



The Northeast Region

Soybean Scene

News for Northeast Soybean Professionals from your Soybean Checkoff • Winter 2006

From the Executive Director

This is our inaugural issue of the Soybean Scene, and we hope that you find it useful in learning more about your soybean checkoff and how it is working for you.

The Northeast Region is “housed” with the Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board, where you benefit from sharing an executive and office expenses. I’ve spent 25 years working with the soybean checkoff — first with the Maryland state program and then later with Maryland, Pennsylvania and the Northeast Region after the federal checkoff was authorized.

Your soybean checkoff is working hard on a national level to promote new soybean products (such as biodiesel); open new overseas markets to our beans and meal; and develop a Better Bean to give U.S. farmers an edge in the domestic and international marketplace. And all this for just one-half of one percent of the net market value of your beans.

Some of your soybean checkoff’s work regionally is highlighted in this issue, with more to come in future issues. As the Northeast Region’s checkoff program continues to grow, it is my pleasure to work for you and with you to promote the profitability of soybean farmers in our region.

— Sandra L. Davis

Pataki: New York to ‘go green’

New York state is going biofuels: Gov. George E. Pataki has issued an executive order requiring all state agencies and public authorities to transition to biofuels in their vehicles and facility heating oil tanks. The state has also announced a set of incentives to promote the construction of bio-refineries. This is good news for soybean producers, who stand to benefit from the production of biodiesel from soybean oil. Widespread use of biodiesel is expected to increase the price of soybeans by seven to 12 cents per bushel.

BIODIESEL BLENDS ARE GROWING in popularity. One big reason is that a federal tax incentive encourages fuel distributors to purchase, blend and sell biodiesel blends at a cost that is competitive with petroleum diesel. The incentive is paid to the company that blends the biodiesel into a finished fuel and is meant to be used for biodiesel infrastructure at the blending company, or to be passed on to the consumer — you!

ASK FOR IT, AND USE IT ON YOUR FARM: American family farmers are among the top three consumers of diesel fuel in the nation. When you ask for something, your suppliers will listen. Ask your supplier to bring you biodiesel blends. If every farmer in the nation used B2, which is just two percent biodiesel in 98 percent petroleum, it would use 71.6 million gallons of soy-based biodiesel annually, which is equal to about 51.1 million bushels of soybeans! That’s almost the same amount of beans grown annually by New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland together. When you use B2 blends, you’ll be in good company, too: More than a third of U.S. farmers use biodiesel blends

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Fiscal Year 2005 Financial Statement

Fiscal Year 2005 - October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005

Total FY05 Assessments	\$99,474
Minus 50% to United Soybean Board	\$49,737
Northeast 50%	\$49,737
Interest & FY04 Project Funding Carryover	\$31,077
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,800
TOTAL REVENUES FY05	\$82,614
DISBURSEMENTS	
Administration, Collection, Compliance and Board Operating Cost	\$7,539
Producer Communication	\$3,609
Promotion	\$26,377
<u>In-state Research</u>	<u>\$18,124</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS FY05	\$55,649
Ongoing Project Funding	\$26,965

on their farms. For more information on biodiesel and the federal tax incentive, see www.biodiesel.org ...

RESEARCH ROUNDUP: The soybean checkoff supports regional research on soybean production. During FY 2005, that amount came to \$18,124. Here are some highlights from past research:

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO? In 2004, Cornell Extension Assistant Michael Stanyard conducted a study to compare yields of soybeans under zone tillage, deep ripping and strip tilling at various row spacings. Stanyard found that “the bottom line continues to be that some type of reduced tillage ... just prior to planting continues to yield well with educated inputs.” Perhaps more intriguing, Stanyard said, was that the trial “stimulated another looming question of optimum plant stand.” One way to reduce costs is to reduce seeds per acre and he noted that Cornell researchers and some farmers will be experimenting to see “how low they can go.”

TAg TEAMS TURN BEAN FIELDS INTO CLASSROOMS: Julianne Stavinsky, Extension livestock and field crops specialist in western New York for Cornell University, and a team of researchers received a checkoff grant of \$7,777 to conduct an on-farm, season-long integrated pest management education program. Thanks to the Northeast Region Soybean Board, Stavinsky and company were able to create three Tactical Agriculture (or “TAg”) teams of growers, agribusiness and Extension. Each TAg team then selected a field in which to grow beans and to use as an IPM classroom for that season. Summer meetings provided training in plant growth stages, spider mite control, and foliar diseases, among other topics, as participants scouted the field — er, classroom. “We have received very positive feedback on the program,” the researchers reported to the checkoff board. “Word has spread throughout the region about how valuable the program is, and many other producers in the state hope to participate in an on-farm soybean IPM education team in the future.”

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APHID PRESSURE: HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH? The Northeast Soybean Board awarded a checkoff grant of \$10,000 to a team of researchers headed by John Losey, associate professor of entomology at Cornell, to evaluate the economic injury level, biological control and host plant resistance of the soybean aphid in New York. The project is the continuation of a study which began in 2001 when soybean aphids were discovered in 26 NY counties. In 2003, NY farmers reported yield losses for the first time. In mid-2005, the Cornell researchers issued these findings:

- At the end of July, aphid populations plummeted.
- Cruiser and Gaucho seed treatments were working “fairly well” in test plots, and average aphid populations were lower than in untreated plots.

USB NEWS: The United Soybean Board works on soybean research, marketing and education projects on a national and international level. On Jan. 1, USB welcomed Yvonne Dock as its new executive director. Dock had been USB’s contact at USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), where she also worked with the beef, lamb and pork checkoffs, and also previously had been director of marketing for the National Dairy Promotion & Research Board. The 64 farmer directors on USB will convene in Baltimore, Md., in July 2006.

New York’s director on USB is Russ Carpenter of Trumansburg. Russ took over the seat held for Northeast by Dennis Phelps after Dennis served the maximum terms allowed. We thank Dennis for his past and continued support of the industry through his service to the checkoff. James Sheppard, Jr. of Clifton Springs is the New York alternate. Rick Stern of Cream Ridge is the Northeast director; and Mike Gerhart of Ephrata is the Pennsylvania director.