

- Managing Herbicide Resistance
- Checkoff Sponsored Research
- Financial Report

Perdue Farms soybean processing tour slated for Aug. 22

Perdue Farms of Salisbury, the Delaware Soybean Board and the United Soybean Board are teaming up to offer soybean growers a front-row view of “what happens next” to soybeans that are delivered to the facility.

It’s a rare chance to get out of the truck and follow the path of the soybeans you deliver as they move from the scale along the path to the ultimate customer - beyond Perdue’s gates - as soybean meal, oil or various products, in poultry feed or human food or untold numbers of commercial product applications.

The United Soybean Board is helping sponsor this event through its Technology Transfer Program, a soybean checkoff program in collaboration with state soybean boards and universities. The program’s goal is to move research-based information into the hands of growers through innovative programs.

The Perdue tour will help farmers understand the me-

chanical and chemical processes the soybean undergoes at the plant, and also concerns such as the impact of foreign matter, protein and oil content and other quality aspects of the beans being delivered. In addition to the tour, brief presentations from the University of Delaware and soybean checkoff researchers will make the connection between research and reality at the plant.

“Perdue Farms stepped right up when we asked about this tour,” says Jesse Vanderwende, chairman of the Delaware Soybean Board. “There was an immediate enthusiasm for welcoming Delaware farmers in. This is going to be a fantastic opportunity for soybean farmers to gain a deeper understanding of the concerns of our biggest customer.”

Pre-registration will be required for this event. Participants will be required to board a bus at the University of Delaware Carvel Research Farm to attend. Look for additional information and registration at www.desoybeans.org and via Carvel Extension communications.

Study evaluates soy response to various soil moisture levels

Full Season and Double Cropped Soybeans in Narrow and Wide Rows are Observed

By Cory Whaley, James Adkins, and Phillip Sylvester

University of Delaware - *Special to Soy News*

Two studies were initiated in 2012 at the University of Delaware’s Warrington Irrigation Research Farm in Harbeson, DE to determine the effect of eight irrigation strategies on full season and double crop soybeans planted in 7”, 15”, and 30” rows.

Overall, rainfall totals in May (0.5”), June (2.5”), July (2.5”), and September (2.8”) were below average, but rainfall was well above average in August (10.6”).

In the full season study, average yield in plots that re-

ceived irrigation ranged from 63 to 70 bu/A compared to 54 bu/A in plots that received no irrigation. The amount of water applied based on the

irrigation strategy ranged from 5.3” to 9.6”. The irrigation strategy that produced the greatest yield (70 bu/A) was when irrigation was applied at a reduced amount (>30% available soil moisture) until the R5/R6 growth stage and then >50% available soil moisture until maturity. This irrigation strategy also required the least amount of water applied (5.3”). There was no yield advantage in irrigating to



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Delaware Soybean Briefs

Delaware Soybean Board elects officers

Jesse Vanderwende of Bridgeville, Del., has been elected chairman of the Delaware Soybean Board. Vanderwende succeeds Kevin Evans, also of Bridgeville, who served as chairman for the past three years.

Jay Baxter of Georgetown was elected vice chairman. Travis Hastings of Laurel remains the board's treasurer, a position he has held for three years.

The Delaware Soybean Board consists of nine farmer-directors and the Secretary of Agriculture, and administers the federal soybean checkoff programs in the state. Under the soybean checkoff, one half of one percent of the net market value of soybeans is assessed at the first point of sale to support research, marketing and education programs.

The officers are joined by Rob Baker of Odessa; Dennis Clay of Middletown; Dale Blessing of Harrington; Jonathan Snow of Smyrna; and Brandon Bonk of Dover.

See For Yourself accepting applicants until April 1

This summer, 10 U.S. soybean farmers from across the country will get the chance to see how the United Soybean Board (USB) puts their soy checkoff investment to use. To find out who those 10 farmers will be, the national soy checkoff has begun accepting applications for its sixth annual See for Yourself program.

Cory Atkins of Seaford, Del., was selected for the program last year. "It was an amazing experience and gave me a better perspective of what the soybean checkoff does and how effective it is," Atkins said of the experience. "I totally recommend it."

See For Yourself offers farmers the chance to see the checkoff in action and evaluate a wide range of checkoff activities. The 2013 See for Yourself session will take place July 21-27, 2013.

The soy checkoff invites all soybean farmers from around the country to visit USB's website and apply. The application deadline is April 1, 2013.

"See for Yourself is truly exceptional," said David Hartke, chair of the USB Audit and Evaluation committee, which sponsors See for Yourself. "Farmer-participants have the chance to see the activities of their checkoff up close, and draw their own conclusions at the same time. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Selected farmer-participants will visit several sites that demonstrate the soy checkoff's efforts to improve the value of U.S. soy

meal and oil; ensure soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate; and meet the needs of U.S. soy customers.

Participants will first meet in St. Louis, headquarters of USB, to receive an overview of the organization and see how the checkoff works on behalf of soybean farmers domestically.

The group will then travel to a location abroad to learn about the demand for U.S. soy internationally and to see some of the many uses for soy. Examples of what participants might see include the use of biodiesel at a major airport, the importance of soy to animal agriculture and the use of soy by the food industry. USB will cover all travel, lodging and meal expenses.

The 69 farmer-directors of USB oversee the investments of the soy checkoff to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds to increase the value of U.S. soy meal and oil, to ensure U.S. soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate, and to meet the needs of U.S. soy's customers. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff.

Making safety a priority is worth the effort

Making the effort to minimize farm hazards and re-design the work environment and procedures to reduce risks is always a good idea, but especially so when you or someone else on the farm is entering "the golden years." Improve safety on your farm using these suggestions:

- Increase light levels in the workplace
- Equip stairs with hand rails
- Use hearing protection
- Limit exposure to particularly hazardous tasks
- Use power lifts when lifting
- Use mobility aids
- Provide lower steps for accessing equipment
- Refrain from operating equipment when using medications that have side effects such as reduced reaction time, impaired sense of balance, etc.

Farming is currently one of the most dangerous occupations in the US. Find out more on by visiting www.Mid-AtlanticAgrAbility.com.

Punkin Chunkin features biodiesel in diesel generators

The Delaware Soybean Board promoted soy-based biodiesel at the 2012 World Championship Punkin Chunkin held in November. The chunk used B5, which is a five percent blend of biodiesel with 95 percent petroleum diesel, in the generators which power the light towers.

"Showcasing biodiesel at an event like Punkin Chunkin is a great way to demonstrate its versatility," said Susanne Zilberfarb, executive director of the Delaware Soybean Board.

Zilberfarb worked with Jeff Wheatley, a former Delaware Soybean Board member and owner of Wheatley Farms, which hosts the chunk, to arrange the sponsorship.



Jeff Wheatley of Wheatley Farms shakes hands with Susanne Zilberfarb of the Delaware Soybean Board.

Herbicide resistant weeds require management

As the old saying goes, "All good things must come to an end". That saying is true when we think of the simplicity glyphosate brought to weed control for soybeans. In the late 90's and early 2000's the most challenging decision for soybean weed control was whether someone bought enough glyphosate to cover all their acres. Now with herbicide resistant weeds, and weed species shifts, weed management for soybeans has become more challenging.

Herbicide-resistant weeds are not a new phenomenon. Weeds and other pests have always adapted to the ever-changing environment, and farmers continue to find ways to fight them. Delaware has had glyphosate-resistant horseweed (or marestail) for some time and now glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth has been confirmed. In addition, ALS-resistant smooth (or redroot) pigweed is wide-spread. Managing for resistance management relies on the "basics" for weed control and will improve other hard to control species such as morningglories.

Jeffrey Gunsolus, Ph.D., University of Minnesota professor and extension weed specialist, has five recommendations for farmers when fighting weeds:

Diversification: Ultimately, diversification is the key, he said. Instead of focusing on one method of pest control, it is important for farmers to use a variety of agronomic principles to best protect their crops.

Pre-emergence herbicide: Starting with a pre-emergence herbicide introduces new chemistry to the soil and hinders weed growth from the beginning. This gives the crop a better chance to establish itself without fighting weeds for nutrients. Once established, the crop's canopy prevents the weeds from receiving sunlight.

Post-emergence herbicide: Delayed weed growth due to the pre-emergence herbicide makes a post-emergence herbicide more effective. The slower growth gives a farmer a larger window to spray the weeds when they are smaller and more susceptible to herbicides.

Rotate, rotate, rotate: Crop rotation is undoubtedly important but so is herbicide rotation. Some herbicides can be used for weed control for a variety of crops. Even if a farmer practices crop rotation, using the same herbicide repeatedly on the same field encourages resistance to that herbicide.

Patience: When trying different weed-management options, "farmers may not see immediate gains when using a variety of techniques," he said. "But they will see improved conditions in the longer term."

As Delaware sees more fields where glyphosate is losing its effectiveness, Mark VanGessel, UD Extension Weed Specialist, suggests these general guidelines for herbicide selections:

* always use an **effective** soil-applied her-



Mark VanGessel discussed Palmer Amaranth during the 2012 Soybean Field Day.

bicide program before or at planting;

* never apply glyphosate by itself;

* postemergence applications must be made to small (less than 4 inch) plants;

* it is advisable to use PPO-inhibiting herbicides (Group 14: Valor, Sharpen, or Reflex) for soybeans, and Group 27 herbicides (mesotrione, tembotrione, or topramezone) for corn.

The specific herbicides will differ depending on your fields, weeds present, and crop rotations. But they guidelines are the basic considerations for chemical weed control.

When farmers are asked about challenges to farming, weed control is always one of the most common answers. No single solution has proven effective before or after the development of modern agriculture. We need to incorporate many effective strategies to control weeds as they adapt whenever we try to simplify weed control.

Soybean Marketing and Production College Planned for July 29-31

Successful growers are constantly seeking the latest knowledge and best practices when it comes to agriculture marketing and production information.

The American Soybean Association (ASA), through the support of the Delaware Soybean Board and other state soybean boards is holding its first Soybean Marketing and Production College (SMPC) July 29 through July 31, 2013 in Minneapolis.

ASA Soybean Marketing and Production College is open to all ASA members and will provide in-depth training and educational information on a multitude of soybean marketing and production issues.

The SMPC program will feature keynote speakers focusing on agri-marketing. The College will also have three education

tracks focusing on meeting global sustainability needs in soybeans, specialty crop marketing and IP production systems, weed and herbicide resistance management and using precision agriculture to produce more with less.

The four education tracks will be offered to attendees in three education sessions. The weed resistance management education track is sponsored by Bayer CropScience and the precision agriculture education track is sponsored by AGCO. In addition there will be a special presentation on succession planning.

"ASA is addressing the growing call from members to provide an education program focused on marketing and production," says Bob Worth, ASA Vice President and

Member and Corporate Relations Committee Chairman. "The Soybean Marketing and Production College is based on the same structure as the ASA Soybean Leadership College, which has been training grower leaders for 13 years."

The College is a great opportunity to take part in quality learning and networking opportunities.

Registration will open in April and is limited to the first 80 participants. Sponsoring soybean organizations will be guaranteed registrations based on the amount of sponsorship.

Stay tuned. Questions can be directed to Byron Keelin, Member Education and Project Development Manager at 314-754-1355 or bkeelin@soy.org.

Soybean Yield Contest winner tops state with 79.72 bushels

Doug Vanderwende of Greenwood won the state's first soybean yield contest with a full season, irrigated field of beans that yielded 79.72 bushels per acre.

He accepted the state's top prize - a \$500 check - at Agronomy Day during Ag Week, Jan. 17, in Harrington.

County winners received a prize of \$250. Jay Baxter had the top yield in Sussex County with 79.04 bushels of full season, irrigated beans.

William Vanderwende had the top yield in Kent County with 75.9 bushels of full season dryland beans. There were no entries in New Castle County.

Rick Davis, the contest coordinator, worked with a committee of growers and University personnel to develop the contest rules.

"We felt that it was a successful year, even though we didn't have the participation that we would have liked. I feel that we learned a lot from this past year and this will help us in 2013."

Rules for the 2013 contest will be posted on the board's website: www.desoybeans.org by June 1.



A \$30 entry fee is required. Growers must be registered by Aug.

Doug Vanderwende of Greenwood accepted a \$500 check for winning the state yield contest. Presenting the check is Jesse Vanderwende, chairman of the Delaware Soybean Board.

30. Only one entry is allowed per grower.

The yield contest got its start when Kevin Evans and Travis Hastings pitched the idea at a board meeting. Other directors on the board agreed it would be a good way to recognize the state's top growers while sharing some of their growing strategies.

"A lot of people pulled together to develop this contest from idea to reality," said Jesse Vanderwende, board chairman. "Travis Hastings, Kevin Evans and Jay Baxter met several times last winter to create an outline of the contest and develop some rules.

"Philip Sylvester, Cory Whaley and James Adkins provided a lot of insight, as did Mark Isaacs. Derby Walker shared some great ideas about inputs to measure, and Derby, Joanne Whalen and Mark Van Gessel gave us some great ideas.

"We quickly realized that this contest needed a dedicated coordinator, and Rick Davis has done a great job of getting the contest off the ground and through its first year. We're looking forward to more widespread participation in 2013."

For more information, visit the Soybean Board website at www.desoybeans.org.



Jay Baxter grew Sussex County's top yield.

Schillinger Genetics forms new feed company: Navita

Schillinger Genetics, encouraged by results from its soybean breeding and animal feeding trials, has formed a new company: Navita Premium Feed Ingredients, Inc.

John Schillinger reported to members of the Delaware and Maryland Soybean Boards Feb. 13 in Denton, Md., that his company is pursuing agreements to create feeds for poultry and aquaculture

markets, and on that date was extremely close to closing a deal to provide feed to an overseas aquaculture project.

"I appreciate the support of the soybean farmers here, in Delaware and in Maryland," Schillinger said. "It means so much to me, and part of my mission is to make sure that we are creating varieties that will excel on Delmarva and new marketing opportunities that will allow our farmers to thrive."

The Delaware and Maryland Soybean Boards have provided funding to the company to support the development of non-GMO soybean varieties that are well-suited to Delmarva growing conditions and which contain value-added traits which could command premium prices, and to support feeding trials to prove the value of the new varieties developed by Schillinger Genetics.



John Schillinger, standing, explains the results of new poultry and aquaculture feeding trials to directors of the Delaware and Maryland Soybean Boards. Seated are Travis Hastings and Kevin Evans of the Delaware Soybean Board, and Dr. Bochoa Hu, a leading Chinese expert in shrimp nutrition, who was recently hired by Schillinger's new company, Navita. DSB Directors Rob Baker and Jonathan Snow, not shown here, also attended the meeting.

Delaware Soybean Board sponsors research projects

Slugs, spider mites, irrigation and weed control are main topics

Directors of the Delaware Soybean Board approved four soybean research projects proposed by University of Delaware researchers at their meeting Jan. 17 in Harrington. Two other projects were tabled pending further information.

Two projects were proposed by University of Delaware entomologists and IPM specialists to examine insect pests in Delaware. Joanne Whalen and Bill Cissel will investigate the management of slugs and of the two-spotted spider mite in Delaware soybean fields. The two projects total \$11,791. Phillip Sylvester, Kent County Extension Ag Agent, is also cooperating on the projects.

The researchers report that slugs have become a challenge due to the prevalence of no-till production in the region, and the lack of effective tools to handle slug infestations.

Directors also approved the second year of a study to examine the effect of various soil moisture levels on yield in soybeans. The test involves testing various irrigation regimes on narrow and wide row soybeans. (See story, Page 1.) That proposal requested \$12,185.

Nationally, the researchers said, irrigation research traditionally has been centered in the southwest United States. However, with more than a quarter of the tillable land in Delaware under irrigation, and considering soy's importance as a rotational crop, the development of irrigation recommendations appears to be timely.

The final project which was approved was proposed by Mark Van Gessel, entitled "Management for Emerging Weed Problems."



Jay Baxter took time out from the farm to attend a soybean checkoff research policy discussion headed up by the United Soybean Board's national compliance officer Darold Ziegler (standing).

VanGessel's research objectives include evaluating the effectiveness of herbicides for Texas panicum and Palmer Amaranth control and evaluating Palmer Amaranth control for managing resistant populations.

Two advances mean double trouble for Soybean Cyst Nematode

Checkoff-funded discoveries provide more possible solutions to billion-dollar disease

When it comes to soybean cyst nematode (SCN), which costs U.S. soybean farmers \$1 billion annually in crop losses, farmers can never have enough potential solutions. Twice recently, research funded by the United Soybean Board (USB) and soy checkoff has yielded potential breakthroughs in fighting off this devastating disease.

In a paper titled "A Soybean Cyst Nematode Resistance Gene Points to a New Mechanism of Plant Resistance to Pathogens," scientists reveal that they identified and validated the gene at the Rhg4 locus, a major driver in a soybean plant's resistance to SCN.

"The checkoff has a number of projects that aim to identify the genes in a soybean plant that can effectively control SCN," says USB Production program Chair Jim Schriver, a soybean farmer from Bluffton, Ind. "Even though there are different types of SCN, if we could take advantage of those genes that control resistance, it would be effective for all types of SCN."

The study, published recently in the online journal *Nature*, is the first to identify the

gene and its mechanism for creating resistance, according to the article's lead authors, Khalid Meksem, Ph.D., of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) and Melissa Goellner Mitchum, Ph.D., of the University of Missouri at Columbia.

"Funding and support from USB and the soy checkoff have been crucial to this new discovery of disease resistance, which will be used to develop products that will benefit U.S. soybean farmers," says Meksem, associate professor of plant, soil science and agricultural systems at SIUC. "This discovery comes at a time when farmers need

new solutions, as the nematodes adapt and find ways through the soybeans' defenses."

The team hopes their research will lead to a better understanding of how the resistant genes work and ultimately lead to improved crop yield.

A separate checkoff-funded project recently found that soybean plants with multiple copies of a multi-gene block known as Rhg1 also show better resistance to SCN. Both projects allow researchers to focus on these gene structures – Rhg1 and Rhg4 – to help them develop SCN-resistant U.S. soybean varieties.

Irrigation study ...

Continued from Page 1

maintain >50% available soil moisture until Mid-August this year. Soybeans in all row widths responded similarly to each irrigation strategy, but there was an overall yield difference between row widths. Average soybean yield was 67 bu/A in 15" rows, 64 bu/A in 7" rows, and 61 bu/A in 30" rows.

In the double crop study, average yield in plots that received irrigation ranged from 58 to 61 bu/A compared to 58 bu/A in plots that received no irrigation. The amount of water applied based on the irrigation strategy ranged from 2.2" to 6.6". The above average rainfall in August had a significant

effect on soybean yield. Soybeans in all row widths responded similarly to each irrigation strategy, but there was an overall yield difference between row widths. Yield was greatest in the 15" rows at 64 bu/A, followed by the 30" rows at 58 bu/A, and then the 7" rows at 55 bu/A. Final stand in the 7" rows was 107,000 plants/A compared to 169,522 plants/A in the 15" rows, and 154,427 plants/A in the 30" rows. The reduced plant stand in the 7" rows compared to the 15" and 30" rows may have limited yield potential.

We are looking forward to repeating these studies in 2013.

About the Delaware Soybean Board

The Delaware Soybean Board administers soybean checkoff funds for soybean research, marketing and education programs in the state. One-half of the checkoff funds stay in Delaware for programs; the other half is sent to the United Soybean Board.

The farmer directors of the Delaware Soybean Board administer the soybean checkoff program in Delaware. Half of the assessments are sent to the United Soybean Board for national and international research, marketing and education.

The half that stays in Delaware works for you through soybean production research, marketing of biodiesel and other new uses of soybeans, support for animal agriculture markets, and resources to respond to issues like soybean rust and stink bugs.

Under the soybean checkoff program, authorized by Congress in 1991, farmers contribute one-half of one percent (equal to 50 cents per \$100) of the net market value of soybeans sold, collected at the first point of sale.

Delaware Soybean Board directors are elected by their peers and may serve a maximum of two three-year terms. The directors whose names appear on the ballot of this newsletter are running for their second three-year term.

Financial Report

Delaware Soybean Board Fiscal Year 2012 - October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012

Total FY12 Assessments	\$396,387
50% to United Soybean Board	194,977
Delaware Soybean Board	\$201,410
Interest & FY 11 Project Funding Carryover	298,273
Miscellaneous	2,912
Total Revenues FY12	\$502,595
DISBURSEMENTS	
Administration, Collection, Compliance, Board	
Operating Costs and Elevator Audits	\$31,454
Special Projects	\$13,996
Communications	\$31,820
Promotion	\$84,783
In-State Research	54,532
Total Disbursements FY12	\$216,585
Ongoing Project Funding FY13	\$286,010

Board of Directors

Jesse Vanderwende
Chairman, Bridgeville

James H. "Jay" Baxter, IV
Vice Chairman, Georgetown

Travis Hastings
Treasurer, Laurel

Robert Baker
Odessa

Dale Blessing
Harrington

Brandon Bonk
Dover

Dennis Clay
Middletown

Kevin Evans
Bridgeville

Jonathan Snow
Smyrna

Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee



Richard F. Carlisle of Bridgeville represents Delaware on the United Soybean Board. USB is made up of 69 farmer-directors who oversee soybean checkoff funds invested in animal utilization, human utilization, industrial utilization, industry relations, market access and supply.

Dallas Wright of Millsboro serves as alternate USB director.

Dennis Clay of Middletown serves as director on the National Biodiesel Board for the joint membership held by Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Doug Corey of Bridgeville serves as director on the Soy Aquaculture Alliance, for the joint membership with Delaware and Maryland.

Susanne Zilberfarb is the board's executive director. Sandra Davis serves as the board's financial and compliance coordinator.

Find out more by visiting:
www.desoybeans.org

U.S. Soybean Farmer Success Linked to Animal Agriculture

Report also measures economic impact of poultry, livestock and fish sectors on U.S. economy

It's an affect that seems obvious to soybean growers in Delaware: Our soybeans go directly to feed the poultry industry, and so our fortunes are directly tied to that industry.

Now, a study commissioned by the United Soybean Board confirms it: Challenges facing U.S. poultry, livestock and fish farmers threaten the future profitability of the country's soybean farmers. The report concludes that the future success of the U.S. soy industry is closely tied to the long-term competitiveness of its No. 1 customer, animal agriculture.

Rising feed prices and costs related to environmental and animal welfare regulations are just two factors that could significantly impact the practices involved with raising poultry, livestock and fish, the report says.

"U.S. soybean farmers should care about animal ag because it's their number one domestic customer," said Lewis Bainbridge,

chair of USB's Domestic Marketing and a soybean farmer from Ethan, S.D. "We need to be sensitive to the issues facing poultry and livestock farmers and make sure that we are providing high-quality soy meal."

The study looks at the production of broilers, eggs, turkeys, hogs, beef cattle, dairy and aquaculture between 2001 and 2011. It details the use of U.S. soy meal in each sector and the value that sector represents to U.S. soybean farmers.

The study also outlines the economic benefits poultry, livestock, and aquaculture provide at the state and national levels. Nationally, in 2011, these benefits included:

- Support for 1.7 million jobs
- \$333 billion in total economic output
- \$58 billion impact on household incomes
- \$18 billion in income and property taxes

For U.S. soybean farmers, U.S. animal ag remains their most important customer. Overall, poultry, livestock and fish farmers in 2011 used almost 30 million tons of soy meal, or the meal from 1.27 billion bushels of U.S. soybeans. The meal consumption per species broke down as follows:

- Broiler chickens: the meal from about 480 million bushels of U.S. soybeans
- Hogs: the meal from more than 360 million bushels
- Dairy cattle: the meal from approximately 101 million bushels
- Laying hens: the meal from 93 million bushels
- Turkeys: the meal from more than 80 million bushels
- Beef cattle: the meal from more than 80 million bushels

Source: USB Marketview Dataqbase 2010

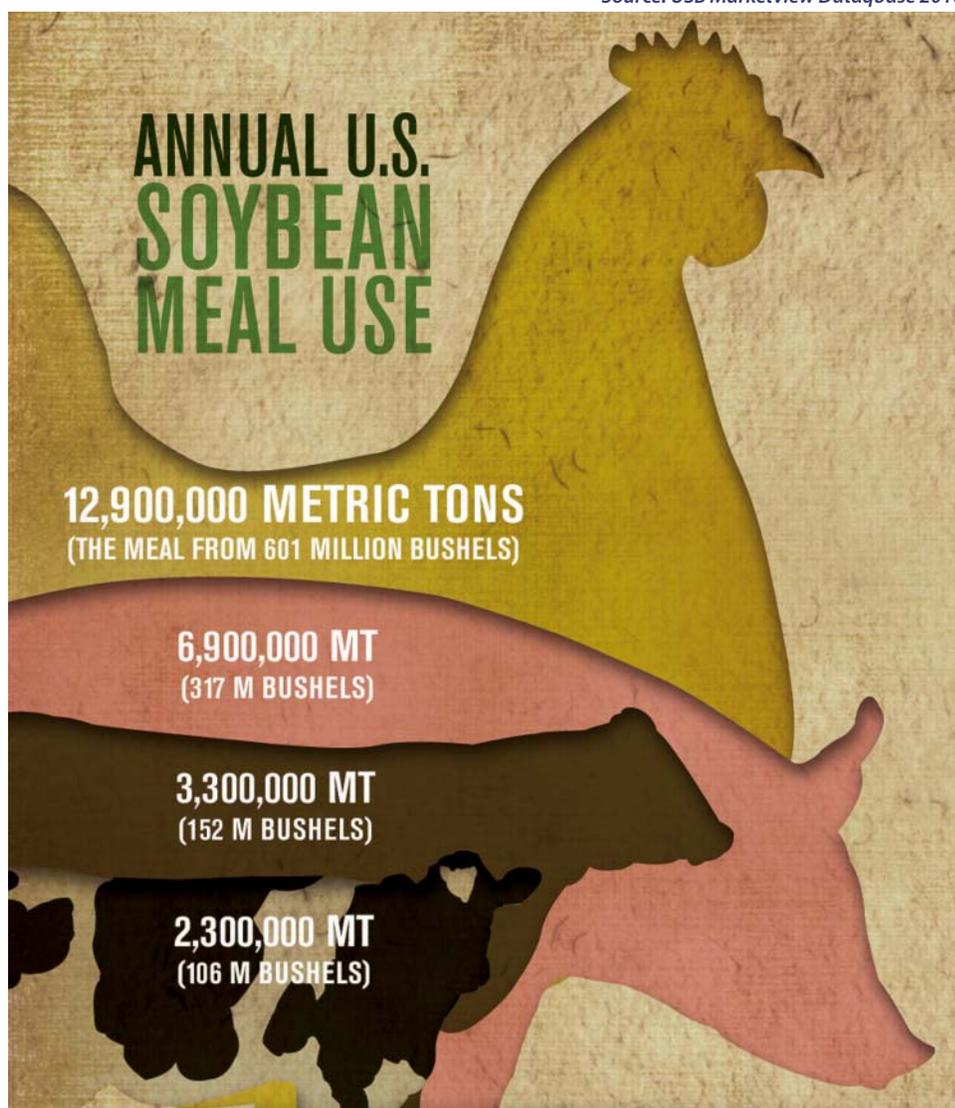
Energy Audits

Looking to cut energy costs?

A Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) determines and documents current energy usage and provides cost-effective alternatives and recommendations for energy conservation on the working land of the farm operation. The Landscape AgEMP includes an analysis of the energy used in the planting, cultivation, irrigation, production, protection, and harvesting of agricultural or forest crops. The AgEMP also opens up opportunities to receive additional funding to reduce energy costs used in field operations.

Savings recommendations are customized based on the type of crop grown, equipment and methods used, and the unique geography of the land. The AgEMP is funded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program, meaning you can receive this valuable service at a reduced cost.

Applications to the Natural Resources Conservation Service are accepted on a rolling basis, but contracts are awarded only at certain times each year. You should apply as early as possible in order to secure the best opportunity for funding. To get started, contact EnSave at (800) 732-1399 to learn more about the process.





Delaware Soybean Board

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Mark your calendars ...

The Delaware Soybean Board has a summer full of interesting activities. Please mark your calendars and join us!

June 8 - Seasons on the Farm dinner - Ever wanted to literally sit down across the table from consumers and talk to them about how you raise food and feed on your farm? This is your chance. Watch the mail and www.desoybeans.org for more information!

July 18-27 - Visit the soybean board booth at the **Delaware State Fair!**

Aug. 10 - Meet Your Farmer night at the **Wilmington Blue Rocks**. Come prepared to enjoy a night of baseball and outreach.

Aug. 22 - Perdue Farms tour - Get a rare look at what happens after you drop the beans off. Tour buses will leave from Carvel Research Farm. UD updates on crop research will be provided.

Aug. 30 - Deadline to register for **the 2013 Soybean Yield Contest!**

Visit www.desoybeans.org for more information!



Finding our CommonGround

Cara Sylvester, on the right, joined Jennifer Cross (left) and Linda Burrier (center) at the B'more Healthy Expo at the Baltimore Convention Center Feb. 23, following a CommonGround volunteer retreat Feb. 22 in Baltimore. CommonGround volunteers are farm women who reach out to their non-farm peers to tell the story of how food is grown. Cross and Burrier live in Maryland. The three women spoke to hundreds of attendees one-on-one and Sylvester and Cross demonstrated how to make "Hidden Fruit Smoothies" on the stage.