

# Wisconsin Soy Scoop

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

*January 2007*

State soybean growers are urged to attend the upcoming annual meetings of the Wisconsin Soybean Association (WSA) and the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board (WSMB) Thursday, February 1, starting at 12:15 p.m., at the Kalahari Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells.

These annual meetings take place during Corn/Soy EXPO and provide producers with an opportunity to learn about on-going efforts of these groups and provide input on future programs.

During the WSA meeting, elections will be held for several new director positions. Members also will vote on resolutions supporting association policy. At the WSMB meeting, producers will hear how state checkoff funds are being invested to help educate and inform consumers about the many benefits of soy products, from biodiesel to soybean meal and beyond.

As a major sponsor of Corn/Soy EXPO, WSMB brings producers a variety of education and informational sessions on biofuels, marketing, agronomics and new technologies. The opening general session will focus on renewable fuels, while a second general session covers farm policy. Corn/Soy EXPO program and registration materials are available online at [www.wisoybean.org](http://www.wisoybean.org) or by calling the soybean office at 608-274-7522. Registration fees for Corn/Soy EXPO are reduced for members of the Wisconsin Soybean Association and are \$25 lower when paid in advance.

Information on a new program helping support livestock producers also will be presented during the opening session of Corn/Soy EXPO. Because soybean meal is such a large part of livestock rations – especially among Wisconsin's dairy and hog producers – soybean checkoff program leaders are helping support this effort and have developed two new tools to provide accurate, fact-based information on livestock production. First is a Web site found at [www.animalag.org](http://www.animalag.org) and second is printed information kit with fact sheets on animal welfare, nutritional information, manure management practices and general animal agriculture information.

Developing the biodiesel industry is another other top priority for the Wisconsin soybean producers. Analysis published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicates that every 50 million gallons of biodiesel raises soybean prices one percent. WSA leaders push at both the state and national level for incentives to help develop the biodiesel industry.

The nation's lawmakers showed their commitment to developing the biodiesel industry last week by introducing the Renewable Fuels and Energy Independence Promotion Act on the

first day of the new Congressional Session. The bill calls for extending current biodiesel tax incentives and small producer credits that are set to expire in 2008. The excise tax credit amounts to a penny per percentage point of biodiesel blended with petroleum diesel. The small producer credit provides an income tax credit worth 10 cents per gallon on up to 15 million gallons of agri-biodiesel produced in a tax year. This legislation will help support the price of soybeans by creating long-term demand for biodiesel made from soybean oil and help make America more energy secure through biodiesel production. ###