 billion bushels annually, with roughly half of the imports coming from U.S. soybean farmers.

Soybean farmers are receiving more than \$600 million per year in direct payments because ASA's lobbying in the 2002 Farm Bill made soybean farmers eligible for a new 44-cent per bushel direct payment.

You can't be on Capitol Hill to make sure Congress considers what's right for the soybean industry. But ASA can, and does—every day. That's why your membership in the American Soybean Association is so important.

Fact: When you become a member of ASA, you also become a member of your affiliated state soybean association.

With one affordable dues payment you belong to two organizations, and that means even greater impact for your membership dollars, with influence and policy achievements at both the national and state level.

ASA members care about the future of their industry. They see the value of supporting an organization that has direct payback to their operations.

"I encourage you to make the decision to become a member of the American Soybean Association and your state soybean association," said John Hoffman, ASA President and a soybean farmer from Waterloo, Iowa. "Your membership can help us continue our outstanding track record of success for soybean farmers."

Become a member of the American Soybean Association and your state association online at soygrowers.com or call 800-688-7692.



If you believe, belong.



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.