

# *Wisconsin Soy Scoop*

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

*March 2006*

Wisconsin soybean grower-leaders met with Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns at the 2006 Commodity Classic in Anaheim, California, earlier this month to discuss trade and farm policy concerns. They discussed priorities for World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, conservation and commodity programs in the Farm Bill, modernization of locks and dams, and European Union (EU) traceability and labeling regulations.

Regarding trade negotiations, soybean growers expressed their concern that product exemptions from overall tariff cuts could undermine market access gains. They said that countries with world-class exporting sectors, such as Brazil, Argentina, and Malaysia, must accept disciplines in all three pillars of the negotiations similar to those of developed countries.

Discussing the 2007 Farm Bill, soybean leaders told Secretary Johanns they plan to focus on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for environmentally sensitive lands and on reducing the statutory cap of 39.2 million acres. Other issues addressed included the need for funding to modernize locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, as proposed in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation and the need to move quickly forward with a WTO challenge of the European Union's discriminatory and non-science based traceability and labeling regulations for biotech products.

Those attending from Wisconsin included Wisconsin Soybean Association President Bob Derr, Marshall; President Elect Joe Bragger, Independence; National Director Lorraine Birschbach, Malone; and United Soybean Board Representative Vicki Coughlin, Watertown.

## **State ordered to use more biodiesel**

Back in Wisconsin, Governor Jim Doyle issued an Executive Order expanding the state's commitment to renewable fuels. The order requires all state agencies to use biodiesel whenever possible with a goal to reduce by 10 percent the use of petroleum-based diesel fuel in state fleets by 2010, and 25 percent by 2015. The order also calls for increasing ethanol-based gasoline in the state vehicles by 20 percent by 2010, and by 50 percent by 2015.

## **Crop research funded**

This year, Wisconsin soybean growers are funding 15 different research projects totaling over \$300,000 with University of Wisconsin researchers. Controlling Asian soybean rust continues to be a priority for grower-focused funding, with significant money allocated to

projects that research the impact and management of this foreign fungus. Additional funding will help tracking and identify rust and provide timely public notification should problems arise, through a rust detection hotline and plant health website. The web site is hosted by the UW-Madison department of plant pathology at [www.plantpath.wisc.edu/soyhealth](http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/soyhealth) .

Finances for these and other research projects are provided through the state soybean checkoff, which is administered by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board (WSMB), with oversight provided by an elected board of soybean producer members.

Other research projects funded for 2006 are as follows:

- Improved Alleles of Rhg4 for Soybean Cyst Nematode Resistance Regional Soybean Pest Management Field Days.
- Virulence Profiles of SCN Populations in WI.
- Addressing Weed Management Challenges in Wisconsin Soybean Production Systems.
- Soybean Genes Required for Nodulation and Mycorrhization.
- Southeast Wisconsin Variant Western Corn Rootworm Trapping Network.
- Soybean Plant Health Website.
- Soybean Leaf Health and the Emerging Role of Soybean Rust.
- Soybean Rust Detection Hotline.
- Soybean Stem Health.
- Soybean Pathology Research.
- Responses of Soybean Genotypes to Soybean Aphids, Insecticides and Viruses.
- Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing and Education.
- Specialty Soybean Production in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin's Soybean Grain Composition as Impacted by Variety and Management.

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](http://www.wisoybean.org) . ###