

# 2025 ASA RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS



 **ASA**  
American Soybean  
Association®

# ASA MISSION: **ADVOCATE** for U.S. soy farmers on policy and trade.



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# 2025 ASA LEADERSHIP

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**Josh Gackle**  
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**Dave Walton**  
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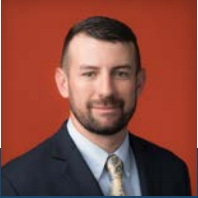
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**Stephen Censky**  
ASA Chief Executive  
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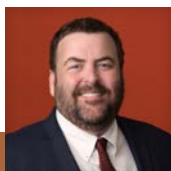
**ASA  
EXECUTIVE  
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# 2025 ASA LEADERSHIP

## ASA DIRECTORS



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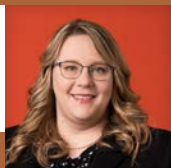
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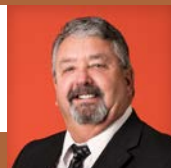
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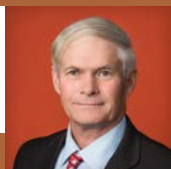
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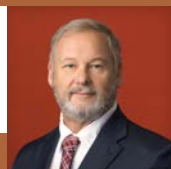
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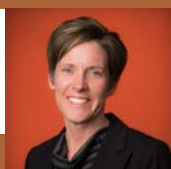
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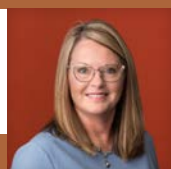
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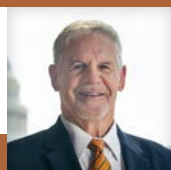
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# 2025 ASA LEADERSHIP

## ASA DIRECTORS



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Madrid, IA



**Ron Kindred**  
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**Jeff King**  
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**Mike Koehne**  
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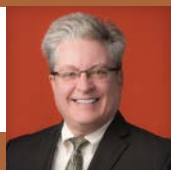
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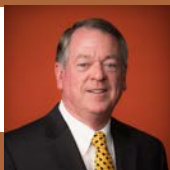
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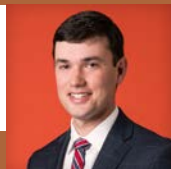
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# 2025 ASA LEADERSHIP

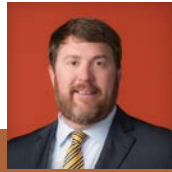
## ASA DIRECTORS



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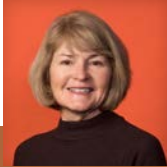
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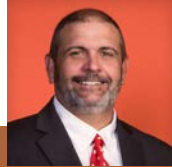
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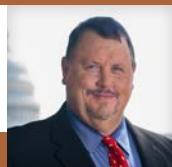
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## 2025 POLICY PORTFOLIOS

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Executive Director, Government Affairs

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- Overall policy and D.C. office oversight
- Biofuels policy lead
- Transportation and Infrastructure



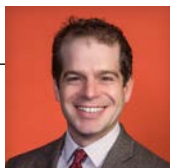
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- Pesticides/crop protection
- Make America Healthy Again Commission policy oversight



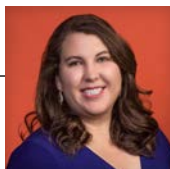
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Director, Government Affairs

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- Trade, including international biotechnology and crop protection
- International food aid
- Checkoff
- Livestock and Aquaculture
- Tax (excluding biofuels tax provisions)
- Federal grain standards



### Josh Rahm

Director, Government Affairs

---

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- State Low Carbon Fuel Standard programs
- State emissions standards and internal combustion engine regulations



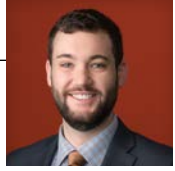
**Carson Fort**

Manager, Government Affairs

---

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- Conservation, including WOTUS
- Precision ag and ag data
- Fertilizer (excluding anti-dumping/ countervailing duty cases)
- Soy foods, including soybean oil and domestic nutrition
- Farm labor/H-2A
- Research

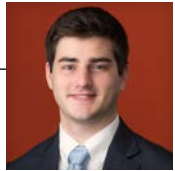
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- Farm safety net
- Crop insurance
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Credit
- Disaster and economic assistance
- Biobased products
- Solar and Broadband

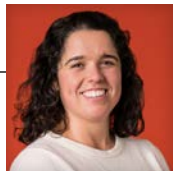
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# 2025 ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Approved by ASA  
Voting Delegates  
March 2, 2025



# 2025 ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

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## TITLE A – FARM SUPPORT, DOMESTIC MARKETS AND TRANSPORTATION

### PREAMBLE

The American Soybean Association supports individual freedom and private initiative through the competitive enterprise system. ASA supports achieving a balanced federal budget and reducing the national debt. ASA does not support a budget reduction approach that disproportionately impacts agriculture. (2023)

### FARM INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMS

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#### General

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- A-1. ASA supports a soybean program that:
  - a. assists farmers to better manage risk
  - b. provides planting flexibility to enable U.S. soybean farmers to base their decisions on market signals
  - c. responds to environmental and conservation concerns
- A-2. ASA supports a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) with sufficient ability to provide benefits in a timely manner. Any program funded by the CCC should primarily accrue benefits to agricultural producers. (2021)
- A-3. ASA reaffirms its support for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and emphasizes the importance of its flexibility and responsible use in providing critical assistance to growers. This includes support for market access and development, aid during periods of low income or market volatility, and other farmer-approved programs. (2025)
- A-4. ASA supports a meaningful, comprehensive, sufficiently funded 2025 Farm Bill that addresses soy priorities, which include an increased reference price, increased loan rate, a voluntary base acre update and protection of crop insurance, among other priorities. (2025)
- A-5. ASA strongly supports the creation of base acres for land that has come into production that does not have full base acres and the voluntary update of existing base acres to reflect current production. (2025)
- A-6. ASA supports maintaining decoupling under the ARC and PLC programs to separate the benefits from current planting decisions. (2024)
- A-7. ASA supports USDA adoption of a uniform definition for a “Beginning Farmer and Rancher” to be used by all agencies within the department. We suggest that any definition used by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) adds these provisions directing the FSA to allow a producer to exclude certain years from their beginning farmer status if the producer meets one of the following criteria:

*(continued on next page)*



# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- while they are under the age of 18 (including the crop year you turn 18)
- while they are on full-time active duty in the U.S. military
- while they are in a post-secondary education program (the post-secondary education exclusion cannot exceed 5 years) (2020)

A-8. ASA supports the Farm Service Agency (FSA) having adequate in-person staffing, training, technology, and online accessibility at farm service centers for processing approvals and requests made by producers in a timely manner. (2024)

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## Price and Revenue Supports

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A-9. ASA supports programs that do not distort planting decisions and that are WTO compliant.

A-10. ASA supports non-recourse marketing loans.

A-11. ASA supports the continuation of beneficial interest status in commodities for producers marketing through cooperatives at the time they receive a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) or Marketing Loan Gain under the marketing loan program. (2021)

A-12. ASA supports equitable treatment of soybean producers in the development and implementation of the federal disaster and low-price assistance programs.

A-13. ASA supports the use of federal crop insurance records and/or production evidence from similar surrounding farms to update yields for federal farm programs. (2017)

A-14. ASA supports keeping the agricultural titles and the nutrition title in the next farm bill. (2019)

A-15. ASA supports economic assistance when significant market losses occur that are not covered by the existing farm safety net. (2022)

A-16. ASA supports changing the acreage reporting dates of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) from July 15 to July 22. (2020)

A-17. ASA supports simplification and improvement of USDA producer-prevented planting reporting requirements. (2024)

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## Payment Limitations and Eligibility

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A-18. ASA opposes imposing means testing on federal farm payments and loans made to U.S. farmers.

A-19. ASA opposes restricting eligibility for marketing loan gains or LDPs.

A-20. ASA supports the definition of actively engaged in farming in effect under the 2018 Farm Bill. (2019)

- A-21. ASA supports individual eligibility of a producer and spouse for equal program benefits.
- A-22. ASA supports eligibility of soybeans grown for non-traditional uses for all payments for which commodity soybeans are eligible.

## **CROP INSURANCE**

- A-23. ASA supports protecting crop insurance, which serves as a valuable risk management tool, and private sector delivery. ASA supports enhancements to expand coverage and product offerings at an affordable cost and address regional needs while maintaining actuarial soundness. (2020)
- A-24. ASA supports consideration of additional crop insurance options to improve risk management, including increasing support at the higher levels of coverage, reviewing the potential for multiyear disaster coverage and expanding development of revenue protection programs. (2020)
- A-25. ASA supports the Risk Management Agency (RMA) studying and addressing loss ratios in those states where the soybean loss ratio is consistently low. (2025)
- A-26. ASA supports the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) establishing representative farmer advisory committees at both the federal and state levels to provide input into the process of evaluating and revising farming methods to be included for coverage.
- A-27. ASA supports programs by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to expand the availability of margin protection insurance options by creating a more robust and more affordable program that provides farmers with coverage against unexpected decreases in operating margins. (2023)
- A-28. ASA supports work toward the following changes being made to the crop insurance program.
  - a. On land rated as high risk due to a named peril, such as flooding, we recommend the attachment of a rider for that peril that will allow the producer to buy up additional coverage for other perils at regular rates.
  - b. The actual loss in crop value attributed to crop quantity and quality discounts should be fully covered by crop insurance. (2024)
- A-29. ASA supports efforts through USDA-RMA to investigate any and all avenues to assist growers in mitigating revenue loss due to quality issues due to a named peril. (2025)
- A-30. ASA supports timely processing and payment of crop insurance indemnities, as well as education efforts regarding claims settlement. (2023)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- A-31. ASA recommends that RMA establish a comprehensive and fair policy for double crop soybeans. ASA supports efforts of states or regions that double-crop soybeans to compile the production and yield data necessary to allow FSA and RMA to adjust final planting dates without penalty on a sound actuarial basis. (2015)
- A-32. ASA recommends that in counties where the practice of double-cropping is recognized as an acceptable practice that RMA rules requiring the exact double-crop practice in two out of the last four years be eliminated. (2014)
- A-33. ASA supports a stand-alone double-crop insurance policy in counties where the practice of double-cropping is recognized as an acceptable practice under RMA rules, including those with a Written Agreement with no history. (2023)
- A-34. ASA supports allowing producers who elect ARC to purchase Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) insurance. (2023)
- A-35. ASA supports alternative private revenue protection products or insurance be made available for soybean farmers to use as risk management tools in addition to the current federal crop insurance program.
- A-36. ASA recognizes that the interaction between a farmer and their crop insurance agent and the amount of service provided by the agent to the farmer exceeds that of other types of insurance. ASA urges the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to consider this and inequities in the A&O cap when considering the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA). (2023)
- A-37. ASA requests the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to recognize the increased value of specialty soybeans when calculating plug yields when producers switch from commodity soybeans to specialty soybeans.
- A-38. ASA supports the availability of enterprise units by practice and type. (2025)
- A-39. ASA supports the creation of an “all other non-food grade” insurance type of soybeans. (2024)
- A-40. ASA supports private insurance carriers delivering crop insurance programs and opposes having FSA selling and servicing federal crop insurance. ASA opposes any further cuts to the administrative and operating (A&O) expense reimbursement and underwriting to approved insurance providers. (2020)
- A-41. As soybean farmers adopt new traits that are covered under federal crop insurance, ASA urges that:
  - a. Crop insurance agents be trained to explain all allowable options available to clients regarding insuring specialty and commodity soybeans.

- b. RMA strive to verify yield correlation between existing APH transfer to specialty soybeans where appropriate.
- A-42. ASA supports mandatory representation of producers actively engaged in soybean production on the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's Board of Directors. (2025)
- A-43. ASA recognizes that cover crops offer economic benefits including improved soil quality. ASA supports practical Risk Management Agency (RMA) policies regarding cover crops that require producers to continue best management practices. (2020)
- A-44. ASA supports the trend adjusted APH endorsement for crop insurance. (2021)
- A-45. ASA opposes reducing the current government subsidy levels of federal crop insurance premiums and opposes means testing for crop insurance. (2020)
- A-46. ASA supports continuous evaluation of crop insurance policies including reviewing and updating beginning and ending planting dates, premium levels and adjustment guidelines to address developing management practices and technologies. ASA supports pilot programs that gather necessary data to determine those sustainable conservation practices that reduce risk and could lower farmers' crop insurance premiums. (2019)
- A-47. ASA supports survey research that utilizes post-harvest scientific sampling strategies within National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) identified Palmer Drought Index areas to supplement USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported (with other transportation tax items) yields to compute more realistic and yet statistically defensible yields for RMA crop insurance programs. (2019)
- A-48. ASA strongly supports a more accurate and timely USDA reporting system for acres and yield. (2025)
- A-49. ASA supports continuation of the harvest price option in revenue protection policies. (2024)
- A-50. ASA supports changes to crop insurance policies and/or procedures that will make quality loss adjustments more closely aligned with revenue losses in the marketplace when quality damage due to a named peril occurs in soybeans. (2024)

## PRODUCTION

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### General

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- A-51. ASA supports increased domestic production and the unrestricted international exchange of feedstocks, goods and services to ensure growers have consistent, affordable access to inputs, equipment and other necessary agricultural supplies. (2022)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- A-52. ASA supports policies that would ease supply chain delays and obstructions. (2022)
- A-53. ASA opposes excessive regulations on farm inputs. (2022)

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## Pesticides

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- A-54. ASA supports the definition of pesticide, and the exceptions established thereto, in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, which includes any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest; any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant; and any nitrogen stabilizer. (2025)
- A-55. ASA supports and encourages reasonable efforts to improve pesticide product safety, handling and education. ASA supports farm and commodity organizations taking leadership on those environmental and food safety issues that affect producers. ASA supports the efforts of farm organizations to obtain objective scientific research that quantifies the economic impacts of agricultural input restrictions. ASA encourages the inclusion of agricultural organizations by government, consumer and environmental groups in designing practical solutions to environmental issues. (2025)
- A-56. ASA supports the use of safe, environmentally friendly containers for pesticides. ASA supports policies that require Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) in generation of data for pesticidal products. ASA supports agricultural leaders and environmental advocates working together in developing environmental policies and common goals, creating an atmosphere of cooperation. (2025)
- A-57. ASA supports EPA using scientifically valid data and research, including from agronomic field scientists outside of EPA, in making decisions governing pesticides, and that EPA and other regulatory bodies must consider economic impacts and conduct risk-benefit analysis before proposing any restriction on pesticides or new agricultural technology. (2025)
- A-58. ASA supports expedited approval processes for new, environmentally friendly pesticide products. (2025)
- A-59. ASA supports EPA when reviewing and considering registration changes for pesticides, taking into consideration the current market availability and supply distribution situation of these products, and potential replacement products, prior to making any changes. (2025)
- A-60. ASA supports EPA using its authority to grant producers emergency use permits when emergency situations occur. (2021)



- A-61. ASA supports voluntary record keeping for general use pesticidal product application and believes that such a practice provides evidence of responsible land and water use. (2025)
- A-62. ASA supports state soybean associations taking an active role in states' development of environmental policy. Local governing bodies should be prohibited from imposing requirements more stringent than federal requirements on the sale or use of federally registered pesticides or biotech products. (2025)
- A-63. ASA endorses the use of voluntary integrated pest management programs and best management practices consistent with sound ecological and economical principles.
- A-64. ASA opposes farmers being liable for environmental damages resulting from input use where recommended label rates and application procedures are followed.
- A-65. ASA supports all food and feed products meeting EPA-established pesticide residue tolerances (maximum residue levels). (2025)
- A-66. ASA supports standardized pesticide labels that are clear, easy to read and that offer information most relevant to growers and applicators up front and in a truncated manner. (2024)
- A-67. ASA recognizes that pesticidal seed treatments reduce the need for broadcast pesticide applications, labor costs and other farm input costs—providing both agronomic and environmental benefits. ASA supports public policy that allows continued use of a broad range of seed treatments for agricultural purposes. (2024)
- A-68. ASA supports implementation of Worker Protection Standards (WPS) in a way that protects agricultural workers and bystanders while not undermining the ability of growers to use pesticides according to the label or placing growers at increased liability for doing so. (2021)
- A-69. ASA opposes the arbitrary or unnecessary discontinuation of pesticide products, uses or tolerances. (2023)
- A-70. ASA opposes EPA establishing nationwide testing for certification or re-certification of private pesticide applicators and supports allowing individual states to determine testing procedures, necessary training and re-certification length. Online and non-classroom programs should be considered. (2020)
- A-71. ASA recognizes that pesticide products are a significant part of the soybean farmer's input costs. ASA supports that all Canadian crop protection products that have an equivalent U.S. EPA registered product be given automatic reciprocal EPA registration. (2025)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- A-72. ASA opposes any additional permitting process for pesticide product applications and urges EPA to craft any new regulations in a way that is not onerous to farmers. ASA opposes EPA requirements for NPDES permits for pesticide applications in crop production. (2025)
- A-73. ASA supports the use of sound science, realistic assumptions and real-world data for conducting Endangered Species Act evaluations and consultations. (2022)
- A-74. ASA supports the agencies that are implementing Endangered Species Act regulations using accurate maps of the species they are working to protect, realistic model assumptions for predicting effects on non-target species and realistic usage rates. (2024)
- A-75. ASA supports regulators consulting with growers to identify flexible, practical mitigations that are workable for growers and will protect endangered species and their habitats. ASA opposes the use of broad, disruptive restrictions, including county-wide prohibitions, to implement Endangered Species Act requirements in pesticide registrations. (2022)
- A-76. ASA opposes regulators imposing new use restrictions on existing pesticides effective for the upcoming growing season later than August 31 the year prior to give growers sufficient certainty of product use conditions needed to make purchasing decisions. Ideally, regulators will announce any new use restrictions at least one year before they are to take effect. (2022)
- A-77. ASA supports the use of pesticide products based on current EPA regulations, provided application follows the label and manufacturers support further testing of the product. ASA encourages additional educational efforts to increase the knowledge applicators and producers have regarding new pesticide technologies and their interaction on other crops. (2025)
- A-78. ASA supports manufacturers of any new pesticide formulations increasing their investments in and recognizing of national and state associations, academic institutions and state departments of agriculture for their efforts to ensure new innovative technologies are available for growers to combat weed resistance issues. (2025)
- A-79. ASA supports promotion of increased domestic production of fertilizers, pesticides, and seed. (2025)
- A-80. ASA supports the history of scientific collaboration between EPA and the appropriate state agency through the 24c registration process and asks that EPA respect the sound science behind special local needs labels. (2022)

- A-81. ASA supports USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) and the program actively engaging with EPA and other pesticide regulators to ensure grower and agricultural perspectives are considered when setting pesticide policy, including on any proposed Endangered Species Act restrictions. ASA supports OPMP having the resources needed to fulfill this important mission. (2023)
- A-82. ASA supports the development of timely and accurate education resources for applicators to have access to information on new and changing regulations. (2024)

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## Energy

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- A-83. ASA supports preferential energy allocation for the essential industries of agricultural production, food production and marketing during times of critical energy shortages. (2023)
- A-84. ASA opposes the sale, transfer or other disposal of federal Power Marketing Administrations or their assets, as well as any regulatory or legislative measures that would increase the costs of electricity or impose other artificial cost burdens onto the energy rates of U.S. farmers. (2024)
- A-85. ASA opposes any national or international program that taxes carbon emissions or energy consumption. (2025)
- A-86. ASA supports domestic production of petroleum and natural gas to stabilize future increases in farm input supply prices. (2021)
- A-87. ASA supports a comprehensive energy and energy infrastructure policy that utilizes all current sources and continues to develop and implement all new sources of domestically produced energy. (2023)
- A-88. ASA supports the routing and construction of current and future pipelines and other infrastructure to fully utilize North American energy resources. (2025)
- A-89. ASA supports inclusion of an Energy Title in the farm bill that includes specific authorization and funding for programs that support and promote the development and use of biofuels. (2024)
- A-90. ASA supports allocating funding for and requiring electrical providers to properly harden the U.S. electrical grid and to encourage expansion of three-phase power into rural areas. (2025)
- A-91. ASA supports the sale of year-round E15 given that it is not implemented at the expense of biomass-based diesel volumes. (2024)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

## DOMESTIC MARKETS

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### General

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- A-92. ASA supports developing, maintaining, expanding and promoting markets for identity preserved and specialty soybeans and soybean products. ASA supports premium structures that reflect the additional costs of identity preservation. (2023)
- A-93. ASA supports efforts by USDA to regularly collect data on specialty soy production to better inform market conditions, customers and public policy. (2023)
- A-94. ASA supports the promotion and use of registered soybean product logos to establish consumer awareness. (2021)
- A-95. ASA affirms that USDA's agricultural reports be classified as an "essential government service" to ensure their scheduled release in the event of government service disruptions. (2017)

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### Livestock and Aquaculture

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- A-96. ASA supports the expanded use of soybean products by the livestock, poultry, dairy and aquaculture industries. ASA will work with these industries to promote the importance of these foods in a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet. (2022)
- A-97. ASA strongly supports responsible livestock producers who face unwarranted challenges by individuals or organizations through local, state and federal zoning, permitting, regulatory or legislative processes. (2016)
- A-98. ASA supports extending cost share dollars to livestock and aquaculture producers for improvements to environmental sustainability, including upgrades to capture/reduce methane emissions. (2022)
- A-99. ASA supports the use of a science-based environmental review process to evaluate livestock facilities siting. ASA supports considering the opinions of only those residing within reasonable proximity of the questioned site. (2023)
- A-100. ASA supports animal disease traceability programs to protect against the loss of soybean demand. (2023)
- A-101. ASA opposes any initiatives that would limit the use of accepted production practices in the U.S. livestock, poultry, dairy and aquaculture industries. (2023)
- A-102. ASA supports expansion of the domestic aquaculture industry, including offshore aquaculture, to increase food security, create jobs and reduce the negative trade balance in aquaculture. ASA also encourages federal funding for research that would optimize the use of soybean protein and oil in aquaculture feed.

- A-103. ASA supports clear, consistent and reasonable science-based regulations and processes needed for the livestock industry to remain profitable. ASA further recognizes the following as science-based programs:
- a. Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA+)
  - b. United Egg Producers Certified (UEP)
  - c. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)
  - d. Humane Slaughter Act as regulated by the USDA and meat packing industry
  - e. Transport Quality Assurance (TQA)
  - f. Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) (2020)
- A-104. ASA supports offshore marine aquaculture legislation that creates a means to achieve security of tenure for farms. (2019)
- A-105. ASA supports working with our partners to educate policymakers that modern animal production is science-based, provides safeguards for humane treatment of animals and is an important part of the soy value chain. (2022)
- A-106. ASA opposes legislative efforts and ballot initiatives that restrict established animal production systems that adequately provide for animal welfare, worker safety and environmental and economic sustainability.
- A-107. ASA opposes any state's attempt to regulate interstate commerce of crop and livestock products by adopting more stringent regulations than federal requirements for crop and livestock production and products and applying those standards to all products sold in that state.
- A-108. ASA supports full funding for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank, the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program, and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). (2021)
- A-109. ASA supports agriculture exemptions for emissions reporting requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). (2024)
- A-110. ASA affirms that U.S. food regulatory agencies should ban the labeling of plant or cell-cultured food products as meat. (2022)
- A-111. ASA supports free market and consumer choice in determining the outcome of cell-cultured proteins. (2025)
- A-112. ASA supports the authority of APHIS to conduct risk assessments for animal diseases that could enter the U.S. from foreign countries. ASA also supports APHIS's authority to quarantine imported animals, animal products, feed ingredients, oilseeds, pet foods and pet products that pose risks of disease transmission. (2023)



# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- A-113. ASA supports full collaboration with states, industry, USDA agencies and producers to address biosecurity protocols and best practices and to prevent major livestock disease outbreaks. (2023)
- A-114. ASA opposes any legislative efforts that would limit the size of or ban large animal unit feeding operations. (2024)
- A-115. ASA supports efforts to increase the number and capacity of local and regional livestock processing facilities in the U.S. ASA also supports efforts to assist those facilities to become federally inspected facilities so product can be sold across state lines. (2021)
- A-116. ASA supports research to develop vaccines against livestock diseases. (2023)
- A-117. ASA opposes labeling of animal manure as a hazardous waste.
- A-118. ASA opposes any proposal to move responsibility for food inspection and livestock product safety from USDA. (2017)

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## Biobased Products

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- A-119. ASA supports incentives for the use of biobased products. ASA supports expanding USDA's BioPreferred product list and an equitable tax credit for biobased products. ASA encourages USDA to actively provide the biobased product label in order to increase acceptance and use of soy-based products by consumers and industry. (2025)
- A-120. ASA supports that federal, state and local government entities and their contractors have a first-choice preference to buy soy or biobased products and recommends that the federal government strives for biobased procurement in 100% of government contracts and subcontracts, including for construction and maintenance of roads, facilities and fleets. (2023)
- A-121. ASA supports new and increased funding for soy or biobased product research and development and government-sponsored collaborations with academia and the private sector and encourages expanded marketing and consumer education on biobased product labeling and biobased products. (2023)
- A-122. ASA supports federal efforts to voluntarily increase on-farm use of soy or biobased products, including for fuel, equipment, construction materials and conservation purposes. (2023)
- A-123. ASA supports specific authorization and funding for the Biobased Market Program (BioPreferred Program) in the Energy Title of the Farm Bill. (2022)
- A-124. ASA supports federal funding for existing soy biobased commercial companies to help with marketing and sale of their soy biobased products. (2023)

**Soy Foods**

- A-125. ASA supports exempting refined vegetable oil from any domestic or international labeling requirement based on allergenicity. (2022)
- A-126. ASA supports front-of-label package labeling on processed foods indicating the level of saturated fat content on a per serving basis.
- A-127. ASA opposes local, state and federal laws, tariffs, regulations, and marketing campaigns that discriminate against the use of domestic soy oil or protein in foods. (2025)
- A-128. ASA supports the increased use of soy protein in foods and beverages, including foods used in federal nutrition programs, and opposes the protein restrictions for school lunches.
- A-129. ASA supports the reimbursable option for fortified soy beverage without the doctor's note requirement in the federal school lunch and breakfast programs. (2022)
- A-130. ASA affirms that qualitative definitions of food such as wholesome or nutritious should be based on the food's actual composition without regard to geographical origin, growing practices or type of crop (e.g., local foods, biotech traits, corn sugar, organic, etc.).
- A-131. ASA supports marketing of high oleic and low linoleic soybeans and commercialization of next generation high or enhanced oil soybeans to offer expanded use of soybean oil to grow food sector, animal feedstocks, and industrial demand. (2025)
- A-132. ASA supports direct marketing farmers (DMFs) being eligible to accept payment from customers who use federal nutrition program benefits (e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) both at farmers markets and at permanent or temporary agricultural retail locations (i.e. farm store or farm stand) and urges the government to provide free Electronic Benefit Transfer point of sale systems to eligible DMFs. (2023)

**BIOMASS-BASED DIESEL**

- A-133. ASA supports U.S. production of biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel (hereafter referred to collectively as biomass-based diesel) using policies that give preference to domestic feedstocks. (2025)
- A-134. ASA supports policies that encourage all diesel fuel and diesel-powered vehicles to use biodiesel, a biodiesel blend or renewable diesel. (2023)
- A-135. ASA supports the development of state and federal legislation that promotes soy-based biomass-based diesel through:  
(continued on next page)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- a. Tax incentives that support domestic production, blending and use.
- b. Minimum renewable fuel content requirements that include biomass-based diesel.
- c. Programs that promote biomass-based diesel blends of 20% minimum while striving for higher blends.
- d. Energy security measures that reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil sources.
- e. Use of biomass-based diesel as a fuel additive to improve the lubricity of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for on and off-road applications, including railroads and marine transportation. (2024)

A-136. ASA supports including fuel for ocean going vessels and railroads in the transportation additional renewable fuel definition under the RFS. (2025)

A-137. ASA supports the use of transparent research regarding actual land use conversion since inception of biofuels policy and for future use on biofuels decision making. (2023)

A-138. ASA supports accurately accounting for the carbon benefits of soy-based biomass-based diesel in state and federal renewable fuel programs that score carbon intensity. (2023)

A-139. ASA supports greenhouse gas modeling for biofuels programs that uses the most up-to-date data for agricultural feedstocks and takes into account climate-smart agriculture practices. (2024)

A-140. ASA supports federal and state tax policies that:

- a. Provide long-term certainty and adequate incentives to promote low-carbon domestically produced biomass-based diesel derived from domestically produced feedstocks. (2025)
- b. Promote low-carbon, soy-based biofuels using sound science and not arbitrarily disqualifying agricultural-based biofuels.
- c. Provide equitable incentives for sustainable aviation fuel and other biomass-based diesel. (2025)

A-141. ASA recognizes and supports the role agriculture can and should play in the U.S. food and fuel security. ASA believes the biofuels industry utilizes co-products from agricultural production to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil as well as lower carbon emission, enabling the U.S. to become more energy independent.

A-142. ASA supports biodiesel and renewable diesel as domestically produced commercially available biomass-based diesel fuels that meet EPA's definition of an advanced biofuel to meet RFS2 obligation. (2023)

- A-143. ASA supports the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2), which reflects the expansion of the renewable fuels industry for biodiesel, renewable diesel and ethanol, and opposes any changes that would reduce obligations or otherwise negatively impact the biodiesel or renewable diesel industry. (2024)
- A-144. ASA strongly supports EPA releasing renewable volume obligation (RVO) volumes in a timely manner as established by Congress, and in doing so, averting the damage that delaying the volume levels announcement past the established deadline can cause the biomass-based diesel industry. (2023)
- A-145. ASA opposes the inclusion of eRINs in the Renewable Fuel Standard, as the congressional intent of this program was to provide market access to liquid renewable fuels. (2024)
- A-146. ASA affirms EPA should place a higher priority on policies that promote and support domestic biomass-based diesel production derived from domestically produced feedstocks, including the establishment of annual volume requirements that accommodate increasing volumes of domestic biomass-based diesel production. One of the primary intents and purposes of the Renewable Fuel Standard is to promote U.S. energy independence and reduce dependence on imports. (2025)
- A-147. ASA supports stringent enforcement by EPA of RFS feedstock eligibility requirements for imported biomass-based diesel. (2022)
- A-148. ASA supports the development of federal definitions and testing standards for imported used cooking oil for biofuel production to ensure appropriate federal oversight. (2025)
- A-149. ASA supports policy that requires the economic impacts on production agriculture, including both crops and livestock, to be analyzed prior to any consideration by the EPA of a Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS2) waiver request. ASA opposes any waiver request with negative economic impact to agriculture. (2019)
- A-150. ASA supports state soybean associations and all biomass-based diesel stakeholders promoting BBD fuels as a renewable energy source through communications and marketing efforts. (2023)
- A-151. ASA supports a nationwide effort for each state and federal agency to:
- Define biodiesel as a fuel comprised of mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, designated B100, and meeting the requirements of ASTM D6751.

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# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- b. Adopt the most current version of ASTM D6751 as the specification for biodiesel used as a blend stock with diesel fuels as well as future biodiesel or biodiesel blend specifications approved by ASTM.
  - c. Encourage state officials to actively enforce the adopted biodiesel-related fuel specification standard.
  - d. Encourage the adoption and enforcement of BQ9000 for production facilities and marketers of biodiesel. (2024)
- A-152. ASA supports and endorses the inclusion of soybeans and soybean-based product applications and blends of such products in the development and implementation of any potential alternative and/or renewable fuel policy programs. ASA only supports the ASTM designation of D6751 as the quality standard for biodiesel.
- A-153. ASA supports petroleum distributors providing biomass-based diesel blends at all stations across the country to enhance our nation's energy security, improve our air quality and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. (2022)
- A-154. ASA recommends continued national education and research in the use of soy oil and other alternative sources of energy from renewable agricultural products. (2019)
- A-155. ASA supports labeling biodiesel and renewable diesel in an identical manner at fuel pumps. (2023)
- A-156. ASA supports nationwide fuel quality testing at the appropriate governmental level to ensure the highest quality in all fuels. (2014)
- A-157. ASA supports the development of technologies to produce additional renewable energy products (including but not limited to cellulosic ethanol, soy meal derived ethanol or bio-butanol, and hydrogen from soybean sources).
- A-158. ASA supports the development and usage of technologies that address cold flow properties in the production of soy biomass-based diesel. (2022)
- A-159. ASA supports government programs that fund construction of biofuels infrastructure, such as terminals and any new retail devices including but not limited to blender pumps, to distribute various blends of biodiesel at the level desired by the customer. (2022)
- A-160. ASA shall work with Clean Fuels Alliance America, the National Oilseed Processors Association, and other organizations representing the soy value chain to support and promote the use of sustainable domestic agricultural feedstocks in federal and state biomass-based diesel programs. (2025)
- A-161. ASA supports the use of biomass-based diesel for electrical generation and industrial and home heating purposes and supports promotion of U.S. soy biodiesel (Bioheat®) in home heating oil markets. (2023)

- A-162. ASA opposes importation of unfairly subsidized foreign biomass-based diesel that is sold at levels below domestic production costs. (2022)
- A-163. ASA supports educating legislators and the public about food and fuel as it relates to biomass-based diesel production. (2022)
- A-164. ASA supports the use of domestically produced biomass-based diesel derived from domestically produced feedstocks in national, state and regional programs to lower the carbon intensity of transportation fuels. (2025)
- A-165. ASA opposes any federal and state tax incentives, subsidies and RFS eligibility for co-processed renewable diesel and co-processed sustainable aviation fuel. (2024)
- A-166. ASA supports defining co-processed renewable diesel as a product that is produced at an existing petroleum facility through a process that combines biomass, including monoglycerides, diglycerides, triglycerides, free fatty acids and fatty acid esters, with a feedstock that is not biomass and that uses a mixture of petroleum and renewable feedstocks. (2023)
- A-167. ASA supports defining renewable diesel as a product produced at a stand-alone facility that processes 100% renewable feedstock into 100% renewable diesel. (2024)
- A-168. ASA strongly supports the U.S. EPA recognizing that soybean oil is a preferred feedstock for sustainably produced renewable diesel and biomass-based diesel. (2024)
- A-169. ASA supports continued access to tax credits that support U.S. soybean farming through domestic biofuel production. (2025)
- A-170. ASA opposes policies that cap soybean oil use in state and federal biofuels programs. (2024)
- A-171. ASA opposes federal support policies, including tax incentives, research and development funding, pilot programs or other subsidies for sustainable aviation fuel that exclude from eligibility soybean oil and other agricultural feedstocks. (2022)
- A-172. ASA supports that any low carbon fuel standard should reward the use of domestically grown agricultural feedstocks and should not employ land use change requirements more burdensome than those developed through the Energy Independence and Security Act (P.L. 110-140). (2024)
- A-173. ASA supports accounting for upstream emissions when conducting life-cycle analysis for used cooking oil, tallow, and other waste feedstocks that are currently exempt from this calculation. (2025)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

A-174. ASA opposes funding cuts to U.S. Department of Energy laboratories that work on gasoline or diesel combustion research. (2023)

## TRANSPORTATION

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### General

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A-175. ASA supports the Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), other agencies and private industry ensuring an infrastructure allowing U.S. soybeans to be delivered to domestic and international markets in a timely and cost-effective manner.

A-176. ASA supports directing federal infrastructure funding toward improving commercial transportation, including locks and dams, riverports, navigation projects and rural roads and bridges. (2024)

A-177. ASA supports efforts by the Soy Transportation Coalition to address issues affecting the marketing and transport of oilseeds, grains, and their products.

A-178. ASA supports an infrastructure funding framework that allows for public and private investment in the U.S. commercial transportation system to ensure U.S. soybeans and soybean products will be delivered to domestic and international markets in a timely and cost-effective manner.

A-179. ASA opposes any new labeling of soy oil that would restrict its current transportation status.

A-180. ASA supports the transportation of petroleum through pipelines in order to alleviate transportation congestion that limits the ability of soybeans to be delivered to all markets. (2015)

A-181. ASA supports the extended hours of service and the exemption of the electronic logging device (ELD) when carrying livestock and other agricultural commodities and products beyond the 150 air-mile agricultural zone. (2021)

A-182. ASA opposes mandatory speed limiters on commercial trucks. (2024)

A-183. ASA opposes all regulation that requires the phase-out of engines with older model years. (2024)

A-184. ASA strongly supports increased incentives and standards for the use of renewable fuels to lower emissions and particulate matter in legacy vehicles. (2024)

A-185. ASA supports a study exploring the impacts of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) systems, including the life cycle emissions to build, install, use and maintain the systems, as well as exploring more economic alternatives such as drop-in biofuels used to lower tailpipe exhaust to replace costly DEF systems. (2025)

- A-186. ASA supports the continued exemption of agricultural-related hauling from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program. (2021)
- A-187. ASA supports the enforcement of regulations for minimum height requirements for all utilities over roads as well as farm fields. (2024)
- A-188. ASA supports an option that allows drivers to test out of CDL training requirements. (2022)
- A-189. ASA supports federal infrastructure legislation including a minimum of 25% funding carve-out for rural areas. (2021)
- A-190. ASA strongly supports Congress and the Administration adopting legislation and policies to minimize strikes, work slowdowns and lockouts that interrupt the flow of soybeans, soybean products and other farm commodities to our customers. (2023)

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### **Waterways Infrastructure**

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- A-191. ASA supports maintenance and improvements of the U.S. waterway and navigation systems. (2019)
- A-192. ASA supports legislation that requires monies deposited into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund should be used for new construction and major rehabilitation of navigation infrastructure. (2023)
- A-193. ASA supports additional and alternative financing measures to supplement the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) to provide sufficient funds for new construction for major rehabilitation and maintenance needs. ASA supports additional and alternative financing measures to provide a steadier and more reliable funding stream that is needed to reduce U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project costs and timeframe for completion, excluding privatization. (2019)
- A-194. ASA supports a permanent cost-share adjustment as follows: 25% from the IWTF and 75% from the general revenue fund to support inland waterways infrastructure. (2025)
- A-195. ASA supports the maintenance and improvement of river locks and dams that maintain water-shipping levels in a manner that sustains barge traffic and does not inhibit agricultural production. We believe available funding should first be directed toward maintaining and preserving the existing system. We support the necessary funding to modify and expand structures and facilities that increase transportation efficiency. (2018)
- A-196. ASA supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Congress allocating and maintaining sufficient funding for dredging all ports and waterways, including the Great

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# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway, to maintain the maximum authorized navigable depth to ensure the free movement of soybeans and soybean product domestically and internationally. (2025)

- A-197. ASA supports legislation to require that all funds collected for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) are used for the intended purposes of waterways dredging and port maintenance.
- A-198. ASA supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognizing flood control and navigation as their top priority. ASA also urges that their funding reflects and supports these priorities.
- A-199. ASA strongly supports the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other responsible agencies in expediting the process of rebuilding and reconstructing flood control structures. ASA opposes proposed Master Water Control Manuals that would cause seasonal flooding or restricted barge traffic on the nation's waterways. ASA opposes any diversion of river flows that would adversely impact barge transportation.
- a. ASA supports keeping all river navigation systems important to agriculture open for use.
  - b. ASA supports maintaining full funding for all river navigation systems. (2025)
- A-200. ASA supports the further development of alternative bulk and container shipping routes and methods for Midwest soybeans and soy products via the West Coast and through the St. Lawrence Seaway. (2025)
- A-201. ASA supports an exemption for bulk agricultural commodities from the Jones Act. (2021)
- A-202. ASA supports the aggressive pursuit of container shipping of soybeans and soybean products.
- A-203. ASA supports the creation of inland container handling ports facilitating the growth of containerized intermodal soybean shipments of soybeans and soybean products. (2022)
- A-204. ASA supports the free movement of containerized soy-fed products in refrigerated containers containing meat products for export and the elimination of barriers limiting refrigerated container movement. (2022)
- A-205. ASA supports expanded dredging of the Lower Mississippi River Ship Channel to maintain an operating river channel depth of 50 feet. (2021)
- A-206. ASA supports the dredging of the Port of Catoosa and the Arkansas River to attain a depth of 12 feet to support loading of barges to capacity. (2020)

- A-207. ASA supports enhanced navigation along the Missouri River. (2021)
- A-208. ASA supports and encourages full delivery of the projects contained in the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP), including construction of new 1,200-foot lock chambers, and any additional efforts to improve navigation on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. (2022)
- A-209. ASA supports public policies to maintain a navigable level of water in rivers and inland waterways by preventing the Corps of Engineers from assigning undue importance and priority to interests such as recreation to the detriment of power, municipal water supply, navigation and flood control. (2020)
- A-210. ASA opposes the construction of water pipelines and canals intended to divert water from the Midwest over the continental divide to fill reservoirs in the western United States. (2024)
- A-211. ASA supports providing federal funding for planning development to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard to maintain navigation and position navigation aids on the inland waterways system during severe low-water events. (2023)
- A-212. ASA opposes policies to change navigation on the Columbia and Snake Rivers System that would negatively impact agricultural shipments. (2024)

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## Railroads

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- A-213. ASA supports legislative and regulatory efforts to promote increased competition in the rail industry to foster better service and lower rates. (2022)
- A-214. ASA supports the development of increased railroad capacity to export facilities to help maintain the U.S. reputation for timely delivery of soybeans. (2018)
- A-215. ASA supports strong state and federal assistance in maintaining low volume rail facilities in rural areas of the country.
- A-216. ASA supports alternative access for farmers in the event of railroad grade closings during and following railroad development.
- A-217. ASA supports the U.S. railroad industry including biomass-based diesel in their fuel use at the optimal levels appropriate to support an energy balance that achieves mitigation of impacts to the environments through emissions mitigation, efficiency of the locomotive operation, including considerations of maintenance and repair and enhances relationships with agricultural customers and stakeholders. (2022)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- A-218. ASA opposes policies that limit or ban the use of internal combustion engines in locomotives. (2025)
- A-219. ASA supports expansion of container handling facilities along the U.S. rail network. (2019)
- A-220. ASA supports all Class I railroads hauling agriculture products establishing agriculture advisory boards. (2021)
- A-221. ASA strongly supports the Surface Transportation Board reviewing precision-scheduled railroading practices by Class I railroads to prevent the railroads from demarketing agricultural customers. (2021)
- A-222. ASA supports the Surface Transportation Board pursuing reforms that will increase access to competitive rail service and market-based rates. (2021)
- A-223. ASA supports the rail industry giving priority status to agriculture and food production to ensure that feed, food and fertilizer shipments are not delayed. (2023)

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## Highways and Roads

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- A-224. ASA recognizes the need to increase revenue to fund the Federal Highway Trust Fund and encourages a legislative solution that levies equitable federal taxes on all motor vehicles, regardless of energy source. (2021)
- A-225. ASA supports state and federal departments of transportation engineering new construction of roads, bridges, traffic circles and intersections to accommodate all modern implements of husbandry, trucks and trailers per federal DOT definition. (2024)
- A-226. ASA supports expanding the truck weight limits on federal highways to a minimum of 91,000 pounds, provided that there is a 6th axle with proper vehicle configurations. (2015)
- A-227. ASA opposes states or local municipalities enacting lower weight limits on primary roads going through their jurisdiction without providing alternative routes. Alternative routes should be comparable in distance and time traveled. (2021)
- A-228. ASA supports federal and state government entities reviewing ways to improve our state and federal highway system and exploring ways to finance it by working with the freight industry. (2016)
- A-229. ASA supports researching alternate methods of funding the Federal Highway Trust Fund that do not disproportionately affect agriculture more than other industries. (2018)
- A-230. ASA favors continued rebate of federal and state fuel taxes on fuels used in non-highway uses. (2025)

- A-231. ASA supports eliminating the heavy vehicle tax for farm use. (2025)
- A-232. ASA supports the Soy Transportation Coalition project that promotes the use of load testing technology when evaluating the load-carrying capacity and structural integrity of bridges. (2021)
- A-233. ASA supports the efforts of the Soy Transportation Coalition and others in promoting innovative methods for replacing and repairing rural bridges that: 1.) Will provide cost savings; 2.) Have been affirmed by credible engineers; and 3.) Are widely accessible throughout rural America. ASA supports dissemination of this information to state, county and local officials to promote better management of rural infrastructure. (2021)
- A-234. ASA supports the implementation of new directives and programming at the U.S. Department of Transportation to fast-track the approval and use of biobased products and ingredients for federally funded infrastructure projects where applicable. (2025)

## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

- A-235. ASA affirms that broadband access to the internet is important to the quality of life in rural America and to strong and competitive farming operations. ASA encourages private businesses and cooperatives to collaborate with state and local governments to seek grants through the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), U.S. Department of Commerce, and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or other available sources to bring quality high-speed broadband to rural areas at affordable rates. (2025)
- A-236. ASA supports a dependable and free public Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) differential real time kinematic correction signal available across all the U.S.'s agricultural production land. (2017)
- A-237. ASA supports the FCC collaborating, to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant experts at USDA and other stakeholder agencies to ensure the agriculture sector is not adversely impacted by spectrum licensing decisions. (2022)
- A-238. ASA opposes the use of adjacent bandwidth by any company that would compromise the effectiveness of GPS technology for farmers.
- A-239. ASA supports the continued development, expansion and improvement of cellular networks to adequately address the needs of rural regions of the United States. (2017)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- A-240. ASA supports the agricultural producer's right to repair equipment and machinery. (2022)
- A-241. ASA supports federal oversight of private entities receiving federal broadband contracts in rural areas to ensure adequate and efficient broadband service is deployed in rural and underserved areas. (2021)
- A-242. ASA supports federal efforts to: a) ensure farmers have accurate and reliable access to the enabling technologies they need to benefit from precision agriculture technology; and b) expand growers' voluntary adoption of precision technology to improve environmental stewardship and provide economic returns. (2022)
- A-243. ASA affirms that agriculture and rural stakeholders should be directly involved in any federal decision-making affecting drone usage policies and best practices. (2023)
- A-244. ASA supports improved broadband mapping to ensure adequate broadband access to every American. (2022)
- A-245. ASA supports USDA partnering with other federal agencies, as well as academics, developers and industry stakeholders, to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, investigate and recover from cyber incidents; bring new, secure technologies to market; and support adoption of information security standards across agriculture that create equipment and software redundancies and maintain sharp focus on protecting against unauthorized access to or use of agriculture sector data. (2022)

## TITLE B – RESEARCH, CONSERVATION AND FARMER-FOCUSED POLICIES

### PREAMBLE

The American Soybean Association is a leading advocate for the research of agronomics, crop husbandry, animal and aquaculture nutrition, food and industrial uses, conservation priorities and standards needed to support and maintain a viable, profitable, resilient and sustainable soybean industry. ASA supports the various sources of funding needed to meet and expand these goals. (2021)

### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

#### General

- B-1. ASA supports research that increases competitiveness of U.S. soybean farmers, expands consumer use of soybean products, improves efficiency, profitability and sustainability of soybean producers, and positions U.S. soybeans and soy products as the preferred source. (2023)
- B-2. ASA supports more research on soybean composition that focuses on the enhancement of industrial applications (including biobased energy), health and nutrition benefits, animal nutrition and production to meet customer demands. (2023)
- B-3. ASA supports research and development of conventional soybean varieties that are important to agriculture, provide the greatest biodiversity and produce the widest availability of varieties and traits. ASA encourages private and public soybean breeders to continue the development of conventional soybean varieties and to make them available to soybean producers. Conventional plant breeding and germplasm accessibility must be maintained. (2022)
- B-4. ASA supports the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR) and state councils' efforts intended to promote research funding for food and agriculture initiatives. (2022)
- B-5. ASA encourages soybean producers to select seed genetics based on high quality, high yielding protein, and oil content. ASA also encourages soybean seed companies to include estimated amino acid, protein, oil and energy values content on a 13% moisture basis in their sales literature. Seed variety name/number should be available to the producer at the time of purchase. ASA encourages seeking ways to enhance the nutritional bundle and oil levels. (2021)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-6. ASA supports a requirement that all research data cited or used as the basis for federal laws, regulations or policies that impact production agriculture are based on the most current, peer-reviewed science; are unbiased; and that the data, background material, sources, linkages and citations are made available to the public and are completely open for comment and independent review in order to instill a high degree of confidence. (2023)
- B-7. ASA supports new technologies for trait development that enhance individual soybean plant characteristics using the soybean genome. (2017)
- B-8. ASA supports USDA funding of research on sulfur and micronutrients as they relate to increasing soybean yield, optimizing amino acid balance and increasing oil and protein content. (2022)
- B-9. ASA supports public soybean breeders releasing new varieties on a non-exclusive basis.
- B-10. ASA supports research into new resistant varieties, biologicals and genomes, producer education and testing recommendations for Soybean Cyst Nematode. Soybean varieties should be tested for cyst nematode reproduction. Seed tags and marketing and information profiles should reflect if it is a cyst resistant variety, source of resistance, and the variety number. (2017)
- B-11. ASA supports working with the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) or individual seed companies to develop guidelines that allow farmers to continue planting and propagating soybean varieties that seed companies no longer offer for sale. (2022)
- B-12. ASA supports a coordinated effort of state and national soybean organizations to set priorities for all federally funded soybean research projects. Among the factors to be considered in setting priorities are acreage, disease and compositional traits. (2017)
- B-13. ASA supports the development and transition to high oleic soybeans.
- B-14. ASA supports APHIS taking all appropriate precautions to protect domestic soybean production against the additional spread of soybean rust. Importation of whole soybeans, soybean meal and soybean seed from countries with soybean rust infestation must be subject to science-based regulations. (2017)
- B-15. ASA supports Homeland Security Presidential Directive, HSPD-9, a national policy established to protect U.S. agriculture and food systems against terrorist attacks and major disasters, including the spread of diseases and pathogens. (2020)

## Research Funding

- B-16. ASA supports increasing federal investment in USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) programs that will benefit soybean producers. (2017)
- B-17. ASA supports increased funding for USDA ARS's National Plant Germplasm System, including full disclosure of all information concerning germination, vigor and quality. (2021)
- B-18. ASA supports full funding of the USDA ARS for the exploration and applied use of the USDA NPGS Global Soybean Collection to develop new and diverse conventional varieties as parental stock to broaden the genetic base of public and private soybean breeding. (2021)
- B-19. ASA supports federal funding of research that would optimize the use of soy in aquaculture feed and support aquaculture species development to better utilize soybean protein. (2021)
- B-20. ASA opposes any USDA efforts to impose administrative charges on cooperative research agreements, including farmer checkoff-funded research projects.
- B-21. ASA supports adequate funding through USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to protect the U.S. soybean industry from both bioterrorism and naturally occurring pests and pathogens. (2017)
- B-22. ASA supports Congress and USDA permanently funding the Integrated Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (iPIPE). (2020)
- B-23. ASA supports additional USDA and other federal agency funding for projects dedicated to developing new soybean varieties resistant to drought and flood damage. ASA supports conventional field testing and genomic analysis. Existing soybean varieties should be tested for resistance to drought and flooding. (2021)
- B-24. ASA supports expanded funding for research to ensure sustainable use of crop protection technology to manage resistance issues and to promote sound environmental stewardship. (2021)
- B-25. ASA supports increasing funding to levels that allow USDA to collect data to achieve the most accurate, all-inclusive information and transparency to producers and researchers at land grant universities while at the same time protecting producer anonymity. (2022)
- B-26. ASA supports USDA funding of soybean research at levels proportionate with soybeans' share of farmgate receipts. (2022)



# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

## Intellectual Property Rights

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- B-27. ASA supports research and development to create added-value traits intended to improve soybean sustainability and growers' profitability. (2019)
- B-28. ASA supports the Plant Variety Protection Act. (2017)
- B-29. ASA supports continued work with the U.S. government, seed industry and national and international organizations to ensure consistent global application of soybean technologies' intellectual property rights, essential to the growth and development of the soybean industry. (2017)
- B-30. ASA discourages producer contracts concerning patented genetic material that may transgress on private property rights without reasonable belief of patent infringement.
- B-31. ASA supports keeping basic research information related to the soybean genome, transcriptome, proteome and metabolome in the public sector. (2021)
- B-32. ASA supports genetic intellectual property rights being issued and controlled in the public sector when they are developed by public or soybean checkoff funds.
- B-33. ASA supports seed production companies continuing to offering genetic technology post patent. (2023)
- B-34. ASA supports patents derived through soybean checkoff funding that are subsequently sold to private industry should be advanced towards commercialization within three years or returned cost-free to the original public entity. (2025)
- B-35. ASA supports resolution of issues with China regarding intellectual property rights. (2020)

## DOMESTIC BIOTECHNOLOGY

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### General

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- B-36. ASA supports the adoption and use of biotechnology-derived products in farming operations. ASA supports biotechnology and believes the development of biotechnology-enhanced crop varieties and products will benefit farmers, consumers and the environment. ASA supports the use of biotechnology as a key tool to help us meet growing world food, health and energy needs. ASA supports USDA, EPA and FDA operating a timely, efficient, predictable and science- and risk-based regulatory system for approval of new biotech traits. (2023)

### U.S. Regulatory Approvals

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- B-37. ASA supports seed trait developers engaging with appropriate or necessary U.S. regulatory agencies and acquiring any necessary regulatory approvals prior to entering biotechnology crop traits into commerce. (2021)

- B-38. ASA supports the development of plant breeding innovations, such as those developed through gene editing, which include modification of plants that could be found in nature or obtained through conventional breeding, as valuable tools that are needed to adapt to changing conditions and environmental threats. (2024)
- B-39. ASA supports plant breeding innovations being regulated the same as similar varieties that are found in nature or developed through conventional breeding that do not require pre-market regulatory approval. ASA urges USDA, EPA and FDA to coordinate closely in changes to the Coordinated Framework to affirm this policy domestically, as well as work with export countries to harmonize that approach internationally. (2019)
- B-40. ASA supports moving regulatory oversight for gene-edited and transgenic agricultural livestock from FDA to USDA. (2021)

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### **Domestic Commercialization of New Biotech Traits**

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- B-41. ASA supports proper traceability and stewardship protocols being in place prior to commercialization for biotechnology soybean varieties intended for specific, non-generic uses to, as required or appropriate, prevent their comingling with the bulk commodity soybean market. (2021)
- B-42. ASA supports the use of controlled identity preserved systems for internationally unapproved biotech and specialty varieties. The use of these systems should be balanced with continuing to provide customers with the products they desire, as well as supporting the development, production and promotion of biotech crops that are acceptable to domestic and foreign consumers. (2025)
- B-43. ASA supports a clear, predictable federal regulatory pathway for plant biostimulants, which are substances, microorganism or a mixture thereof that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, soil or other growth media, act to support a plant's natural nutrition processes independently of the plant biostimulant's nutrient content. The plant biostimulant thereby improves nutrient availability, uptake or use efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, and consequent growth, development, quality or yield. (2022)
- B-44. ASA supports biotechnology and seed companies bringing new soybean biotech products to the market to implement a comprehensive marketplace acceptance strategy at least one year, and preferably two to three years, before the products are commercialized. Such a strategy should include outreach and education to both domestic and foreign buyers, processors, feed millers, food companies, livestock feeders, retailers, consumer groups and the media. (2023)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-45. ASA opposes producers being held liable for damages resulting from biotechnology-enhanced product use when recommended practices and procedures are followed.
- B-46. ASA supports, as is scientifically possible, seed trait developers creating tests that can be used to efficiently detect the presence of a new biotechnology trait before varieties containing that trait enter commerce. ASA supports the development of a review process that can result in these tests becoming standardized. (2021)
- B-47. ASA supports private sector efforts to resolve any issues surrounding the deregulation of special use biotech traits through consultations between the trait provider and interested industry sectors, including farmer associations, processors and exporters.
- B-48. ASA supports production contracts that allow for producers' liability to end when the first purchaser accepts the product.
- B-49. ASA supports efficient, timely, risk- and science-based regulatory policies for products of biotechnology that are based on characteristics of the product itself, and not the method used to produce it. Undue regulatory burden on products of plant breeding innovation, such as gene edited varieties, may discourage scientific innovation and limit technology adoption by private and public soybean breeders. (2021)

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## Biotech Product Labeling

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- B-50. ASA opposes a patchwork of state disclosure requirements for foods containing bioengineered ingredients and supports the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard and its final 2018 implementing regulations, which establishes a national, uniform disclosure standard for foods containing bioengineered ingredients. (2023)
- B-51. ASA supports policy that would prohibit labeling a product as non-GMO when there is no GMO alternative available for use. (2023)

## COMPETITION POLICY

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### Antitrust

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- B-52. ASA strongly supports strengthening the enforcement rules of antitrust laws and the Agricultural Fair Practices Act to protect the economic interests of America's farmers that may be affected by vertical integration and consolidation.
- B-53. ASA supports the following changes to antitrust statutes and regulations that will further protect the sellers of commodities from anti-competitive behavior:

- a. The Department of Justice (DOJ) should ensure that proposed cooperative and/or vertical integration arrangements, if implemented, should continue to maintain independent producers' access to markets.
- b. USDA should be more active in giving authority to review and provide recommendations to the DOJ on agribusiness mergers and acquisitions.
- c. A high-level position should be maintained within the DOJ to enforce antitrust laws in agriculture.
- d. USDA should be empowered to investigate mergers, consolidation or concentration of agricultural input suppliers and processors for antitrust or anti-competitive activities.

B-54. ASA supports analyzing the potential impacts on soybean farmers of proposed agribusiness mergers. If our analysis identifies areas of concern, ASA will urge divestiture or other remedies for any segments of a proposed merger where competition would be significantly impacted, or disapproval of the merger. (2017)

B-55. ASA supports analyzing the trending relationships between farm equipment manufacturers and farm equipment dealerships to determine if manufacturer-directed pricing practices have potential anticompetitive impacts to soybean farmers. (2024)

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### **Soybean Trading**

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B-56. ASA opposes a merger of the CFTC and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the transfer of futures regulation to any agency other than CFTC.

B-57. ASA opposes mandatory climate reporting burdens placed on farmers in the SEC's proposed rule on "The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors" and other unnecessarily burdensome climate disclosure requirements from regulatory agencies. (2024)

B-58. ASA opposes federal regulation that would establish excessive or onerous margin levels for futures contracts and on options contracts. ASA opposes transaction fees on commodity trading that will inhibit the trading of soybeans and soybean products. (2023)

B-59. ASA recommends any futures or options transactions that offset a current or anticipated cash commodity position and reduce price or basis risk should be considered a hedging position and not speculating. Gain or loss from a hedging or option position should be considered by the IRS as ordinary gain or loss for either personal or corporate tax returns.

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-60. ASA supports a change in tax law to treat call options that are tied to a cash sale the same as a put option with gains taxed as ordinary income and losses 100% deductible in the year they are incurred.
- B-61. ASA supports improvement of federal oversight of commodity hedge funds to ensure the integrity of the futures trading system.
- B-62. ASA recommends the CFTC release daily trading reports to provide transparency for producers. (2017)
- B-63. ASA supports the continuation of physical U.S. currency and the responsible regulation of digital assets and currencies so as to maintain market integrity and manage market risk. (2024)

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- B-64. ASA supports biotechnology, agrotechnology, commercial fertilizer and commercial pesticide products as part of an integrated crop management system and believes that any definition of “sustainable agriculture” should include the use of these products. (2025)
- B-65. ASA supports a statutory definition of sustainable agriculture that reads, “an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:
  - a. Satisfy human food, fuel, and fiber needs.
  - b. Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends.
  - c. Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls.
  - d. Sustain the economic viability of farm operations.
  - e. Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.” (2023)
- B-66. ASA defines regenerative agriculture as a production system that maximizes productivity while prioritizing improvements in soil health, biodiversity, water quality, air quality, climate resiliency and rural communities. (2023)
- B-67. ASA affirms that an aggregate approach that includes U.S. federal and state conservation programs, environmental and labor laws, and existing U.S. farmer compliance with them, provides assurance that U.S. soybeans are sustainably produced. (2023)
- B-68. ASA recognizes that U.S. soybean production is the most sustainable and results in the highest quality and value soybeans in the world. ASA will work to ensure that our industry’s image is maintained while avoiding undue

regulations and disallowing movements that would jeopardize our resource efficiencies and competitive position. (2023)

- B-69. ASA opposes implementation of environmental actions or programs through local, state or federal executive order that conflict with the U.S. or state constitutions, the Administrative Procedure Act or other regulatory procedural statutes. (2023)
- B-70. ASA opposes any federal, state, local or regulatory agency from using ESG (Environmental Social Governance) scores for determination of loans, interest rates, farm programs and loan forgiveness funding, or to enable other organizations to implement these programs. (2023)
- B-71. ASA supports public and private research and implementation of best management practices that strengthen production systems, improve profitability, increase sustainability and reduce environmental impacts. (2023)
- B-72. ASA supports the use of removing barriers to, and improving access to, pesticides, biotechnology and the conservation practices they enable to further improve their environmental benefits. (2022)

## CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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### General

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- B-73. ASA supports farmers implementing conservation plans to bring their highly erodible land into compliance. ASA endorses the implementation of voluntary best management and conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, sequester carbon, improve soil resiliency to extreme weather events and improve water quality. Public funding should be available for land altering practices required by conservation plans. (2023)
- B-74. ASA supports that conservation plans should be changed, or exceptions allowed, for erosion control, grass strips, wildlife food plots, pollinator habitat and other similar measures. ASA encourages requirements for conservation plans that promote flexibility for soil conservation and water quality practices. (2023)
- B-75. ASA supports increasing funding for the conservation stewardship program (CSP) to reward producers for practices they have already adopted and reward farmers for maintaining practices over time. (2025)
- B-76. ASA supports Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other national conservation programs targeting the most fragile and environmentally sensitive lands. ASA supports efforts to ensure that water quality objectives remain a priority under CRP and are reflected in rental contracts. (2017)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-77. ASA supports, specifically, the adoption or continuation of the following aspects of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):
- a. Enforcement of a 25% total tillable acres cap on CRP acres per county while allowing county exemptions where needed.
  - b. There should not be a requirement to reseed established CRP grasses when CRP is reenrolled.
  - c. Allowing small, irregular-shaped whole fields into the continuous enrollment CRP program.
  - d. Penalties for CRP contract holders who voluntarily withdraw early from the program, including refunding all payments received, plus interest, as well as liquidated damages as provided in the contract.
  - e. Maintaining the national CRP acreage cap and rental rate percentages that were set in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. (2023)
- B-78. ASA supports Congress removing the statutory mandate to nationally target 50% of EQIP financial assistance to livestock related conservation practices. Congress should direct funding be targeted on a state level based on state agriculture demographics (USDA NASS Agricultural Census) and input from local stakeholders. (2023)
- B-79. ASA supports the use of burning, light disking and other means of mechanical destruction of vegetative growth on CRP acres for mid-term management and general maintenance. (2021)
- B-80. ASA supports that NRCS has adequate funding and clear freedom to operate without undue influence from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in performing their duties. (2022)
- B-81. ASA supports that NRCS, conservation districts and natural resource areas have adequate in-person staffing, training and technology for processing approvals and requests made by producers in a timely manner. (2023)
- B-82. ASA supports the increased use of partnerships with University Extension, agricultural based non-profits and the private sector by NRCS to provide support to conservation and environmental programs; specifically, to meet the increasing demand for conservation planners and other technical assistance providers nationally. These partnerships should prioritize relationships with individuals and groups with local agronomic expertise. (2024)
- B-83. ASA supports expanding the conservation and environmental planning workforce by providing private sector conservation planners access to the same tools and resources the public sector uses, and by accelerating development and evaluation of new planning tools

and technologies through private sector engagement efforts. ASA supports the use of private technical service providers hired by the producer at producer reimbursable expense. Private sector conservation plans are to be treated equally by NRCS and reviewed in a timely and fair manner to expedite conservation practices. ASA believes spending on approved practices should be flexible and tied to acreage serviced by the practice. (2024)

- B-84. ASA supports farmers' flexibility in improving and maintaining drainage for production purposes. ASA opposes drainage regulations that limit the most productive use of agricultural land. (2022)
- B-85. ASA affirms that all environmental mandates must have offsets for farmer compliance rather than penalties for non-compliance. (2023)
- B-86. ASA affirms that whole farm planning remain a voluntary process. Farm payment or cost share payment should not be dependent on the development of a whole farm plan. (2023)
- B-87. ASA supports requiring all federal public entities to maintain the functionality of drainage ditches acquired from the states. (2022)
- B-88. ASA supports local farmer representation at all levels whenever watershed policies and regulations are being formulated. (2020)
- B-89. ASA supports full funding and implementation of NRCS voluntary working lands conservation programs. Payments should reward producers for good stewardship and conservation practices, including but not limited to the longevity/permanence thereof. Compensation for conservation practices should not be limited by the size of the producer's operation. Consideration should be given to practical conservation farming practices based on soil type and climate conditions. States and counties should be allowed to administer programs to best meet local needs. (2023)
- B-90. ASA supports NRCS increasing outreach to non-operating landowners (NOLs) regarding the values, benefits and importance of NRCS voluntary working lands conservation programs. (2021)
- B-91. ASA opposes disproportionate compensation from government conservation programs that potentially remove valuable agricultural land from production.
- B-92. ASA opposes the depletion of productive, irreplaceable and essential natural resource of farmland in areas prone to flooding. (2022)
- B-93. ASA supports voluntary agriculture conservation programs that:

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# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- a. are farmer led, flexible and confidential at the individual farm level;
  - b. based on the premise that long-term soil health, fertility, productivity and resiliency are the primary conservation goals;
  - c. supersede any mandatory certification programs brought forth by local, state or federal agencies; and
  - d. provide benefits to farmers, early adopters, and then whenever practicable, landowners. (2025)
- B-94. ASA opposes any government agency making mid-contract changes in voluntary conservation programs they have entered into with farmers without those farmers' consultation and consent. (2023)
- B-95. ASA supports the NRCS definition of soil health, also referred to as soil quality, as the continued capacity of a soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. (2021)
- B-96. ASA supports states' efforts to enact voluntary soil health programs. (2022)
- B-97. ASA supports establishing and enforcing a seed inspection and certification policy to ensure that seed used for cost share habitat and cover crop programs is free from noxious weeds. (2017)
- B-98. ASA supports cover crop and other carbon sequestration programs that allow farmers to pool their available acres through an ag producer cooperative or ag service retailer to collectively negotiate program terms, conditions and payments in consideration of local crops grown, soil types and climatic conditions. (2022)
- B-99. ASA supports efforts to expand double crop opportunities to increase profitability of soybean farmers nationally. This support includes:
- a. Continuation of the Farm Service Agency's Farm Storage Facility Loan Program to provide low-interest financing to producers.
  - b. Flexibility for producers participating in NRCS conservation programs to allow for practice changes to existing conservation contracts. (2023)
  - c. Efforts by the USDA, conservation districts/resource areas and NGOs to work with producers to develop enhanced crop rotations through the use of available conservation programs and assist market development in areas where new crops are being marketed.
- B-100. ASA supports that climate smart agriculture policy should reward farmers for additionality, as well as existing practices for overall ecosystem services provided—including carbon sequestration achieved through year-

round ground cover (e.g., through cover cropping, double cropping, or other farming methods). (2025)

- B-101. ASA supports efforts to maintain forested private lands and to enhance forest biodiversity through voluntary reforestation initiatives. (2023)
- B-102. ASA supports NRCS efforts to expand the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's (ACEP) goal of providing Agriculture Land Easements (ALE) to protect cropland on working farms by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land. (2023)

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### Water Quality and Usage

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- B-103. ASA recommends that Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) be the agency responsible for coordinating groundwater and voluntary surface water programs. (2022)
- B-104. ASA supports the use of scientific-based research in developing national water quality standards and educational programs to safeguard groundwater and surface water resources. State and local agricultural agencies should plan and assist in implementing programs and policies based on geographical and geological differences.
- B-105. ASA supports agriculture's right to use ground water, surface water and gravitational water for production purposes. ASA supports the definition of excess crop root zone water as "gravitational water." (2017)
- B-106. ASA supports research that addresses the source, movement and acceptable levels of crop protection products in surface and groundwater regardless of whether the source is agricultural or non-agricultural. Based upon scientific research, any environmental recommendations or regulations must take into consideration a cost-benefit analysis to the consumer and producer, and positive balance of U.S. trade. (2022)
- B-107. ASA supports water quality standards that are ecologically and economically attainable. ASA supports just compensation to the producer when standards are imposed or required other than agronomically optimal management systems.
- B-108. ASA supports requiring that a "cause and effect" linkage to water quality be established through field or farm scale research before federal or state watershed monitoring and demonstration programs are funded.
- B-109. ASA opposes the 2023 rule defining Waters of the United States. (2023)
- B-110. ASA supports codification of agricultural exemptions in any WOTUS rulemaking, including but not limited to those for normal farming practices like plowing, seeding and

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# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

harvesting; construction and maintenance of irrigation ditches, stock ponds and farm and forest roads; nonpoint source runoff from farm fields; artificially irrigated areas; waste treatment systems (including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet Clean Water Act regulations); maintenance of drainage ditches; and prior converted cropland. (2023)

- B-111. ASA opposes removing the word “navigable” from the Federal Clean Water Act or redefining it to include all U.S. waters, which would greatly expand the jurisdictional authority of the federal government to the detriment of farmers and others.
- B-112. ASA supports science-based water quality initiatives. ASA encourages the participating agencies to continue to fund research that monitors water quality including impairments, causes and sources, and to submit their research for science-based review. (2018)
- B-113. ASA supports action plans that are consistent with the scientific studies in the Science Advisory Board Reports, taking into account the strength of the sources and linkages between nitrogen and phosphorous discharges. (2018)
- B-114. ASA affirms that an agricultural ecosystem is a legitimate ecosystem and should be preserved and recognized in establishing water quality standards. TMDL discharge standards appropriate for other types of ecosystems should not be imposed on agricultural ecosystems.
- B-115. ASA supports a requirement for consideration of background loading in all TMDL studies, plans and legislation.
- B-116. ASA supports that agriculture should not be held responsible for pollution caused by natural conditions when dealing with TMDL legislation, and that all natural loadings be separately identified and properly considered in the TMDL process, and that natural loadings consider climate and ecosystem dynamics. (2022)
- B-117. ASA supports the need for research that ensures that climatic effects on flow and sediment loads are properly factored into TMDL studies.
- B-118. ASA supports a policy requiring that BMPs (Best Management Practices) that are promoted or required in conservation and water quality programs have input from agricultural professionals, including farm operators and managers. (2021)
- B-119. ASA opposes the establishment, by any unit of government, of additional water quality impairment, fertilizer or nutrient taxes or fees. (2021)

- B-120. ASA supports a requirement that TMDL allocations be updated when new science indicates the existing allocations are incorrect.
- B-121. ASA supports the Clean Water Act being amended to exempt producers from litigation/liability and not require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit when producers can certify that the pesticides have been used in a manner that complies with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- B-122. ASA supports subsurface drainage such as tiling as a means to increase sustainability and resiliency, improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce soil erosion from surface water movement and saline levels in the soil. (2021)
- B-123. ASA opposes the inclusion of ditches and prior converted crop land on the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers list of impaired waterways.
- B-124. ASA supports the balance of volunteer and elected stakeholders and the restrictions of federal, state and local government agency employees as participants on advisory councils, boards, technical committees and stakeholder committees that are components of the impaired waters TMDL process.
- B-125. ASA supports the use of county, state and federal funds to perform routine maintenance on water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, terraces and other sediment catch basins. (2014)
- B-126. ASA supports farmers' efforts to achieve continuous improvement in environmental performance by collaborating with industry, ag producers and other units of government. (2015)
- B-127. ASA supports a farmer's ability to self-certify a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan if the farm has a total aboveground oil and/or fuel storage capacity of 10,000 U.S. gallons or less. (2022)
- B-128. ASA supports significant stakeholder involvement in all components of impaired waters and TMDL processes.
- B-129. ASA supports U.S. EPA including land grant university agricultural researchers in its scientific review process of water quality and hypoxia related issues, especially white papers by the U.S. EPA. (2014)

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## Nutrient Management

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- B-130. ASA supports USDA leveraging existing funding streams for nutrient application research, farmer equipment and infrastructure upgrades to help incentivize producer adoption of fertilizer and manure incorporation tools, nutrient management plans and precision agriculture technologies that improve fertilizer efficiency and environmental stewardship. (2018)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-131. ASA supports voluntary, science-based programs and policies directed on a farm-by-farm basis toward ongoing in-field evaluation of nutrient management methods that allow producers to continually improve their nutrient management practices. ASA supports and believes in:
- a. Central coordination of networks of in-field evaluation to improve nutrient management decisions.
  - b. Infrastructure for conservation efforts in watersheds and sub-watersheds.
  - c. Cooperative conservation efforts among public and private organizations and individuals that achieve a positive environmental impact and meet demands for production.
  - d. Research findings and citations of data accessible to producers must be the foundation for developing and expanding nutrient management programs.
- B-132. ASA supports research and education programs that would enhance the environmentally sound and economically viable storage and use of agricultural byproducts and animal manure nutrients.
- B-133. ASA supports farmer implementation of environmental programs that incorporate adaptive and best management practices for nutrient stewardship and provide farmers long term economic benefits with the goal of continuous environmental improvement. (2015)

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## Air Quality

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- B-134. ASA supports EPA working with producers to develop voluntary, incentive-based programs that would assist producers in meeting any current and future air quality standards. ASA supports air quality standards for agriculture that are ecologically and economically attainable, and that are supported by science-based research. ASA supports air quality standards for agriculture being addressed and promulgated at the federal level.
- B-135. ASA opposes any local, state or federal legislation or EPA actions regulating particulate matter, gases or odor from agriculture operations. (2015)
- B-136. ASA supports the use of B20 and higher soy-based biomass-based diesel and Bioheat® blends as well as higher octane ethanol blends to immediately improve air quality by lowering emissions. (2023)
- B-137. ASA opposes the EPA requiring mandatory reporting for livestock operations exhaust and emissions. (2024)
- B-138. ASA opposes agriculture being subject to greenhouse gas emission caps established in climate change legislation or regulation under the Clean Air Act. (2024)

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**Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**


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- B-139. ASA recognizes that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a broad class of chemicals that have different characteristics and risk profiles. ASA supports developing a risk-proportionate regulatory framework that reflects the unique risks of chemicals based in evidence and sound science. An appropriate PFAS regulatory system should first seek to establish that a risk exists before seeking its stricter regulation. (2024)
- B-140. ASA supports the establishment of a consistent, national standard for PFAS regulation. (2025)
- B-141. ASA opposes farmers being held liable or incurring the costs for substance PFAS contamination. In instances where soil or water PFAS contamination leads a regulatory body to condemn farmland, destroy crops or depopulate livestock, ASA supports indemnification of farmers for losses incurred. (2024)
- B-142. ASA supports funding research into PFAS, potential health and environmental risks, and strategies for remediation and mitigating risks with PFAS exposure. (2024)
- B-143. ASA supports science-based, commonsense public policy that maintains farmers' access to necessary products that contain PFAS that do not impose unreasonable human health or environmental risks for agricultural purposes. (2024)

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**Wildlife and Endangered Species**


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- B-144. ASA affirms that benefits and economic impacts on farmers and consumers should be considered in laws and regulations designed to protect endangered species. (2020)
- B-145. ASA supports that laws and regulations designed to protect endangered species must be science-based. ASA supports legislation and education that would protect producers from unintentional impacts to endangered species. (2025)
- B-146. ASA supports voluntary-based efforts on private lands to improve honeybee, monarch butterfly and other pollinator habitat and urges federal, state and local governments to incorporate methods to improve such habitat on publicly owned lands. (2021)
- B-147. ASA supports the collaborative efforts of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to provide regulatory predictability under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). (2020)
- B-148. ASA supports NRCS in developing a weed management plan that prevents the spread of weeds to adjacent areas while maintaining a refuge area for monarch butterflies

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# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

during migration. The plan should allow for follow-up weed control during periods when monarch butterflies are not migrating.

- B-149. ASA supports geographically adapted, affordable seed mixes that are tested and approved, thus supporting the use of a broader range of regionally adapted, native and milkweed species for habitat seeding. (2021)
- B-150. ASA supports having producers and landowners held harmless from possible federal regulations if any species for which farmers develop habitat is placed on the Endangered Species List. (2018)
- B-151. ASA supports exempting man-made agricultural structures from the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. (2020)
- B-152. ASA supports a definition of biodiversity that encompasses the variety and variability of beneficial animals, plants and microorganisms used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture, including genetic resources and species used for crop and livestock production, non-harvested species that support production (e.g., soil microorganisms, pollinators) and species in the environment that support agricultural ecosystems (agricultural, pastoral, forest and aquatic). (2022)
- B-153. ASA requests that nonprofit organizations that dedicate land to wildlife habitat should be subject to property taxes. (2019)
- B-154. ASA supports the right to use commonly accepted agricultural practices on private farmland on or adjacent to national wildlife refuges. (2016)
- B-155. ASA supports significant stakeholder involvement in drainage and water management decisions on federal wildlife refuges when it impacts adjacent farmland. (2016)
- B-156. ASA supports Congress requiring the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to offer landowners of property burdened by USFWS waterfowl production area easements the opportunity to purchase releases of those easements. (2017)
- B-157. ASA supports Congress requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include landowners in the mapping of easement boundaries including requiring both parties to sign off on boundary borders subject to acres purchased in the easement. (2020)
- B-158. ASA supports Congress requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to offer landowners of property impacted by the USFWS waterfowl production area easements the opportunity to mitigate those wetland acres under easement. (2020)

B-159. ASA supports that the Department of Interior be prohibited from entering into conservation easements for longer than fifty years. Landowners who have existing easements that have been in existence for longer than fifty years, or those who have no supporting wetland maps, should be able to renegotiate with the department. Landowners with contracts over fifty years old should be allowed to terminate the existing easement with no penalties or repayments, or enter into a continuation of the easement with additional annual payments being made to reflect lost revenue potential for both mapped and adjacent acres impacted by the easement. (2025)

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## Wetlands

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- B-160. ASA opposes additional land acquisition by government agencies or NGOs with the purpose of increasing wetlands and recreation without consideration of the impact to inland drainage, navigation and flood control. (2022)
- B-161. ASA supports the establishment of a local arbitration system for disputed determinations of wetlands and highly erodible lands. (2014)
- B-162. ASA supports all federal agencies reviewing and justifying the use of river gauge data, frequency of inundation and length of inundation to define a true agricultural wetland. After this review and justification, an emphasis should be placed on assigning an environmental value to said wetlands and allow the scope of normal farming practices to be assigned to that value.
- B-163. ASA affirms that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) be the federal agency responsible for making technical determinations on agricultural lands with respect to wetlands or converted wetlands. ASA recommends that Federal environmental regulations for farming related activities be administered by the NRCS at the local level. (2022)
- B-164. ASA supports education efforts with local and state NRCS about the improved profitability of farmable wetlands through subsurface drainage systems such as tiling that will also benefit conservation and erosion of farmland and improve productivity by establishing more surface residue. (2022)
- B-165. ASA supports requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, when administering USFWS wetlands easements, to use NRCS guidelines for determining applicable setback distances from wetlands and for mitigation options in drainage projects. (2017)
- B-166. ASA affirms that landowners or farmers should not be held responsible for negative water quality or public health consequences resulting from the establishment of wetlands or wildlife habitats.



# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-167. ASA supports practices and policies that create permanent runoff reduction through increased crop water usage in addition to temporary retention through increased wetlands or dams for flood control. (2022)
- B-168. ASA affirms that in the case of a wetland compliance violation, a penalty shall be assessed based on fair market tax value of said wetland. Said fine shall only apply to the wetland acreage found in non-compliance.
- B-169. ASA supports the timely determination of the FSA Form 1026 process. ASA supports on-site methods be used for certified wetland determinations at the landowner request. Landowners should have the choice in which methods are used for their wetland determinations. The process should be completed in 60 days and the appeal process should be completed in 30 days. (2015)
- B-170. ASA opposes use by NRCS of the wetland determination process as a deterrent to drainage system improvements, as those improvements could produce water quality and crop production benefits and may enhance resiliency to climatic extremes. (2021)
- B-171. ASA supports the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implementing consistent guidelines regarding the interpretation and determination of wetland designations across county and state lines. (2018)
- B-172. ASA supports the development of wetland mitigation banks, and further, that mitigation is limited to a one-acre for one-acre basis.
- B-173. ASA supports a requirement of using aerial photos from the 1980 to 1990 timeframe for making wetland determinations.
- B-174. ASA opposes defining any land that has been farmed in any one of the past five years as a wetland. (2023)
- B-175. ASA supports exempting all wetlands or farmable wetlands that are determined to be one acre or less in size from any USDA or Department of Interior water management restrictions including but not limited to drainage or land grading, etc. (2025)
- B-176. ASA supports the decision held by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in the case *Koshman v. Vilsack*, 865 F. Supp. 2d 1083 (2012), which rejected the USDA's interpretation that the participant has converted a "farmed wetland" by improving yield or reducing crop stress through water management where the production of a commodity was viable prior to the drainage manipulation of the "farmed wetland." (2017)
- B-177. ASA supports wetland non-compliance determinations being limited to a three-year look-back.

**Carbon, Climate and Ecosystem Services Markets**

- B-178. ASA supports engagement in legislative and/or regulatory efforts that address climate change.
- B-179. ASA opposes agriculture being subject to federal carbon intensity reduction mandates. (2024)
- B-180. ASA opposes the federal government signing or endorsing any climate accord treaty or implementing parts of the treaty by executive order that would have a negative effect on agriculture. (2021)
- B-181. ASA supports the continued development of technology across applications to reach carbon reduction goals, including renewable fuels and agriculture technologies. (2024)
- B-182. ASA supports carbon sequestration research and related efforts to maximize the ancillary benefits of conservation practices that store carbon and other nutrients in soil.
- B-183. ASA supports acknowledging the different soil types and climate norms across America's farming heartland when seeking to optimize carbon sequestering farming practices while balancing the challenges of economic sustainability. (2022)
- B-184. ASA supports working with stakeholders to develop incentives for producers who have maximized their greenhouse gas reductions on the farm through the early adoption of climate-smart practices or other means. (2024)
- B-185. ASA supports farmers being able to enroll the same tract of land for multiple incentive-based payments addressing carbon sequestration, water quality, air quality and any other future environmental credits of benefit to society as a whole.
- B-186. ASA supports federal policy that enables revenue generated by agricultural carbon credits to be returned to the producers of the agricultural commodities that underscore the credits. (2023)
- B-187. ASA supports a carbon credit marketplace that accurately represents carbon lifecycle of commodity grain production, regardless of processing method. (2024)
- B-188. ASA supports voluntary public and private sector carbon markets that:
- a. are developed with sufficient research, oversight, standards and farmer input;
  - b. prioritize farmers through financial incentives, technical assistance and public investments that are specific to agriculture;

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# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- c. serve as a buyer for farmers' ecosystem service credits from existing and newly adopted practices on their operation, such as soil carbon sequestration, water quality and quantity management, biodiversity and other ecosystem benefits; and
  - d. should include independent third-party verification of process as well as in-field practices. (2025)
- B-189. ASA supports that any policy involving direct and indirect land use metrics be based on multi-disciplinary, science-based, verifiable and transparent data so that biomass-based diesel's impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is accurately assessed. (2023)
- B-190. ASA opposes any attempt to assess duplicative lifecycle carbon costs to either animal agriculture or to biofuels as they are produced together and not individually from field crops. (2021)
- B-191. ASA supports that any policies involving traceability standards included as part of any international, federal, or state regulation should not place an undue burden on soybean producers. (2025)
- B-192. ASA opposes the quantification of indirect land use change as a measure of carbon intensity. (2025)
- B-193. ASA supports a book and claim accounting system for the quantification of carbon reductions achieved through U.S. soybean producer practices. USDA or any agency creating program rules should work with farm organizations to include the needs of producers. (2025)
- B-194. ASA opposes a shift in liability that could occur with a point-nonpoint pollution credit trading program and supports a requirement that farmer stakeholders affected by the trading provisions have final control over the program.
- B-195. ASA supports the requirements that point-nonpoint source water quality pollution trading be automatically available to any new point source permit holders that have lower discharge concentrations than existing point sources.
- B-196. ASA supports voluntary farm-based carbon intensity scoring where farmers can financially benefit from the environmental benefits they provide. (2025)

## EDUCATION FUNDING

- B-197. ASA affirms that a comprehensive K-12 agricultural education curriculum, delivered with the help and expansion of 4-H, FFA, Ag-in-the-Classroom and similar programs are an important foundation for the future of America's agriculture. ASA encourages involvement by all groups representing agriculture, particularly the

companies that are both our suppliers and our customers, who have an interest in a favorable public perception of agriculture. (2023)

- B-198. ASA encourages its members to provide active local, state and national support for agricultural research and education projects and activities. (2017)
- B-199. ASA supports government, corporate and privately sponsored education that increases public awareness of not only the stewardship and sustainability of our natural resources, but also the economics and risks involved in agricultural production. (2017)
- B-200. ASA calls for more effort by our land grant university system and all other public and private organizations and entities to increase responsible and accurate educational programs as a way to offset consumer concerns regarding biotechnology, food safety, renewable fuels, crop protection products and animal agriculture.
- B-201. ASA supports work with USB to create educational materials and opportunities to educate the public on the food chain and life cycle of soybeans. (2022)
- B-202. ASA supports the original statutes creating land grant institutions intended to expand and enhance agriculture research and education. These include the Morrill Act and the Hatch Act (creating the experimental research stations) and the Smith-Lever Act (creating the Cooperative Extension Service), the Evans-Allen Program, and the 1890 Institutions Extension Services. (2021)
- B-203. ASA supports the National Association of Agriculture Educators and the National Council for Agriculture Education in the Teach Ag Campaign to combat the current national agriculture teacher shortage. (2015)

## FARMER-FOCUSED POLICIES

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### Farmer Health and Wellness

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- B-204. ASA supports financial and mental health resources being available to address the physical and emotional stresses related to managing and working on a farm. (2022)
- B-205. ASA supports the full deductibility of health insurance premiums, copays and other medical expenses and contributions to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) by the self-employed and supports equitable treatment for self-employed people under any new health care legislation. ASA supports affordable health care policies that provide continuous coverage without the threat of annual cancellation. (2025)

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# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

B-206. ASA supports enactment of federal legislation that would help to lower the cost of Group Health Insurance plans by allowing participation in the group regardless of state of residence. (2025)

B-207. ASA supports legislation that would codify rulemakings from the Department of Labor that allow for self-employed, geographic, and similar industry inclusion for eligibility to form or join a multi-state association health plan. (2025)

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## Contract Production

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B-208. ASA supports farmers working together in cooperative ventures to gain increased access in a vertically integrated market environment.

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## Equity Protection of Grain

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B-209. ASA affirms that it will work with the USDA, other organizations and governmental agencies at the state and federal level to develop adequate protection for farmer's equity in the event of grain warehouse or dealer failure.

B-210. ASA opposes any federal warehouse dealer regulation that would supersede state licensing and warehouse regulations when it offers less protection for farmers.

B-211. ASA supports grain warehouse regulations under which producers are provided a receipt to prove ownership upon delivery of grain, whether the grain is sold immediately or is delivered for storage.

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## Farm Continuation and Tax Policy

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B-212. ASA supports the permanent elimination of all inheritance tax and estate tax. ASA further supports efforts to extend favorable tax provisions set to sunset in 2025. (2025)

B-213. ASA supports retention of the ability to utilize 1031 like-kind exchanges and further supports extending the time period allowed for reinvestment of capital gains from 45 days to 12 months. ASA further supports efforts to revise the 1031 exchange provision in the tax code for like-kind exchanges to include personal property. (2025)

B-214. ASA supports efforts that would allow proceeds from the sale of qualified farm assets to be treated as an individual farmer retirement account to defer current capital gains taxes to a future date.

B-215. ASA opposes the collection of capital gains taxes at death. (2024)

B-216. ASA supports the permanent exemption of estate tax treatment for inherited farmland and property. (2024)

B-217. ASA supports retention of the opportunity for step-up basis at the time property is inherited. (2021)

- B-218. ASA supports efforts to allow for up to \$1 million in lifetime tax credits for sale of used farm equipment to farmers under 40 years old or beginning farmers. (2023)
- B-219. ASA supports efforts to allow for tax credits for transfer of farm equipment to a farm's successors. (2022)
- B-220. ASA supports maintaining the current three-year income averaging programs for agricultural producers, including family farm corporations.
- B-221. ASA supports an increase in the maximum annual gift tax exemption. (2021)
- B-222. ASA opposes the application of the Alternative Minimum Tax on Schedule F. (2021)
- B-223. ASA strongly opposes subjecting an individual who rents land or equipment to a family farm corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Corporation or any other farming entity to self-employment tax on rental income.
- B-224. ASA supports a change in the U.S. tax code to allow tax deductibility for permanent conservation practices to landowners that cash rent their land.
- B-225. ASA opposes double taxation when dissolving corporations.
- B-226. ASA supports the capital gain tax exclusion to include up to \$10,000,000 value of farm real estate. (2023)
- B-227. ASA supports a federal tax credit for farmers' investment in value-added agricultural ventures. ASA encourages federal support to provide technical assistance to commercialize value-added products as well as business structure assistance for farmer-owned, value-added companies.
- B-228. ASA supports 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums and copays for all farm business or tax incentives available to agricultural producers that would provide a refundable tax credit equal to one half of the producer's annual healthcare premium cost. (2023)
- B-229. ASA supports that real estate sold must maintain its current tax status when sold to government entities or nonprofit groups or organizations, exempting religious institutions up to 20 acres, as long as they maintain ownership.
- B-230. ASA supports making permanent 100% bonus depreciation. (2018)
- B-231. ASA opposes any proposal to require farmers to use accrual rather than cash accounting. (2014)
- B-232. ASA opposes the 3.8% tax on passive income recently instated by the federal government to help fund national health care.

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-233. ASA supports a 15% tax rate on the first \$50,000 of corporate taxable income. (2018)
- B-234. ASA opposes S-Corporation net income being subject to self-employment tax at the shareholder level. (2016)
- B-235. ASA supports basis step-ups on gifts and bequests and not treating transfers of appreciated property as a sale. (2016)
- B-236. ASA opposes any attempt by a federal government entity to enact a tax on agricultural products to fund infrastructure that is used by all citizens. (2016)
- B-237. ASA supports the use of valuation discounts of farm assets on the transfer of closely held farm entities. (2017)
- B-238. ASA supports the establishment of a farmer tax deferred account where higher than normal profits would be deposited and then withdrawn in lower profit years. (2017)
- B-239. ASA supports giving farmers the option to either treat traded-in equipment as an ordinary gain or as an income on a schedule F to prevent the elimination of the self-employed health insurance deduction and removal of farmers from the social security program. (2021)
- B-240. ASA supports expanding the provisions of the IRS Tax Code that work to protect farm inheritance. (2021)
- B-241. ASA supports eliminating the \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax deduction. (2021)

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## Producer Data

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- B-242. ASA supports USDA providing oversight and taking all appropriate measures to ensure the security of all agency reports, no matter the transmission mode, before their uniform release. (2017)
- B-243. ASA affirms that production data such as field maps, soil tests, production records, images, and input records have monetary value, and that this information should remain the sole property of the owner and/or operator, or their agent, based on their respective investment, regardless of whether the data collection was voluntary or involuntary. ASA opposes unauthorized access to or use of farm-level data. (2021)
- B-244. ASA supports legislative statutes that establish a single confidentiality classification of all USDA collected producer data and the reorganization within USDA that delegates that data collection function to a single unit within the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).
- B-245. ASA supports researchers' responsible access to producer production data to help uncover and document practices that further improve the soybean industry's

sustainability, profitability, resiliency and messaging, while maintaining the confidentiality and non-public disclosure of individual producer data. (2021)

- B-246. ASA supports that producer information, from any source, provided to USDA for participation in conservation programs remain protected from public disclosure. Farmers who submit information to USDA to participate in NRCS conservation programs should be held harmless for that disclosure. (2023)
- B-247. ASA supports a requirement that data generated by any water quality monitoring programs, including data used for development of standards and data to establish designated uses, be gathered and analyzed with protocols that meet the highest level of Quality Control and Quality Assurance.
- B-248. ASA opposes the EPA utilizing citizen monitoring to collect samples and submit data for determining product regulation, registration or environmental impact.
- B-249. ASA supports national agricultural organizations working together on behalf of farmers and industry to develop standards to clarify policy for the acquisition, ownership, valuation and utilization of agricultural data and provide educational opportunities for farmers on best use practices. (2015)

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### **Property Rights**

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- B-250. ASA endorses private property rights as set forth in the United States Constitution. ASA requests that farmers should be adequately compensated for loss in property value or income due to unsubstantiated land claims, environmental regulations such as endangered species, wetlands and other government regulations. We also support a strong “Right to Farm” law.
- B-251. ASA affirms that government agencies developing flood control projects must ensure that for any damages caused by the project to surrounding property, owners be fairly compensated.
- B-252. ASA opposes condemnation, involuntary annexation or mandatory restrictions that postpone or restrict the property rights of landowners without just compensation. (2020)
- B-253. ASA supports voluntary and practical programs for buying land development rights in order to preserve the land as green space or for farming.
- B-254. ASA supports not holding landowners responsible for costs associated with unlawful acts committed by others on a landowner’s property.



# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-255. ASA opposes the use of eminent domain for transferring of ownership and/or the use of easements on private property to other private entities. If eminent domain is used, compensation for interest in land taken by eminent domain should be at a rate that is greater than the fee simple fair market value. (2025)
- B-256. ASA supports a requirement that wetlands, government owned lands and private conservation lands should be used as a first choice, instead of farmland, when routing public utilities and roadways.
- B-257. ASA opposes federal executive orders that could deprive farmers of private property rights.
- B-258. ASA supports legislation allowing a farmer to protect crops and livestock from wildlife destroying or attempting to destroy or injure crops or livestock. (2016)
- B-259. ASA supports domestic energy production and other infrastructure investments (e.g., solar, wind, pipelines, oil wells) on private undeveloped land, provided that
- a. any incentives prioritize energy development on marginal land rather than productive farmland acres; and
  - b. that energy developers, not private landowners, taxpayers or communities are responsible for the costs of decommissioning and full remediation at the end of the project's physical or economic lifespan and/or ensuring cleanup from a natural disaster. (2025)
- B-260. ASA supports the development of an interagency document with farmer representation and input on voluntary best practices to assist farmers in making informed decisions regarding the development of energy production on private land. (2024)
- B-261. ASA supports landowners and tenants having exclusive rights to regulate access for hunting, fishing or recreation on private land. (2014)
- B-262. ASA supports the addition of the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). ASA affirms that CFIUS is the best and appropriate entity to review foreign transactions related to agribusinesses, real estate and critical natural resources to protect U.S. national security interests. (2024)
- B-263. ASA supports federal legislation governing foreign ownership of agricultural land and business that protects U.S. farmers, consumers, national security and economic interests without limiting soybean industry research or market access. (2023)

## Financing

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- B-264. ASA supports the participation of all types of lenders to provide businesses with loans or other financial arrangements to add value and find new uses for agricultural commodities.
- B-265. ASA supports the Farm Credit System (FCS) as a farmer-owned and controlled financial cooperative to meet the needs of agriculture. (2023)
- B-266. ASA supports more funding and quicker distribution of funds for beginning farmers through the FSA Direct Loan Program, special beginning farmer loans, Farm Credit Associations and other sources. The percentage of residence allowance for beginning farmer loans should be raised from 5% to 20%. (2023)
- B-267. ASA opposes any restructuring of FCS that replaces farmer-elected members of FCS Boards with commercial bankers or expands bank access to FCS funding.
- B-268. ASA supports the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) ability to make direct loans and loan guarantees sufficient to meet producer requirements for operating funds that are not met by other farm lending institutions.
- B-269. ASA supports adequate funding for FSA credit programs including:
- a. Increase of guaranteed loan limits
  - b. Increase of the subsidy rate on guaranteed loans
  - c. Interest assistance for guaranteed farm ownership loans
  - d. Full funding of the direct Farm Ownership Loan Program
  - e. Extended lifetime loan eligibility for FSA credit programs
  - f. Waiver of the 1.5% fee for guaranteed loans
  - g. Interest assistance on loans for building farmer-owned grain facilities
  - h. Returning the FSA Interest Assistance Program for bank loans
- B-270. ASA supports the USDA farm storage facility loan program with this exception: ASA recommends to USDA-FSA to establish terms of the loans to be the same regardless of the dollar amount of the loan.
- B-271. ASA supports strengthening the FSA appeals process at all levels. (2016)

## Farm Labor

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- B-272. ASA recognizes that child safety is important. However, ASA opposes the Department of Labor proposing changes that limit the types of work minors could perform in agriculture.

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- B-273. ASA supports simplifying the process for the H2A work visa program to improve efficiency. (2022)
- B-274. ASA opposes the Department of Labor regulation requiring higher wages for some H2A job duties by virtue of their Standard Occupational Classification codes. H2A workers should be paid based on local rates, negotiated with the employer, with opportunities to receive additional compensation at the discretion of the employer. (2024)
- B-275. ASA recognizes farm safety is an important issue. However, ASA opposes attempts by the Department of Labor to expand the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to include farms with less than 10 employees. (2014)
- B-276. ASA supports a guest worker program that meets the needs of livestock and row crop farmers. (2019)
- B-277. ASA opposes mandatory overtime pay and regulation of hours of work for farm employees. (2019)
- B-278. ASA opposes a federal increase in national or regional minimum wage. (2025)

# TITLE C – TRADE POLICY, FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

## PREAMBLE

The American Soybean Association recognizes that U.S. soybeans and soybean products must have fair access to world markets and must be competitive on price, quality and availability for markets.

## TRADE POLICY

### General

- C-1. ASA supports the removal of barriers to international trade in soybeans, soybean products, as well as livestock, poultry and aquaculture products and the prevention of the establishment by other nations of barriers to the importation and consumption of U.S. soybeans, soybean products, as well as livestock products.
- C-2. ASA opposes the use of restrictions such as tariffs or other market access barriers as a trade negotiating tactic that may precipitate retaliation against the export of U.S. soybeans, soybean-based products, livestock and agricultural products/inputs. (2022)
- C-3. ASA supports reauthorization of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). (2021)
- C-4. ASA opposes the imposition of restrictions on the export of any and all agricultural commodities including soybeans and soybean products, whether it is for supply, national security or foreign policy reasons. Any embargo, sanction or other restriction on exports of U.S. agricultural commodities for national security or foreign policy reasons shall require a formal determination by the President and Congress that such action is supported and joined by all other major world producers and exporters of affected commodities. Any action would terminate unless the president re-certifies this determination on an annual basis.
- C-5. Contract sanctity should be guaranteed for all foreign purchasers of U.S. agricultural commodities. ASA calls for the President and Congress to revise legislation that exempts sales of U.S. agricultural products from economic sanctions so that normal commercial credit can be offered by U.S. entities. (2022)
- C-6. ASA supports the immediate removal of agricultural trade, financial and travel restrictions for Cuba and urges Cuban eligibility for all authorized checkoff activities, including the General Sales Manager (GSM) and other credit programs. ASA will work with the current administration on changing the terminology through administrative action concerning credit. (2022)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- C-7. ASA supports measures to prohibit U.S. adherence to sovereign nations or global entities from setting environmental and/or water quality standards more stringent than federal or state regulations. (2022)
- C-8. ASA supports the U.S. government focusing on policies that grow U.S. agricultural trade/exports as the primary means of improving the U.S. balance of trade rather than focusing on policies or actions that limit imports into the U.S. (2018)
- C-9. ASA opposes efforts by individual states to use information from international non-governmental entities to require unjustified, false or misleading warning labels on products. (2018)
- C-10. ASA opposes congressional or administrative efforts to change Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status with major trading partners important to U.S. soy and soy product exports. (2024)

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## World Trade Organization Policies

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- C-11. ASA supports achievement of a “level playing field” trading basis for oilseeds, oilseed products and plant-based oil and products in future negotiations. The level playing field approach is a multilateral phase-out of all trade distorting export subsidies, including differential export taxes, and all tariff and non-tariff barriers to oilseeds, oilseeds product and plant-based oil and product imports.
- C-12. ASA supports the strict enforcement of the Blair House Agreement (BHA), which sets a WTO-bound limit on subsidized oilseed production in the E.U. (2021)
- C-13. ASA supports comprehensive WWTO negotiations as the best means to increase worldwide incomes and reduce trade barriers to soy and livestock products. ASA stresses that bilateral or regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations should be focused toward those countries that represent significant commercial markets for U.S. soybeans and products, livestock products and agricultural exports in general.
- C-14. ASA affirms that the WTO negotiations encompass all sectors as a comprehensive single undertaking. This means that all aspects of the negotiations should be included and implemented simultaneously in order to get the best results for U.S. agriculture (i.e., no “early harvest” during the negotiations).
- C-15. ASA affirms that any new WTO agreement reducing trade-distorting (i.e., “amber box”) domestic support must reflect the extent to which market access is increased in developing and developed countries through reductions in tariffs and other measures.

- C-16. ASA supports maintaining the “de minimus” exemption of product and non-product specific support from reductions required in trade-distorting domestic programs.
- C-17. ASA opposes any caps on “green box” domestic support policies. (2019)
- C-18. ASA supports establishing a rules-based system for disciplining the use of export credits and similar government supported export financing programs.
- C-19. ASA supports defining Differential Export Taxes (DET) as export subsidies that would be subject to discipline and elimination in future WTO negotiating rounds. (2021)
- C-20. ASA opposes including disciplines on food assistance programs in the WTO negotiations.
- C-21. ASA opposes allowing countries to self-designate as “developing countries” for the purpose of obtaining special and differential treatment under the WTO. ASA supports the establishment of objective criteria for determining country eligibility to claim special and differential treatment overall or for certain sectors.
- C-22. ASA opposes exempting government supported domestic transportation and marketing subsidy programs in developing countries from disciplines under the WTO.
- C-23. ASA opposes the precautionary principle or other food safety concerns that are not science-based that could be used as a justification for restricting market access in WTO agreements.
- C-24. ASA supports “WTO-plus” sanitary and phytosanitary provisions that underscore the importance of harmonized, science-based regulations that facilitate trade and are fully enforceable.
- C-25. ASA supports solutions that would resolve the current impasse at the WTO Appellate Body by appointing new members, therefore establishing a quorum and allowing the Dispute Settlement System to function as intended. (2025)

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### **Regional and Bilateral Agreements**

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- C-26. ASA supports administration efforts to negotiate new trade agreements that include soybeans as a pillar trade good and improve market access opportunities for U.S. soybeans, soybean products, livestock products and new soybean-based products. (2021)
- C-27. ASA opposes any product exclusions from Free Trade Agreements (FTA) on the grounds that they serve as negative precedents for countries seeking to exclude soy or livestock products.

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- C-28. ASA supports aggressively seeking free trade agreements with basic and expansion markets defined in the soy family export strategy. ASA implores the U.S. government to engage in negotiations for new free trade agreements as quickly as possible. (2022)
- C-29. ASA supports developing free trade agreements in south Asia including a bilateral free trade agreement with India. (2022)
- C-30. ASA supports the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement (USMCA) and enforcement of its provisions by all participating countries. (2025)
- C-31. ASA supports efforts by the administration to negotiate with members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and other nations in the Indo-Pacific region for U.S. inclusion to improve market access for U.S. soybeans and soybean products. (2022)

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## Government Responsibilities

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- C-32. ASA opposes any proposal to merge the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) with other trade agencies. ASA recommends that USTR should remain an independent agency within the Executive Office of the President, focusing on trade negotiations, trade agreements and trade enforcement.
- C-33. ASA opposes currency legislation or any action by Congress to unilaterally regulate the value of foreign currencies. ASA recognizes that currency legislation would create retaliatory actions that would negatively affect soybean trade. Instead, ASA supports an approach by the U.S. that engages the international community in its efforts to address global foreign exchange policies.

## FOREIGN MARKET PROMOTION AND EXPORT CREDIT PROGRAMS

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### Foreign Market Development Programs

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- C-34. ASA supports the Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP). FMD and MAP are successful public/private partnerships that are cooperative, cost-share programs between private industry groups that represent farmers and ranchers and the U.S. government. ASA supports the doubling of annual mandatory funding from \$34.5 to \$69 million for FMD and from \$200 million to \$400 million for MAP.
- C-35. ASA supports the funding of the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP) to foster expanded exports and market diversification of United States agricultural commodities and products. (2025)

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**Export Credit Guarantee Programs**


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- C-36. ASA supports continuation of General Sales Manager (GSM) 102 export credit guarantee programs at a minimum funding level of \$2.5 billion and supports efforts at USDA to implement procedures that allow the GSM 102 program to function in a flexible and efficient manner. ASA further supports continuation and full utilization of the Facility Guarantee Program. (2022)

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**Government Responsibilities: Marketing and Export**


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- C-37. ASA supports Congress and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in encouraging the investment of farmer checkoff dollars to maximize funding for market development efforts and to respond quickly to opportunities in international trade.
- C-38. ASA affirms that USB and QSSBs appropriate funds for international marketing to qualify and fully maximize USDA/FAS matching funds.
- C-39. ASA supports Congress and the administration aggressively advocating for P.L. 480 and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) grant programs and initiatives to expand exports of U.S. soybeans and soybean products.
- C-40. ASA supports the use of CODEX standards (Codex Alimentarius collection of food standards) for maximum residual levels of animal health products in livestock trade internationally. (2021)
- C-41. ASA supports the continued development and adoption of international standards for Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) for Plant Protection Products (PPP) set by CODEX that are developed using science-based risk assessments. (2021)
- C-42. ASA supports the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) set by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). (2021)
- C-43. ASA shall continue to be the U.S. soybean growers' international marketing contractor with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- C-44. ASA supports the continued engagement and leadership by the United States in international multilateral forums such as the WTO and CODEX in order to ensure the voice of U.S. agriculture is represented in those important venues. (2025)



# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

## INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICIES

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### International Regulatory Approvals and Commercialization

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- C-45. ASA actively supports the efforts of biotechnology and seed companies to obtain regulatory clearances in significant U.S. export markets, using both ASA policy and international marketing resources.
- C-46. ASA supports an expedited process for approval and acceptance of biotechnology products in international markets. (2015)
- C-47. ASA supports establishing a process to maintain foreign registrations of biotech traits in countries that require them as long as traces of a trait are identified in export shipment.
- C-48. ASA supports timely international regulatory clearances in U.S. soy export markets for all new soybean varieties prior to U.S. commercialization. (2021)
- C-49. ASA supports strict controls of soy export and planting seed channels should U.S. regulatory clearance be obtained for a new biotech product prior to international regulatory clearance in all U.S. soy export markets. (2021)
- C-50. ASA supports seed and trait developers to ensure adequate intellectual property protection and value capture systems are in place in cultivating countries to ensure growers are paying appropriate royalties similar to U.S. growers. (2021)
- C-51. ASA supports ensuring patent protection for seed technologies in other countries have similar expiration to the patent protection offered for that same technology in the U.S. (2021)
- C-52. ASA supports the soybean industry working to ensure that financial liability for soybean products that contain unintended and unapproved traits in soybeans and products be appropriated to the responsible parties.

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### Low Level Presence

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- C-53. ASA supports efforts to establish a commercially viable and internationally accepted LLP tolerance of not less than 5% for the presence of any deregulated biotechnology event in shipments and products in order to ensure the competitiveness of U.S. soy exports in world markets and prevent disruptions in trade. ASA encourages USDA to collaborate with its counterparts in Australia and other countries to formally propose a 5% threshold within the framework of the International Plan Protection Convention. The value chain must cooperate to steward new technologies when unique functional characteristics impact commodity markets below 5%. (2022)

## ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### Foreign Food Assistance

- C-54. ASA supports the work led by the U.S. government to combat global hunger and malnutrition by utilizing U.S. grown commodities, including soy, to feed vulnerable populations around the world. ASA affirms that international food aid programs are critical to national security and should not be subject to government spending freezes or reductions. (2025)
- C-55. ASA supports uses of food in emergency and development assistance. ASA opposes budgetary reductions in developmental food aid to compensate for emergency shortfalls. ASA supports PL480 programs and total Title II budget at a level equal to or higher than current funding levels. (2025)
- C-56. ASA supports the continued funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and the Food for Progress program at equal to or higher than current funding levels and supports seeking additional funding from other U.S. and G-8 sources. (2025)

### International Agricultural Development

- C-57. ASA strongly supports U.S. and multilateral institutions considering long-term environmental consequences and benefits when allocating funds to developing nations for projects that could result in large-scale land clearing or deforestation. ASA opposes U.S. tax dollars being used by American and multilateral institutions and universities to fund competition for U.S. soybeans and soybean products.
- C-58. ASA supports the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) continuing its policy of not funding programs that promote foreign production resulting in the exports of soybeans and soybean products and would encourage that this policy be extended to crops that compete with soybeans and soybean products. ASA encourages USAID to increase funding of programs that expand international use of soybeans and soybean products and encourages USAID to support ASA in developing and implementing such programs.
- C-59. ASA recognizes that agricultural development in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) can help drive economic development worldwide. U.S. soybean farmers commit to working with participants in the soybean value chain targeting subsistence farmers to improve nutrition to their community, raise themselves from poverty and develop strong local markets, providing such assistance complies with current agricultural policy and law (Bumpers Amendment of 1986).

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

- C-60. ASA supports legislation realigning U.S. international agricultural development programs to focus primarily on increasing productivity and profitability of small farmers in underdeveloped countries and to put USDA and the U.S. agriculture community in the center of these efforts through research, land grant education and extension, technology transfer and programs to develop value chains and local markets. (2015)
- C-61. ASA supports full funding for activities of FAS Global Programs including programs such as the Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program, Food for Progress, the Cochran Program, and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. (2022)
- C-62. ASA is committed to developing relationships with commercial entities in the private sector to address protein deficiencies and under-nutrition. WISHH will encourage companies in the U.S. and developing world to use soy as a supplement to local foods and will reach out to both food processing companies and manufacturing companies to develop soy fortified, protein rich products. (2015)
- C-63. ASA supports changes to or elimination of monetization in USDA's Food for Progress program to allow for improved delivery and implementation. (2020)

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## Quality, Grading and Sustainability Standards

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- C-64. ASA supports the following principles as long-term objectives in any revisions or updating of present standards:
- Define uniform and accepted descriptive terms to facilitate trade.
  - Provide the information for the market to create incentives to improve the overall quality of soybeans.
  - Provide information for the end user to help determine end product yield and quality.
  - Provide information for the farmer to help select varieties of greatest value.
  - Require that grading factors have a definable economic value.
  - Encourage development of soybean standards that will set standard for U.S. soybeans at 1% foreign material (FM) in export and domestic markets. ASA will strive to implement grain standards to assure the best product available for our customers. To fully accomplish this task ASA must request the full cooperation of the grain traders in adhering to these quality requirements for exported soybeans to the end user.

- g. Both public and commercial soybean breeders and producers should be represented on committees formed to develop grain quality standards for soybeans and to cooperate with other farm groups to set international standards for specialty grains.
  - h. Soybeans should be purchased on a 13% moisture standard. (2017)
- C-65. ASA supports a study be undertaken by the appropriate governmental agencies, farmer leaders and industry representatives to determine the need for additional intrinsic testing capabilities, revised procedures or other controls resulting from the rapid growth in volume and number of differentiated identity preserved marketings of enhanced trait soybeans. (2025)
- C-66. ASA supports a grading and marketing system that recognizes the intrinsic quality and value of soybeans and to reward farmers who are capable of producing and marketing soybeans of enhanced value to users.
- C-67. ASA supports strict enforcement of the handling of any treated seed to ensure it does not get into any commercial shipment of U.S. soybeans. (2025)
- C-68. ASA recognizes the need for reasonable seed tolerance levels that allow for movement of seed within international trade. ASA stresses that such tolerances however, must be linked directly with accompanying tolerances for the resulting commodity products.
- C-69. ASA supports the continued successful implementation and refinement of the Sustainability Assurance Protocol and Soy Export Sustainability, LLC to promote the sustainability of U.S. soybeans to buyers worldwide. (2016)
- C-70. ASA supports removing economic incentives that promote inefficiencies and undesired practices that would include the reintroduction of any foreign material into customer shipments of soybeans. (2016)
- C-71. ASA opposes requirements under China's Decree 177 that require an additional declaration on the Phytosanitary Certificate for U.S. Soybean shipments to China of #2 soybeans that are over 1% Foreign Material (FM). (2022)

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

## TITLE D – ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS

### PREAMBLE

ASA is a national, not-for-profit, grassroots membership organization that develops and advocates for policies to increase the profitability and trade of U.S. soybean farmers and the entire soybean industry. (2017)

### MEMBERSHIP

- D-1. ASA is made up of affiliated state soybean associations and their members, who provide the leadership and guidance to help make ASA successful. Investments by state affiliates in ASA programs provide key funding to support ASA's policy, trade and advocacy work. Membership is a state-operated program, whereby members of affiliated state soybean associations receive complimentary membership in ASA. (2017)
- D-2. ASA affirms that its state affiliates and farmer members must continue to maintain support and governance of ASA. State affiliates and their members generate farmer involvement and investment in ASA, strengthen ASA's policy influence and provide future leadership for the organization. (2017)
- D-3. To meet the needs of state affiliates and their members the Association should seek their input and should communicate directly with them. (2017)

### CHECKOFF AND PROMOTION

- D-4. ASA supports continuation of the national soybean checkoff. ASA believes that the national soybean checkoff is an important tool to help soybean farmers develop new uses, conduct production research and expand domestic and foreign markets. (2022)
- D-5. ASA supports commodity and livestock checkoff programs and supports the stance that any and all funds may not be used for any government deficit or general fund needs.
- D-6. ASA, as the cooperator with USDA FAS, fully supports USSEC as the international marketing contractor for ASA and USB and is committed to working as a partner with USSEC and USB to promote U.S. soybeans and soybean products worldwide.
- D-7. ASA affirms it should maintain a shared leadership role with USB in implementing international market development efforts through USSEC. (2017)

- D-8. ASA supports the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) in connecting trade and development across global market systems, improving food security. (2022)
- D-9. ASA supports ASA and state soybean associations in contracting with USB and QSSBs and earning a reasonable management fee.
- D-10. ASA supports policy that would ensure that USB, USSEC, and QSSBs use ASA and state associations as primary contractors and coordinators for policy development for any non-restricted dollars they may generate. (2022)
- D-11. ASA supports all soybean farmers voluntarily becoming members of their state soybean grower association and ASA, so they better understand how policy and active farmer involvement complements their checkoff funded successful marketing, research and education efforts for U.S. soybean farmer profitability. (2022)
- D-12. ASA recommends that the appointees to all federal commodity checkoff boards be active producers of their commodity.
- D-13. ASA suggests that USDA appoint USB board members in a timely manner each year to allow them to begin their service at USB's December business meeting. (2025)
- D-14. ASA suggests the ASA and USB Executive Committees meet at least twice annually to develop common goals and evaluate programs to benefit the U.S. soybean producer. (2025)
- D-15. ASA encourages USB to continue to support research to advance soy biofuels and soy bio-based products. (2022)

## **INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY**

- D-16. ASA and affiliates appreciate the support they are receiving from their current agribusiness partners and encourage other agricultural allied industries to consider providing financial and in-kind investments in ASA programs.
- D-17. Leadership skills are more and more valuable as the industry further expands into global markets. ASA should continue to utilize and build its corporate and checkoff funded programs that create a pipeline for the next generation of engaged farmers to become board members. (2022)
- D-18. ASA supports USB's efforts to educate the general public about the positive aspects of production agriculture, inclusive of plant breeding technologies, conventional and organic systems, with particular emphasis on soybeans and allied commodities. (2022)
- D-19. ASA encourages cooperation with other farm organizations to promote and implement farm safety and education programs. ASA encourages farm families to develop, maintain and implement aggressive farm safety practices to help protect our current and future generations.

# ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- D-20. One of the primary services provided by ASA to its state affiliates and their members should be to operate an effective governmental relations program. To be a more effective national policy voice for U.S. soybean farmers, ASA should continue to build coalitions and develop congressional contacts, as well as be sensitive to both national and/or state concerns as they are addressed by national policy. (2017)
- D-21. ASA supports building farmer support and investment in ASA's Soy Political Action Committee (SoyPAC) as an important national soy advocacy tool. (2022)
- D-22. Realizing the importance of a united front in the policy area and the need to develop a positive public image of farmers and agriculture, ASA leadership should maintain a continuing dialogue and work with general farm organizations, commodity groups, urban interests and others to achieve our policies and objectives. ASA should seek new, nontraditional partnerships to find support in areas of mutual interest and collaborate in innovative ways. (2022)
- D-23. ASA will enhance collaboration with state soybean affiliates to increase and strengthen opportunities to jointly advocate on policies and regulations impacting U.S. soybean farmers. This enhanced collaboration will leverage skills and relationships to partner in the shared commitment of the states and national organization in advocacy efforts. (2022)

## FINANCE AND VIABILITY

- D-24. The ASA Voting Delegate body directs the ASA Executive Committee to examine the annual resolutions and formulate a priority list that takes into account available monetary and human resources. The draft copy shall be submitted to the ASA Board for review, amended if necessary, and adopted in a timely manner. (2022)
- D-25. The ability of soybean associations to successfully impact the issues of importance to soybean farmers is largely determined by the financial strength of these organizations. As such, maintaining financially viable state and national soybean associations is paramount, and innovative fundraising strategies should be pursued.

- D-26. Continued support and work should be maintained to ensure the viability and strength of ASA as the national soybean policy organization for state affiliates, their members and the soybean industry. (2017)
- D-27. The name American Soybean Association (ASA) should continue to be used for domestic and international policy work and the name American Soybean Association-International Marketing (ASA-IM) used for market development activities involving USSEC and the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH).



# **BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION**

As approved  
July 18, 2024



## **Amended and Restated Bylaws (“Bylaws”) of American Soybean Association (the “Association”)**

*Revised and Approved July 18, 2024*

### **ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 1. AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Affiliate Membership shall exist for any duly organized and operating state soybean association or multi-state soybean association that: (a) satisfies the requirements set forth in Article X of these Bylaws and/or any other requirements contained in the then-existing American Soybean Association Affiliation Agreement (“Affiliation Agreement”); (b) has executed such Affiliation Agreement; and (c) has invested in the Association as outlined in Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws.

#### **Section 2. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

Any person who is a member of an affiliated state or multi-state soybean association that has Affiliate Membership status in the Association shall be granted general membership in the Association at no charge, provided the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association submits the person’s membership information to the Association. Individuals who pay membership dues to the affiliate, have a significant financial attachment to the affiliate, or have a significant organizational attachment to the affiliate may be considered “members,” even if other or multiple terms may be used by affiliates.

Any person residing in a state without Affiliate Membership status or residing outside the United States may become members of the Association by paying individual dues as established by the Association.

#### **Section 3. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Any person, without regard to his or her state of residence and whether ASA has an affiliate in that state, may become an associate member of the Association by paying the associate member dues as established by the Association. Such associate members shall not be eligible to vote at Meetings of Members as contained in Article III of these bylaws, shall not be eligible for election to the Association’s Board of Directors, and shall not be eligible for all benefits otherwise provided to general members, as determined by the Association.

#### **Section 4. COOPERATING MEMBERSHIP**

Individuals, organizations or companies investing One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or more in the Association’s programs/functions shall be offered a one-year Cooperating Membership. Such cooperating members shall not be eligible to vote at Meetings of Members as contained in Article III of these bylaws, shall not be eligible for election to the Association’s Board of Directors, and shall not be eligible for all benefits otherwise provided to general members, as determined by the Association.

#### **Section 5. FOREIGN CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS**

Any foreign business organizations, corporations, partnerships and other agencies and persons interested in the welfare of the soybean industry shall be extended the privilege of holding foreign contributing memberships in the Association by payment of the dues fixed by the Association. Such foreign contributing members will carry all membership privileges in the Association except the right to vote. Foreign includes all members outside the continental United States and Canada.

## **Section 6. HONORARY MEMBERS**

Any person who has rendered or may render distinctive service to the Association or the development of the soybean industry may, on recommendation of the Board of Directors, be elected an honorary member of the Association and shall not be required to pay dues but shall have all rights and privileges of general membership.

## **Section 7. CANCELLATION OR REFUSAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Board of Directors may, at any time, by majority vote, cancel the membership of any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association, or refuse membership to any state or multi-state soybean association, when the welfare of the Association, in their judgment, justifies such action.

The Board of Directors may, at any time, by majority vote, cancel the membership of any general, associate, cooperating, foreign contributing, or honorary member, or refuse membership to any person, company or other organization, when the welfare of the Association, in their judgment, justifies such action.

No membership shall be cancelled except pursuant to a procedure that complies with the minimum requirements of applicable law.

## **ARTICLE II. MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS**

### **Section 1. TIME AND PLACE**

The time and place of the annual meeting of the members shall be as specified in the Articles of Incorporation.

### **Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

The President may call special meetings of the members at any time or place, on the President's own motion or at the request of twenty-five percent (25%) of the Directors. The President shall notify the Secretary of the time and place thereof and direct the giving of notice as provided herein.

### **Section 3. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

The Secretary shall deliver via mail, email or facsimile to each member a notice of the time and place of each annual and special meeting of the members at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, which notice shall state the matters to be considered at any special meeting.

### **Section 4. QUORUM**

A majority of the member voting delegates (or their alternates), in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the members, but any lesser number may adjourn the meeting to any other time.

## **ARTICLE III. VOTING AT MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS**

### **Section 1. VOTING LIMITED TO MEMBER VOTING DELEGATES**

Voting at meetings of the members of the Association shall be limited to member voting delegates (or their alternates) from duly affiliated state or multi-state soybean associations.

### **Section 2. NUMBER OF MEMBER VOTING DELEGATES AUTHORIZED**

Each affiliated state or multi-state soybean association may select voting delegate(s) and an alternate delegate for each such voting delegate in such numbers as determined according to the following:

- (a) Each director of an affiliated state or multi-state soybean association shall be a member voting delegate of the Association. This group shall equal one-third of total member voting delegates.
- (b) A number of individuals equal to the number of directors of each affiliated state or multi-state soybean association shall be member voting delegates of the Association. This group shall equal two-thirds of total voting delegates.

### **Section 3. CREDENTIALS OF THE MEMBER VOTING DELEGATES**

At least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the members of each affiliated state or multi- state soybean association, the Association shall notify each such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association of the number of the Association's member voting delegates it may elect, together with an alternate delegate for each such member voting delegate. Prior to January 1 of each year, each affiliated state or multi-state soybean association shall notify the Association of the names and addresses of the member voting delegates and their respective alternate, which shall be furnished to the Executive Committee of the Association for use at subsequent meetings of the Association's members. A person may be listed as an alternate for more than one member voting delegate; provided, however, no person may actually serve as an alternate for more than one member voting delegate at a meeting of the Association's members.

To serve as a member voting delegate or alternate at a meeting of the Association's members the following credential requirements must be satisfied:

- (a) The individual must have a current membership in the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association and the Association.
- (b) The individual must be duly selected by the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association.
- (c) The individual may not be an officer, director or employee of any other national soybean policy organization (as defined in Article IX, Section 1 of these Bylaws).

### **Section 4. MEMBER VOTING DELEGATE TERMS**

Each member voting delegate and alternate shall serve in such capacity for a one-year term commencing with February 1 after their election and shall attend all meetings of the Association's members held during such term.

### **Section 5. VOTING**

Each member voting delegate or such member voting delegate's alternate in the event the alternate is exercising the vote of the member voting delegate shall be entitled to one vote on matters at meetings of the Association's members. Such votes shall not be controlled by any other member voting delegate, or by the majority of the voter's delegation, or by any "unit rule," or by any other means, direct or indirect. Votes may not be cast by proxy or by any means other than in person. In the absence of a member voting delegate, the alternate may vote in the member voting delegate's stead. If a member voting delegate and the alternate are both absent from a meeting of the Association's members, the chairman of the applicable affiliated state or multi-state soybean association, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Association, may appoint a temporary alternate to vote at such meeting of the Association's members. Voting shall be by voice vote unless there is a request for a division of the house, in which event there will be a standing vote. Any member voting delegate or acting alternate may request a vote be taken by written ballot.

### **Section 6. FILLING VACANCIES**

Any vacancy of a member voting delegate or alternate position due to death, incapacity, resignation, or non-membership may be filled by the applicable affiliated state or multi-state soybean association, and the replacement's name and address shall be furnished to the Association. Such replacement, after receiving approval by the Executive Committee of the Association, shall fill the unexpired term of the member voting delegate or alternate so replaced and may vote at any meeting of the Association's members with the same rights and duties as the person replaced.

Section 7. MEMBERS’ PRIVILEGE

At any meeting of the Association’s members, any member may be granted the floor at the pleasure of the presiding officer to speak on any matter, but only a member voting delegate or acting alternate may make any motion or vote on any matter at any such meeting.

ARTICLE IV. AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION INVESTMENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS

A candidate for a director position on the Association’s Board of Directors must satisfy the credential requirements of a member voting delegate as specified in Article III, Section 3 of these Bylaws. In addition, only persons who are actual producers of soybeans, either as farm operators, managers or producer-landlords, shall be eligible for election to the Association’s Board of Directors by any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association. Employees of state or national soybean organizations shall not be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

Section 2. LEVEL OF INVESTMENT AND NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

Representation on the Association’s Board of Directors shall be based on affiliated state or multi-state soybean association investment levels. Each duly affiliated state or multi-state soybean association may elect directors to serve on the Association’s Board of Directors.

- (a) Director positions on the Association’s Board of Directors shall be earned based on affiliated state or multi-state soybean association investment levels as follows, with ten (10) director positions on the Association’s Board of Directors being the maximum number any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association can earn.

Investment amounts are cumulative by levels.

| Level  | Investment Amount                          | Total Positions on the Association’s Board of Directors |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Level 1</b> Affiliate with:<br>Affiliate with Less than 1% of soybean acres<br>Affiliate with 1% to 1.99% of soybean acres<br>Affiliate with 2% to 2.99% of soybean acres<br>Affiliate with 3% or more of soybean acres | \$1,000<br>\$4,500<br>\$10,000<br>\$15,000 | 1   |
| <b>Level 2</b>   | + \$30,000                                 | 2   |
| <b>Level 3</b>   | + \$35,000                                 | 3   |
| <b>Level 4</b>   | + \$35,000                                 | 4   |
| <b>Level 5</b>   | + \$35,000                                 | 5   |
| <b>Level 6</b>   | + \$40,000                                 | 6   |
| <b>Level 7</b>   | + \$40,000                                 | 7   |
| <b>Level 8</b>   | + \$40,000                                 | 8   |
| <b>Level 9</b>   | + \$40,000                                 | 9   |
| <b>Level 10</b>  | + \$40,000                                 | 10  |

Investment Level 1 is based on “harvested” soybean acres from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) data, using a three-year average. The initial three-year average will use 2013, 2014 and 2015 USDA data.

Investment rates and percentages for Levels 1 through 10, as outlined in this Article IV, Section 2, are to be static for five years, which are fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Thereafter, any investment level and percentages may only be amended by a vote of the Board of Directors, in which Directors representing at least two-thirds of the affiliated state or multi-state soybean associations are in the majority.

After the five-year static period, USDA data on harvested soybean acres for 2018, 2019 and 2020 will be used to determine a new three-year average for Level 1 investment to become effective in fiscal year 2022, which will commence on October 1, 2021. Thereafter, each year the three-year average soybean acres harvested will be refigured by adding the next consecutive year to the calculation and dropping the oldest year.

- (b) Duly affiliated state or multi-state soybean associations shall make a “minimum” annual unrestricted investment commitment to the Association beginning in fiscal year 2017, which shall be stated in an executed Affiliation Agreement and shall apply for five years, which are fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

An affiliated state or multi-state soybean association may increase its total investment at any time and earn additional positions on the Association’s Board of Directors based on investment levels outlined in this Article IV, Section 2. However, credit will be given for additional positions on the Association’s Board of Directors earned through mid-fiscal year investments, and the positions on the Association’s Board of Directors awarded in the next fiscal year.

- (c) The number of Directors for each affiliated state or multi-state soybean association shall be based on such association’s investment level with the Association. Prior to September 1 of each year, affiliated state or multi-state soybean associations must notify the Association in writing of the number of directors they intend to have serve on the Association’s Board of Directors for the coming fiscal year.

Each affiliated state or multi-state soybean association’s annual minimum unrestricted investment will be divided into four installments due to the Association quarterly, on or before October 1, January 1, April 1, and July 1.

Affiliated state or multi-state soybean associations past due in payment of any quarterly payment by more than forty-five (45) days shall automatically lose a percentage of such association’s positions on the Association’s Board of Directors and member voting delegates that corresponds to the percentage of payment shortfall, but shall not equal less than one position on the Association’s Board of Directors or member voting delegate and any non-evenly divisible, fractional amount of shortfall shall be rounded up in a manner that results in the loss of a whole position, with such positions on the Association’s Board of Directors and member voting delegates automatically reinstated when such past due payment is made. For example, if affiliated state X’s annual total investment due to be paid for four directors is \$115,000 with quarterly payments due of \$28,750 but it makes a quarterly payment of only \$20,000 and is more than 45 days in arrears on the remaining quarterly payment sum, state affiliate X automatically would lose two director positions until the past due amount is paid (\$28,750 divided by four positions = \$7,187.5 quarterly payment due per position with full quarterly payments made by affiliate X for only two positions). The Association’s calculation and determinations under this paragraph shall be final and incontestable.

### **Section 3. NONVOTING DIRECTORS**

The following soybean organizations may each elect one non-voting director to the Association’s Board of Directors:

*(continued on next page)*

- (a) Any soybean organization from a country other than the United States that has at least one hundred (100) dues paying members and is approved by the Association's Board of Directors; or
- (b) The Grain Farmers of Ontario provided that the organization maintains at least one hundred (100) dues paying members.

## **Section 4. TERMS OF DIRECTORS**

- (a) Each director shall be elected for a three-year term.
- (b) No director may serve on the Association's Board of Directors for more than three consecutive three- year terms; however, after any former director has been off the Association's Board of Directors for one full year, such former director may be reelected as a director for no more than three further consecutive three-year terms. For directors seated on the ASA Board of Directors prior to December 2015, no partial term or service in filling the unexpired term of a previous director shall be counted in determining the consecutive period a director may serve. For directors elected to begin service on the ASA Board of Directors on or after December 2015, their term will commence with the first annual meeting following their election.
- (c) All directors' terms shall commence with the first annual meeting following their election.
- (d) At least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of a director's term, the affiliated state or multi- state soybean association they represent shall certify their names and addresses to the Secretary of the Association, and the Secretary shall furnish the same to the Executive Committee of the Association.

## **Section 5. DISPUTES AS TO NUMBERS, TERMS OR QUALIFICATIONS**

If any dispute arises as to the numbers, terms or qualifications of any director elected by any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association, such disputes shall be resolved by the Executive Committee of the Association. The Executive Committee shall furnish a report to the President of the Association prior to the annual meeting of the Association's Board of Directors regarding the names of each director duly elected by the affiliated state or multi-state soybean associations, and the President shall report the names of such directors at said annual meeting.

## **Section 6. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES**

The Board of Directors may authorize payment of actual expenses of any officer or director of the Association incurred in attending meetings of the members, the Board of Directors, and committees of the Association, or while engaged in performing their assigned functions and in carrying out the purposes of the Association. Payment of such actual expenses shall be made from Association funds.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1. TIME AND PLACE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The time and place of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at a time and place fixed by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President at any time or place, on the President's own motion or at the request of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the directors. The President shall notify the Secretary of the time and place thereof and direct the giving of notice as provided herein.

### **Section 3. NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS**

The Secretary shall give each director written notice of the time and place of each such special meeting of the Board of Directors, at least five (5) days

before the date of the meeting. Such notice shall be deemed sufficient if emailed or mailed to the last known address of a director.

#### **Section 4. WAIVER OF NOTICE**

The attendance of any director at any special meeting shall constitute a waiver of such notice. A written waiver of notice from any director, either before or after such meeting, shall eliminate the necessity for such notice. Any director who shall execute a written consent to any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors, within thirty (30) days following the date of such meeting, shall be deemed to have waived any objection to the legality of such meeting on any ground.

#### **Section 5. QUORUM**

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors. However, less than a quorum may adjourn a meeting to any other time.

#### **Section 6. PROXY VOTING AND ALTERNATES**

No proxy voting shall be allowed at any meeting of the Board of Directors. However, in the absence of a director, the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association that such absent director represents may name a temporary alternate by written notification to the Association. Any alternate must satisfy all credential requirements of a director.

#### **Section 7. TELEPHONIC PARTICIPATION**

Attendance at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be either in person or by any means by which all directors are able to simultaneously hear one another.

#### **Section 8. ACTION WITHOUT MEETING BY UNANIMOUS WRITTEN CONSENT**

Unless otherwise provided by law, any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing setting forth the action so taken is signed by all the directors and delivered to the President. The written consent shall specify the time at which the action taken is to be effective. The written consent can be delivered to the President via U.S. mail, email, or facsimile. A written consent shall not be revoked once all written consents signed by all of the directors have been delivered.

#### **Section 9. VOTING**

The act of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE**

#### **Section 1. GOVERNANCE**

The business and affairs of the Association shall be governed by a nine-member Executive Committee consisting of the President, Chairman, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four at-large members elected by the Association's Board of Directors. The Executive Committee may do or perform any act related to daily governance of the Association, except that such committee shall have no power to amend these Bylaws, adopt a strategic plan for the Association, or approve or disapprove affiliate state or multi-state soybean association membership in the Association, which acts are expressly reserved as actions that may only be taken by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for fiscal and administrative affairs, monitoring available funding and budget approval. The Executive Committee shall act as the Personnel Committee and shall be responsible for reviewing salary policies and guidelines, group employee benefits and other matters generally related to the Association's personnel policies. The Executive Committee is responsible for the oversight, including the hiring and terminating, of the Association's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who in turn oversees the association's other employees and contractors.



## **Section 2. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

At each annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall elect officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee. Individuals elected to the Executive Committee must be voting members of the Board of Directors. Individuals elected to the Executive Committee shall serve one-year terms to commence immediately following the election. No individual may serve for more than one full term in the same officer position except the Secretary and Treasurer, who may serve up to two consecutive full terms in either position. Service under the provisions of Article VI, Section 4, and Article XI, Section 1 shall not be counted toward a full term. An individual who has served as Vice President, President or Chairman shall not be eligible for election to the same position or any other officer position.

## **Section 3. PRESIDENT**

The President is the principal elected officer of the Association. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and at all meetings of the Association's members, shall serve as an ex officio member of all standing, special committees and advocacy teams, and shall carry out all other duties that are commonly associated with office of President. The President may serve no more than one one-year term, but a partial term shall not be counted in applying this limitation. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, is responsible for making appointments to committees and advocacy teams.

## **Section 4. VICE PRESIDENT**

The Vice President shall be president-elect and shall serve as chairman of the Resolutions process. The Vice President shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall serve as an ex officio member on all advocacy teams. In addition, the Vice President shall fulfill the functions of the President in the event of the President's death, resignation, absence, or inability to serve as such, and the Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President upon the conclusion of the President's term of office.

## **Section 5. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

The immediate past president of the Association shall serve as chairman of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors. The chairman of the Board of Directors shall serve as chairman of the Association's Nominating Committee and Governance Committee.

The Chairman may serve past a nine-year term limit provided the Chairman is duly elected to the Association's Board of Directors by the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association the Chairman represents. In the event the Chairman serves an additional year beyond the nine-year term limit, the additional year will be considered the first year of the succeeding director's initial three-year term.

## **Section 6. AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

There shall be four at-large members of the Executive Committee.

## **Section 7. SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall supervise the keeping of the books and records of the Association, keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Association's members, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, and the making of annual reports and such other reports as the Board of Directors may request or as may be required by law. The Secretary may perform all the duties of the position by the delegation thereof to the Chief Executive Officer or such other person designated by the Board of Directors.

## **Section 8. TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall supervise the keeping of the financial records of the Association, the receipt and deposit and disbursement of the monies of the Association under the direction of the Board of Directors, and such other duties normally associated with the office of Treasurer. The Treasurer may perform all the duties of the position by the delegation thereof to the Chief Executive Officer or such other person designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The Vice Chairperson of the Finance Committee will be the Assistant Treasurer and, in the absence, death, inability or refusal of the Treasurer to act, the Assistant Treasurer shall have all the powers and be subject to the same provisions as herein prescribed for the Treasurer; however, will not be a member of the Executive Committee.

## **Section 9. ADMINISTRATION OF POLICIES**

The policies and programs of the Board of Directors and officers of the Association, including the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary and Treasurer, may be carried out, affected, managed, and administered by such person as may be selected and employed from time to time by the Board of Directors. Such employee may be designated as Chief Executive Officer or by any other title deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. The powers, duties and salary of such employee shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. Subject to review by the Board of Directors, the President shall supervise or direct this Chief Executive Officer in the performance of his duties; however, he cannot hire or terminate the CEO unilaterally. Other positions may be created and filled by the Board of Directors from time to time with appropriate powers, duties, title and salaries, to carry out the expanded program of the Association.

## **Section 10. BONDING OF TREASURER**

So long as the functions of the Treasurer are handled by a person selected by the Board of Directors under the provisions of Article VI, Section 8 of these Bylaws, the Treasurer shall have no personal liability for monies or property of the Association and need not be bonded.

## **ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES AND TEAMS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws and with the exception of the Executive Committee of the Association, the President shall consult with the Executive Committee and appoint the members of the following committees of the Board of Directors. Each such committee or team shall consist of no fewer than three (3) directors and shall fulfill the functions and responsibilities as directed by the Board of Directors. Other members of the Association may also be appointed to such committees or team. All committees or teams of the Board of Directors shall be chaired or co-chaired by a voting director of the Association unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. All committees or teams shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

### **Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Board of Directors shall elect a nine-member Executive Committee as set forth in Article VI, Section 1 of these Bylaws.

### **Section 2. ADVOCACY TEAMS**

The President shall consult with the Executive Committee and appoint the members of one or more Advocacy Teams as the President or Board of Directors may deem necessary from time to time to carry out the advocacy work of the Association. The Advocacy Teams shall be involved in monitoring policy actions, analyzing policy, developing advocacy action plans, providing advocacy leadership and participating in various advocacy efforts, as related to their specific area.

## **Section 3. TRADE POLICY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Trade Policy & International Affairs (TPIA) Committee is responsible for determining export promotion priorities, strategies, and funding levels for the investment of USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) funding received by the Association as the “cooperator” with FAS. The TPIA Committee also may serve as the Trade Advocacy Team in establishing trade policy and market access advocacy objectives and plans.

## **Section 4. WISHH COMMITTEE**

The World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) Committee will operate under the Association’s WISHH Committee Operating Guidelines. On an annual basis, the WISHH Committee will nominate new members to the committee and the chair will present a list of nominees to the Association’s President for appointment.

## **Section 5. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Planning Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the mission and vision of the Association. It is responsible for recommending strategies to the Board of Directors relative to long- term issues and opportunities.

## **Section 6. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee is responsible for advising the Executive Committee on business and fiscal affairs, monitoring available funding and recommending the annual budget and other funding requests to the Executive Committee.

## **Section 7. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee shall be composed of two members from the Executive Committee, four members from the Board of Directors plus the Association’s Treasurer in an ex-officio, non-voting position. Such committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors the selection or confirmation of the auditor, receive the auditor’s reports, monitor progress or improvements recommended by the auditor and report annually to the Board of Directors.

## **Section 8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Each year, prior to the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, consisting of no fewer than three members from the Board of Directors, shall present nominations for the Executive Committee to be elected at such annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made by any Director at such meeting.

## **Section 9. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The Governance Committee shall annually review the Association’s Bylaws and Policies to ensure they are current, relevant, and meet the needs of the Association to function as a viable, superior performing legal organization. The committee shall propose amendments to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval, if appropriate. The committee will assess the Board’s current composition and identify current and future needs and ensure training for new and current Board members.

## **Section 10. COUNCIL OF PAST PRESIDENTS**

All past presidents of the Association shall be members of a group to be known as the Council of Past Presidents, with the Chairman of the Board of Directors as its chairman. Such council shall serve only as an advisory group at the request of the Board of Directors. Any member of such council who is not a current member of the Board of Directors shall serve on such council at such member’s own expense.

## **Section 11. OTHER COMMITTEES**

The President shall consult with the Executive Committee and appoint the members of such other or additional committees, advocacy teams, task forces or working groups as the President or Board of Directors may deem necessary from time to time to carry out the work of the Association.

## **ARTICLE VIII. APPOINTMENT TO USSEC**

On an annual basis, the President shall consult with the Executive Committee and appoint representatives from the Association's Board of Directors to serve as the Association's representatives on the Board of the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC). The Association's Board of Directors may remove any such representative serving on the USSEC Board at any time by majority vote, with or without cause.

## **ARTICLE IX. AFFILIATED STATE OR MULTI-STATE SOYBEAN ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Section 1. AFFILIATION**

At any annual, regular or special meeting, the Board of Directors of the Association may, upon written request, recognize any duly organized state or multi-state soybean association as an affiliate of the Association and grant Affiliate Membership so long as it meets all five of the following requirements:

- (a) It is a bona fide state or multi-state organization duly incorporated as such.
- (b) It is not itself a member of nor is it affiliated with any other national soybean policy organization. "Soybean policy organization" means a nonprofit organization primarily dedicated to improving the condition of American soybean producers or some segment thereof substantially through policy and legislative advocacy work at the national level.
- (c) No conflicts exist between its Articles of Incorporation or bylaws and those of the Association.
- (d) It agrees to sign an Affiliation Agreement and invest in the Association as outlined in Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws.
- (e) No state shall be entitled to more than one such affiliate soybean association.

### **Section 2. DISAFFILIATION**

If at any time the Board of Directors determines that any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association has failed to meet any of the foregoing requirements for affiliation or has breached its duties regarding applicable investment levels in the Association as outlined in Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws or the coordination of policies or has taken actions contrary to the best interests of the Association, such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association shall be notified of its opportunity to cure the deficiency or breach within one hundred eighty (180) days of receipt of notice. During this one hundred eighty (180) day period, the Association and such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association shall meet in good faith to attempt to reach resolution. Upon failure to timely cure the specified deficiency or breach and reach resolution, the Association's Board of Directors may proceed with disaffiliation pursuant to the procedure required by law.

### **Section 3. COORDINATION OF POLICIES**

The public policy of the Association and affiliated state or multi-state soybean association members should be coordinated and consistent. An affiliated state or multi-state soybean association shall not actively oppose the Association's national or international public policy as adopted by either the Association's member voting delegates or the Association's Board of Directors.

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If an affiliated state or multi-state soybean association votes to adopt policy contrary to that of the Association, it shall notify the Association's President at its earliest opportunity. An affiliated state or multi-state soybean association agrees not to oppose the announced policy of the Association except at the next annual meeting of the Association's members or any meeting of the Association's Board of Directors. Conversely, the Association will not knowingly, actively oppose any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association's policy. If the Association adopts or seriously considers the adoption of any state level policy contrary to any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association's policy, it will bring this fact to the attention of such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association's President at its earliest opportunity.

## **ARTICLE X. REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, APPOINTED POSITIONS AND DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1. REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Any officer or at-large Executive Committee member of the Association who is absent from more than two (2) Executive Committee meetings or two (2) Board of Directors meetings during a calendar year may be removed from the Executive Committee without further cause at any regular or special meeting by the Board of Directors. For purpose of this Article X, Section 1, missing more than half of a meeting shall be deemed an absence.

Any officer or at-large Executive Committee member of the Association who violates the Code of Conduct or Legal Duties may be removed from their position and the Executive Committee. Any petition of 10 or more Board of Director members can request an officer or at-large Executive Committee member be removed. The officer or at-large Executive Committee member being asked to step down from the Executive Committee may present evidence to the Board of Directors. A two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors is required to remove an officer or at-large Executive Committee member.

### **Section 2. REMOVAL OF DIRECTOR FROM APPOINTED POSITION**

Any Board of Director member who is appointed to a position, such as chair or vice-chair of a committee or advocacy team, of the Association who violates the Code of Conduct or Legal Duties may be removed from their appointed position. In consultation with the Executive Committee, the President may request a Board of Director member be removed from their appointed position. The Board of Director member being asked to step down from their appointed position may present evidence to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee is required to remove a Board of Director member from their appointed position.

### **Section 3. REMOVAL OF DIRECTOR FROM BOARD**

Any member of the Board of Directors who was elected to such position by an affiliated state or multi-state soybean association may be removed by such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association, provided the authority for such removal is contained in the Articles of Incorporation or bylaws of such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association and upon condition that the prescribed procedure therefore has been followed. Such removal shall be effective upon receipt by the Secretary of the Association of a formal notice from such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association that it has removed such director.

Any Board of Director member who violates the Code of Conduct or Legal Duties may be asked to step down voluntarily. The Board of Directors may also request the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association remove their director in accordance with Article X, Section 2 of the ASA Bylaws.

The Board of Director member being asked to step down from Board of Directors may present evidence to the Board of Directors. A two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors is required to send a request to the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association.

## **ARTICLE XI. FILLING DIRECTOR OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCIES**

### **Section 1. FILLING VACANT OFFICE**

In the event of any vacancy of an Executive Committee member, whether from death, resignation or removal, the Board of Directors may fill such vacancy by an election held for that purpose at the next regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors. Any person elected to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee shall fill the unexpired term of the predecessor.

### **Section 2. FILLING VACANT DIRECTORSHIP**

In the event of any vacancy on the Board of Directors, whether from death, resignation or removal, the affiliated state or multi-state soybean association that elected such director to the Board of Directors may fill such vacancy; provided, however, such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association must remain entitled to such number of directors under Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XII. AFFILIATE INVESTMENT AND DUES**

### **Section 1. MEMBERSHIP**

The Board of Directors shall establish affiliated state or multi-state soybean association investment levels and dues rates for general membership, associate membership, cooperating membership and foreign contributing membership. Each affiliated state or multi-state soybean association's annual minimum unrestricted investment shall be divided into four installments due to the Association quarterly, on or before October 1, January 1, April 1 and July 1 of each fiscal year.

### **Section 2. USE OF AFFILIATED STATE OR MULTI-STATE SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION INVESTMENTS**

The Association, being a nonprofit corporation, shall use affiliated state or multi-state soybean association investment funds for promotional work and to further the objectives set out in the Association's Articles of Incorporation. The affiliated state or multi-state soybean association investments and any other monies derived from other sources, if any, not used by the Association for current operations, shall be available for educational work, promotion of objectives, research and market development.

### **Section 3. DELINQUENCY AND EXPIRATIONS**

Any affiliated state or multi-state soybean association that shall be delinquent in its quarterly payments for a period of forty-five (45) days or more from the time payment was due shall be considered past due. In the event such delinquency in payment continues for more than ninety (90) days, the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may deem all rights and privileges of such affiliated state or multi-state soybean association forfeited.

## **ARTICLE XIII. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Association shall commence on October 1 of each year and shall end on September 30 of the following year.

## **ARTICLE XIV. LIABILITY**

### **Section 1. LIABILITY OF CORPORATION**

The Association shall not be liable for the acts of its employees, members, officers or directors who have acted beyond their authority.

## **Section 2. LIABILITY OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS**

Except as otherwise provided by law, an employee, member, officer or director of the Association is not liable for the Association's debts or obligations. Further, an employee, member, officer or director is not personally liable in that capacity to any person for any action taken or failure to take any action in the discharge of that person's duties except for any of the following:

- (a) The amount of any financial benefit to which the person is not entitled.
- (b) An intentional infliction of harm on the Association or its members.
- (c) Voting for or assenting to any distribution of corporate assets in violation of Section 504.835 of the Iowa Code, as amended.
- (d) An intentional violation of criminal law.

## **Section 3. INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

The Association will indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## **ARTICLE XV. RULES OF ORDER**

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority on all points not covered by the Association's Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XVI. CORPORATE RECORDS**

The Association will keep correct and completed books and records, minutes of Board of Directors meetings and meetings of the Association's members, records of all actions taken by its members or directors without a meeting, minutes of all meetings of committees of the Board of Directors, a membership list, all appropriate accounting records, and such other records as required by law. It shall retain those records for the time period required by law. The Association shall keep all records, books, and annual reports of the financial activity of the Association at its principal office. The Association shall make available to members for a valid purpose, asserted in good faith, and directly related to the member's interest as a member, those corporate records as required by law, to the extent and in the manner required by applicable law.

## **ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended at any time by the Board of Directors with two-thirds majority of members present voting in the affirmative or a simple majority if ten (10) days prior notice is given for the proposed amendments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Investment Levels 1 through 10, as outlined in Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws, may be amended only by a vote in which directors representing at least two-thirds of affiliated state or multi-state soybean associations are in the majority.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. DOING BUSINESS IN OTHER STATES**

### **Section 1. DOING BUSINESS IN OTHER STATES**

The Board of Directors shall be authorized to do business and to carry out the purposes of the Association in any state or territory of the United States of America and in any other country.

### **Section 2. QUALIFYING TO DO BUSINESS IN OTHER STATES AND COUNTRIES**

The Board of Directors shall authorize the execution and filing of such applications and documents as may be necessary to qualify the Association to do business in any state or territory of the United States or in any other country and shall designate such agent or agents as required for conducting business in such state, territory or country.

## ASA BOARD MEETINGS

### July 15-17, 2025

The Westin Washington, D.C.  
City Center  
1400 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

### Dec 9-11, 2025

St. Charles Convention Center/  
Embassy Suites St. Charles  
1 Convention Center Plaza  
St. Charles, MO 63303

### March 10-11, 2026

Hilton Washington, D.C.  
Capitol Hill  
525 New Jersey Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

### July 14-15, 2026

Hilton Washington, D.C.  
Capitol Hill  
525 New Jersey Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20001

### Dec 8-10, 2026

St. Charles Convention Center/  
Embassy Suites St. Charles  
1 Convention Center Plaza  
St. Charles, MO 63303

## COMMODITY CLASSIC


February 25-27, 2026  
San Antonio, Texas









## ASA SOCIAL MEDIA

 /AmericanSoybeanAssociation

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## ASA WEBSITE

 [soygrowers.com](http://soygrowers.com)