

## ASA is 90 Years Strong

The American Soybean Association (ASA) will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary in 2010. It was in 1920 that a group of soybean farmers and extension workers founded the association in order to promote soybeans as a crop and increase profit opportunities. These individuals had a vision for creating a thriving soybean industry in the United States.

Early soybeans presented farmers with production and marketing challenges. However, those challenges were met and surmounted by the individuals committed to ASA and its mission.

Now, 90 years later, the journey for soybean production in the United States has led to production of nearly 3 billion bushels of soybeans annually and a value of more than \$27 billion. The early vision of a thriving soybean industry in the United States has been achieved many times over.

"All the individuals who have been involved with the American Soybean Association and supported its work throughout the last 90 years have much to be proud of," said ASA President Johnny Dodson, a soybean farmer from Halls, Tenn. "It is with great pleasure that in 2010 we will be recognizing and celebrat-



American Soybean Association®

ing their vision and the accomplishments of ASA for U.S. soybean farmers and the whole industry."

A variety of activities and information will be presented throughout 2010 in recognition of ASA's milestone 90th Anniversary. There will be contests, commemorative items, historical highlights and special activities at various meetings and events, including the Commodity Classic Conference & Trade Show. For more details visit [www.SoyGrowers.com](http://www.SoyGrowers.com).

"ASA is looking forward to a productive year working on many important policy issues, while also celebrating ASA's 90-year history of proactive and strong accomplishments to promote and grow the U.S. soybean industry,"

Dodson said.

ASA is pleased to have BASF as sponsor of the ASA 90th Anniversary Celebration.



## ASA at Work on Policy Issues Impacting Soybean Farmers

The American Soybean Association (ASA), a voluntary membership organization, provides a voice for U.S. soybean farmers on legislative and regulatory issues in Washington, D.C. Dues from membership are used to fund ASA's work on dozens of important issues that impact the profitability of U.S. soybean farmers. In recent weeks ASA has been working on such issues as agriculture biotechnology regulations, ag research funding and bioenergy program guidelines.

### Ag Biotechnology

ASA participated in meetings with officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Trade Representatives to discuss key issues for soybean producers on agricultural biotechnology. A meeting with Larry Elworth, Agriculture Counselor to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, gave ASA and other members of the Ag Biotech Planning Committee an opportunity to brief him on current concerns with domestic and foreign regulatory problems facing biotechnology.

### Ag Research

ASA Board member Joe Layton testified before the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research. The hearing was convened to review implementation of the Research Title of the 2008 Farm Bill; Layton was one of only three invited witnesses. Layton's testimony focused on the more than six years he has devoted to research issues on behalf of ASA and the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (N-CFAR).

### Bioenergy Program

Payments under the Bioenergy Program for 2009 are being implemented under a Notice of Contract Proposal that includes a restriction on biofuel plants located in towns with populations exceeding 50,000. This unnecessarily excludes some biodiesel plants that use soybean oil as their feedstock. ASA is working with Congress to include a provision to prevent certain biofuel plants from exclusion based on location.