

ASA Welcomes EU Approval of LibertyLink® Soybeans

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is pleased that LibertyLink® soybeans (A2704-12) from Bayer CropScience have received final approval from the European Commission for importation into the European Union (EU) for food and feed use. This will allow the commercial launch of LibertyLink soybeans in the U.S. for the 2009 planting season.

"It has been more than 10 years since the EU approved a biotech-enhanced soybean variety for importation," said ASA First Vice President Johnny Dodson, a soybean producer from Halls, Tenn., who chairs ASA's Biotech Working Group. "We welcome the approval of LibertyLink soybeans and hope this approval will lead to a new era of timely, science-based EU reviews for biotech-enhanced seed products."

The approval provides U.S. soybean producers with market access to nearly half a billion consumers

living in the 27 EU member states of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Most importantly, it provides livestock and poultry producers in these countries with access to high quality U.S. soybeans and soybean meal.

"Since Bayer's LibertyLink soybean technology is tolerant to glufosinate instead of glyphosate, farmers will have an additional in-crop weed control option," Dodson said. "Being able to alternate herbicides provides an effective management tool to minimize the selection for herbicide resistant weeds, which will enhance the sustainability of U.S. soybean production."

ASA Represents Best Interests of Soybean Growers

Whether it is about biodiesel tax incentives or the farm bill or unfair trade barriers or dozens of other policy issues that impact soybean growers, the American Soybean Association (ASA) is doing important work to represent the best interests of U.S. soybean producers.

ASA is a membership organization and depends on dues paying members to provide the funding needed to work on the many important policy issues affecting soybean profitability and market opportunities. By law, soybean checkoff dollars cannot be used for legislative or policy work.

When you join ASA you also join your state soybean association. So membership gives you representation on Capitol Hill and in your state capitol.

"As an ASA member, I am assured that someone is watching out for my best interests as a soybean grower," said Rob Joslin, Chair of the ASA Membership Committee. "And being part of a grassroots organization with thousands of members means we have a strong voice. More members will make our voice have even more impact on more decision makers."

Here is what several other members have to say:

- "The most important thing ASA does is advocate for U.S. soybean producers. ASA is our voice in Washington, D.C."
Steve Wellman, Syracuse, Nebraska

- "Where would biodiesel be if we didn't have ASA working for us in Congress? Our state association was instrumental in getting mandatory pump labeling for biodiesel at the state level. These are things the checkoff just can't do."
David Hartke, Teutopolis, Illinois

- "Our state association and ASA are doing important legislative work in Pierre and Washington, D.C. The checkoff rules don't allow checkoff dollars to be used for policy activities. If we don't stand up for what we believe, who will?"
Dennis Jaeger, Goodwin, South Dakota

- "As a soybean producer, I need to stay on top of what's going on in the industry and ASA keeps me informed. My ASA membership has been a great investment."
Doug Morrow, Marion, Indiana

"Our message is simple," Joslin said. "If you believe, belong. If you believe ASA is doing important work representing the best interests of soybean growers, then it's time to belong."

Join ASA and your state soybean association online at www.SoyGrowers.com. If you believe, belong.