

Wisconsin Soy Scoop

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

February 2006

WI-Bio Bus Fuels Rebuilding Mission

Wisconsin's new biodiesel bus was the center of attention recently, as it motored its way south carrying volunteers to help rebuild an area of Mississippi hurt by last winter's hurricanes. All along the route, the WI-Bio bus with its brightly painted logos and tanks full of fuel brought attention to soy-base biodiesel.

Area farmer and Wisconsin Soybean Association Director, Joe Bragger of Independence, Wis., loaned the bus to St. John's Lutheran Church for the trip. Bragger also asked the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board to donate the soy diesel for the trip after being approached by a member of the church, Carl Duley, Buffalo County UW Extension agricultural agent. Duley provided a web log and photos of the trip, which are posted online at the official Wisconsin soybean program website www.wisoybean.org.

Studying Local Plant

Meanwhile, the feasibility of locating a soybean crushing facility in Wisconsin is underway. Such a plant would provide the soybean oil used in producing soy diesel, as well as a variety of other end uses.

The study is funded by a \$50,000 USDA Value-Added Producer Grant with matching funds from the Wisconsin soybean checkoff. Consultants, working with a state grower task force, will consider such overriding factors as soybean supply and end user demand, permitting and the potential for financing and situating a crush plant in Wisconsin. The project should be wrapped up next winter.

Soybean Acreage May Increase

The rising cost of fuel and fertilizer plus concerns about weather were on the mind of many crop producers who attended this winter's Corn/Soy EXPO. Those concerns may be causing Wisconsin growers to consider planting more soybeans and less corn come spring, despite some worry about soybean disease problems such as Asian rust.

Wisconsin Corn/Soy EXPO ran January 26-27, at the Kalahari Conference Center and the overwhelming highlight of this year's Corn/Soy EXPO Wisconsin Dells was a presentation by Farm Policy Advisor Barry Flinchbaugh. With a unique and memorable presentation style, Flinchbaugh related his expectations for the next farm bill. Other highlights included a talk by Green Bay Packer Fullback William Henderson, a trade show with more than 100 agricultural companies displaying their products and services, and the Wisconsin Pork Association Taste of Elegance.

Retiring WSA Director Paul Harrison, Menominee, was honored as this year's AgriCommunicator of the year during Corn/Soy EXPO. This award is presented annually by *Agri-View* in recognition of service and dedication above and beyond expectations. The WSA also recognized retiring directors Chuck Prellwitz, Omro and Vickie Coughlin, Watertown. Both remain involved in soybean program activities as the state's two representatives to the United Soybean Board.

Two new members were elected to the WSA board of directors during an annual meeting held during Corn/Soy EXPO. They are Tim Goodenough, West Salem, and Dean Weichman, Lake Mills. New WSA officers elected include Robert Derr, Marshall, president; Joe Bragger, Independence, president elect; Andy Bensed, Dallas, treasurer; Jay Page, Ripon, Secretary.

For more information on the Wisconsin Soybean programs call the office in Madison at 608-274-7522 or look on the website at www.wisoybean.org . ###