

Tennessee Soybean News



SUMMER 2011

Welcome to the summer issue of *Tennessee Soybean News*.

Your soybean checkoff has created this newsletter to keep you informed about what's happening at the state and national levels. Covering the latest issues in the soybean industry, *Tennessee Soybean News* is just one more way your checkoff works for you.

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A Message from the Executive Director

Tennessee farmers can agree that over the past two years we have faced more obstacles than in the past 10.

In May 2010, we received more than 20 inches of rain in a 24-hour period across the state with the same weather system that flooded Nashville. This year the Mississippi River flooded as a result of excessive rainfall in the Midwest. The river expanded to six times its normal width, which also backed up all the tributaries in our state that feed the Mississippi River system. So for two years in a row, flooding delayed planting across our state and created additional insect pressure and disease from stress.

To top off the flooding situation last year, we then proceeded into a prolonged dry period. This year, we have received sporadic rainfall, but July and August temperatures, ranging from 100 to 108 degrees, have taken a toll on our crops.

However, when all is said and done, we still have an opportunity for a decent crop if we get adequate rainfall for the remainder of the growing period. Through soybean checkoff research, we have better seed that fights for decent yields even in adverse conditions. And the checkoff has been successful in helping create additional markets for the soybeans we harvest by expanding the export demand for our soybeans. I hope next year that I don't have to write about an earthquake in the New Madrid area that will affect our main growing area on our side of the river.



Sincerely,

Parks Wells, Executive Director

Tennessee Hosts Regional Soybean Tour

Each year, the American Soybean Association (ASA) and the United Soybean Board (USB) host Regional Education and Awareness Program (REAP) tours in select soybean-growing regions. This year, Tennessee hosted the tour's events from July 20-23.

"After meeting many great leaders from across the country, I've become more interested in farming risks throughout the country," said Bret Davis, soybean farmer from Delaware, Ohio and REAP participant.

During the tours, attendees learned about Tennessee agriculture and gained a better understanding of the soybean industry within the state. From the Technical Field Day at the Memphis AgriCenter International to the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson, participants learned about Tennessee's role in the U.S. soybean industry.

"I learned the importance of the Mississippi River system for exports from Tennessee and the mid-South," added Davis. "It impacts us all and how our exports work."

Participants also toured two Dyer County farms and visited the National Weather Service regional office.

"As soybean farmers, we don't always realize the effects of our environment and how different they are throughout the nation," said Davis. "The REAP tour helps us understand how different it is to grow the same crop throughout different parts of the country."



Above: 2011 Tennessee REAP Tour participants.

Biodiesel Sets Itself Apart Through National Campaign

With help from TSPB, as well as other state soybean checkoffs and USB, the biodiesel industry launched an advertising campaign this summer to set biodiesel apart from the rest of the biofuels on the market.

Biodiesel holds the title of “advanced biofuel” from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the industry coined it, “America’s advanced biofuel.” This campaign educates consumers about biodiesel’s superior qualities over competitive renewable fuels. The messages stress the economic, environmental and national security benefits of biodiesel.

“The EPA designated biodiesel as the only advanced biofuel currently available in the United States,” said Jim Willers, soybean farmer from Beaver Creek, Minn., who volunteers



his time as a USB farmer-director. “The checkoff recognizes the need to promote this distinction and set biodiesel apart from other renewable fuels.” Biodiesel’s future looks promising, with the EPA’s renewable-fuel standard requiring that more than 800 million gallons of biomass-based diesel, a classification that includes biodiesel, be produced in 2011 and another 1 billion gallons be used in 2012.

The TSPB supports biodiesel through marketing efforts helping to increase soybean farmers’ profit potential. Soybean oil remains the predominant raw material used in biodiesel production. To find biodiesel in your area, visit www.biodiesel.org.

18th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival Approaching in September

The TSPB will help educate a diverse audience about the many uses of soybeans at the Tennessee Soybean Festival. The city of Martin, Tenn., along with its partners, the University of Tennessee-Martin and the TSPB, will host the 18th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, September 3 through 11 in downtown Martin.

As one of the main sponsors, TSPB plays a large role in the educational and promotional efforts of the event. TSPB hands out soy products during the 5K and the car show and also has participated at the health fair during the festival in the past.

Flooding Affects State Soybean Production

Floods impacted farmers across the country this growing season, and Tennessee farms were no exception. TSPB estimates that farmers planted 5 percent fewer acres due to flooding this year compared with last year. John Butler, a Tennessee soybean farmer and USB farmer-director, experienced the flooding firsthand.

“The excess water delayed planting, and 25,000-30,000 acres in the area weren’t planted until early July,” Butler

In addition to educating attendees about soybeans, the Tennessee Soybean Festival helps promote soybean farmers’ number one customer: the poultry and

livestock industry. TSPB partners with Tyson on Friday, September 9, for the chicken cookout and also supports cattle and pork farmers through promotions.

To find out more about the festival, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.



said. “For some, the flooding and levee breaks have taken their toll on the fields, leaving sand drifts up to 10 feet high.”

Butler farms in Tennessee’s largest soybean production area, Dyer County, where a large number of bottom-ground acres remained unplanted. In addition to the unplanted acreage, TSPB expects soybean yields to lag based on late planting and replanted fields.

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the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board.

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