

## ASA Voting Delegates Set Policy Direction for 2006-2007

Soybean producers gathered in March to review and revise the policy direction of the American Soybean Association (ASA). As elected delegates, 133 farmers representing soybean production areas across the United States participated in the annual process that guides the ASA as it pursues future initiatives to improve U.S. soybean farmer profitability. The voting delegates session was held in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show.

Following are some of the most significant additions and modifications covering a variety of important soybean issues.

### DOMESTIC ISSUES

- ASA fully supports maintaining the current funding baseline for agriculture for the 2007 Farm Bill; consideration of programs for the 2007 Farm Bill that do not distort planting decisions; and consideration of programs for the 2007 Farm Bill that are World Trade Organization compliant.
- ASA recommends that the definition of "like kind" in the IRS-1031 provisions be reviewed so that agricultural land values are not inflated by 1031 exchanges.
- ASA supports restricting feedstocks eligible for the agri-biodiesel tax incentive to the list of feedstock oils that were itemized on the JOBS bill.
- ASA supports the efforts of the U.S. Livestock and Poultry Industry to vigorously oppose any initiatives that would criminalize the use of modern and accepted animal production practices. These and all limitations are spearheaded and funded by animal activist groups as part of a state-by-state campaign that would push animal agriculture production out of the United States. ASA supports fund raising efforts to fund these initiatives and encourage ASA and its members to support these efforts.
- ASA supports expansion of the domestic aquaculture industry, including offshore aquaculture, to increase food security, create jobs and reduce the U.S. negative trade balance in aquaculture.

### EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT

- ASA strongly urges any Doha Round agreement require that developing countries that are "world-class" exporters be subject to disciplines similar to those applied to developed countries in all pillars of the negotiations. "World-class" developing country exporters should not be able to utilize "Special and Differential" treatment exemptions for their competitive export sectors.

The American Soybean Association is a national commodity organization with 25,000 members and affiliation with 25 states. For membership details, call 1-800-688-7692.

- ASA urges Congress and the Administration work to ensure that the European food traceability law and/or U.S. seed companies and shippers' contracts not transfer financial liability onto U.S. farmers due to grain shipments containing unapproved genetically modified grain traits.
- ASA urges Congress to fully fund the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Cooperator Program at a minimum of \$34.5 million and the Market Access Program (MAP) at a minimum of \$200 million.

### RESEARCH, EDUCATION, NATURAL RESOURCES

- ASA encourages soybean producers to select seed genetics based on achieving 35 percent protein, 19 percent oil and high yields. ASA also encourages soybean seed companies to include estimated protein and oil content, on a 13 percent moisture basis, in their sales literature.
- ASA encourages Federal funding for research that would optimize the use of soy in aquaculture feed and support species development in aquaculture to better utilize soybean protein.
- ASA believes all productive land will be needed to sustain U.S. soybean production. As such, land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that can be farmed in an environmentally sustainable manner should not be re-enrolled in the program upon expiration of the CRP contract.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN



Soybean grower Lynn Teel, an ASA Delegate from Indiana, addressed the group at-large during the 2006 Voting Delegates Session.

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ASA Delegates and soybean growers from Minnesota, (Left to Right) Kristin Weeks-Duncanson, Gary Joachim and Ron Jacobsen, discuss resolutions during the Voting Delegates Session in March.

## ASA Leaders Meet with Secretary Johanns on Soy Initiatives

As the policy advocate for U.S. soybean growers, American Soybean Association (ASA) farmer leaders met with Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns on March 3, to discuss World Trade Organization (WTO) priorities, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Commodity Program policies in the 2007 Farm Bill, modernization of locks and dams, and European Union (EU) traceability and labeling regulations. Secretary Johanns was in Anaheim, Calif., to speak at the General Session at the 2006 Commodity Classic, the combined convention and trade show of the ASA and the National Corn Growers Association.

In regard to the ongoing trade negotiations, ASA expressed its concern that product exemptions from overall tariff cuts could undermine any market access gains for U.S. farmers. ASA also continued to emphasize that countries with world-class exporting sectors, like Brazil, Argentina, and Malaysia, must accept disciplines in all three pillars of the negotiations, similar to developed countries.

While discussing the 2007 Farm Bill, ASA leaders told Secretary Johanns that they plan to ask Congress to focus the CRP on environmentally sensitive lands, and to reduce the statutory cap of 39.2 million acres, in the 2007 Farm Bill.

"World demand for soybean meal and oil is growing rapidly, and acreage available for corn and soybean production is limited, particularly with the expected expansion of ethanol and biodiesel production," said ASA President Bob Metz, a soybean producer from West

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(Left to Right) U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns met with ASA leaders, including First Vice President Rick Ostlie, President Bob Metz and Chairman Neal Bredehoeft, to talk about important soy initiatives.

Browns Valley, S.D. "The Conservation Reserve Program includes millions of acres of productive farmland that could be planted to our crops and can be farmed in an environmentally sustainable manner to fill these growing demands."

The meeting also provided an opportunity to clarify the Administration's position on funding to modernize locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, as proposed in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation.

"Secretary Johanns assured us that when Congress sends WRDA

to the President the Administration will not oppose the legislation," Metz said.

ASA also expressed its strong thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for all the support it provided that allowed the United States to win the WTO case against the EU moratorium on the approval of new biotech-enhanced crops.

ASA was one of the 21 trade associations that urged the Administration in November 2003 to initiate a WTO challenge against the EU's traceability and labeling regulations.

### The Advocate for Soybean Growers

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is the advocate for U.S. soybean growers. ASA is a voluntary membership organization with dues-paying members. ASA is not the checkoff. Become an ASA member online at [www.SoyGrowers.com](http://www.SoyGrowers.com) or call 1-800-688-7692, extension 1294.

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