

ASA Accepting Applications for Conservation Awards



The annual Conservation Legacy Award program presented by the American Soybean Association (ASA) and sponsored by Monsanto and *Corn & Soybean Digest* magazine is underway for 2009.

ASA members are encouraged to share their story of environmentalism and conservation with others by submitting an application to the program. ASA wants to hear about the conservation activities on members' farms to acknowledge their good stewardship of the land and show how farmers are incorporating important conservation practices.

There will be three regional Conservation Legacy Award winners, who together with a spouse or guest will receive an expense-paid trip to Commodity

Classic in Anaheim, Calif. March 4-6, 2010. And each winner will be featured in an issue of *Corn & Soybean Digest*.

While at Commodity Classic, each regional winner will be recognized at the ASA Awards Banquet, at which time a national winner will be announced from among the three regional winners.

You must be a member of ASA to apply for the Conservation Legacy Award program. You can join ASA online at www.soygrowers.com.

ASA is accepting applications for the award program through Oct. 9, 2009. ASA members may access the 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.

ASA Work Protects Interests of U.S. Soybean Farmers

ASA Board Lobbies Congress on Key Soy Issues

The American Soybean Association (ASA) Board of Directors met in Washington, D.C. in July to discuss key policy issues and lobby Congress for action on ASA's top legislative priorities. The meeting included a Legislative Forum at which ASA heard from House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) and Ranking Republican Frank Lucas (R-OK) on the status of climate change, health care and food safety bills that Congress is working to complete in 2009.

ASA and state soybean association leaders spent a day on Capitol Hill to press their Congressional delegations for action on key biodiesel issues, including extension of the biodiesel tax incentive beyond 2009, reversal of the Environmental Protection Agency's flawed Proposed Rule that U.S. biodiesel production causes indirect land use change that would disqualify biodiesel from eligibility under the expanded Renewable Fuel Standard, and correction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to exclude biodiesel plants in urban areas with populations greater than 50,000 from eligibility for payments under the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels.

ASA Submits Comments on Two Trade Agreements

The American Soybean Association (ASA) submitted comments to a U.S. Trade Representative's Office request for comments on the Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) and the South Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

"As the United States' 10th largest trading partner worldwide in agriculture and livestock products, the Colombia TPA provides an opportunity to not only secure current exports to Colombia, but has the potential to increase it as well," the ASA letter supporting the Colombia TPA stated. "Colombia has been an important market for U.S. soybean exports, as Canada and other countries negotiate similar agreements with Colombia this agreement will help the U.S. soybean industry maintain its competitive edge."

The letter on the South Korean agreement also noted the benefits and consequences. "In 2008, the U.S. exported \$278 million in pork to Korea, \$73 million in poultry products, and \$99 million in dairy products. Each of these sectors will benefit from market access improvements and eventual free access under the FTA," the letter said.