

# Bean Beat

The American Soybean Association

## Record 1.9 Billion Bushels of Soy Exported in 2010

U.S. soy exports set a record for the fourth year in a row, with exports of 1.9 billion bushels. U.S. soybean farmers shipped out 1.45 billion bushels of whole beans, up from the 1.24 billion bushels exported last year. Also increasing from last year are exports of soybean meal totaling 428 million bushels. Soybean oil weighed in at over 1.4 million metric tons.

China, which imported 825 million bushels—well above the 686 million bushels it purchased last marketing year—continued as the top customer for U.S. soybeans. Mexico was second, importing just over 120 million bushels.

Meanwhile, U.S. soybean farmers started the new export marketing year with a considerable amount of soybean export commitments on the books. In addition, there are over 82 million bushels of soybeans sold in the 2009/10 marketing year that will likely be carried over.

These record exports are made possible through the American Soybean Association's investment of cost-share funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service and the soybean checkoff, which support the activities of the American Soybean Association International Marketing (ASA-IM) to promote U.S. soy through international marketing efforts and work with overseas buyers to increase exports and U.S. farmer profitability.

### ASA Withdraws from Leonardo Academy Sustainable Ag Standard Process

In October, the American Soybean Association (ASA) withdrew from the Leonardo Academy's initiative to develop a sustainable agriculture standard for the American National Standards Institute. While ASA supports the goal of a sustainable agriculture standard, it has become clear that the Leonardo Academy process is biased against a balanced and open analysis of modern agriculture. Fifty-four other commodity and farm organizations representing U.S. production agriculture interests joined ASA in withdrawing from the Leonardo Academy's process.

Despite the Leonardo Academy's claim that the Committee is made up of members from "across all areas of agriculture," in reality the Committee is dominated by environmental groups, certification consultants, agro-ecology and organic farming proponents. These groups have neither the vision nor desire

to speak for the farmers of mainstream agriculture who produce more than 95 percent of the food consumed in or exported by the United States.

ASA Board member Ron Moore, a soybean farmer from Illinois, was elected Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee at its inception and had served as Acting Chairman since June 2010.

"U.S. farmers are very much dedicated to the long-term sustainability of their farms and their farming practices," Moore said. "For this reason, farmers will embrace an achievable roadmap for the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainability, but only if they are part of its development. We are committed to working toward such goals in the hope that widespread adoption will contribute to real sustainability of American agriculture. This cannot occur within the Leonardo Academy process."

### ASA Radio Newline Reports Available by Podcast

The Soy Radio Newline (SRN), produced by the American Soybean Association (ASA), has a long history of providing the latest information about critical farm and trade policy issues that impact the U.S. soybean industry.

SRN audio reports are posted weekly at [www.SoyGrowers.com](http://www.SoyGrowers.com) and are also available for podcasting. Visitors to [SoyGrowers.com](http://SoyGrowers.com) can click on the "Subscribe SRN Podcast" button to add a subscription to their podcast software.

With podcasting, subscribers can access SRN audio reports on any web-enabled device, such as a computer or mobile phone to listen to interviews with ASA producer-leaders and representatives of industry and government to learn about policy initiatives that impact all U.S. soybean farmers.

A podcast is a series of digital media files (either audio or video) that are released episodically and downloaded through web syndication. The term "podcasting" is derived from a combination of Programming On Demand and broadcasting.



The American Soybean Association is a national commodity organization with 22,500 members and affiliation with 25 state associations. For membership details, call 1-800-688-7692.