

A young person wearing a blue baseball cap with 'TITAN MACHINERY' on it, a bright yellow-green t-shirt with a 'FARM SAFETY CAMP' logo, and white work gloves is working on a large piece of agricultural machinery, likely a combine harvester. They are holding a metal rod and a small red tool. The background shows a grassy field and a clear sky.

# THE NORTH DAKOTA **Soybean** GROWER MAGAZINE

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AUGUST 2023

**INSIDE:**  
**Not Your Average Summer Camp**

**PAGE 18**



# NORTHERN SOY

## QUALITY

UNLOCKING KNOWLEDGE OF SOY QUALITY

## ABOUT NORTHERN SOY MARKETING

NSM is comprised of the [soybean checkoff organizations from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin](#). The board invests soybean checkoff funds to conduct research on soybean quality in U.S. soybeans and soybean meal destined for export, especially those from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) ports. NSM funds educational outreach sessions for international soybean buyers to consider critical amino acid value as a complete assessment of soybean feed quality rather than only crude protein levels.

## MARKET RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Investing in market research to understand potential customers is critical for NSM and their mission. Because Southeast Asia is an ideal target for U.S. soy leaving through the PNW, NSM hired Spire Research and Consulting to survey key players in three SE Asia countries to gain more understanding on their U.S. soy import habits. [Take a look at their findings.](#)

### RESEARCH GOALS

- 01 Evaluate the knowledge and usage of the critical amino acid value (CAAV) metric
- 02 Understand how buyers make decisions regarding essential amino acids (EAA) versus crude protein

### A BREAKDOWN OF CAAV

Critical Amino Acid Value (CAAV) is a protein quality metric measuring the five critical amino acids as a percent of crude protein.

#### THE EQUATION

$$\frac{\% \text{ Lysine} + \% \text{ Threonine} + \% \text{ Tryptophan} + (\% \text{ Methionine} + \% \text{ Cysteine})}{(\text{Total Amino Acids})} = \text{Critical Amino Acid Value (CAAV)}$$

Experts state that calculating CAAV is a more taxing process that many buyers don't consider.

### SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Importers, feed processing companies, farmers and experts from:



Thailand



Indonesia



Vietnam



>80% of surveyed experts and nutritionists agree that essential amino acids are a better indicator of quality than crude protein.

### BUYERS' CRITERION

01 PRICE

02 CRUDE PROTEIN VALUE

03 COMPOSITION CHARACTERISTICS

04 CAAV

05 OTHER  
*country of origin, standards and cert.*

“The prevailing perception among buyers is that a higher level of crude protein means highly nutritious feed and higher amino acids.”

EAA: Essential Amino Acids

Experts: Feed nutritionists and formulators

CAAV: Critical Amino Acid Value



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## On the cover

North Dakota farms frequently involve all members of the family, including kids. Farm safety camps provide young people and adults with tools they can use to stay safe through a wide range of on-farm scenarios involving equipment, livestock and more.

—Photo by staff



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# NDSU Research and Extension, Interim Committees

reported on issues about taxation, water, transportation and other major categories of importance from the latest legislative session in the previous issue. The major budget and efforts surrounding North Dakota State University Research and Extension were saved for this issue.

Created by the legislature in 1997 and 1999, the State Board of Agricultural Research and Extension (SBARE) is tasked with identifying problems in North Dakota agriculture along with prioritizing needs to combat those problems. Board members travel to obtain input from all corners of the state, which translates into requests for help during legislative sessions. The priorities are organized under three basic categories: Agricultural Experiment Stations, Extension Program Initiatives and Capital Improvements, and one-time expenditures. The number-one priority for Capital Improvements was the field lab facility, with a price tag of \$97 million. Of that total, \$87 million were funded, with \$10 million to be raised from other sources. Construction can begin while the fundraising for the other money is ongoing.

The following description from the North Dakota State University website describes the need for the upgraded facility: “Field Lab Facility: Field agronomic, plant disease and soils research address the pressing questions and important issues needed by state producers.” Unfortunately, the current field lab facilities used by scientists are no longer adequate to address these critical research needs. Waldron Hall, Widakas Laboratory, the Potato Research Laboratory and the Horticulture laboratory were all built between the 1940s and 1960s prior to the advent of personal computers and other modern equipment commonly used in field research, and at a time when field crop production yields in North Dakota were much lower and consisted largely of small grains. The future of North Dakota’s successful agriculture depends on modern field facilities that will allow researchers to address the needs of the industry with improved access to varieties that are adapted to the climate of North Dakota, better fertility recommendations, improved weed control and improved responses to plant disease challenges.”

The legislature also provided funding under Capital Improvements for four machine storage sheds, the Nesson Valley irrigation research site and deferred maintenance.

The number-one priority for the Ag Experiment Station was Plant Production and Protection with the critical need identified as filling jobs in research, teaching and Extension. The original request was for seven full-time equivalent positions. The legislature did not fully fund this slate, but the Dickinson Research Extension Center (REC) received an agronomist; the Langdon REC received a clubroot fungus technician; Oakes got operating support for irrigation; and the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network received support as well.

Under Extension, a soybean pathologist was funded, as was a swine specialist, 4-H, farm and ranch health and safety, and other programs. One can visit the Extension website if a broader depth of information is desired, but to be clear, the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) is involved with supporting these large budgets.

As far as looking forward is concerned, the interim committees tasked with studying issues that may be translated into bills next session, along with receiving reports from various state agencies, have been formed. There are a few committees to which the NDSGA will be paying attention, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Water Topics and Taxation. There have been no meetings planned at the point of this writing, but newly appointed committee chairs will soon be scheduling some. The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee is being chaired by the last session’s House Agriculture Chairman Representative Paul Thomas. The committee is tasked with conducting a study on land use authority; another on businesses or land owned by a foreign adversary; and a third on the mitigation of adverse wildlife and environmental effects as well as payments made to state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others. By my count, around 16 of the 20 members for this committee are farmers.

Taxation is chaired by Representative Jared Hagert who worked on the Taxation Com-



**Veteran lawmaker and educator Phil Murphy is the NDSGA liaison between legislators and farmers.**

mittee during the last session. The committee is studying tax exemptions for warehouses, elevators and other farm structures that are classified as commercial property. Another study must look at the property tax shift if the exemptions were granted. The last study is to look at the effect of a political subdivision levying special assessments against another political subdivision, for example, a county levying a tax on a township.

Water Topics is chaired by Senator Ronald Sorvaag, and its duties include overseeing water-related topics and discussing these issues with any other states that might be involved, maintaining an overview of the Garrison Diversion, and reporting on the committee’s prioritization of projects and the funds involved with water projects.

Best of luck to you with your growing season and all the challenges that come with it.

**Follow what’s happening in the North Dakota Legislature with agriculture policies and issues. Phil Murphy, NDSGA’s liaison between legislators and farmers, writes the “Murphy’s Law” blog. Scan to subscribe to “Murphy’s Law” blog today!**



# Staying Power

**W**e can all likely think of professional athletes who set their sport on fire early in their careers but quickly faded into anonymity. These so-called “flashes in the pan” seemed like the next big thing one day, but that bright future never developed. On the other hand, there are players who, through talent, hard work and savvy, have carved out successful careers that have spanned years, even decades.

For the past 40 years, the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) has worked on behalf of the state's soybean farmers. This idea of farmers helping themselves and their fellow farmers through grassroots advocacy is no passing concept. The NDSGA's purpose is as important today as it was the day the organization was created.

In this issue of the North Dakota Soybean Grower, you'll see how the foresight of the NDSGA founders continues to be relevant and active today.

Soybean leaders make regular visits to Bismarck and Washington, D.C., not only to advocate for issues that benefit North Dakota farmers but also to be a resource for legislators.

The only way that happens is by cultivating relationships. Face-to-face conversations with lawmakers and staff help farmer-leaders better convey the needs of the state's producers.

Sometimes, those advocacy efforts result in policy changes. The U.S. Supreme Court recently concluded that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current rule for enforcing the Waters of the U.S. was a significant overreach. Both the American Soybean Association (ASA) and the NDSGA had pushed hard to get a more reasonable approach for wetland jurisdiction. While the EPA will now be working on a new rule that is more in line with the Supreme Court's ruling, we can appreciate the favorable outcome.

For nearly the entire time that the NDSGA has existed, the ASA has offered the Corteva Agriscience Young Leader program that is designed to train and to equip the next generation of soybean farmers to lead the industry. By raising up a new group of farmer-leaders each year, the soybean industry is building staying power.

Agriculture needs all the willing advocates we can find. Rather than waiting for people to promote themselves, the NDSGA works



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to build resilience by having trained leaders who are willing to advocate for agriculture's needs. Those leaders will be needed as we look forward to the next 40 years.



## Membership Application

To join the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association and the American Soybean Association, complete and return this application with payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Farmer    ☐ Retired    ☐ Agribusiness  
☐ Finance    ☐ Elevator    ☐ Other

Do you raise:    ☐ Cattle    ☐ Hogs    ☐ Poultry    ☐ Dairy

Do you currently grow soybeans?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

Soybean Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Acres Farmed: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about NDSGA? (Please circle one)

Recruited in person; Recruited by phone; Magazine;  
Internet; Social Media; Mailing; Radio; Event; Other

☐ 3-Year Professional Membership: \$200    ☐ Retired Farmer: \$25

☐ 1-Year Professional Membership: \$75    ☐ 1-Year Student: Free

☐ Check enclosed (please make checks payable to NDSGA)

☐ Credit Card: Visa / MasterCard / Discover / American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application with payment to: North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, 4852 Rocking Horse Circle South, Fargo, ND 58104

A photograph of Stephanie Cook, a young woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. She is crouching in a field of young green plants, smiling at the camera. In the background, there is a white building with a blue roof and some trees.

# Following Her *Passion*

**T**he 2023 growing season is presenting a new challenge for Stephanie Cook of Davenport. While she's no novice at farming, this year, the process of planting, harvesting and marketing her crops is giving her a new perspective.

"This is the first year that I am establishing myself as a farmer, as far as buying my own land, renting my own land, putting my own crop in," Cook says.

Cook is also farming with her parents, making her the fourth generation of her family to till the North Dakota soil.

There may not be a lot of female

farm operators in North Dakota, but it likely comes as no surprise to people around her that Cook is one of them.

"I've always jumped at every chance to go help on the farm, even from when I was a young kid," Cook recounts. "When I was first getting to drive, I'd bring lunches out to the field or run around, helping get equipment going during harvest, washing windows and greasing equipment, doing all of that type of stuff."

Cook states that she has always had a passion for agriculture and that those flames were fanned through her involvement in FFA

during high school. Cook went on to college, earning an agribusiness degree with a business administration minor. An internship with Titan Machinery during college led to a full-time job with the company after graduation.

Cook believes that working in the corporate world and stepping away from the family farm for a while was likely a good thing. She worked at Titan Machinery for about eight years before marriage and children changed the dynamic. Cook decided to stay home with her two daughters until they were old enough to be by themselves for a few hours. Now that

they're teenagers, Cook was ready to make the leap.

"I took the chance to get more active on the farm again, and it has just kind of snowballed," Cook maintains, "and here I am today, taking on more and more responsibility and stepping out on my own."

## Young Leader

As if becoming a first-time farm owner wasn't enough of a load, Cook was also encouraged to apply for the American Soybean Association's Corteva Agriscience Young Leader program. The leader-training program seeks to identify and to train new, innovative and engaged growers to serve as the voice of the American farmer.

"I have two friends who went through the program, and they just raved about their experience, and they really kind of pushed me, but it wasn't a hard push because I was excited to try to do it," Cook explains. "My friends pushed me to apply, but I didn't feel like I was qualified. On paper, everything looks like I would be, but up until this year, I was just an employee of the farm, so I never felt like I was qualified or eligible to participate."

Cook applied to the program, was accepted and has thoroughly enjoyed and grown from the experience.

"It's been a great push and a great confidence boost to really take the leap and jump in and establish myself as a farmer and a business owner," Cook explains. "The Young Leader program has helped me to step up and make connections and build relationships. It has just been amazing."

Along with enhancing participants' skills through leadership, communications and issues-based training, the Young Leader program also builds a strong peer network. Cook has found those relationships to be invaluable.

"We're all there to cheer each other on. That's been huge,"

Cook contends.

Because the Young Leader program is available to farmers nationwide, Cook has met with fellow young farmers who are also dealing with the day-to-day challenges of farming.

"It's been fun to see how agriculture is all over the United States. It's so different from one farm to the next, yet still the same," Cook says.

Spouses or partners are encouraged to participate in the program. Cook's husband, Jesse, attended with her. Although he's not involved with the farm's daily operation, every family member pitches in to help the family business when needed.

While being a female farm owner may put her in the minority in North Dakota, Cook was not alone in the Young Leader program.

"In my local area, I do feel like I am in the minority as far as being the main farmer," Cook states, "but in the Young Leader program, there were four females who were the main applicant. It was also encouraging to see all of the couples there and how strong the females were in those operations."



**Stephanie and Jesse Cook, Davenport, N.D., center, accepted a Young Leader program plaque from Matt Rekeweg, U.S. Industry Affairs Leader, Corteva Agriscience. Others pictured are Turner Bridgforth, Federal Government and Industry Affairs Manager, Corteva Agriscience, far left; Katie Jordan, Federal Government Affairs and PAC Manager, Corteva Agriscience, far right; and Christine Luelf, Director of Affiliate Relations and Leader Development, American Soybean Association.**

### Deeper Involvement

The North Dakota Young Leader also gets to participate on the board of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA). Cook states that she used to know enough about the world of politics to consider herself dangerous. Now, she has a broader picture of how policy decisions can affect farmers in a multitude of ways.

"I'm learning all of the political aspects and how that affects us on the farm. There's just so much," Cook contends. "That is part of the bigger picture that you don't always remember when you're just at the farm working every day."

Cook describes how the Young Leader program has helped her to be more confident when talking about farm issues. The program has assisted her with learning

more about opportunities to help her advance her farm in order to make it more efficient and better.

"It's definitely been a positive move for me in my career," Cook explains.

The NDSGA is seeking applicants for the 2024 Young Leader program. The current participant leaves no doubt about the value of applying.

"If I could do the program every single year, I would," Cook asserts. "When we had our last training at Commodity Classic, nobody was ready for it to be done. If you're questioning whether or not to apply, I would say, yes, 100%, just apply and try. You gain so much out of it."

*—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos by Daniel Lemke,  
Wanbaugh Studios and ASA*



**Stephanie Cook's desire to farm started at an early age, now she runs her own operation.**

**To apply for the Corteva Agriscience Young Leader program, scan the QR code.**



# Determined to Make a Difference: 40 Years of the NDSGA

“Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.”

That quotation from cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead wasn't said with the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) in mind, but 40 years ago, a few passionate farmers changed the state's agricultural landscape forever.

The idea to form a soybean association in North Dakota began with the late Paul Schroeder of Davenport. Schroeder recounted his rationale in a published history of the North Dakota Soybean Council.

"I was farming about 500 acres of soybeans and was a member of the American Soybean Association (ASA)," said Schroeder. "I noticed that South Dakota had become an affiliated member of ASA and I thought, 'Why can't we?'"

Schroeder contacted Bob Sinner of Casselton to float the idea.

"We were one of the very first in North Dakota to raise soybeans back in the early '50s, and we've always been proud of that," Sinner recalls, "and I said, 'I can't think of something that I'd be more excited about than starting an association in

North Dakota.'"

Schroeder and Sinner were joined by the late, former North Dakota State University (NDSU) Entomologist Wayne Colberg in their efforts to get an organization formed. Sinner states that Colberg worked with county Extension Agents to identify other farmers in the state who had an

interest in getting an association started. In addition to Sinner, Schroeder and Colberg, the original group of North Dakota soybean farmers interested in establishing the NDSGA included Allen Ista, Walcott; Norden Lunde, Davenport; Tom Sinner, Jr., Casselton; Tom Simmons, Kindred; Gary Dittmer, Leonard;

and Jim Howe, Casselton.

North Dakota needed 200 farmers to become ASA members in order to form a state association. By August of 1983, there were 211 farmers who had signed up, allowing North Dakota to form the 26th state soybean association.

"At that time, we only had about 400,000 acres of soybeans in North Dakota," Sinner explains. "So, you think back about how all that really started. It was a group of guys that had the passion and the desire to make a difference."

Sinner describes how it wasn't long after the NDSGA was formed that the group started talking about soybean breeding efforts at NDSU and what the association could do to supplement funding for the program. That discussion led to legislation that eventually created a soybean checkoff and the North Dakota Soybean Council.

Sinner says that, by the early 1980s, his family had been raising soybeans for 30 years. The family members saw the advantages of having soybeans not only in their rotation on the farm, but they

## 40<sup>th</sup> 1983 2023 ANNIVERSARY North Dakota Soybean Growers Association



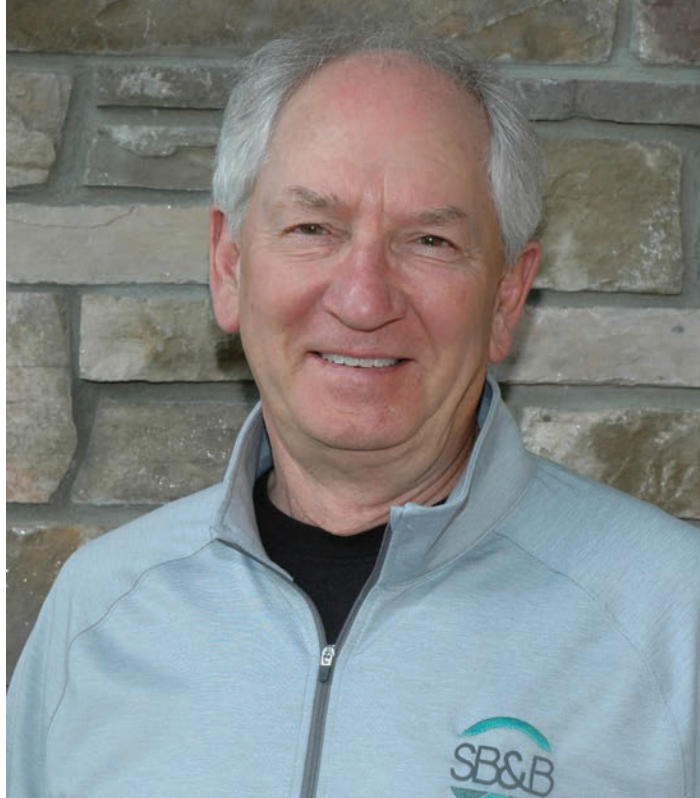
This is the first NDSGA Board of Directors. Left to right, David Holter, Curt Hagert, Wayne Colberg, Duane Berglund, Gary Friskop, Gary Woodbury, Maynard Burchill, Paul Schroeder, Bruce Fadness, Tom Dolan and Robert Sinner.

also recognized the benefit and the value soybeans generated in comparison to other crops. Those crops also benefited by having soy in their rotations. At the time, there was very little research about soybeans being done in the state and very little access to varieties.

“When we talked about the necessity of having some legislation to start a research program that can support the soybean industry in North Dakota, we didn’t have any opposition. It was really, you bet, this is long overdue. We had a soybean research program that had kind of been put on the shelf at NDSU, and we wanted to revive that.”

While there wasn’t a soybean checkoff in place, there was a wheat checkoff, so farmers were familiar with the concept. The idea of a soybean checkoff met with very little legislative resistance.

“The legislation came out of committee with a do pass, went



**Bob Sinner was one of the visionaries responsible for establishing the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association.**

to the floor and passed with an extremely large majority. I think there were only one or two dis-

senting votes,” Sinner recalls, “so it went on to the governor’s desk. In 1985, when we got this legislation

passed out of both houses and it went to the governor’s desk for signature, that governor was my father. And so that was a slam dunk. There was no way that I was going to allow him to not sign off and approve this legislation.”

Since those early days of the NDSGA, soybean production in North Dakota has changed dramatically. From a niche crop to a major commodity, the soybean’s reach and influence in North Dakota has grown, thanks, in no small part, to the foresight of farmers who were committed to the industry.

“Who would have ever thought,” Sinner asks, “that, 40 years ago, that we’d go from 400,000 acres to nearly 7 million acres and be the fourth largest state in terms of soybean acres in the country?”

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photos by David Klassen and archive

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# NDSC and WISHH Combine to Build Trade for U.S. Soy in New Markets

**A**s a grower leader on the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC), I also serve on the American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) Program committee along with soybean growers from other states. The committee members work with WISHH staff to introduce U.S. soy to developing and emerging markets through work in 28 countries throughout Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

I'm proud that the NDSC has continued to support WISHH's partnerships with business leaders and other organizations that want our soy for human food as well as livestock feed.

In February, I attended an NDSC sponsored trade mission to southeast Asia to receive updates on U.S. soy projects in a region that is key to our exports. I met with aquaculture farmers, feed millers and soyfood company leaders. It was an eye-opening experience that showcased how WISHH leverages support from organizations like ours to build demand for U.S. soy. For instance, during my visit to Siem Reap, Cambodia, I met with the Cambodian Aquaculturist Association (CAA), which

is comprised of fish farmers, feed millers and distributors. The CAA represents all sectors of its industry and plays a key part in sustaining trade between U.S. soybean growers and southeast Asian companies. WISHH's USDA funded aquaculture project, Commercialization of Aquaculture for Sustainable Trade (CAST) Cambodia, launched the CAA. CAST Cambodia accelerates the growth of the aquaculture industry in Cambodia, where we're proving the value of U.S. soy protein in aquaculture feeds. A leading Cambodian feed mill expanded to offer Cambodia's first soy-based aquaculture feed and has purchased U.S. soybean meal.

That trade mission is not the only WISHH project NDSC has supported over the years. The NDSC is proud to have brought several worldwide businesses to the state. Last summer, grower leaders welcomed business leaders from three different continents to North Dakota to explore new ideas for soy-based foods and feed as well as to receive an overview of soy production in the U.S. WISHH led the trade mission in conjunction with the Northern Crops Institute and helped businesses in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin American and Asia learn more



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[ndsoybean.org](http://ndsoybean.org)

about the soybean industry in America.

The list goes on for projects WISHH leads, particularly in Asia, where North Dakota soy-



NDSC Director Adam Redmann joined WISHH on a trade mission to Asia earlier this year. The NDSC sponsored program allowed farmers to see the success of U.S. soy.

bean farmers have supported WISHH's work and have had great success. The North Dakota Soybean Council's support of WISHH's programs has helped foreign companies commit to purchasing both U.S. food grade soybeans for their products and other businesses increase their purchases of U.S. commodity soybeans.

Through WISHH, we as soybean farmers are making an important investment to build soy protein demand and a preference for U.S. soy in countries that are home to some of the fastest growing populations in the world.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos courtesy of WISHH

To learn more about WISHH,  
scan the QR code, or visit [wishh.org](http://wishh.org).



## SCN Sampling Program Q&A



Got questions?  
We'll help you  
dig for answers.

Wondering if you have Soybean Cyst Nematodes (SCN)? Let the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) help.

**Q: How does the SCN sampling program work?**

**A:** The NDSC covers the cost of up to 2,000 SCN samples for growers in N.D. NDSU will label, code and distribute sample bags. Growers bag and mail sample bags to the lab.

**Q: When will the sampling program begin?**

**A:** Sample bags will be at County Extension offices in mid-late August.

**Q: How do I receive sample bags?**

**A:** Each ND grower can get up to three bags at their County Extension office

**Q: When is the best time to sample?**

**A:** The number of eggs and cysts in the soil increases throughout the growing season, making SCN detection most likely if you sample at the end of the season; from just before harvest to just before freeze-up is generally recommended.

**Q: What do the results tell me?**

**A:** Results indicate how much (if any) SCN is in your soil. If you don't find SCN, excellent! If you find SCN at any level, you want to manage it immediately. If you are already managing SCN, and your levels are still high, it may be time to evaluate additional management options.

Contact Sam Markell at NDSU with questions: [samuel.markell@ndsu.edu](mailto:samuel.markell@ndsu.edu) • (701) 231-8362

# North Dakota Soybean Council Reelects Executive Officers

## *Pierce County Soybean Producer Chris Brossart Reelected Chairman*

**E**xecutive board officers were elected during the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) board meeting on June 21. Chris Brossart of Wolford was reelected chairman of the board. Brossart represents soybean farmers in District 11, which consists of 13 northwest North Dakota counties. He grows soybeans, spring wheat, barley, corn and canola with his wife and parents on a third-generation family farm in Pierce County. He graduated from North Dakota State University (NDSU) with a degree in crop and weed sciences, and agribusiness. Brossart is active with the North Dakota Farm Bureau and the Nodak Insurance Board. From 1998-1999, Brossart was a North Dakota state officer with the National FFA Organization.

He is also involved with his local church. On behalf of NDSC, Brossart sits on the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) board.

"It's a blessing to be able to serve the soybean industry for the next year in this capacity," Chairman Brossart says. "We have an abundance of new and exciting things happening over the next year and to be able to be a part of this topic notch group is an honor."

The board reelected Rob Rose of Wimbledon as vice chairman. Rose represents soybean producers in Barnes County. He farms with his wife, Dawn, and they produce soybeans, corn, wheat, barley and pinto beans on a fifth-generation centennial farm. He is a member of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association and has an agricultural economics degree from

NDSU. Rose represents NDSC at Clean Fuel Alliance America meetings. Also, on behalf of NDSC, Rose sits on the Northern Soy Marketing board (NSM).

Mike Schlosser of Edgeley was reelected as secretary. Schlosser represents soybean farmers in District 3: LaMoure and Dickey Counties. Along with his father, Schlosser grows soybeans, corn and wheat. He graduated from NDSU with a bachelor's degree in plant protection as well as crop and weed sciences. He is active with the North Dakota Farmers Union and is a member of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. Schlosser currently sits on the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) board on behalf of NDSC.

Page soybean producer Jim Thompson was reelected treasurer. He represents soybean producers in Cass County. Thompson farms with his wife, Jennifer. He serves as the chairman of Rich Township and the president of the Cass County Township Officers Association. Thompson and his wife grow soybeans, corn, wheat and dry beans. He has a degree in aviation administration and business management from the University of North Dakota. Thompson also sits on the STC board on behalf of NDSC.

*—Story and photo by staff*



Back row, from left to right: Rob Rose, Wimbledon; Chris Brossart, Wolford; and Jim Thompson, Page. Seated: Mike Schlosser, Edgeley.

# North Dakota Soybean Council Unveils New Logo

**E**stablished in 1985, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) has been a leading source of soybean research, market development, promotion and education. With an evolving soybean industry, the North Dakota Soybean Council is leading the way with a new logo.

“When the North Dakota soybean checkoff was established in 1985, soybeans were a minor crop

in North Dakota,” says Stephanie Sinner, the NDSC’s executive director. “Thirty-eight years after the checkoff was created, North Dakota has become one of the nation’s leaders in soybean production.”

“Over the years, soybean farmers have grown, evolved and adapted to North Dakota’s broadening soybean industry,” states NDSC Chairman Chris Brossart of Wolford. “The construction of two soybean crushing plants in

North Dakota is going to open even more avenues for soybean farmers to provide food, feed and fuel to the world. These changes in our industry have inspired us to update our logo to reflect the future of the North Dakota’s soybean industry.”

The new logo is clean, sleek and coherent. The logo’s colors reflect soybean farmers’ continued commitment to the longevity of land conservation as well as the

preservation of clean water, air and other natural resources, which are vital to the viability of U.S. soybean production.

“From field to yield and beyond, the future of soybeans is strong,” asserts Brossart. “(The) NDSC is committed to innovating to expand partnerships, markets and opportunities for the success of North Dakota soybean growers.”

—Story by staff

## The North Dakota Soybean Council’s logos from 1985 through today.



1985



2004



2012



2023

## North Dakota Soybean Council’s Education Mini-Grant Program: Now Available for Kindergarten–12th Grades

**T**he North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) is now awarding grants to elementary, middle and high school teachers. The grants are worth up to \$500 and will be awarded on a competitive basis to support lessons related to soybeans or soy products. Applications can be submitted throughout the 2023–2024 school year.

Grants are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Grants awarded for the 2023–2024 school year need to be used by April 30, 2024.

Funds may be used for materials associated with projects that help students to learn more about soybeans, soybean-related products, soybean research, soy innovations, and soy as part of health and nutrition.

—Story and photo by staff

To learn more and apply, visit [bit.ly/NDSCSoyEduGrants](https://bit.ly/NDSCSoyEduGrants) or use QR code below.



Grants are now available for the 2023–2024 North Dakota school year.

# Beans and Baseball



**NDSC Director Adam Redmann, St. Thomas, throws out the ceremonial first pitch.**

**S**ome North Dakota soybean farmers traded in their farm fields for a baseball field to promote the many uses for soy.

The North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) was the game sponsor and held a special promotion at Newman Outdoor Stadium

on July 21 for a Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks baseball game versus the Kane County Cougars.

The NDSC promotion featured a table in the concourse with information about soy foods, soy uses around the house as well as other new uses for soy. Game attendees spun a prize

wheel to test their knowledge about different soybean and agriculture related topics.

"Soybeans are used in so many ways," says Shireen Alemadi, NDSC outreach and education coordinator, "including as feed for animal agriculture, in housing materials, for industrial products,

in food, fuel and more. We wanted to connect with consumers of all ages and share how an important North Dakota crop makes a difference in their life every day."

As a professional, minor league baseball team, the RedHawks draw a wide audience and bring in a diverse fan base.



**NDSC Director Evan Montgomery (second from left), Grand Forks, and his quartet, Jones Boat, sing the National Anthem.**



**Little League players from Fargo enthusiastically greet Suzie Soybean at the RedHawks game, July 21.**

“We were excited to interact with them (the fans) and talk about the amazing soybean,” Alemadi states. “Plus, it’s a fun, informal environment to connect with people who are interested to learn more about soybeans and the great work all the North Dakota

soybean farmers do every day.”

Some of the evening’s promotional activities also took place on the field. NDSC Director Adam Redmann, from St. Thomas, took to the mound to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

“It was great to be able to

throw out the first pitch and represent the North Dakota Soybean Council and to have the opportunity to expose people to all the many uses and benefits of soy,” Redmann contends.

Soybean farmers also struck a high note at the game because

NDSC Director Evan Montgomery’s quartet, Jones Boat, sang the National Anthem prior to the game.

To learn more products made from soy, visit [SoyNewUses.org](http://SoyNewUses.org).

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos by staff



Suzie Soybean and NDSC directors attend the RedHawks baseball game to help promote soy. From left to right: Adam Redmann, St. Thomas; Suzie Soybean; Evan Montgomery, Grand Forks; and Jim Thompson, Page.



NDSC Executive Director Stephanie Sinner helps a young baseball fan spin the prize wheel.

## Many Thanks!

**A**t the end of June, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) said farewell to Director Dan Spiekermeier of Sheldon. The NDSC was proud to recognize Spiekermeier for six years of service to the board. Spiekermeier served as the treasurer for two years during his term. The NDSC is grateful for his willingness to serve North Dakota’s soybean producers, and thanks his family for supporting him over the years. Thank you, Dan!

—Story and photo by staff



NDSC Chairman Chris Brossart, left, presents an appreciation award to Dan Spiekermeier, right.

# Prime Time for Disease Scouting

**A**ugust may be the calm before the harvest storm, but it's a perfect time to scout fields for soybean diseases.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Plant Pathologist Sam Markell, Ph.D., calls August the most interesting time of the year for disease observation.

"That's because you really can see how well the crop is doing," Markell says. "If you have a disease problem, often it starts to show up in August."

## Soybean Cyst Nematode

Markell states that August is a good time to look for soybean cyst nematode (SCN). He describes how it's one of the few times during the year where farmers or agronomists can actually take a shovel, dig around a plant and very carefully remove the soil to look for the small, white, lemon-shaped female cysts on the roots of soybean plants.

The nematode is a parasitic worm that feeds on the root and disrupts the normal physiology of the soybean plant. The plant becomes more susceptible to diseases and root rots. Soybean plants have fewer nitrogen-fixing nodules, and they are less capable of taking up water and nutrients.

"SCN causes the most yield loss in soybeans in the U.S.," Markell explains, "so it's very important to

manage it."

SCN continues to spread through the state. Markell says that SCN has been detected in about two dozen North Dakota counties. SCN is most common in the southeastern part of the state, but there have been confirmations elsewhere.

Markell asserts that keeping an eye out for a potential SCN infestation is important because SCN can be managed by selecting resistant soybean varieties and by using crop rotation carefully. He adds that there are some new treatments available which may have some effect on SCN, but "identifying it first is really important."

For the past several years, the North Dakota Soybean Council has helped to fund a statewide SCN sampling program to draw a clearer picture of where SCN is found in North Dakota. See page 11 for additional information on this program.

## Sudden Death Syndrome

Sudden death syndrome (SDS) may not be widespread in North Dakota, but there have been confirmed cases in Richland and Cavalier Counties. Markell explains how it's reasonable to suspect that SDS exists in other parts of the state, but it just hasn't been detected yet.

Markell states that symptoms appear in the soybean leaf when the tissue between the veins turn

yellow. The tissue quickly turns necrotic, but the veins stay green.

SDS is caused by a fungal pathogen that lives in the soil. The pathogen infects the crop early in the growing season.

"It needs rain in June to really get the infection started going. Then, if you have that infection, you're not really going to see it until August when the foliar symptoms appear. Severe SDS is favored by the presence of SCN and periodic rains," Markell contends.

Markell says that foliar SDS symptoms are similar to a more common disease called brown stem rot.

## Knowledge is Power

Markell states that the management of both SCN and SDS can be aided by crop rotation.

"I'm a huge supporter of crop rotation for disease management because, for almost all of the pathogens we deal with, having rotation will help reduce the amount of pathogen in the soil or the disease severity that following year," Markell asserts, "But it's not a silver bullet."

By August, there's little farmers can do to counteract the effects caused by a disease. Scouting in 2023 is to gain knowledge for subsequent growing seasons.

"When you scout in August, you're really scouting for the growing season in 2024 or 2025, but that knowledge is really important because, if you know what's in your field, you can select a soybean vari-

ety that's got resistance to many of these different things; you just need to know which things you're dealing with the most," Markell explains.

Farmers can strategically pick the rotation crop to help reduce some of the inoculum load for the future year. Growers can also strategically pick a seed treatment if there is a root-infecting pathogen.

"The knowledge that you get in August is almost invaluable," Markell adds. "Knowledge is power, but knowledge is also money."

Late season scouting isn't a one-time affair. Markell describes how many diseases start to be evident in August, but it's important for growers to keep watching fields through the rest of the fall.

Farmers won't be alone in their fields, according to Markell. Fellow NDSU soybean researchers Wade Webster, Ph.D., and Febina Mathew, Ph.D., will also be surveying North Dakota's soybean crop. Markell suggests that, if farmers find symptoms of plant health issues they can't identify, they can contact their local agronomist or NDSU Extension agent to help.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos courtesy of NDSU

For more information about  
soybean diseases, visit  
[bit.ly/NDSUsoybean diseases](https://bit.ly/NDSUsoybean diseases).



Cream-colored and lemon shaped SCN cysts on soybean root.



Foliar symptoms of soybean sudden death syndrome.



# Free Herbicide Resistant **Weed Surveys** Available for Farmers

**N**orth Dakota State University (NDSU) Plant Pathologist Sam Markell, Ph.D., calls August the most interesting time of the year for disease observation.

“To combat herbicide resistant weeds, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) invites farmers and agronomists to participate in the North Dakota Herbicide Resistant Weed Survey by collecting and shipping pigweed and kochia leaves from multiple regions of North Dakota to the National Agricultural Genotyping Center (NAGC).

The survey’s goal is to combat herbicide resistant weeds by better understanding the genetics and distribution of resistant pigweeds and kochia to Group 2, 9 and 14 herbicides.

There are 250-300 Sample Collection Kits available for free herbicide resistance testing that will be conducted at the NAGC. The Sample Collection Kits will be available at your local NDSU Extension offices around the state on a first-come, first-serve basis. This program is sponsored by the NDSC and the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council.

The Sample Collection Kit

includes one prepaid U.S. Postal Service (USPS) envelope; one submission form; and four, small collection envelopes with blank labels.

## Sample Collection Procedures:

1. Locate late season (Fall 2023) or early season (Spring 2024) pigweeds that survived herbicide

- treatments. Properly identify the pigweed species prior to collecting the samples. The preferred pigweeds are Waterhemp and Palmer amaranth.
2. If the fields contain multiple pigweed patches, collect leaves from one plant per patch.
3. Collect two leaves near the top of the plant. Place two leaves from one plant in a small envelope. Do NOT mix leaves from multiple plants in the small envelopes.
4. With a pen or marker, label the small envelope with a unique Sample ID. The Sample ID can be in the following format: Year-Month-County-Personal Field ID (Example: 23-09-Cass-SE2). Make sure to write the Sample ID number on the submission form (example below).
5. Locate additional pigweed patches in the fields of your choice, and follow steps 1-4 to use all small envelopes in the collection kit.

6. Place all small envelopes in the large, prepaid USPS envelope. Place the large envelope in your mailbox. Keep the samples dry and at room temperature before shipping via the USPS. The results will be emailed to the submitter.

7. Optional: One kochia sample can be submitted with each kit. To submit a sample, collect two leaves from kochia that was suspected to have escaped herbicide treatment. Place the leaves in the small envelope labeled “kochia.” The kochia samples will be used to help develop tests for herbicide resistance at the NAGC. The kochia results will be shared at a later date.

—Story and photo  
courtesy of NAGC

**North Dakota Herbicide Resistant Weed Survey**

Name John Doe

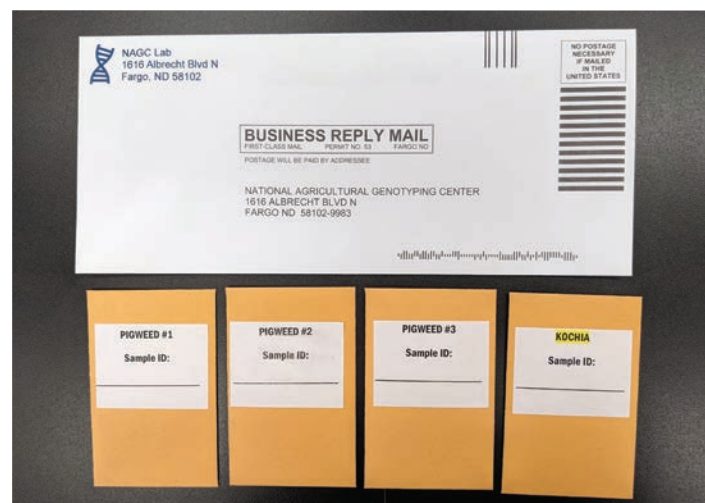
Phone (701) 555-1234

Email  johndoe@gmail.com

NAGC  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL  
GENOTYPING CENTER

NDSU | EXTENSION

Field	Sample ID (Year / Month / County / Field)	Pigweed Species (if known)	Herbicide(s) Applied to Field (pre-seed & incrop)
1	2023-09-Cass-SE2-field 1	Waterhemp	XXXXXXXX
2	2023-09-Cass-NW3-field 2	Waterhemp	XXXXXXXX
3	2023-09-Cass-SW4-field 3	Waterhemp	XXXXXXXX
4	2023-09-Cass-NE4-field 4	Kochia	XXXXXXXX



North Dakota Herbicide Resistant Weed Survey Sample Collection Kits.

Please direct any sampling questions to the NAGC.  
research@genotypingcenter.com  
701-239-1451



# Not Your Average Summer Camp

**K**ids have a wide range of options for summer camps, but none may be more important than the Farm Safety Camps put on by North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension.

NDSU Farm Safety Camps were held in Williston, Fargo and Bismarck. In order to meet federal requirements to operate tractors greater than 20 horsepower, as well as some other pieces

of hazardous equipment, youth who are 14 and 15 years old must have 20 hours of training. NDSU offers that tractor training and other safety instruction during the safety camps.

“It’s been an awesome opportunity to work with some fantastic kids and their families when it comes to learning about farm safety skills and safety skills that are transferable no matter what career choices young people choose,” says

NDSU Farm and Ranch Safety Coordinator Angie Johnson.

Johnson describes how the training received at the camp is extensive and hands-on. The camp is a tractor-safety certification program, so youth must complete and pass the written exam as well as be with a driving instructor, navigating a course with a tractor.

“We really take it to the next level, encompassing more than just tractors and machines. We cover safe livestock handling;

we also cover transportation and roadway safety involving agricultural equipment,” Johnson states. “We have a fantastic farm first aid section where we actually work with local hospitals and clinics to offer Stop the Bleed training.”

North Dakota Parks and Recreation provided all-terrain vehicle (ATV) training, certification and a safety helmet. Bobcat safety engineers worked with participants on operation and safety for skid steers. Campers also built their own first aid kits, learning how to use each item that’s placed in the container.

Training also included learning about the hazards of power lines and different electrical utilities on a farm. Fire safety and proper fire extinguisher operation were also part of the camp’s curriculum.

Parents and guardians also participated in part of the safety camps, playing a signal game that drives home the importance of clear communications.

“Everything we do in this camp, we focus on communication because, if there’s miscommunication, a lack of communication or no communication, that’s how people get injured,” Johnson explains.



During the NDSU Farm Safety Camps, kids learned the rules of the road by using toy trucks and farm equipment to understand why road safety is important on and off the farm.



An instructor quizzes NDSU Farm Safety campers on how to read gauges.



**Safety camp participants had the opportunity to learn about animal behavior and received a good hands-on livestock handling lesson.**

### Practical Training

Davenport farmer Stephanie Cook's daughters participated in the safety camp because they're getting old enough to take on increased responsibility.

"They're getting to an age where they're old enough to start helping more and more on the farm, possibly running some of the bigger equipment and being around our bin site," Cooks says. "Sometimes you learn better from somebody other than your parents or listen a little bit better. The big thing with farm safety is properly running equipment and being aware of all those different dangers that you need to keep an eye on and to pay attention to the little things."

Cook says her daughters really enjoyed the experience and came away from the camp better prepared to help on the farm.

"They loved it. They thought it was so much fun," Cook says. "They came home and were jumping in our little tractor at home any chance they could get to run it and work it. They just gained a lot of confidence in themselves and their abilities to help around the home and on the farm."

### Hitting Home

Safety camp participants took the training seriously because, in some cases, farm safety is a personal issue.

Chance Jacobson, from Hatton, was in a serious utility task vehicle (UTV) incident over a year ago.

"Farm Safety Camp helped me to recognize potential dangers and what I need to do to help

prevent them from taking place on my farm," Jacobson asserts. He was an attendee and a guest speaker during this year's East Farm Safety Camp. "Farm safety is important to me because I want to prevent incidences and injuries on the farm."

Thomas Jewett from Barnes County says his family lost a loved one in a farm accident. He wasted

little time in putting his safety training into action.

"I put them into place right away," Jewett says. "Our organization has improved, as we discussed farm safety issues, addressed safety items needing to be fixed, and reviewed our farm safety plan. I want to make sure that when my family farms, we are safe. Farm safety camp helps with this."

Johnson says it takes many volunteers and sponsors to help make the Farm Safety Camps a success. The end goal for everyone involved is to make safety a priority.

"We're trying to develop and hone these safety habits when people are young, because when you start out doing those habits and making really good decisions and choices at a young age, that skill set stays with you," Johnson says.

Cook sees the value in getting hands-on safety training before kids become a bigger part of a farm operation.

"One hundred percent," Cooks says. "I wish there were more opportunities to get more kids in there."

*—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos by staff*



**An instructor shows safety camp participants different types of sheep wool and learns how to safely care for livestock.**

# Building the Bridges

In mid-July, North Dakota soybean farmers and American Soybean Association (ASA) directors Josh Gackle, Monte Peterson and Justin Sherlock, along with North Dakota Soybean Growers Association President Kasey Bitz boarded planes to head to Washington, D.C., for ASA board meetings. Included with the gathering were visits by the directors to North Dakota's Congressional delegation. Face-to-face conversations with senators and congressional representatives are an integral part of the relationship-building process that's necessary for effective advocacy.

"You get to know the people who work for the congressional offices and with the administration, and it allows you to build that relationship," says Sherlock, who farms near Dazey. "It's a lot easier to pick up the phone and have a conversation with someone you know than it is to talk to a stranger."

Visits with senators and congressmen provide the opportunity to share organizational priorities and to advocate for policy that's beneficial for farmers. Growers also become resources for lawmakers when policy is being crafted.

"We're out here every day farming while they're in Washington, but they rely on us to give them the information they need to do their job," contends Sherlock. "The last several years when we've had some significant

weather disasters here in North Dakota, those relationships have been really important to help ensure that we can work with them to develop disaster programs when times call for it."

"We may have a small delegation, but it's important to stay in communication with them, not only to know what their thoughts are, but most importantly, to share what our thoughts are and to keep them abreast of what issues are at hand down at the farm level," Peterson states.

Sherlock asserts that farmer advocacy is vital to ensure that programs such as crop insurance, beginning farmer programs, disaster programs or access to loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency are available to producers. He describes how those programs likely wouldn't exist without

farmers going to Washington, D.C. to have the conversation about what's needed and then working with policymakers to find solutions.

With Congress working on the next Farm Bill, due to expire September 30, 2023, there was added urgency for the Capitol Hill visits. Issues such as crop insurance, funding for market development programs and support for strong trade are important to soybean farmers. Those points were driven home by the North Dakota farmers.

"We don't want lawmakers trying to write farm policy without hearing from the farmers," Sherlock explains. "If we're not there, how can they know what our priorities and needs are? You shouldn't rely on someone else to do the job for you. That's why I think it's really important that

people are members of organizations such as the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association and ASA. If we're not there fighting every day to make sure that soybean producers' priorities and needs are being heard, someone else will either tell our story, or the story won't be told at all."

"Someone has to take an active role in working with the policy and the legislation that affects agriculture in the state of North Dakota," Peterson says. "Obviously, I think the best ones to be able to do that are the farmers themselves who are involved with the commodity groups and those that we elect to serve in those roles. I've come to become a strong advocate for commodity group participation in policy and regulation."

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photo by staff



The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association recently met with the Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. Senator John Hoeven discusses the upcoming Farm Bill with, from left, NDSGA Board Member Monte Peterson, Valley City, President Kasey Bitz, LaMoure and Board Member Justin Sherlock, Dazey, N.D.

# WISHH catches new markets for U.S. soy by **advancing aquaculture.**



ASA/WISHH is helping explore opportunities for soy-based feeds to grow aquaculture in 8 sub-Saharan African countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania

**Connect with WISHH**  
**wishh.org**



*WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.*

# Enderlin Farmer Elected to the North Dakota Soybean Council

## *Braaten, Redmann and Meyer Reelected*

**T**he North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) recently welcomed Ted Brandt of Enderlin to the board. His term began on July 1, 2023.

This year, soybean producer Ted Brandt of Ransom County was elected to represent soybean farmers in District 2, which includes Ransom and Sargent Counties. Brandt raises soybeans, corn and wheat. He has a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University (NDSU). Brandt is a member of the Sheyenne Valley Trail Association.

"I've always been involved in agriculture, and my father is past president of the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association," Brandt says. "As a new NDSC director, I'm interested in learning more about what is happening in the soybean industry and helping to make good decisions to help with soy production, market development and biofuels."

Milo Braaten, a soybean farmer from Portland, was reelected to represent District 8, which includes the counties of Nelson, Griggs and Steele. He farms with his two sons. They produce soybeans, corn, edible beans and sunflowers. Over the years, Braaten has been involved with numerous boards, including the Steele County Farm Bureau as president, the Portland Credit Union as a board member and

chairman, the Finley Farmers Elevator board, the Bang Church board as president and the Enger Township Board as its current chairman. He has degrees from Moorhead Technical College and North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton.

Soybean producer Adam Redmann from St. Thomas was reelected to represent soybean farmers in District 10, which includes Cavalier, Pembina and Walsh Counties. Redmann and his father raise soybeans, wheat and pinto beans. Redmann is involved with his local church and has a finance degree from the University of North Dakota.

Wilton soybean farmer Jennifer Meyer was reelected to represent soybean farmers in District 12, which consists of 21 south-west North Dakota counties. Meyer and her husband produce grain crops, with soybeans being one of their largest crops, along with operating a cow/calf operation. Meyer is currently the president of the North Dakota Cooperative Director's Association, vice president of the Farmers Union Oil of Wilton and active with the North Dakota Farmers Union. She has a degree in criminal justice from Minot State University.

"We are excited to welcome Ted Brandt to the board. We look forward to working with



**Ted Brandt**

him as he serves on behalf of his fellow North Dakota soybean producers," says Stephanie Sinner, NDSC executive director. "We also congratulate Milo Braaten, Adam Redmann and Jennifer Meyer on their reelections to the board and look forward to their continued leadership."

*—Story and photos by staff*



**Milo Braaten**



**Adam Redmann**



**Jennifer Meyer**

# New Faces in NDSU Places

**S**everal new faculty members have joined North Dakota State University (NDSU). They will provide research and information which are important to North Dakota soybean farmers.

## Lindsay Malone

Lindsay Malone, Ph.D., joined NDSU in August of 2022 as assistant professor, climate smart approaches in agriculture. Malone, who grew up on a dairy farm near Buffalo, New York, earned her undergraduate degree in plant science from Cornell University.

“While I was there, I fell in love with doing agricultural research and also with the Extension piece,” Malone says. “I don’t have an Extension appointment here at NDSU, but I really like the outreach piece and making sure that what I’m working on is relevant to farmers and the local community.”

Malone earned her master’s degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin Madison. She joined the NDSU faculty a year ago, working on climate smart approaches in agriculture. Malone contends that the definition of climate smart ag can be tricky because it has become a buzzword in the industry. She describes it as an approach with three pillars.

“First, we are thinking about sustainably increasing yield, which is the hallmark of agronomy and, in general, agronomic research. The second pillar is building resilience to extreme weather,” Malone explains. “Here (in North Dakota), it’s going to be thinking about dealing with more floods, but also dealing with more droughts and just higher temperatures in general. The third piece is reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

Malone states that she is most interested in working on data driven conservation practices to deliver better recommendations to farmers.

“I love the idea of working with people, especially with farmers. That includes working with them to gauge issues and figure out what they need,” Malone asserts. “Listening is important but so is communicating research information back to farmers.”

Malone was excited to join the NDSU faculty because she could concentrate her work

on climate related projects.

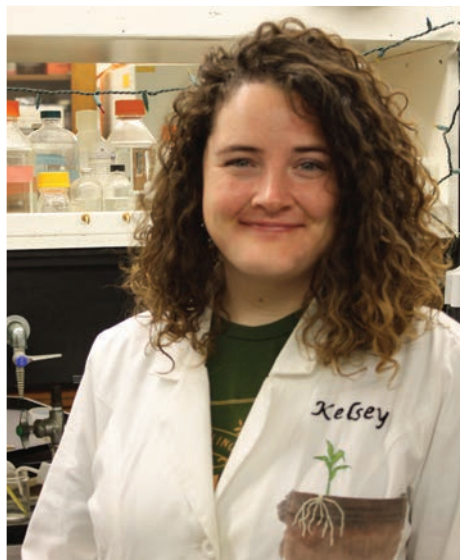
“I get to unapologetically focus on some of these climate issues and have that be the focal point of my program,” Malone says. “I am really interested in increasing yield and how can we grow more on less land, but I also I really like being able to focus on that intersection between agronomy and conservation.”

## Kelsey Griesheim

Kelsey Griesheim, Ph.D., has joined NDSU as an assistant professor working in the area of soil fertility. Griesheim is an Illinois native who earned her bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D.



Lindsay Malone



Kelsey Griesheim

degrees from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. She joined the NDSU faculty in February.

“I grew up in a small rural community, so I always knew agriculture was going to be a part of my life,” Griesheim explains. “I took one soils class, and I felt this was what I’m supposed to be doing, so I redirected my focus to the topic.”

Griesheim describes how her research work has focused on estimating nitrogen uptake efficiency for fertilizer applications.

“It’s hard to tell if you’re over applying if you’re just looking at yield so that’s the incentive for me to look at efficiency,” Griesheim states. “If we get the highest efficiency, it’s great for the producers because they’re getting the majority of a resource they’ve bought into the crop, but it’s also really good for the environment. If you’re getting most of that nutrient into the crop, that also means you’re leaving the least amount of it in the soil, which can be lost and become a pollutant.”

Griesheim will continue looking at fertilizer applications and their efficiency, but she plans to expand her work to look at other nutrient issues. She also hopes to work on soil tests that are useful for providing recommendations to North Dakota farmers.

“If I am not doing research that’s benefiting producers, I am not doing my job,” Griesheim contends.

As a research faculty member, Griesheim will teach an introductory soils class. However, a major focus of her work is research that affects the state’s farmers.

“I think the biggest impact can come from finding ways to reduce our fertilizer inputs. That is ultimately going to be a win for producers because nitrogen can be pretty expensive,” Griesheim explains. “If we can cut down on some of those costs, that would be great. With these same practices, we are also being good stewards of the land so that the longevity and health of our soils and ecosystems is not ignored.”

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photos courtesy of Lindsay Malone and Kelsey Griesheim

# A Career Pivot for Kandel

**A**fter working as the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension broadleaf crop agronomist for 16 years, Hans Kandel, Ph.D., has retired from his full-time role.

“I am going to pivot to some new interests,” Kandel says.

Kandel is a well known figure in the region, having served as a University of Minnesota regional Extension agronomist in northwest Minnesota for 12 years before joining NDSU. Kandel will continue working on a part time basis to complete research projects while remaining involved with a national network of university soybean researchers.

Kandel earned his undergraduate degree in the Netherlands before working with farmers in Africa. He came to the United States; met his wife, Jill; and then worked overseas in Africa, Asia, and England. The pair returned to Fargo where Kandel earned his Ph.D. from NDSU and began working with farmers in the region.

The ability to work with farmers and to share ways they can improve their productivity is a passion for Kandel. He has spearheaded research on numerous soybean related topics and shared

those findings during a time of tremendous growth for North Dakota's soybean production.

“It has been a great opportunity to see the industry grow. Of course, we have seen a lot of improvement in the genetics so that farmers can grow soybeans all the way into Canada and also in western North Dakota,” Kandel contends. “One of the biggest changes is that the genetics have been really fantastic to give farmers that opportunity.”

Kandel states that, when he arrived in the Red River Valley in the 1990s, there wasn't much attention paid to water management. Having grown up in the Netherlands, where much of the country is below sea level, he knew the importance of managing water.

“Using subsurface drainage and managed drainage has been a great improvement in the production for some of the fields here in northwest Minnesota and North Dakota. Farmers who have started putting tile in say that they see the bene-

fits,” Kandel explains. “In my research over the years, we can document that there is a benefit of having controlled drainage. There is more awareness of tile drainage at this moment, which benefits, of course, soybeans, but also other crops.”

Kandel and his colleagues have conducted hundreds of research projects over the years in order to improve soybean productivity. The studies have ranged from planting date, row spacing and seed populations to seed treatments and variety selection.

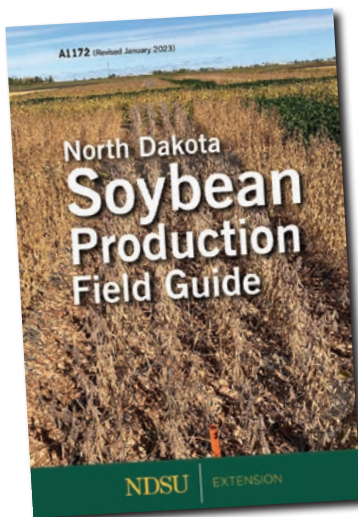
“I think one of the areas where we have made an impact is in the recommendations that we have found and translated into publications,” Kandel asserts. “The soybean production guide is chock full of very practical information. I'm very happy to be part of editing and guiding that project to get it into the hands of many growers.”

A copy of the NDSU's 2023 soybean production guide is available at [bit.ly/NDSUSoyProductionGuide23](https://bit.ly/NDSUSoyProductionGuide23).

Kandel expects to volunteer and to spend time with family, among other things. He has worked with the Farmer to Farmer program, going to various countries, such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Sierra Leone, to help farmers. He's open to potentially returning to those countries.

“I have always felt that working for society has more benefits than working for purely business,” Kandel explains. “If I can work and research topics that are needed for the community, for farmers, and then have that knowledge extended to farmers so that they actually can make decisions and better their farming operations, that is very meaningful to me. That extends to developing nations. Really, my passion has always been to try to assist those who are less fortunate than we are.”

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photo by staff



North Dakota Soybean Council Chairman Chris Brossart (left) congratulates Hans Kandel, Ph.D., (right) with an appreciation plaque for his distinguished and successful career.

## NDSC Director of Market Development Completes 2023 United Way of Cass-Clay

# 35 Under 35 Women's Leadership Program

**J**ena Bjertness, the North Dakota Soybean Council's director of market development, recently completed the United Way's 35 Under 35 Women's Leadership Program.

The program's goal is to inspire local women from all backgrounds to make a difference, to help them realize their leadership skills and to energize their collective power as women in the community. Since 2009, there have been 455 women who have participated in the program and then continued on to create lasting influences in their workplaces and communities.

The six-month program included sessions, led by local leaders, covering topics such as goal setting, communication, personal growth, board leadership, public speaking, conflict management and other leadership-focused topics. Participants were from many local industries, including agriculture, education, and finance among others.

To learn more about Bjertness and her experience with the United Way of Cass-Clay's 35 Under 35 Women's Leadership Program, visit [bit.ly/JenaBjertnessNDSC](http://bit.ly/JenaBjertnessNDSC).

—Story by staff, photo courtesy of Jena Bjertness



On June 1, Jena Bjertness and her family celebrated the completion of the 35 Under 35 Program at the Sanctuary Events Center in Fargo. She resides in Kindred with husband, Mike, and three children: Henry, Eleanor, and Ruth.

## NDSU Plant Science Student Receives Soybean Research Award

**A** North Dakota State University (NDSU) Department of Plant Sciences master's student received an award at the 11th Annual World Soybean Research Conference (WSRC) held June 18-23, 2023, in Vienna, Austria.

Clara Mvuta, an M.S. student, received the Young Scientist Award—United States for her poster titled "Determining Genetic Mechanisms of Maturity in North Dakota: Expanding the Molecular Model of MG 00 and 0." Mvuta is advised by Carrie Miranda, Ph.D., an assistant professor and project leader for the soybean breeding

program at NDSU.

The WSRC is an international research conference that provides a global perspective on critical issues facing the industry and the entire soybean sector. The WSRC's goal is to promote soybean research and to encourage the global soybean community to interact and to initiate discussions, aiming to provide answers and to raise new questions for this globally important crop.

—Story courtesy of NDSU Department of Plant Sciences, photo courtesy of Carrie Miranda, Ph.D.



Clara Mvuta, a graduate student at NDSU, receives an award at the 11th Annual World Soybean Research Conference.

# Feeding and Fueling the World



**T**eachers often use the summer months to supplement their own education in order to bring engaging lessons back to their students. For 20 teachers from North Dakota, their continuing education was focused on the many ways that agriculture intertwines with everyday life.

Educators from around the state came to North Dakota State University (NDSU) for a unique Feeding and Fueling the World workshop that was designed to help teachers gain a deeper understanding about the science of modern food and fuel production as well as how to bring it into their

classrooms through hands on, inquiry-based lessons. Sponsored by the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) and the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council, the workshop was put on by Nourish the Future. Lessons included learning about how biotechnology is used in agriculture. Workshop participants also studied how to make ethanol and soy biodiesel. The overarching goal was to help teachers better understand agriculture while discovering ways to incorporate agriculture with their classroom lessons.

"The teachers did a wide variety of hands-on lab activities, but two that really got them excited was

extracting DNA from soybeans and making biodiesel from soybean oil that they got to test in putt-putt boats," says NDSC Education and Outreach Coordinator Shireen Alemadi. "They were able to see the connections between biology and biotechnology, and how one crop can have such an impact on multiple sectors."

Carie Moore of Towner County was one of the participants. She had a unique perspective for the event because, in addition to pursuing a master's degree in Agricultural Education, Moore is also an NDSC county representative.

"As an aspiring licensed educator and a grower, I wanted to use

this opportunity to connect with other teachers in the state," Moore explains. "I knew this would not only be beneficial to me, but also to my future classes, and hopefully to the others in the class as well."

Moore states that everything, especially in North Dakota, is connected to agriculture. While being involved with production agriculture is one avenue, students have a plethora of ways to be connected to the industry without actually farming.

"Students have so many opportunities, from working with drones, in a lab, GPS, marketing, as well as the traditional routes. The food that feeds them and their pets, the



The sessions were designed to help teachers incorporate agriculture and biotechnology into classroom lessons.



As part of the two-day event, participants made biodiesel from cooking oil.



**Carie Moore of Rocklake is a soybean farmer and one of NDSC's county representatives.**

fuel for their cars, the clothes they wear and products they use every day, all come from agriculture," Moore contends.

### Up Close

Educators toured an ethanol plant and learned about DNA extraction. Lessons also included experiments to produce biodiesel, which teams of participants then used to power toy boats.

For the educators, the newfound knowledge will also provide them with hands on learning opportunities for their students.

"I plan to use this material in

my classroom through the labs and incorporating it into our curriculum," says Bismarck Legacy High School biology and physical science teacher Amie Marks. "The information is really useful for my students as being citizens of North Dakota and understanding the connections between the crops that we grow and the ability to harness our energy for resources, but also that this is renewable energy. This is something that can be taken, and the byproducts can be taken then and used in a meaningful way. It really reinforces everything that I like

to teach my students as biologists to find use in everything, but also to recognize that living things have the ability to produce more than you might find, so everything is useful in an ecosystem."

Although all the teachers took part in the entire workshop, each participant took away something different from the sessions.

"I think the things that we'll be able to teach with this material will help our students in their future careers because it helps them explore new ideas, new things," asserts Troy Boehm, the agriculture education instructor at Richland 44 High School. "I think it's important to teach these particular materials back to our students because they're going to be the generation of students that will create jobs and take jobs in things like environmental science, agriculture, agricultural production and how those things are related, how we can manage our agricultural production with things like sustainable agriculture and the environment."

"It's also opened my eyes to how much I can now take this back to my school, propose all of these lessons and things that I've learned to my science teacher, and how we

can co-teach together science and agriculture and bring everything together," states Olivia Buckeye, Gackle High School's agricultural education instructor. "I can use this material on many different units."

### Shared Experiences

In addition to the formal instruction, conversations and discussions surrounding ag issues were also educational.

"There were numerous conversations happening about ways that they plan to incorporate what they learned into their classrooms in the upcoming years," says NDSC Marketing and Communications Intern Katelyn Duchscher. "Many of them also discussed how they are currently implementing some of the concepts taught at the workshop into their classrooms, and the conversation led to how they can continue and grow the activities to expand on concepts."

Because the entire workshop involved agriculture, having a farmer in the mix provided a unique opportunity for dialog.

"I was able to give them perspectives on things they never imagined, and in return, they impacted my thoughts on why and how teachers do things in the classroom the way they do in different scenarios," Moore explains. "It was a casual, open environment without any judgement, where conversations could take place on an equal level and respect was reciprocated on all sides. This was one of the best workshops I've been to in a long time. It was out of my comfort zone and with people who weren't in my (ag) industry; that is what made it so impactful."

To learn more, visit [nourish-thefuture.org](http://nourish-thefuture.org). North Dakota middle school and high school science teachers interested in participating in future workshops, please email Shireen Alemadi at [salemadi@ndsoybean.org](mailto:salemadi@ndsoybean.org).

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos by staff



**North Dakota soybean farmer-leaders and staff attended an industry dinner the evening of June 15 to answer questions and interact with teacher participants. From left to right: Cindy Pulskamp, United Soybean Board director from Hillsboro; Shireen Alemadi, NDSC outreach and education coordinator; Susan Sherer, chief operating officer of Educationprojects.org; Ryan Richard, United Soybean Board director from Horace; and Brian Jodock, past NDSC director from Northwood.**

# Attention to Harvest Safety



**T**he shift from late summer to early fall brings a flurry of activity, not the least of which involves an uptick of farming activity as producers across the state race to bring in the fall harvest. This scenario means an influx of implements on the roads, long hours in the field and an enhanced risk for farm safety incidences.

Farming has long been considered one of the nation's most dangerous occupations. Not surprisingly, spring planting and fall harvest yield an increased number of farm-related injuries.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported that, in 2021, transportation incidents, which include tractor overturns and roadway crashes, were the leading cause of death for farmers and farm workers involved in farm-related incidences.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Farm and Ranch Safety Coordinator

Angie Johnson says that transportation-related incidences are among the most common.

"We're going to see a lot of roadway related incidences involving equipment, pieces of machinery on public roadways along with general motorists in cars, pickups, you name it," Johnson states. "Those types of incidences on roadways are pretty prevalent in both spring and fall just because we have a lot of equipment moving on the roadways, and it's big."

As equipment gets larger and fall activity picks up, Johnson asserts that it's important for everyone to share the roads. Large combine headers should be trailered when in transit to avoid encroaching on oncoming lanes of traffic.

"You can't meet anybody or weave between mailboxes and roadway signs with a combine header on, so it's just better to take the time to unhook it and put it on a trailer to transport it from field to field,"

Johnson contends. "You have to respect others and stay in your lane."

Johnson recommends mapping out a route from field to field that allows farmers to avoid high traffic areas and busy times while also traveling on roads with bridges that are designed to handle the weight of today's farm equipment, including trucks, fully loaded grain carts and combines.

While working signal and safety lights don't affect a tractor or combine's operation, they are important tools for helping prevent an injury or fatality by communicating with other motorists about where the equipment is headed.

"We need to make sure that not only the machine is ready to operate, but that we're ready to operate that equipment on a public road," Johnson explains.

Distracted driving also affects roadway safety. Johnson urges all

users of the road to utilize defensive driving skills.

"Put the cell phones away, whether you are driving a motor vehicle or a tractor," Johnson advises. "A split second of distraction can cause you to overcorrect your tractor, which, at high speeds, can cause the tractor to roll over. If you are driving a car approaching a tractor, you can end up in a rear end collision with the tractor due traveling at higher speeds than the tractor and by being distracted by your cellphone."

Johnson describes how it's easy to misjudge speed when you come upon a slow-moving vehicle. In most cases, you have only a few seconds to react and slow down. For example, if you're driving 55 mph and come upon a tractor that's moving 15 mph, it only takes five seconds to close a gap the length of a football field between you and the tractor.

## Handling Fatigue

Johnson states that fatigue is often overlooked as a safety factor during the hectic pace of harvest. With farm workers logging long hours and often working well into the night, incidents that might have been avoided in other situations happen.

"Operating machinery in the dark, no matter how well your equipment's lighting system is, darkness changes everything," Johnson contends. "Usually by nightfall,



Use an air compressor or another device to blow debris from tractors and combines to help reduce the risk of fires.



NDSU Extension offers camps designed to help teens become familiar with operating tractors and agricultural machinery. See pages 18-19.

workers are going on 12 hours in the fields, and when we're tired, we take shortcuts and sometimes make poor decisions that we probably wouldn't have made had we been fully rested."

Sometimes, mistakes involve not shutting down a combine when it gets plugged with plant material, such as corn stalks, which can lead to people getting trapped or entangled inside the combine.

"We like to think that we are faster than these machines, but we will not win," Johnson explains. "Another example would be like when you're handling livestock. I don't want you to trust that animal. I want you to respect that animal. That translates over to machines as well. We need to respect these machines because, the minute we do not trust them, we start to take for granted that we're faster or smarter, stronger than the machine, and the reality is the machine will always win."

### Sticky Situations

In wet years, getting implements stuck in muddy fields is a frequent occurrence. While it's too early to tell what the situation will be in 2023, being prepared to properly

extricate farm equipment that's become stuck is always a good idea.

Johnson says that North Dakota has lost farmers who were killed in the process of getting farm implements pulled from the mud. Log chains and cables are not recommended for extricating equipment because they can break under stress or come unhooked, causing a slingshot effect which turns them into projectiles.

It's recommended that farmers use recovery straps which are designed to stretch instead of break.

"If they do break, they're fiber based, so the odds of them causing an injury or fatality are way less than using a traditional log chain," Johnson asserts.

If an implement can't be pulled out of the mud with recovery straps, Johnson recommends letting professionals with the proper equipment get involved.

### Everyday Situations

Fall harvest usually means working in a variety of weather conditions. From muddy fields to frosty ground in the early morning, there is a strong potential for falls. Slips, trips and falls are a

leading cause of work-loss injuries, according to NIOSH.

"Falls are a real issue when working around any farm equipment, but especially grain bins, because you have to open that lid on the grain bin somehow, so usually that involves climbing a ladder that's very tall while trying to stay balanced on the ladder while also using your hands to open up the lid. I'm really a big proponent of using fall protection, some type of harness and cable system that allows you to climb up that ladder, but it prevents you from falling all the way to the ground if you were to slip," Johnson contends.

Because farms are often family affairs, children are sometimes pressed into service. Johnson recommends training youth to operate the equipment which they're being asked to use so that they're comfortable with their ability to handle the job. It's important to consider your child's age when assigning farm tasks, but it is just as important to ensure that the child is physically and mentally capable of doing the task. Use the teach-back method when training youth to conduct farm tasks by showing them what the task is, ask-

ing them to practice the task with an adult watching, and then observing and checking in on the youth often to ensure that they are doing the task safely.

Because fall harvest can be a dusty, dirty affair, using an air compressor or another device to blow debris from tractors and combines can help to reduce the risk of fires. Having a working fire extinguisher handy is also a good idea.

There is a lot for farmers to keep track of in the fall, but Johnson describes how taking regular safety steps can turn the practice into a habit that lasts an entire farming career because no one wants a harvest season that's memorable for all the wrong reasons.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos by staff

**For more information about farm and ranch safety, visit the NDSU website at [bit.ly/NDsUfarmsafety](http://bit.ly/NDsUfarmsafety).**



## North Dakota Soybean Council Welcomes Kim Parisien as Finance and Compliance Administrator

**T**he North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) is pleased to announce the addition of Kim Parisien as finance and compliance administrator. She started on July 18, 2023. Her main responsibilities include the overall management of the fiscal operations for the NDSC, including the areas of accounting, budget, payroll and audits.

"We are excited to have Kim join our team at NDSC," says NDSC Executive Director Stephanie Sinner. "She brings years of experience in the finance field, and she will be a great addition to the work we do supporting North Dakota soybean farmers."

Parisien is originally from Belcourt, North Dakota. She has two Bachelor of Science degrees (accounting and management infor-

mation systems) from North Dakota State University (NDSU). Most recently, Parisien was a business technician at Turtle Mountain Community High School for more than 12 years. Her career also includes working for Fargo's Noridian Healthcare Solutions in the electronic data interchange department and working for Belcourt's Turtle Mountain Manufacturing Company, which built water trailers during Operation Desert Storm.

"As a native North Dakotan, I've grown up surrounded by agriculture, but I have never worked in the agricultural industry," states Parisien. "I am excited to join the North Dakota Soybean Council, and I look forward to learning the industry and working with farmers."



—Story and photo by staff **Kim Parisien**



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# Supplying a Growing Soy Market in Africa



It's no secret that U.S. soybeans are shipped around the world. While many farmers know that China and Mexico are top destinations, Egypt has quietly become an important export market for U.S. soybeans.

Egypt is the third-most populous country in Africa. In 2022, the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) reported that Egypt imported 4.15 million metric tons of soybeans, which is more than 152 million bushels. Egypt and the entire North African region are growing destinations for U.S. soybeans.

"Behind China and Mexico, Egypt and North Africa are the third-largest importers of U.S. soybeans," says Kulm farmer and American Soybean Association (ASA) Vice President Josh Gackle.

Gackle participated in a USSEC-sponsored mission that took him to Egypt and Tunisia to meet with

buyers and soybean users.

"It's about maintaining those relationships and meeting with key customers in the region to continue to build that preference for U.S. beans," Gackle states.

The North African region is a growing market for whole soybeans. A rising middle class is increasing the demand for protein, which feeds into the need for more soy products.

"Foreign buyers have other options when it comes to sourcing protein and sourcing soybeans," Gackle explains. "We want to continue to build relationships and make sure that those buyers find a valuable, reliable, sustainable supplier in the U.S."

Gackle asserts that Egypt has well-established soybean crushing capabilities. Soybeans are processed into feed for poultry, cattle, sheep, buffalo, dairy and aquaculture.



Gackle (center) spoke about the quality of U.S. soybeans to buyers in North Africa.



North Dakota farmer Josh Gackle participated in a trade mission to Egypt and Tunisia.

## Farmer Voices

In addition to meeting with customers in Egypt, Gackle took part in a USSEC conference in Tunisia for current and potential U.S. soybean customers. He was one of two U.S. farmers who participated in the conference along with representatives from nearly 100 companies in the region.

"They really value hearing from us growers," Gackle contends. "The reason we go as farmers is to talk about what we're doing on our farms, what we see happening here because buyers have both near-term and long-term interests. They want to know what we see for the 2023 crop, and they just really like to know what we're doing on our farms and what we will be able to provide in the coming months and even years. That face-to-face conversation is invaluable."

Gackle says that the mission to Egypt and North Africa is a good example of what the ASA does in partnership with the United

Soybean Board and farmer invested dollars as well as with the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Foreign Ag Service. Those partnerships allow soybean industry leaders to meet with customers to educate people about what U.S. farmers are doing to provide a reliable, sustainable product.

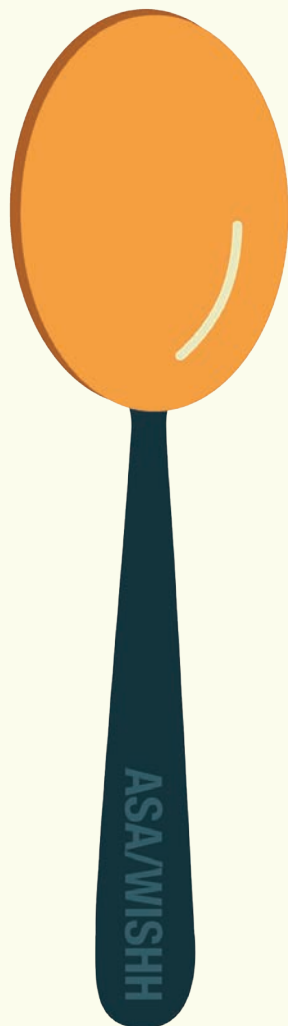
"It's a great learning experience. When we, as farmers, go over there and meet with customers, we're able to come back and talk with our organizations and share with other farmers what is important to our foreign buyers," Gackle states. "They are looking for a high quality, sustainable, long-term source for what they need, and U.S. soy has a lot to offer in that area. We need to continue to build those relationships. We need to be diverse in where we find opportunities, and it's events like these that make that happen."

—Story by Daniel Lemke,  
photos courtesy of USSEC



Gackle says it's important for soy organizations to build preference for U.S. soy products around the world.

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*WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part  
by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.*

# Unified Strategy Builds Export Reach

**S**oybean checkoff dollars have been an invaluable resource to build markets for North Dakota soybeans around the world. Farmer dollars have paved the way for steady growth with the soybean demand. Those check-off funds are also supplemented by several programs offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that help extend the reach of U.S. soybean export efforts.

Soybeans remain the nation's top exported agriculture commodity. Combined exports of U.S. soy products, including whole soybeans, meal and oil, achieved a record value of \$40.42 billion for the 2021-2022 marketing year. Export volumes reached 71.79 million metric tons, the second highest on record, according to the USDA Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). Maintaining and growing those export markets is vital to soybean farmers.

The USDA-FAS oversees programs which include the Foreign

Market Development (FMD) program and the Market Access Program (MAP). Agriculture groups such as the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) work with partnering soybean organizations, including the American Soybean Association (ASA), the United Soybean Board (USB) as well as state soybean organizations and industry, to put together a comprehensive proposal called a Unified Export Strategy (UES). The UES makes the case for how federal funds will be used to build markets for U.S. product.

"The UES process allows eligible organizations to request funding from multiple USDA market development programs through a single, strategically coordinated proposal," says Colby Pinkstone, senior director of strategic programs for USSEC. "USDA-FAS reviews the proposals and awards funds to applicants that demonstrate the potential for effective performance based on a clear, long-term strategic plan."

The soy industry's proposal for 2023 resulted in an allocation of over \$6.2 million from

MAP and \$6.9 million from the FMD program.

Pinkstone states that USSEC has a lengthy strategic-development process which uses market data to evaluate the markets the organization wants to target and the level of effort it wants to propose in each market along with the type of work that has the biggest opportunity for U.S. soy. USSEC currently operates in more than 80 countries.

Valley City farmer Monte Peterson is a past chairman of USSEC and an ASA director. He contends that the UES is a strategic way of matching private and public dollars for market development. Because the MAP and FMD programs are funded through the farm bill, the ASA is among the farm groups advocating for increased investment in the programs. MAP is currently funded at \$200 million per year while the FMD program is at \$34.5 million.

"The investment of both public and private dollars into soybean market development around the world has an investment

rate of over \$24 to every dollar spent," Peterson explains. "That's why ASA is pounding on the desk that USDA has to provide more dollars for Foreign Market Development and the Market Access Program because of the tremendous return on investment utilizing those programs. It's not a waste of money. We should be increasing the amount that we invest through those programs because it is financially responsible. It is the fiscally correct thing to do."

"FAS funding is critical to the soybean industry's ability to grow demand for U.S. soy," Pinkstone asserts. "Any chance to leverage dollars is an opportunity to enhance the marketability of U.S. soy. The FAS dollars allow for greater depth and breadth, leading to greater impact for the marketing and education programs we deliver worldwide on behalf of U.S. soybean farmers."

The soy industry's proposal for 2024 was submitted in May. Peterson says that the results should be finalized sometime this fall.

—Story by Daniel Lemke

## Soybean Industry Organization Overview





# MAINTAINING OUR REPUTATION TO DELIVER

*Whether shipping by river, road or rail, the soy checkoff is committed to ensuring America's infrastructure is a significant advantage for U.S. soybean farmers. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.*

*See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at [unitedsoybean.org](http://unitedsoybean.org)*



# Fore! the Fun of it



**T**hank you for making the 10th annual Jamestown

golf tournament successful! The tournament is a way for

the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) to say thank you to members and supporters. Your membership dues and sponsorship of NDSGA events help to provide the necessary funds to continue policy and advocacy work in Bismarck and in Washington, D.C. We're proud of our past successes and are continually working to make things better for soybean growers throughout North Dakota.

## Congratulations to our Jamestown tournament winners:

**First Place:** Team PBK Seed Sales: Randy Blaskowski, Nick Blaskowski, Myles Torgerson and Steve Dale.

**Second Place:** Team Dakota Access Pipeline:

Glenn Emery, James Paradis, Kasey Bitz and Phil Murphy.

**Third Place:** Team Ellingson Drainage: Corey Haag, Jeff Schroeder, Jordan Kautzman and Don Kautzman.

## Congratulations to the Jamestown contest winners:

**Closest to Pin #4:** Jordan Kautzman.

**Longest Drive #6:** Nick Blaskowski.

**Longest Putt #9:** Nick Blaskowski.

**Closest to Pin #12:** Carlis Cramer.

**Longest Putt #16:** Josh Stutrud.

**Longest Drive #17:** Randy Blaskowski.

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**Hole Sponsors:** Advance Trading, Inc.; AgCountry Farm Credit Services; AgWeek; BASF; Central Sales, Inc.; Centrol, Inc.; Dakota Access Pipeline; Farmers Business Network; Green Bison Soy Processing, LLC; Hoffman Irrigation, Inc.; Innovative Agronomy; MEG Corp. Biodiesel; North Dakota Soybean



**Tournament winning team – PBK Seed Sales; from left Myles Torgerson, Nick Blaskowski, Randy Blaskowski and Steve Dale.**

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For more photos of the tournaments, check out [facebook.com/NorthDakotaSoybeanGrowersAssociation](https://facebook.com/NorthDakotaSoybeanGrowersAssociation).

—Story and photos by staff

## NDSGA Announces 2023 Officer Elections Kasey Bitz of LaMoure reelected President

**T**he North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) held officer elections during a recent Board of Directors meeting. NDSGA officers re-elected included President Kasey Bitz of

LaMoure and Treasurer Spencer Endrud of Buxton. Newly elected officers are Vice President Chris McDonald of Leonard and Secretary Josh Stutrud of Barton, North Dakota.

Monte Peterson of Valley City,

Josh Gackle of Kulm and Justin Sherlock of Dazey will continue to serve as the American Soybean Association representatives to provide a voice for North Dakota soybean producers on national farm policy. Stephanie Cook

of Davenport, is the Corteva Agriscience Young Leader on the board of directors.

—Story and photos by staff



Kasey Bitz



Chris McDonald



Josh Stutrud



Spencer Endrud

# Getting to Know the NDSC County Representative



**Nathan Thomas**  
Mott, North Dakota

## Tell us about your farm.

I am a 4th generation farmer and rancher. I farm and ranch with my parents and brother-in-law in southwest North Dakota. My brother-in-law and I have merged our operations over the years to form "GT Stock and Grain." On our operation, we typically raise soybeans, canola, corn, spring wheat and sunflowers. We have raised many crops through the years though, so that list is much more extensive. We also run cow-calf pairs on our ranch.

## What do you like best about farming?

I love farming because it is something different every day. No day is like the last, so it is always exciting. I also like the fact that I'm my own boss. I really enjoy seeing things grow and working with my hands.

## Did you always know that farming was something you wanted to do?

I've been telling people that I was going to farm as early as when I was two years old! I always knew it was in my blood. I didn't farm right out of high school; I attended college to be a mechanic, as the operation wasn't large enough for me to get into right away. I finally got back to the farm with my brother-in-law in 2009, and I haven't stopped since!

## Why did you get involved with the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) as a county representative?

The main reason why I got involved was because our county didn't have a representative. I was on the crop improvement board, which is how I heard of the opportunity to be a NDSC county representative. I was trying to learn more about soybeans, and so I figured becoming a county representative would help me learn how to incorporate soybeans into my crop mix.

## Why are soybeans part of your crop mix?

Soybeans never used to be part of my crop mix because there just wasn't enough competition in my area amongst elevators. We wanted to move away from growing peas since it can be very difficult to grow peas. We tend to see lower yield with our soybeans, but we don't have to allocate a ton of resources into them either. We grow NDSU (North Dakota State University) variety soybeans, which we have been liking a lot. Soybeans also have the largest planting window, which is nice to have that flexibility in the spring.

## If you could change something about the current operating climate for North Dakota farmers, what would it be?

I would have a year like this every year. It's been cool, not too hot, and we've received moisture when we needed it. Overall, it's been a perfect year, and if we could have years like this all the time, that would be perfect.

## What has changed most about farming since you've been involved?

Technology has definitely changed the most since I've started farming. It keeps advancing more and more. I started farming in 2009, and since then, the technology has been getting more advanced for the better.

## What changes do you expect to see on your farm in the next five to ten years?

Hopefully more expansion in all areas of our operation. I'm hoping, in the next five to ten years, I can get the kids transitioned into helping more and more as they get older. Hope-

fully, the kids will grow with the operation.

## What do you like to do outside farming?

Relax and do nothing! I always take up the chance to hang out with our friends and family when we are not busy farming. I also love to garden, and if I had more free time, I would do a lot more of it!

## If you could go anywhere, where would it be?

I would love to go and visit Australia. They have a way different climate than we do in North Dakota, and I would like to see how they farm.

## What's the one piece of farm equipment or technology you wouldn't want to be without?

I couldn't live without the GPS in my equipment. It's essential, especially with no-till, since you can't tell where you went just by looking at the field. I would be pretty lost without my GPS!

—Story by staff, photo by Pro-Tech & Consulting

*Nathan is one of the North Dakota Soybean Council's county representatives. To learn more about serving on the North Dakota Soybean Council as a county representative or board member, visit [ndsoybean.org/council-election](http://ndsoybean.org/council-election).*

# Getting to Know the Legislator



**Senator Terry Wanzek**  
Jamestown, North Dakota

## Tell us about your farm.

I farm with my brother, my son and my nephew and their families.

## How did you get started farming?

I've got my degree in accounting and business administration, and was going to be a certified public accountant, but even when I worked for a firm right out of college, I would find my mind wandering back to farming. I knew it was in my blood. My uncle and my dad farmed together. One day, my dad called me when I was out in California working

and said, if I wanted to farm, now's your opportunity because my uncle was going to quit. So back in the 1970s, I rented some of his land, and that was the start of my farming career.

One thing I've always stated when I've been given an opportunity to visit with people and constituents is that, first and foremost, I'm a farmer. That's what I am. That's who I am. I happen to be a farmer who dabbles a little bit in the political arena.

## How did you get started in public service?

I'd probably have to go all the way back to 4-H and FFA. I was very active in the FFA in high school. I went on to college and graduated and didn't really aspire to be involved in politics, but some of the local leaders approached me to be on the county Farm Bureau board. After a while, some of the local leaders asked me if I ever thought about running for the legislature. At first, I laughed, and my wife had a good laugh. I never thought I would ever do that.

I first got elected in 1992. I did sit out one term. Then, I got talked into going back into it. I got re-elected, and I've been there ever since. This was my 14th session.

## Are there particular areas of interest for you in the legislature?

The one thing that still always puts me in awe is the spectrum of issues that we deal with and make decisions on every day. Issues in agriculture are of interest to me, but over the years, I've also dealt a lot with the Department of Corrections budget. As chair of the Government Operations Division of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I also had the Department of Transportation budget. Transportation infrastructure is important to North Dakota because our two main industries, energy and agriculture, depend on it to be efficient and

effective in operating their farms or managing their businesses.

## Is it challenging to balance being a farmer and legislator?

I've always tried to let the people that I represent know my heart is in the fact that I'm a farmer. I never aspired to be a politician but guess I am one. Being a legislator is about having relationships with other people and managing those relationships and building trust and gaining other people's trust.

## Is it important to have farmers involved in the legislature?

Policy gets made or developed by those who show up, and there is a need for more of us in agriculture to show up and make sure our issues are known and addressed. In that sense, I think I've done my job. I feel pretty good about speaking up for rural North Dakota over the years and for our industries and our people and all facets, including education, rural infrastructure and agricultural research extension.

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photo courtesy of Senator Terry Wanzek

***Editor's note:** This article is the first one in a new series of legislative profiles to help readers learn more about the people elected to represent North Dakota growers in Bismarck.*

## Bean Briefs

### Soy Growers Unhappy with Biofuel Obligations

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final Renewable Volume Obligations (RVO)

for 2023, 2024 and 2025, which sets annual biofuel blending targets under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Soy growers are expressing disappointment because the rule does not accurately reflect the growth expected

in the industry and falls far below the industry's current production.

The 2023 finalized rule made zero increases to the 2023 volumes compared to the draft rule. For 2024 and 2025, the EPA made modest increases

compared to the draft rule.

The total volumes for 2025 represent just over a 20% growth compared to the 2022 biomass-based

—Story continued on page 38

—*Story continued from page 37*

diesel RVOs previously set by the EPA. However, these totals match the current production levels and do not actually account for the industry's growth. The Energy Information Administration predicts an increase for biomass-based diesel production of over 800 million gallons in 2023 alone. The final rule offers RFS volume increases of just 590 million gallons over the course of three years.

"This announcement is a letdown for soy growers. It threatens the success of the biomass-based diesel industry by significantly dialing back annual increases in volume obligations and failing to account for the progress being made in biofuels investment and growth," said American Soybean Association President Daryl Cates, a soybean grower from Illinois.

The expanded crush capacity that companies have announced for the next three years would increase the supplies of soybean oil by about 5.5 billion pounds. This amount translates into about 700 million gallons of renewable diesel, far above the EPA's three-year RVO growth of approximately 590 million gallons.

### ASA, NCGA Share Concerns About the EPA's ESA Draft Guidance

The American Soybean Association (ASA) and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding activities to improve the efficiency of Endangered Species Act (ESA) considerations for new active-ingredient registrations and registration review. While the EPA's draft guidance is primarily directed toward registrants and how they might best prepare for conducting ESA assessments with the agencies, there are several elements to the guidance that are concerning for growers.

The guidance advises registrants to identify, in advance of submitting a pesticide application, if they think

mitigations will be necessary and to come to the EPA with ideas. In the comments, the ASA and NCGA felt "mitigation first" is a flawed, precautionary mindset that is at odds with Congress' risk-based direction under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

While the guidance welcomes registrants to submit alternative mitigation ideas, it does not clarify how and what data might be needed to make these submissions. The organizations requested that the EPA provide clarification so that growers have as many options to comply as possible. The organizations also urged the agency to develop better processes for consulting with growers and other affected stakeholders prior to the publication of proposals so that drafts are closer to the mark and require less work to fix prior to finalization.

U.S. Representatives Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Jim Costa (D-CA) introduced the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act, which is intended to ensure uniformity of labeling standards for pesticides that are backed by sound science and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The aim was to provide certainty to producers and consumers by ensuring that the crop-protection tools remain safe and available.

### EPA Aims to Update WOTUS by Sept. 1

The Biden administration has announced its plans to directly issue a final rule on the definition of "Waters of the United States" by Sept. 1, consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's May 25 decision in the case of *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA).

The Supreme Court ruled that the "significant nexus" test—heavily used in the new WOTUS rule—shall not be used to determine which streams and wetlands fall under the scope of Clean Water Act protections.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for

Civil Works Michael Connor told the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to use expedited authorities to finalize a new regulation for the issue. Connor explained that the agencies are looking at "surgically removing" the significant nexus elements from the recent rule. While farm groups are pleased with this quick move to execute the court's opinion, this approach is still likely to raise concerns with agricultural stakeholders, who are looking at options to provide comments on the revisions.

### OFF Act Misses the Mark

Critics of commodity checkoff programs continue trying to build momentum for the Opportunity for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act ahead of the farm bill. The legislation aims to impose new restrictions on checkoffs that would prohibit them from contracting with an organization that engages in lobbying, conflicts of interest or anticompetitive activities that harm other commodities.

American Soybean Association (ASA) Director of Government Affairs Ariel Wiegard called the OFF Act a "hammer looking for a nail." Wiegard shared that the relationship between the ASA and the United Soybean Board (USB) is one of strict compliance and oversight to ensure that no checkoff funding is ever used for lobbying.

The ASA opposes the OFF Act and has been working with leadership in both the House and Senate to educate lawmakers and congressional staff on the countless benefits that checkoff programs bring to farmers. In April, the ASA, along with other major ag associations, submitted comments to lawmakers opposing the OFF Act while supporting the numerous benefits that checkoffs provide to farmers.

Soybean checkoff programs allow soybean farmers to invest in programs

that enhance markets and the overall value of soybeans. Producer checkoff programs are a valuable tool for building new demand and educating about issues that threaten the future of farming. For every dollar that farmers invest in the soy checkoff, they receive a \$12.34 return on investment through the results of USB promotion, research and education.

### ASA and Soy States Urge the Court to Uphold Dicamba Registrations

The American Soybean Association (ASA), along with state soybean associations and numerous cotton groups, filed an amicus brief advising the Arizona District Court against vacating the registration of dicamba products.

Dicamba is a herbicide that helps protect soybean crops from economically damaging weeds, saving U.S. growers hundreds of millions to billions of dollars in preserved yields and reduced operating costs while racking up tens to hundreds of millions of dollars in preserved conservation benefits annually. As an important, versatile tool for soybean growers, the ASA says that it is imperative for soybean growers to continue having meaningful access to dicamba so that they can maintain proven production and conservation benefits.

In the brief, the ASA and other groups assert that a vacatur will result in great disruption to the agricultural economy, risk creating herbicide-tolerant weeds and make it much harder for growers to maintain certain conservation practices, among other harms.

Dicamba products are a critical tool for a farm's weed management, and the ASA advises that the product is crucial to growers, the ag economy and the environment, urging the court to uphold the EPA's registrations.

—*Story by Daniel Lemke*



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*Are you ready to accept the challenge to be a better-than-average soybean farmer?*

“That was a question posed during a soybean meeting I attended. The speaker said farmers who can improve their productivity by at least five percent over average are farmers who will succeed.

While there may be many ways to improve our production plan, one of the first that came to my mind is one we already invest in: the Soybean Research & Information Network (SRIN).

Research is one the primary buckets funded through state and national soybean checkoff dollars. As a checkoff organization representative, I often get asked how our checkoff money is spent and whether it generates return on investment. Unequivocally, I know SRIN is worth every dime.”

SRIN is a website that was created to share with farmers the results from research housed in the National Soybean Checkoff Research Database for every state. SRIN representatives read through the research reports and boil down the information for farmers to understand and easily implement on their operations. The site highlights state soybean research programs, profiles key soybean researchers, hosts a YouTube channel of educational videos and farmer perspectives on production challenges, as well as shares diagnostic tools, agronomic tips and pest control recommendations by state and region. Content is constantly added to keep the site fresh and relevant and is supplemented by a timely social media presence and monthly e-newsletter.

*Mike Schlosser, farmer from  
Edgeley, North Dakota*

**Sign up NOW for the  
SRIN monthly newsletter!**



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HELP NDSGA GAUGE TODAY'S ISSUES AT THE BIG IRON FARM SHOW

# Soybeans Can Inflate Your Bottom Line



Members of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association receive a great deal of insightful industry information, enjoy valuable benefits and support vital policy advocacy work.

Soybean farmers – visit the NDSGA booth at Big Iron, check out your membership status and go home with this tire gauge (limited to the first 250 growers).



**Big Iron Farm Show • Booth C8 Expo Center • September 12-14, 2023**  
**Red River Valley Fairgrounds • West Fargo, ND**