

## Birth of the American Soybean Association in 1920

Taylor Fouts of Camden, Ind., began growing soybeans in the early 1900s. With seed from the Indiana Experiment Station, Fouts planted four acres of soybeans in 1904. He continued to plant more soy each year. By 1907 he was proud of having 200 bushels of seed beans, which he characterized as a "unique possession."

Between 1910 and 1920, interest in growing soybeans as a crop spread throughout Indiana and other corn belt states. Soybean Field Days were being held in many locations in Indiana and surrounding states.

Taylor Fouts and his brothers, Finis and Noah, focused heavily on soybean production in the early 1900s. So strong was their commitment to this crop that in 1918 their farming operation was officially named "Soyland."

When the Agricultural Extension



*The three Fouts Brothers, (left to right) Taylor, Finis and Noah, at Soyland Farm during the first Corn Belt Soybean Field Day, Sept. 3, 1920 in Camden, Ind., the birthplace of the American Soybean Association.*

Service of Purdue University and county ag agents in Indiana decided to present a "Corn Belt Soybean Field Day" the selection of Soyland Farms in Camden, Indiana as the site was a natural choice. The event was held on September 3, 1920.

About 1,000 friends of soybeans from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky,

Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin attended that first Corn Belt Soybean Field Day.

By the end of the day on September 3, 1920, there was discussion about the need for a national organization to promote the soybean industry and increase soybean profits. An organization was formed on that day and named National Soybean Growers' Association. In 1925 the name of the organization would be changed to American Soybean Association. Taylor Fouts served as the first president of the National Soybean Growers' Association.

Find out more about ASA at [www.soygrowers.com](http://www.soygrowers.com). The ASA 90th Anniversary Celebration is sponsored by BASF.



## 90 Years of Soybean Progress with ASA

During 90 years of representing U.S. soybean farmers, the American Soybean Association (ASA) has been a leader in helping to develop the soybean industry as we know it today. ASA has always been an active educator and promoter for soybeans. From the beginning in 1920, ASA activities and interactions helped build soybean production, marketing and processing. As production grew, so too did the development of markets for the soybean oil and soybean meal.

Once U.S. soybean production was on a solid growth track ASA then began to work on expanding the market for America's soybeans through international trade development. Early markets for U.S. soybeans were Germany and Japan. Currently U.S. soybeans are exported to more than 45 countries.

Through the years ASA partnerships and programs helped secure a place for soybeans as a valuable and versatile crop. And as soybeans became a key crop in many states, ASA began developing affiliations with state soybean associations to strengthen and benefit the entire industry.

Since its formation in 1920, ASA understood the importance of federal policy and its impact on the soybean industry. From its first decade of existence ASA has been continuously active in the policy process and a strong lobbyist for U.S. soybean farmers.

The work of ASA and thousands of volunteers has resulted in 90 years of great progress building a U.S. soybean industry that has grown from 1.1 million bushels and a value of \$4.5 million in 1919 to 3.4 billion bushels and a value of \$33.6 billion in 2009.