

SOYSCOOP

June 2009

KENTUCKY SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

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Welcome Summer Interns

During the summer, the Kentucky Soybean Association and Promotion Board (KSA/KSPB) is able to provide college students with internships to assist in soybean education programs. Summer intern responsibilities include exhibiting at field days, fairs and teaching at various 4-H camps throughout the state. They will also be working on animal agriculture education efforts and social networking messaging. Additional communication, such as, press releases, newsletter assistance and brochure development will also be on their "to-do" list for the summer. We have the privilege to have three interns that come to us from Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The intern that resides in Paducah, Kentucky is Emily Harned. Emily is a senior Agriculture Education major at Murray State University. She is an active member in Block and Bridle, Agriculture Ambassadors, Agriculture Leadership Council, Collegiate FFA and the Agriculture Long Range Task Force at Murray State. During her time at Murray State University, she has been able to participate in different activities across this great nation. Whether it was from working out at the school farm to traveling to Missouri, Kansas, Florida and Texas, she has been able to see agriculture in several different lights. During her spare time, Emily enjoys being outside, riding and showing Quarter Horses and serving people. Upon graduation in December, she plans to obtain a teaching job in a local high school agriculture program.

After speaking with Emily about the upcoming summer she stated, "I am super excited about what the summer holds. I am ready to educate

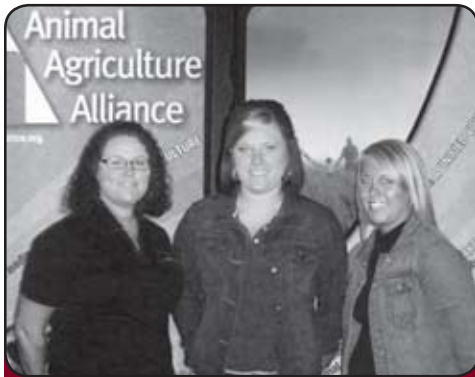


Summer interns include from left: Jordan Timberlake, Emily Harned and Kelly Brannon.

others about American agriculture and the benefits that are received through the hard work and dedication of the farmer." Not only is she excited about the summer, but also here at the Soybean Association we are excited to see the changes that develop over the next couple of months.

Jordan Timberlake is also one of the summer interns for the Kentucky Soybean Association. She is from Mt. Carmel, IL and attends Murray State University. In the upcoming semester she will be entering her senior year in the School of Agriculture as an Agribusiness major. She is actively involved in the School of Ag and is a member of the following clubs and organizations: Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority, Block & Bridle, Ag Business Club, Alpha Zeta, Ag Leadership Council, and Ag Ambassadors. She is also a

(continued on page 2)



KSA/KSPB summer interns began their summer at the Animal Agriculture Alliance meeting learning about protecting animal agriculture for the vitality of the soybean industry.

Welcome Summer Interns *(continued from page 1)*

in her spare time.

“As an intern with KSA, I feel there are numerous opportunities to further my education within the livestock and commodity industries. I also hope to further my knowledge and stay up to date with current animal agriculture issues that are affecting all aspects of the agriculture industry. I am excited about working with everyone at KSA and feel that it will be a very successful summer internship.”

Knoxville. As a program requirement, her special project topic will be concerning the sustainability and promotion of animal agriculture. She works on her family farm in her spare time.

“I am very fortunate to have an opportunity to experience first-hand issues concerning livestock and commodities from seed to store, and to pass that education on to others. To be able to learn and grow under great leaders is what I am looking forward to most during this internship.”

Kelly Brannon, from Puryear, Tennessee, graduated from Murray State University in 2008 and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Agriculture Economics at the University of Tennessee at

The 2009 summer interns are innovative, motivated and excited about Kentucky agriculture. We look forward to the great work that they are going to bring to the KSA and KSPB.

member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a School of Ag Senator for the Student Government Association. Jordan was raised on her family’s farm and works for her father

Focus on Livestock

Special to the Scoop

A research project on a family hog farm in Daviess County may change the way manure is utilized – and address a longstanding perception problem with large production units.

Father-and-son producers Jerry and J.W. O’Bryan are building a 4,000-head feeding unit that will attempt to compost the manure. The four-room unit includes a deep pit style building with the bottom of the pit sitting on top of the ground. A layer of sawdust or some other carbon source will be applied to the floor of the pit, which can be heated from a hot water system in the floor. Compost will be stirred with a special machine as needed.



For composting to work, the product must reach a temperature of at least 135 degrees. If documentation proves the compost went through at least two prolonged heats of more than 150 degrees, then it could be considered organic, which would increase the value significantly. The compost will be removed and placed in a compost building away from the hog unit to be finished. This process will take liquid manure that is 75-80 percent water and turn it into dry, high-nutrient fertilizer that is easy to transport. Because of its added value, organic fertilizer may be better sold in 50-pound units for use in flower beds and greenhouses than in bulk for use on cropland.

Swine production units have vastly increased in size over the past 20 years due in large part to economics of production and advantages in marketing. The O’Bryan operation is the largest swine producer based in Kentucky with approximately 4,500 sows. As units have gotten larger the disposal of manure has become a major problem and a real perception issue for the industry. Rising fertilizer prices have enhanced the value of animal waste as a fertilizer, but a limited amount of land is available for fertilization, and transporting liquid manure longer distances to reach more land created added expense. Composting manure into dry fertilizer addresses the transportation problem.

Dr. Richard Coffey and Dr. Doug Overhults with the University of Kentucky are conducting the research, and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board is funding the study. The researchers hope the process will limit odor, capture all nutrients produced and continue to improve the pigs’ comfort and health. The dry, easily transportable fertilizer potentially opens new markets for the composted product. This large-scale composting research trial, if successful, would allow the large confinement producer to utilize every drop of manure and become a greener, more environmentally friendly neighbor. The success of this project could well change the way swine buildings are constructed and perceived.

Kentucky Soybean Grower **Davie Stephens** Attends

ASA Advanced Leadership Program

Part II of the American Soybean Association (ASA) Leadership At Its Best program, sponsored by Syngenta, was held recently in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the ASA Board Meeting. Davie Stephens, Membership Chair and Secretary of the Kentucky Soybean Association, joined association leaders from 17 states to complete advanced leadership training that provides the skills necessary to be an effective voice for the U.S. soybean farmer.

This unique program strengthens state farmer-leaders' skills in leadership, communication, effectively addressing Congress, interacting with the media as well as understanding policy issues.

Stephens, a grower from Wingo, grows soybeans and corn and has four broiler houses. He is an animal ag coalition representative, a member of the National Corn Growers Association, Poultry Federation, Kentucky Young Farmers and the Hickman County Fair Board.

"This program is a terrific opportunity for state directors to strengthen their skills and ASA is grateful to Syngenta for partnering with us for the past 17 years," said ASA president Johnny Dodson. "By taking a leadership role in Washington, D.C., growers will help the entire soybean industry benefit by continuing to help shape the future of American agriculture."

Over 300 farmer-leaders have graduated from Leadership At Its Best program since its inception in 1992.



From left to right: Jack Bernens, Syngenta; Program Graduate Davie Stephens; and Johnny Dodson, ASA President

Survey Says...

It's always interesting to learn what others think of our industry. The recent results of a checkoff-funded, 2009 National Agricultural Image Survey are in, revealing consumers' view of farmers. And the results look good.

An encouraging 95 percent of those surveyed have a favorable image of farmers, with 34 percent saying their view of farmers has improved in the last year. These findings provide the impetus for soybean farmers to better communicate what is right about the U.S. soy industry and U.S. agriculture.

As soybean farmers, we also need to support the animal agriculture industry, which uses 98 percent of U.S. soybean meal. Our checkoff takes a leadership role by forming partnerships, funding research and

communicating facts about the animal agriculture industry. By working with animal ag organizations, the checkoff has increased demand for animal products both domestically and internationally. And the checkoff funds research to discover the best soybean meal rationing rates and improve soybean composition to provide more benefit to animal production. The continued support of the U.S. animal ag industry represents one area of the Kentucky Soybean Board's long-range strategic plan.

In addition, checkoff efforts will focus on improving soybean yield and quality, ensuring market access for U.S. soy, easing market volatility and examining how we can improve our soybean production infrastructure. These priority issues focus on benefiting U.S. soybean farmers and increasing demand for our product.

Checkoff Funded Research to find **Optimum Planting Dates** for Soybeans

There is an increasing trend for soybean producers to plant earlier than the current recommended dates of early May to early June. There is no comparative research data in Kentucky to determine if April plantings achieve maximum yield potential or any management problems associated with early plantings. Dr. Jim Herbek, Grain Crops Specialist with the University of Kentucky is conducting the research funded by the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board.

Dr. Herbek states, "If early planted soybeans can achieve maximum yield potential, this would provide farmers a wider latitude of calendar days to plant soybeans to achieve optimum yield. It would also help define any change in management practices needed for early plantings to succeed."

Likewise, the last optimum planting date for yield potential of around June 7-10 (based on research roughly 20 years old) may need to be redefined.

Herbek continued, "This date may no longer be valid and defining the last optimum soybean planting date would help farmers avoid a yield reduction for planting too late. This would also have implications for double-cropped soybeans and encourage farmers to employ management practices that hasten soybean planting to reduce yield losses."

According to Herbek, he is looking at three primary objectives when carrying out this research. First, is accurately and effectively updating planting date recommendations for Kentucky soybean farmers. Current planting dates recommended by the University range from early May to June 7 – 10 at the latest. Herbek hopes to

for Soybeans

comprise five years of data before completing this study to ensure accuracy in his findings.

Secondly, he is looking to determine if earlier (April) planting dates provide higher, lower, or consistent yields when compared to the current recommendations.

According to data submitted to the Kentucky Soybean Yield Contest, farmers are planting earlier and earlier each year when the opportunity presents itself.

"Farmers are planting earlier due to more efficient technology and larger equipment that allows them to cover more acreage in less time. Corn is being planted earlier which naturally would encourage earlier soybean planting," says Herbek.

Results from 2008, the first year of testing, have shown a positive effect for an early planting date. Keep in mind that 2008 was a unique crop year that started out wet and then progressively entered a drought. It is not recommended to base management decisions on one year's data.

Effect of Soybean Planting Date on Yield (2008)

Planting Date	Soybean Yield (Bushels/acre)*	
	Pioneer 94M50 (4.5 RM)	Pioneer 92M61 (2.6 RM)
April 17	50.3 a	
April 28	50.9 a	50.3 a
May 7	49.6 ab	
May 21	47.3 b	47.6 ab
June 6	42.2 c	
June 23	34.5 d	44.5 b
July 7	25.6 e	

•Location: UKREC (Princeton, Ky).

*Yield values followed by the same letter (within the same variety) are not significantly different according to LSC ($P < 0.10$). Yield values (within a variety) followed by different letters are significantly different.

Herbek showed some surprise that planting in May resulted in higher yields than planting in June. He did stress the strong connection between last year's drought with the findings and reiterated the importance of multiple year data. Weather plays an important part in planting date yield outcome and the drought in 2008 had a significant negative impact on the

yield response obtained, particularly for late plantings.

The third objective in the planting date is to determine different management practices for disease or pest problems that may arise with early (April) planting dates.

The primary disease concern of Dr. Herbek's is the onset of Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS). SDS is caused by a soil-borne fungus which infects and rots roots and results in leaf discoloration and defoliation. Favorable conditions for SDS include poorly drained soils, cool, wet weather early in the growing season, and high-yield fields. SDS usually begins as "hot spots" in a field and may progress to infest the remainder of the field. Some research shows that fields with Soybean Cyst Nematode are more susceptible to SDS. Early planted soybeans have a generally higher risk for SDS.

Another management concern of early planted soybeans can be the presence of bean leaf beetles (BLB). These beetles are present from the time plants emerge until maturity; however, BLB are particularly important pests from seedling emergence until the first trifoliolate leaf has unrolled. Early planted fields usually have larger BLB populations and suffer the most injury.

"Already in the 2009 trials we have found incidence of the bean leaf beetle on soybeans planted April 17," said Herbek

Herbek is monitoring emergence and final stands. Cooler soil temperatures at early planting dates usually result in weak stands. Soil temperatures for soybeans should be 65 degrees for a seven-day emergence. It could potentially take 10 days to two weeks or longer for plants to emerge if temperatures are cooler. Although soybeans can germinate at 50 degrees, emergence time is longer and % emergence is reduced.

One final concern in early planting dates is freeze potential. Late April freezes are unlikely; however, Herbek has seen it happen.

One disease that could be warded off with an early planting and thus an early harvest date is Asian Soybean Rust (ASR). Since ASR first made it to the United States in 2004, it has been found in Kentucky, but has not been a major threat. That is due to the fact that it has been late in the season before the disease has reached our state. If ASR continues to arrive late in the season, the potential damage from the disease could be avoided with early planting and early harvest.

For more information on this and other research being conducted at the University of Kentucky contact the University of Kentucky's Research Center at 270-365-7541.

Applicants Sought for 2010 ASA/DuPont Young Leader Program



The American Soybean Association (ASA) and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., is seeking applicants for the 2010 Young Leader Program. The Young Leader Program is

recognized throughout agriculture for its longstanding tradition of identifying and cultivating the producer leaders who are shaping the U.S. soybean industry.

"The Young Leader Program is an exceptional leadership training program," said Johnny Dodson, ASA President. ASA and Pioneer are committed to developing the next generation of leaders for the soybean industry. This program provides information that the participant can start using immediately, not only in the farm business, but personally as well."

The 2010 class of Young Leaders and their spouses will participate in a challenging and educational leadership experience December 6-9, 2009 at Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, IA and then complete training March 2-6, 2010 in Anaheim, California, in conjunction with the annual Commodity Classic. This seminar offers the opportunity for participants to enhance their leadership skills as well as meet and learn from other Young leaders from around the country and Canada.

Application forms for the 2010 Young Leader Program, sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred a DuPont company, have been mailed to all ASA members. Applicants may apply on-line directly at www.SoyGrowers.com/dyl, or call 800-688-7692 ext. 1328, to obtain an application form. Soybean producers are encouraged to apply or nominate another producer who would be an excellent candidate for the program. Information on guidelines to participate in the program is available at the website link above, or by calling the ASA program manager. All applications and nominations should be returned to ASA by August 31, 2009. One Young Leader couple or individual will be selected from Kentucky.

ASA-IM Program Helps Lead to **\$335 MILLION** in U.S. Ag Exports in Southeast Asia

U.S. exporters and Southeast Asian buyers gathered in Cambodia in September 2008 to participate in the 5th Southeast Asian U.S. Agricultural Cooperators' Conference. Co-organized by the American Soybean Association - International Marketing, the U.S. Grains Council and the U.S. Wheat Associates, the program drew over 90 companies and organizations from 12 different countries and represented a staggering 720 million bushels of soy, corn and wheat purchasing potential. The theme 'Globalization in Agriculture and Agribusiness' promoted strategic discussion and analysis of how globalization influences the supply and demand for agricultural products. It also sparked interest in current global finance, food and fuel issues that affect agribusinesses. The conference provided opportunities for U.S. exporters to meet with potential purchasers and discuss the quality of the 2008 crop. Around 1 million metric tons of U.S. soy, corn and wheat products with an estimated value of U.S. \$335 million were traded or negotiated at this event.

The Southeast Asian U.S. Agricultural Cooperators' Conference evolved from what was previously the Southeast Asian Soybean and Soybean Meal Buyers' Conference. After holding the buyers' conference for 5 years, it became evident that many of the buyers were also purchasers of corn products and, in some cases, wheat. The event planners decided to invite the U.S. Grains Council and U.S. Wheat Associates to join in the program as co-organizers and make the event a one-stop-shopping experience for the benefit and convenience of regional commodity purchasers. It has since become a pivotal element of ASA-IM's Preferred Customer Program, which focuses the organization's USDA and grower funded efforts on those key regional purchasers that are best able to understand quality and capture the value of

Commodity Exported: **Soybeans, Soybean meal**

Country/Region: **Southeast Asia**

Program Year in which success was achieved: **2008**

Export volume or US\$ value: **\$335 million**

purchasing their soybean and soybean meal requirements from the U.S.

Southeast Asia is an important growth market for U.S. soy. It is the top market outside of North America for U.S. soybean meal and 6th worldwide for U.S. soybeans. Using USDA's Foreign Market Development Funding combined with U.S. farmer checkoff dollars allows ASA-IM to provide focused efforts, such as the Preferred Customer Program, to ensure buyers in the region are knowledgeable of the advantages of purchasing from the U.S. and that they remain loyal customers.



Efforts in Southeast Asia encompass both animal and human nutrition promoting development in all areas of this growth market. Here, ASA-IM Southeast Asia team members showcase various soy products available in the area at the organizations trade show booth.



Mark your calendars, set your watches, key in your cell phone alarms or program your DVRs for the last two days of June! That's when the next edition of "Beyond the Bean On-Air" will be broadcast for the first time on RFD TV. The half hour show, will feature a panel discussion with USB Chairman Chuck Myers and Doane Advisory Services Senior Economist David Asbridge, and stories on such topics as a Soy 2020 update, soybean farmer oversight of the soybean checkoff, soy transportation issues and checkoff efforts to educate kids about modern soybean production and agriculture.

The program airs:

- Monday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern/6:30 p.m. Central with an encore broadcast at 8:00 p.m. Eastern/7:00 Central on RFD TV
- Tuesday, June 30 at 9:30 a.m. Eastern/8:30 a.m. Central on RFD TV

RFD TV is broadcast on DirecTV channel 345 and DISH Network channel 231. It is also carried by Charter, Comcast, Mediacom and the NRTC cable networks, and recently added the Time-Warner cable network as a major carrier of its programming.

Soybeans and Livestock:

We're in it TOGETHER

Several representatives of Kentucky commodity groups are working to form the Kentucky Livestock Coalition. The mission statement will be to protect and promote the image of Kentucky's Livestock Industry through educating consumers and policy makers about the positive contributions livestock producers have on the state. They are committed to advancing environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically viable livestock farming practices, while providing safe and affordable food.

The Kentucky Livestock Coalition (KLC) will profile local producers and distribute the positive stories through media sources. They will also follow legislation involving animal agriculture and educate congressional leaders on the state and national level on behalf of Kentucky commodity growers. Also, on the technology end, they plan to provide an informational website and form social networking accounts to educate the agriculture and non-ag communities on the animal welfare issues that have been skewed by the media.

The main issues KLC will cover are environmental practices, animal health and food safety. Some precautionary measures farmers can follow to ensure the best animal care practices include:

- Maintaining clean, well-ventilated facilities that provide ample space
- Implementing disease-prevention programs to protect herd, flock and human health
- Inspecting animals to evaluate health and ensure basic requirements are met
- Practicing proper handling techniques to eliminate undue animal stress or injury
- Providing preventive veterinary care to protect flocks and herds and assure food safety



Do you TWEET?

Kentucky farmers supply the state, the nation and even the world with affordable food, fiber and fuel and the world should know just how hard you work! In an effort to get the positive farm message out to the world, the Kentucky Soybean Association and Promotion Board can now be found on many of your favorite social network sites. Find us on:



twitter

www.twitter.com/kysoybeanboard



myspace

www.myspace.com/kysoybeanboard



facebook

www.facebook.com - Kentucky Soybean



Blogger™

www.kysoy.blogspot.com



You can't always be here.
But ASA can.

The American Soybean Association is doing important farm and trade policy work on Capitol Hill:

- Fighting for biodiesel tax incentives
- Promoting trade agreements for soy exports
- Building the soybean safety net in the Farm Bill

The law says your soybean checkoff can't do these things. But ASA can.

If you believe this work is important to your bottom line, belong to ASA and your state soybean association.



If you believe, belong.
soygrowers.com



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