

Wisconsin Soy Scoop

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

February 2007

Governor sanctions WSA biodiesel initiative

Governor Doyle embraced the Wisconsin Soybean Association biodiesel policy recently by allocating up to \$1 million in income tax credits to help establish biodiesel fuel pumps in the state.

The credit will equal 25 percent of the cost to retrofit or install new biodiesel pumps and is part of a larger \$40 million initiative proposed by the governor to grow Wisconsin's biobased and renewable economies.

The WSA biodiesel initiative was announced earlier this year as a way to help ensure the use, availability and reliability of biodiesel fuel sold in Wisconsin. The WSA Board of Directors feels strongly that ensuring the quality of biodiesel is essential for both consumers and producers of this increasingly popular, renewable fuel and has urged widespread support for their biodiesel policy initiative by consumers and legislators.

New Board Calls for Action

Newly-elected WSA officers are reaffirming their support for the biodiesel initiative and calling for legislative acceptance of the governor's proposed biodiesel tax credit. The new officers are President Joe Bragger, from Independence; President-Elect Kevin Hoyer, from West Salem; Secretary Patrick Branick, from Eau Claire; Treasurer Andy Bensed, from Dallas. Bragger was re-elected to his second term on the WSA board along with second-term director Chuck Weeks, of Sharon, and newly elected board member Dwayne Scherneck, from Marshall. Elections took place at the WSA annual meeting held Feb. 1, in conjunction with the annual Corn/Soy EXPO.

Retiring director on the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Mark Delaney was recognized during that board's annual meeting for six years of service, which included terms as board Secretary and Treasure. Delaney left to pursue a new family venture, running a vineyard in Trempealeau County. This year's Dupont Young Leaders were also honored at the annual Corn/Soy EXPO. Brian and Maggie Maliszewski, Independence, Wis., work 700 acres in corn, soybean and alfalfa rotations, running custom planting and bailing operations and 500-head feeder cattle enterprise.

Farm Bill Proposals Considered

State soybean leaders head to Commodity Classic March 1-2 to meet with leaders from 20 other states as part of the American Soybean Association annual meeting. There, state delegates will consider national initiatives such as Farm Bill proposals. Following a year of

collecting grower input and developing economic analysis of policies, the ASA recently released its proposals for the 2007 Farm Bill debate.

The ASA proposals call for more competitive income supports. In its Energy Title, ASA proposes a biodiesel incentive payment of 40 cents per gallon and a one dollar per gallon tax credit and doubling of funds for the Biodiesel Education Program. The group's Conservation Title calls for expanding and adjusting the Conservation Reserve Program to allow currently enrolled non-environmentally sensitive land to return to production for energy crops. USDA estimates that up to 7 million acres currently enrolled in CRP could return to production over time without causing environmental problems. ASA stresses that they do not want to bring any environmentally sensitive land out of CRP.

As part of the ASA, the WSA is devoted to bringing together all peoples interested in the production, marketing, distribution, and utilization of soybeans and soybean products. For over 30 years, WSA has been working to build valuable relationships between growers throughout Wisconsin while focusing on the promotion of Wisconsin soybeans. Formed in 1972 with 200 members, the WSA currently has over 1,200 members. Additional information on WSA is available online at <http://www.wisoybean.org> or by calling the Soybean Program office in Madison at 608-274-7522. ###