Brocksmiths earn ASA conservation award
GOOD OIL.

When oil goes bad due to heat, oxidation and molecular changes, it can clog filters and not perform at its designed viscosity.

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Learn more about CountryMark’s Good Oil Advantage at CountryMark.com
Whether it’s improving soybean meal to outperform the competition or promoting the sustainability of U.S. soy, the soy checkoff has been working behind the scenes to help farmers satisfy their customers’ needs. We’re looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And for U.S. soybean farmers like you, the impact is invaluable.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for farmers at unitedsoybean.org
### Legislative wins start with conversations at Bacon Bar and Brunch

About 300 farmers, stakeholders, representatives and senators had one-on-one discussions about farm policy issues during the annual Bacon Bar and Brunch legislative breakfast at the Indiana Statehouse on Jan. 29.

### Decision time: What’s going into the ground this spring?

What U.S. farmers will plant this spring is not yet fixed, but projections from the USDA and at least one agricultural brokerage firm show an unexpected increase in seeded acres for both corn and soybean over last year.

### ICMC receives Driver of Change Award for ethanol efforts

The ICMC received the Driver of Change - Ethanol Education award from the Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition in March.

### Hoosier growers perform well in 2019 Corn Yield Contest

Hoosier farmers Kevin Kalb and Shawn Kalb, both of Dubois, Ind., were among the winners of the NCGA’s 2019 Corn Yield Contest.

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**About the cover:**

Mike and Susan Brocksmith, who farm in Vincennes, Ind., were one of four regional winners of the American Soybean Association’s Conservation Legacy Award. For more about the Brocksmiths, read about them on pages 24-25.
INVESTING IN NEW MARKETS FOR U.S. SOY

From promoting the profitability of using high-quality soybean meal in India to training animal producers on nutrition in Colombia, the soy checkoff is working behind the scenes to develop more market opportunities for U.S. soy. We’re looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it’s helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at unitedsoybean.org
Do your part, but trust the specialists who can do what you don’t do best

Happy planting season! I am your new president of your corn policy organization. I am a corn, soybean and pig farmer in West Central Indiana about 18 miles from my alma mater and my children’s alma mater and my grandchildren’s alma mater. Go Boilers!

I am trying to fill the shoes of our successful 2019 President Sarah Delbecq. I recently served as president of your Indiana corn checkoff organization. After two years leading ICMC, it became clear that legislation and regulation can be as big a part of our profitability as weather and seed.

As the country navigates the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, I’m sure we will see new impactful legislation. Many times there are unanticipated consequences from new legislation intended to “normalize” our economy and protect Americans from another pandemic. We need to be at the table as new legislation is crafted and rules are promulgated.

Now, I know we all have demands on our time like making a living farming or supplying Indiana’s strong agricultural industry, so we must rely on others to keep our chair at the table warm. ICGA is blessed to have the finest staff in the history of our organization. They are our eyes and voice in the policy arena.

Make no mistake, I still need your involvement when farmer opinions should be shared. ICGA members will receive communication and calls to action when there is need to impact issues. I have your phone number, and I hope your representatives do, too!

Having introduced myself, let me share what our policy specialists have been working for on your behalf so far this year.

As we adjust our daily lives to the effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, ICGA has been there for you to ensure your voice is heard. At the beginning of the crisis, we demanded that our state and federal elected officials declare the entire farm supply chain as “critical infrastructure.” We all know that hogs, eggs and milk cannot be stored on the farm and must move every day – but we cannot assume our elected officials know this. We are also in constant contact with Indiana’s ethanol industry to offer needed support given the loss of fuel demand from the economic downturn.

In mid-March, the Indiana General Assembly wrapped up its 2020 session, and ICGA supported several bills that were adopted into law that will help Hoosier farmers. Let’s review two of our legislative wins: SB 184 offers farmers and their families health benefit options that are not present in today’s marketplace. SB 438 provides transparency for Hoosier farmers and retail agribusiness, and gives the Indiana State Chemist’s Office tools to discourage habitual offenders of state pesticide application rules.

Although the ICGA staff work to represent agriculture skillfully, they can’t do it without the support of Hoosier farmers. If you are not already a member of ICGA, please consider joining today!
Thanks to checkoff investments, ethanol has grown to become the second biggest use of Indiana grown corn. Clean burning ethanol fuel blends not only improve farmer profitability, but also improve air quality for all Hoosiers while improving engine performance and saving Hoosiers money at the pump. Indiana is the fifth largest producer of ethanol in the United States. Right here in our state, ethanol plants generate more than 700 direct jobs and boost the rest of our economy with thousands of indirect jobs. The Indiana Corn Marketing Council not only helps educate consumers about the benefits of ethanol, but also invests checkoff dollars in expanding the number of pumps and locations across Indiana to expand ethanol consumption and bring value to Hoosier farmers.

To learn more about Indiana corn checkoff investments, visit ICMC.org.
Coronavirus becomes the latest spring challenge for Hoosier farmers

My name is Mike Koehne, and I am the new chair of the Indiana Soybean Alliance’s Membership and Policy Committee. I’m a soybean and corn farmer from rural Decatur County, Ind. I also operate a farm drainage business. I’ve been an ISA member since 2016.

The 2019 spring featured record-setting wet weather that shortened the window for planting. Many acres across Indiana went unplanted, and that affected our income for the year. But before the weather can even impact Hoosier farmers, this year’s planting season has already been impacted by a new challenge – Coronavirus (COVID-19).

At the request of ISA and other Indiana farm groups, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb has declared agriculture as an “essential business and operation” for the well-being of all Hoosiers. As a result, farmers and related ag suppliers have been exempt from the travel and operational restrictions that other businesses must follow. For most farmers, seed is still being delivered and other inputs are arriving on time.

Our organization is aware of the situation and committed to being a resource for you. ISA is building several pages to help farmers get through this crisis. You can access this information at www.indianasoybean.com/covid-19

Our partners at Indiana Pork are also offering helpful tips at www.indianapork.org/covid-19-helpful-links

Here are a few tips to keep in mind while trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

• Farm employees who are sick or have signs of illness should stay home.
• Avoid contact such as shaking hands or hugging when greeting.
• Entering the farm, immediately wash hands with soap for 20 seconds.
• Staff farms with different schedules to avoid spreading infection to all workers.
• Avoid travel outside work, and limit travel to essential locations.
• In naturally ventilated areas, open outside windows to increase air circulation.
• Plan break times so that farm workers are in the same room at the same time.
• Limit the number of required face-to-face meetings.
• Disinfect all personal objects that need to enter farms, such as cell phones, etc.
• Clean and disinfect common spaces at the end of each day.
• Do not share used materials such as towels, kitchen utensils, pens, and wash between uses.

These tips and more can be found at www.cdc.gov, which is the website for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Checkoff dollars to fuel interest in soy biodiesel

Biodiesel provides a renewable, sustainable alternative to petroleum diesel and is made from soybeans grown right here in Indiana. Soy biodiesel offers health benefits for consumers, the environment and farmers alike.

**Safer air.** Soy biodiesel adheres to the health effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act and is labeled a Clean Air Choice by the American Lung Association.

**Reduced emissions.** The fuel results in 78.5 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions from its use and production compared with petroleum diesel.

**Increased markets.** By promoting soy biodiesel, the Indiana Soybean Alliance puts farmer checkoff dollars to work to ensure a profitable future for your crop.

Growing soybeans for biodiesel fuel provides a beneficial option for your soybean crop and lets everyone in Indiana breathe a little easier.

Interested?

Visit indiana-soybean.com for more information.

Funded with Indiana soybean checkoff dollars.
Legislative victories begin with conversations at Bacon Bar and Brunch in the Statehouse

BY DAVE BLOWER JR.

Approximately 300 farmers, stakeholders, representatives and senators had one-on-one discussions about farm policy issues during the annual Bacon Bar and Brunch legislative breakfast at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on Jan. 29.

Aided by the aroma of fresh bacon wafting through the Statehouse halls, the Indiana Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and the Indiana Soybean Alliance Membership and Policy Committee (M&P) touted dozens of pro-farm policies to Indiana lawmakers during the breakfast.

“The Bacon Bar and Brunch offered farmers a chance to continue to build essential relationships with their legislators,” said M&P Chair Mike Koehne, who grows soybeans and corn on his farm near Greensburg, Ind. “As the number of farmers continues to decline, it is vital for us to speak about the issues that affect our farms. Farmers have more knowledge of these issues than anyone else. It’s our responsibility to take care of our livelihood for the generations of farmers to come.”

The policy groups also advocated for Indiana livestock, supported better broadband Internet service and discussed pro-ethanol industry proposals.

“Bacon is a wonderful way to communicate a pro-farm message at the Statehouse,” said ICGA President Mike Beard, who raises corn, soybean and hogs on his farm near Frankfort, Ind. “Bacon not only tastes good and smells good, but it also shows how Indiana agriculture is connected. Those who raise livestock are the No. 1 customers for Indiana corn and soybean growers. Corn and soybeans feed most of the livestock in Indiana.”

ICGA and ISA M&P served seven varieties of bacon including duck, turkey, candied, coffee bean, cherrywood, raspberry chipotle and, of course, traditional pork bacon. More than 1,200 strips of bacon were consumed during the breakfast. Attendees enjoyed the many flavors,
but clearly favored the pork bacon, which disappeared first at the breakfast.

The policy organizations also work to support pork, beef and poultry producers. Indiana livestock consumes 95 percent of soybean meal and 40 percent of corn produced in the state.

Scott Smith, a farmer from Tipton County and the newest member of the ICGA’s board of directors, concurred with Beard. “Livestock is a user of our corn, and so our grains are what supports the pork industry, the cattle industry and livestock in general,” he added.

Each year a new set of bills and regulations catch the eyes of ICGA and M&P staff. The 2020 session included several victories for Indiana farmers. Steve Howell, Senior Director of Industry Affairs for ICGA and ISA, highlighted two legislative wins for farmers during this year’s General Assembly:

- **SB 184 – Nonprofit Agricultural Organization Coverage** allows Indiana Farm Bureau to offer its members health benefit plans that will give farmers and their families’ new options that are less expensive and not present in today’s marketplace.

- **HB 1119 – Regulation of Pesticide Use and Application** requires the Indiana State Chemist’s office to use a matrix in evaluating individual pesticide misuse complaints. The bill creates a tiered system of fines designed to stop habitual offenders from continual violations.

Josh Miller, president of the Indiana Corn Marketing Council, said ethanol continues to be a top priority. “We’re very appreciative of this administration for the E15 year-round mandate that we have,” Miller said. “But we worked so hard to create the ethanol market and we need to make sure that we keep that ethanol market.”

Additionally, ICGA and M&P support expanded broadband Internet coverage to rural areas of Indiana.

“As technology grows and it lets us connect to our machinery, the computers back home, it keeps us all connected, and it’s important as technology keeps progressing in the farming industry,” Koehne said.

Indiana Senate Ag Committee Chair Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) understands why farmers need broadband Internet access because she struggles with it on her farm. “Personally, I’m really delighted that my Verizon cell works at my farm, and I can send email from it,” Leising added. “It’s hard for people here in the Statehouse to understand when I tell them that there’s no Netflix at my house.”

ICGA and M&P rely on sponsorship and membership dollars to advocate on behalf of Hoosier farmers. This year’s breakfast sponsors were: Corteva Agriscience, Farm Credit Mid-America, Boehringer Ingelheim, Maple Leaf Farms, Indiana Pork, Indiana State Poultry Association, Indiana Dairy Producers, Indiana Kitchen as well as Indiana’s soybean and corn checkoffs.

More than 1,200 strips of bacon were consumed during the legislative breakfast.
Highlighting many cuts of pork and the myriad ways they can be prepared is the task of chefs taking part each year in Indiana Pork’s Taste of Elegance event. The Indiana Soybean Alliance and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council sponsor this event because the state’s livestock farms are the No. 1 customers for its corn and soybean growers. Corn and soybeans provide the necessary feed for Indiana’s pork production.

This year’s winning chef was Estaban Rosas from Black Market in Indianapolis, who snagged the top award and $1,000 from Indiana Pork, as well as the spot representing his state at the Midwest Pork Summit in Minneapolis in July. Rosas swept the evening of Jan. 28 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom with a pork shoulder steak paired to charred onion, apple saba, glazed giant beans and braised pearl onions.

This premier annual competition is intended to inspire innovative and enticing ways to showcase pork on restaurant menus. Indiana Pork Director of Checkoff Programs Jeanette Merritt said while she doesn’t know what year the contest began, she knows it has been going for more than two decades.

The event, which also attracted nearly 400 pork producers, agricultural industry leaders, legislators and other Indiana dignitaries to downtown Indianapolis, encourages chefs to prepare pork in creative and nontraditional ways.

“Dishes have featured every part of the pig, from snout to tail,” Merritt observed.

Other winners this year included:
• Dean Sample of Northside Social in Indianapolis – Superior Chef and People’s Choice award
• Tyler Carroll of Oakley’s Bistro in Indianapolis – Premium Chef award
• Everardo Hernandez of Encore Catering in Indianapolis – Wine Pairing award and People’s Choice award for Favorite Display
• Traminette, from Whyte Horse Winery of Monticello – People’s Choice award for Favorite Wine

Voting, Merritt said, is done two ways. Indiana Pork has a panel of judges comprised of chefs, culinary instructors, food writers and a pork producer who actually judge the dishes and give out the top awards. In addition, there are People’s Choice honors based on attendees’ votes for their favorite dishes, presentation and wine.

At the Midwest Pork Summit – which is a culinary training hosted in rotation in major pork-producing states – Rosas will receive training from nationally recognized food experts, visit a sow farm, do some hands-on competition with other chefs and receive messaging on trends in the pork industry.

Other chefs featured at the 2020 Taste of Elegance were:
• Brian Pleasant of Crystal Catering, Indianapolis
• Erin Gillum of Spoke & Steel, Indianapolis
• Edward Sawyer of Taxman Brasserie and Taproom, Indianapolis
• Jason Crouch of Embassy Suites, Noblesville
• Michael Gomez of Gomez BBQ, Indianapolis
• Chip Huckaby of Smokehouse Catering, Indianapolis

Major sponsors of this event included the Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Farm Bureau, First Farmers Bank & Trust, Farm Credit Services and Indiana Packers. In addition, wines were donated by Indiana vintners, and beer by Indianapolis’ Sun King Brewing.
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#CROPPORTUNITY
School in session for farmers interested in international grains trade

BY ANN HINCH

That is already happening with a number of Trade School participants. Most who show up are involved in ag leadership at the local or state level. Others include students, past board members and officers of the USGC – and farmers who don’t do any of that but are curious about the subject matter.

There’s much to be curious about. International trade has received more media limelight in the past several years with changes in existing Free Trade Agreements, new FTAs, and tariffs. But trade goes beyond the FTA, since the United States only has these with about 20 countries and yet sells grain to about 50 other nations that are not covered by these overarching trade pacts.

“It’s not about removing all barriers,” Kessler said of establishing and maintaining trade relationships for agriculture. “We do see the friction (caused by tariffs, for instance, and other challenges), and we do work on opening doors and creating trade.”

The fact that state organizations such as the ICMC came to USGC and asked to help put on these regional meetings, she believes shows the demand and need for this kind of training among states’ ag leadership and individual farmers.

While it’s great to attend Trade School in person, it’s not a requirement to begin understanding more about ag trade. Kessler said

This is a plain-language approach anyone can read. And that does mean anyone — one farmer contacted her to ask for the Guide in PDF format so he could have Apple’s artificial-intelligence assistant Siri read it to him in his tractor cab while he worked.

Each location’s Trade School was just a little different from the others, since Kessler worked to personalize each one to its state(s). But the same basic information and format was used for each: How trade policies and market development play into sales of ag goods overseas, and the economic impact of agriculture on the overall economy.

The workshop is about 60 percent lecture and 40 percent questions and discussion. Kessler developed activities to engage attendees so they can put their training into practice immediately.

This year will be spent deciding what formats to use for Trade Schools going forward. She said USGC has been experimenting with the best ways to get this training out to grain farmers, including the regional and national in-person workshops and meetings, in addition to online webinars and phone conference calls.

“How do we engage (farmers) on an ongoing basis?” she said, is “the next level up” for this educational effort.
Two graduate students from the Purdue University Department of Agronomy presented results from their Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) scholarship-funded research projects to board members during a March meeting.

The scholarship, granted to graduate students who conduct corn-related research to benefit Hoosier farmers, is named after Gary Lamie, a former ICMC president. Purdue grad student Lauren Schwarck and doctoral candidate Richard Roth earned the Gary Lamie Scholarship for 2019. Schwark’s interest in ag came through an interest in water quality and growing up around her grandparents’ grain farms.

“I got involved with an Extension agronomist in my area, kind of got to learn about what he does, and what being in agronomy means and the diversity of ag subject areas,” Schwark said. “That got me excited and got me to go to Iowa State majoring in agronomy.”

Schwarck worked with Purdue Professor of Agronomy Tony Vyn to conduct two experiments. The first tested timing and placement of potassium in corn using the fertilizer brand Aspire. The fertilizer used the macronutrient potassium to evenly distribute micronutrient boron, known as the most common micronutrient deficiency in crops. Among her key findings was that reduction in yield variability could be explained by potassium concentration, and the application of Aspire increased all yields, though not always significantly.

Purdue doctoral candidate Richard Roth earned one of the Gary Lamie Scholarships for 2019. Roth set out in his research to map the fate of nitrogen from cereal rye cover crops after termination.

ICMC-sponsored scholarships returns valuable research for Hoosier farmers

BY EMMA HOPKINS-O’BRIEN
Her second experiment studied effects of in-season nitrogen and potassium applications in collaboration with Ceres Solutions. Via broadcast spreader, nitrogen and potassium were applied simultaneously as urea and potash in-season. The experiment summary expressed no clear advantages to in-season application of potassium with or without nitrogen, though more years of data could improve the accuracy of that conclusion.

Roth set out in his research to map the fate of nitrogen from cereal rye cover crops after termination. He noticed that cover crops had re-emerged as a management tool in recent years – a cover crop usage increase among producers of 972 percent, to be exact, between 2008 and 2016. The environmental aspect of cover crops expresses Roth’s farm-angled interest in conservation. As an undergraduate, though, Roth said he had little interest in agriculture.

“I went to school for pre-med and decided it wasn’t for me,” he said. “But I did like science, and I knew ag was a route where I could be involved in science, but also something I have a background in—my stepfather farmed, and I worked on farms as a child.”

Roth lists Purdue Assistant Professor Shalamar Armstrong as a mentor. Roth has developed an interest in environmental studies and intends to incorporate that into his career.

“I think what drives me is being able to help improve the environmental footprint of ag – reduce the amount of nutrients we are leaving in fields and entering water, making systems more sustainable and making sure the land we have is here for future generations,” he said. “So I’d like to do that; but at the same time, I’m keeping the farmers’ bottom line in mind, making sure we can make these changes in a profitable way.”

The economic aspect of farming bleeds into his research; Roth had the objectives of determining the fate of cereal rye nitrogen within soil and determining the agronomic and economic risks of planting cereal rye as a cover for corn and soybeans. He focused on cereal rye because it is the most common and inexpensive cover crop, and grows under most conditions. Noting that producers use cover crops with the intention of improving soil health and providing nitrogen, Roth tallied the economic inputs against the outputs, ultimately finding no economic return for planting cereal rye under these conditions. Even so, Roth remarked that his research group is actively engaged in projects aimed to counteract barriers to the use of cover crops and enhancing their agronomic benefits.

Both students plan on continuing their career paths in agriculture. Roth plans to begin a professoriate at an R1 research institution, focusing on mechanisms of conservation cropping systems and resulting economic implications. Likewise, Schwarck will seek a position where she can troubleshoot agronomic or technological issues in agriculture.

“My aspiration is to educate people – whether it’s farmers or those who aren’t connected to agriculture anymore, helping people understand the future of ag and how bright it is,” Schwarck concluded.
What soybean/corn split U.S. farmers will plant this spring is not yet fixed, but projections from the USDA and at least one Illinois-based agricultural brokerage firm show a big planned jump in seeded acres for both over last year – provided the weather cooperates more than in 2019.

In February, the USDA’s annual Agricultural Outlook Forum put forth an estimate of 224 million acres to be planted for 2020 in corn, soybeans and all wheat, which would be 13 million higher than actual planted acres a year ago, or a jump of 6 percent.

The better comparison may be against what planting intentions were in March 2019, since last year’s 211 million planted acres was an abnormality in a string of several years above 225 million. All three crops were down in actual planting from 2019 USDA projections, but soybeans took the biggest hit – with actual seeding at 76.1 million acres, 10 percent under stated planting intentions.

The Outlook Forum forecast 94 million acres of corn to be planted this year and 85 million acres of soybeans, as well as 45 million in all wheat. Corn and soy estimates are both a little over the USDA’s March 2019 Prospective Plantings survey, while wheat is slightly under.

Jim Mintert, director of Purdue University’s Center for Commercial Agriculture, said shifts in corn prices relative to soybeans in recent weeks is starting to make soy look more profitable. While it’s possible this could help tilt acres away from corn to soy when planters are in the fields in a few weeks, he thinks any such change in what each farmer has already decided is likely be more affected by their weather conditions and soil moisture.

Recently, there is the added unique complication of changes in food buying brought on by mass voluntary and ordered quarantines in response to COVID-19 outbreaks. What will consumers be looking to buy in the coming months?

“We’re in uncharted territory, as far as the demand destruction that’s taking place,” said Mintert.
In the short term, livestock numbers haven’t changed, as a feed destination for crops. But demand for meat in hospitality and restaurants is falling off, and Mintert questions if meat being shifted to retail sales can make up that commercial loss. Add to this the recommended quarantine period being stretched out to be longer as time goes on, and there are demand opportunities being lost.

McHenry, Ill.-based Allendale, Inc. released results from its yearly survey of farmers across 30 states this month. Rich Nelson, chief strategist for the ag brokerage, explained the survey was conducted between March 1-13, with most data gleaned during the earlier part of that period. Its format is modeled on the USDA’s Prospective Plantings survey.

Notably, Allendale’s survey showed a slight increase in corn-planting intentions over the USDA Forum estimates, at 94.63 million acres. It also shows a slight drop for soybeans, at 83.74 million, and total wheat at 44.47 million.

Of the 30 states surveyed, 11 concentrate about 80 percent of the nation’s three top crops, and of those, Nelson noted only Kansas and Nebraska farmers said they intend to plant less corn than in 2019.

Last year, for instance, Indiana planted 5 million acres to corn – this year, Hoosier farmers intend to bump that to 5.67 million (those same farmers’ plans as of March 2019 were to plant 5.5 million). He explained Indiana was one of the more aggressive states in this year’s survey, with respect to increased volume of anticipated corn.

Indiana farmers are eyeing fewer soybean acres in 2020, according to Allendale. In 2019 they planted 5.4 million acres, down from March intentions of 5.7 million. This year’s intentions are only for 5.28 million acres.

The USDA Outlook Forum noted U.S. corn use in the 2020/21 marketing year is forecast to rise 5 percent from a year ago on domestic use and a rebound in exports. Use for ethanol is estimated to up less than 1 percent from a year ago, while feed and residual use is seen to be increasing by 275 million bushels (a 5 percent bump) and exports, by 375 million, or a big 22 percent.

Corn production is projected at 15.5 billion bushels, up 13 percent from a year ago, with an increase in area from last year’s weather-impacted plantings and a return to trend yields. The yield projection of 178.5 bushels per acre assumes normal planting progress and summer weather.

The soy yield forecast of 49.8 bushels per acre is also based on normal weather and planting.

Soybean exports for the 2020/21 marketing year are estimated at 2.05 billion bushels, up 225 million on increasing global import demand – including China again. After two years of decreased sales following the institution of U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports, the two nations signed a deal in January that cuts some tariffs in exchange for China’s pledge to buy more U.S. farm, energy and manufactured goods.

Nelson said the estimate is for China to purchase 40 million metric tons of U.S. soy this year – this compares to 14 million last year and only 36 million at peak sales in 2016. The bulk of those sales, however, are projected to take place after new-crop harvest this fall. “We need soybean acres; we don’t need corn acres,” he said.

This pledge is actually another “wild card” in deciding what to plant, Mintert explained. Farmers have to wonder if there will be another round of Market Facilitation Program payments from the federal government in 2020, as he said it is looking unlikely that China may actually make the purchases it promised two months ago.

Nelson qualified Allendale’s survey as just that – a survey. “I think there’s still a lot of potential in the numbers to make some movement (in acres) here,” he added.
Checkoff programs bring STEM educational resources to Hoosier families

BY DAVE BLOWER JR.

Corn and soybean farmers from Indiana and across the country are providing teachers and parents with valuable teaching resources while schools are closed due to the COVID-19 crisis. The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and state corn checkoff organizations such as the Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) have launched the Nourish the Future community network. Nourish the Future provides free virtual resources online at nourishthefuture.org

NCGA and ICMC believe agriculture can help engage students in the STEM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. An ag-based curriculum in the science classroom will inspire students to solve real-world issues with practical solutions. In addition, reaching students with the Nourish the Future curriculum can help address the increasing job gap in agriculture-related careers.

“COVID-19 has brought all of us challenges that we didn’t anticipate, but it also give us new opportunities that we haven’t had before,” said ICMC board member and NCGA Action Team Member Natasha Cox, who farms in Benton, Ind. “As a mother, I understand that education doesn’t end in the classroom. I’m very happy that ICMC and NCGA can bring these ag-based educational materials to families across Indiana. Programs that help families and the long-term future of farmers is our priority.”

The Nourish the Future materials cover subjects such as Biotechnology, Energy and Ethanol, Plant Anatomy and Growth Stages, Soil Science and Sustainability, and the Role of Clean Water in a Healthy Ecosystem. The program’s lesson plans are designed for students from middle school through high school. Advanced high school options are also available.

One of Indiana Soybean Alliance’s (ISA) peer checkoff organizations, Ohio Soybean Council, has similar virtual and classroom soybean resources through their Grow Next Gen initiative, and those can be accessed for free at grownextgen.org

As COVID-19 protocols close schools across the country, families are reminded that teachers are valuable and skilled. Teachers are creative, quick to pivot, and able to keep students learning through difficult circumstances. Checkoff organizations are helping teachers and parents by:

- Packaging online, easy-to-use curriculum
- Mobilizing an advisory group of U.S. teachers
- Designing virtual “field trip” experiences for students
- Looking at professional development in a new way

Visit virtualfarmtrips.com for recordings from farms from around the country.

In addition to the Nourish the Future and Grow Next Gen curriculum, the ISA and ICMC offer a variety of educational materials through its Glass Barn website corn and soybean resource pages. Visit www.glassbarn.org to access these materials.

For more information on educational efforts of ISA and ICMC, contact Hannah Vorsilak, ISA and ICMC Marketing Operations and Leadership Director at hvorsilak@indianasoybean.org or 812-630-3991.
The Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) received the Driver of Change – Ethanol Education award from the Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition on March 3 during the organization’s annual awards reception in Indianapolis.

The Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition annually recognizes outstanding contributions to advancing the Coalition’s mission advancing alternative, domestically fueled transportation including energy efficient technologies across all sectors in Indiana. Awards are given annually to organizations for actions in the following areas: Alternative Fueling Stations, EV, propane, CNG, etc.), Green Fleet/Clean Fleet Initiatives, Fuel Economy and/or Idle Reduction Program, Public Transit Clean Air Champion, Utility Alternative Fuel Leader, and Driver of Change.

“This award recognizes ICMC’s work in improving the information and education about ethanol, an alternative fuel produced with Indiana-grown corn and supported by the Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition,” said Helena Jette, ICMC Biofuels Director.

“There are only a handful of awards given each year by the Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition, recognizing the leaders of alternative fuels in our state.”

Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition stakeholders include fuel providers, equipment manufacturers, schools, municipalities, state agencies, U.S. Department of Energy staff and Clean Cities support staff from the National Energy Technology Lab, National Renewable Energy Lab, Argonne National Lab and many others.

“Greater Indiana Clean Cities is on the ground helping us to deploy alternative fuels, such as biodiesel and ethanol to Indiana fuel consumers,” said ICMC Vice President Mike Beard, a corn farmer from Frankfort, Ind.

“This is a great honor because Greater Indiana Clean Cities is a tremendous partner for what we do. They host educational sessions, workshops, webinars and other outreach measures to help companies and consumers adopt the use of ethanol. By increasing ethanol use, we are supporting the Indiana farmers. Greater Indiana Clean Cities also advocates for renewable fuels to elected officials on both a national and state level.”

Indiana is the fifth-largest producer of ethanol in the United States. The state’s 14 ethanol plants pump out an estimated 1.2 billion gallons of ethanol each year. Year-round sales of E15 is one of last year’s big steps forward for ethanol, Jette said. E15, also known as Unleaded 88, has a higher-octane rating of 88, but costs less than regular unleaded gas, is safe for engines and is better for the environment. This gives retailers a lower-priced fuel to help attract new customers to their station.

For more information about the Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition, visit GreaterIndiana.com or contact Kerri Garvin at kerri@greaterindiana.com

For more details about ICMC biofuels programs, contact Jette at 317-644-2849 or hjette@indianacorn.org or visit incorn.org
With 4,678 farmers registered, the 2020 Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas set a record for the 24-year history of the show. Total registrations of 9,350 was the event’s second-best figure, just behind the Classic in New Orleans, La. In 2016.

From Feb. 27-29, the Commodity Classic featured dozens of educational sessions, a trade show with nearly 400 exhibitors, a keynote address by USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue, policy meetings of the sponsoring commodity associations, and a variety of presentations from ag leaders and top farmers.

Hoosier farmers earned many honors and participated in several events during this year’s Classic. Mike and Susan Brocksmith of Vincennes were finalists for the ASA’s Conservation Legacy award (see story on page 22); Kevin Kalb and Shawn Kalb of Dubois took top honors in one of the NCGA’s National Corn Yield Contest (see story on page 27); and several Indiana soybean farmers earned recognition through the Ag Leader Source program – just to name a few.

In addition, ISA and ICGA staff hosted Hoosier farmers for a breakfast reception at the NCGA booth on Feb. 29. Former Indiana Soybean President Alan Kemper was among the many past presidents of the ASA who were honored during the organization’s awards banquet on Feb. 28. Listed below are a few more success stories.

Maples win soil health partnership honor

Daryl and Jason Maple with Maple Farms of rural Kokomo, Ind. were one of five winners of the Soil Health Partnership Seeds of Change recently at Commodity Classic. Awards are given to Soil Health Partnership participants for going above and beyond in promoting soil health. The Maples were given the Data Dominator award. Jason Maple said the award is for, “getting the data to them in a timely manner and in a way that they can use it efficiently.”

This is the third year the Maples have partnered with SHP, an NCGA program that collects on-farm data to evaluate the impacts of soil health practices on soil, environment and profitability. Jason Maple said the SHP has helped them look into new ways of producing a crop.

“The big thing we were interested in was strip tillage and also cover crops. We didn’t just want to jump into it and go full bore on it,” he said. “We wanted to see how things worked for us and not just spend a lot of money up front. With the Soil Health Partnership, we were starting out with a 70-acre field and we started doing strip tiles of conventional tillage and then strip tillage with cover crops. Following our corn crop, we’ll do no till with cover crops and then conventional tillage.”

Ramsey, Schwenke among ASA’s Young Leaders

Indiana soybean growers James Ramsey and Eric Schwenke were among the members of the 35th class of ASA’s Corteva Agriscience™ Young Leaders.
Ramsey and Schwenke completed their training at the Commodity Classic.

“The ASA Corteva Agriscience™ Young Leader Program helps provide the soybean industry and all of agriculture with strong and forward-thinking grower leaders,” ASA President Bill Gordon said. “The program focuses on leader development and emphasizes collaboration, providing us with growers who are working together to amplify the voice of the farmer. We are grateful to Corteva for their longstanding support of this program and for helping to secure the future of the soybean industry.”

While in San Antonio, the Young Leaders participated in training focused on leadership development, industry issue updates and outreach. The Young Leaders were also recognized at ASA’s annual awards banquet.

Silver Anniversary Commodity Classic in 2021

Commodity Classic returns to San Antonio March 4-6, 2021, as the show celebrates its Silver Anniversary next year. For information, visit [www.CommodityClassic.com](http://www.CommodityClassic.com)

Established in 1996, Commodity Classic is America’s largest farmer-led, farmer-focused educational and agricultural experience. Commodity Classic is presented annually by the American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Sorghum Producers and Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

HELPING HOOSIERS

See farming clearly.

To help educate consumers, the Indiana Soybean Alliance puts your checkoff dollars to work through investments like the Glass Barn. Located at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, the Glass Barn provides a hands-on educational experience for kids and adults alike. Open to the public during the State Fair, the Glass Barn also offers school field trips year round. After visiting, Hoosiers walk away with a better understanding of today’s modern food production practices and real Indiana farm life. To learn more or get free educational resources, visit [glassbarn.org](http://glassbarn.org).

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Barnyard Chronicles Storybook
- Ag-Vengers Graphic Novel
- Soybean Crayons
- Educational Displays (available for loan)

Funded with Indiana soybean checkoff dollars.
Brocksmiths honored with regional Conservation Legacy Award

BY DAVE BLOWER JR.

Mike and Susan Brocksmith, of Vincennes, Ind., grow soybeans that are 100 percent no-till and non-GMO corn. With cover crops, rock chutes, drop boxes, gradient terraces, grassed waterways and 150 water and sediment control basins, the Brocksmiths take environmental stewardship and conservation seriously.

All of this work helped the Brocksmiths earn the American Soybean Association’s 2020 Conservation Legacy Award for the Northeast Region during the Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas earlier this year. Although Nancy Kavazanjian from Beaver Dam, Wis., won the national award, the Brocksmiths were one of four finalists. The ASA’s Conservation Legacy Awards program recognizes outstanding environmental and conservation achievements of soybean farmers.

“I feel good to be honored for doing something we believe in,” Mike explained. “We’ve always been strong conservationists and been proud of that fact, and we’ve tried to promote it in our community and throughout the state and nation.”

Spreading the message of conservation and good land stewardship and protecting their land for future generations are a vital part of the Brocksmiths’ mission.

“One of our big mission statements is to make what we have even better for future generations. The no-till, the cover crops have allowed us to do that,” Susan said. “Today, we can see the tilth has come back. We can see more nutrients in our soils. It’s better. Our dirt is providing more nutrients than before because of those living organisms. Keeping Mother Nature working for us the best that we can has really made a difference to our soils.”

In 1979, when Mike returned from Purdue University, his family’s farm had about 100 tillable acres. So, they expanded the livestock business on the farm instead of acquiring more land. While working the livestock farm in the 1970s, the Brocksmith farm began practicing no-till to reduce labor and save money. Mike describes his father, Paul, as the “ultimate conservationist,” who would build terraces and waterways every year.

“We had our first no-till corn in 1977, and I tell people it was a failure, but we kept trying,” recalled Mike. “We kept increasing our no-till acres as time went on. We were a heavy livestock farm, so we started no-tilling mainly to save time but soon realized there were a lot of other benefits. As time went on and technology got better and equipment got better, it got much easier to farm the way we do today.”

The Brocksmith farm is home to highly erodible soil with clay hills and some sandy ground. In 1990, they began experimenting with cover crops, and now, cover crops are on all of the acres of their farm. Cereal rye is their cover crop of choice. It will be 4-6 feet tall when the Brocksmiths plant soybeans in May or June. The Brocksmiths said cover crops prevent soil erosion, increase organic material in the soils and help soil aeration.

“These are the important things when we’re looking to the future and making sure future generations have a vibrant soil to work with,” Susan said.

Susan said trial-and-error process with various conservation practices helped them learn what would work on their farm. She advised farmers who are thinking about adopting soil conservation practices to research the options, talk to others who have done it, and focus on the long-term goals.

“It’s not something people need to just jump into,” she added. “It is a
It’s not a sprint race that we come into, and that’s what we’ve seen. It’s really gotten to where we can see the big difference between soils that have been the normal tillage to cover crops and no-till and seeing the life in our soils and how resilient they are in times of drought and times of too wet. They are there and they sustain us each and every year.”

Mike said an informal group of farmers in the 1990s gathered a few times a year at restaurants in central Indiana to share no-till information. “When we really started working at it, we had to travel a long ways to get information because there wasn’t much available locally. We were lucky we got hooked up with other farmers, mainly in northern Indiana, who were trying to do the same thing we were,” Mike said. “It’s been a really good experience. We’ve remained friends with those folks.”

They said new technology has advanced their efforts rapidly in recent years. “We had our first yield monitor in 1995, which probably was the first one in (Knox) county, and we have had variable rate fertilizer application since the late 1990s,” Mike said.

“For us, the biggest changes have been through technology. The planter attachments and the new equipment to make no-till easier has been dramatic – that along with improved herbicides. Roundup being approved, Roundup Ready crops, and other herbicides and then the cover crops, which really became popular in the last 10 years or so, they just fit right into the system. Now, everybody can write a prescription on their iPad off their own yield map.”

The Brocksmiths have participated in government cost-share and technical assistance programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program. They have paid for about half of the conservation structures built on their farm.

“We’ve never been afraid to spend money on our ground,” Mike said. “It’s just a long-term project and a long-term payoff.”

Their future goals include more cover crop research, installing pollinator plots and continuing to tout conservation and agriculture. Susan said, “I care about the environment. I want this world to be here in even better shape. I want my food to be safe for my children and future grandchildren. We as farmers are very aware because we work with that land, we work with those animals. This is our livelihood. It’s also our health that we’re worried about.”

Susan and Mike Brocksmith, shown here on their farm near Vincennes, Ind., were winners of the American Soybean Association’s Conservation Legacy Award for the Northeast Region.
Discovering ways to push Indiana’s ag industry further.

Thanks to your checkoff dollars, the Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) can partner with top universities to fund research programs that help improve conservation practices that benefit farmers while nurturing soil health and water quality. Moreover, checkoff research investments help address farmer challenges such as pest management, weed control and production efficiencies. Most notably, checkoff dollars helped to develop the new automated plant phenotyping facility at the Purdue Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE). Inside the state-of-the-art facility, researchers measure, analyze and observe various plant characteristics. It’s just one of the many ways ISA and ICMC are invested in Indiana.

Visit incorn.org or indianasoybean.com to learn more.
Kalbs survive wet spring to win national title in Corn Yield Contest

BY DAVE BLOWER JR.

Hoosier farmers Kevin Kalb and Shawn Kalb, both of Dubois, Ind., were among the winners of the NCGA’s 2019 National Corn Yield Contest. Kevin Kalb finished first in the Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Non-Irrigated division with a yield of 394.4922 per acre using DeKalb variety DKC6744RIB. Shawn Kalb was second in the same division with a yield of 320.7389 using the same DeKalb variety.

As with most other Indiana corn growers last year, heavy spring rain delayed Kevin Kalb from getting his fields planted. “From Jan. 1 through June 30, we set a record for precipitation,” he said. “In the past, we would try to start planting corn during the first couple weeks of April. But (in 2019), the ground was supersaturated. We didn’t get this (contest) field planted until May 18.”

The National Corn Yield Contest remains the NCGA’s most popular program for members. Winners receive national recognition in publications such as the NCYC Corn Yield Guide, as well as cash trips or other awards from participating sponsoring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. The winners were honored at the Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas earlier this year.

Shawn Kalb said anyone with an interest in growing corn should think about participating in the contest. “We’ve met a lot of great people and made a lot of friends,” Shawn said. “We get a chance to get together with them once a year (at Commodity Classic) and hear about the things they’re trying. It’s a great way to learn.”

In the statewide contest, the winners of the Conventional Non-Irrigated division were Matt Hart of Montgomery (317.1535 bushels per acre); Kyle Thomas Lang of Mount Vernon (294.9882) and Chris Cooper of Haubstadt (290.0807). In the No-Till Non-Irrigated division, the winners include Terry Vissing of Marysville (298.3466); Walley Linneweber of Vincennes (298.3315) and Nathan Hart of Montgomery (287.4749).

The Kalbs, of course, took the two top spots in the Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Non-Irrigated division. Finishing third was Ryan Rippy of Wingate, Ind. with 287.4426 bushels per acre.

In the No-Till Irrigated class, winners were Brandon Cardinal of Oaktown (297.3570); Jerry Wischmeier of Brownstown (281.0958) and Craig Williams of Oaktown (277.6287). In the Conventional Irrigated division, Brooks Cardinal of Oaktown was first (319.6575); followed by Jerry Cardinal of Oaktown (313.8092) and Josh D. Anthis of Sandborn (313.7277). And finally, in the Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Irrigated class, the winners were Dave R. Smith of Rochester (307.2871); Ben Kron of Evansville (299.0746) and Kevin Smith of Rochester (292.1803).

For Kron, this was his first attempt at the Corn Yield Contest. Kron said he learned many new techniques while trying to achieve the best yield possible. “I had a lot of late nights on the computer trying to learn new things,” Kron said. “My main benefit is that I can take what I’ve learned on this small patch of land and apply what works to other areas. This was a great experience; I’m glad I did it.”

For more results from the 2019 Corn Yield Contest, go online to www.ncga.com/get-involved/national-corn-yield-contest
Indiana corn growers could enter three categories in both irrigated and non-irrigated divisions in the 2019 National Corn Yield Contest. The contest categories were:

- Conventional Irrigated
- Conventional Non-Irrigated
- No-Till Irrigated
- No-Till Non-Irrigated
- Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Irrigated
- Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till Non-Irrigated

Conventional Tillage uses cultivation as the major means of seedbed preparation and weed control. Typically includes a sequence of soil tillage, such as ploughing and harrowing, to produce a fine seedbed leaving no crop residue on the field from the previous crop.

No-Till is defined as no mechanical tillage, from the prior year’s harvest through the harvest of this year’s contest, where the residue cover is left undisturbed with no mechanical tillage. Entries used mechanical or man-made irrigation.

Strip-Till, Minimum-Till, Mulch-Till, Ridge-Till

- **STRIP-TILL:** One-third of the row width or less is disturbed and may involve any combination of soil and residue disturbance. Planting or drilling is accomplished in a narrow seedbed or slot created by coulters, row cleaners disk openers, in-row chisels, or rototillers. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides.
- **MINIMUM-TILL:** Less intense than conventional tillage, to include tillage sequence designed to minimize or reduce loss of soil and water. Minimum tillage typically leaves a 30 percent or greater cover of crop residue on the surface after planting. Examples of minimum tillage include shallow tillage passes with field cultivators or disks set to a low aggressive setting. Soil mixing is a minimum. Minimum tillage does not use moldboard plowing or heavy disking. In the Southern U.S., residue decomposition may occur at a rate such that 30 percent of the residue is not present at planting.
- **MULCH-TILL:** 100 percent of the soil surface is disturbed by tillage whereby crop residues are mixed with the soil and a certain amount of residues remain on the soil surface.
- **RIDGE-TILL:** Less than one-third of the row width is disturbed at any point of time from prior year’s harvest contest field.

If a shank is used on a no-till field and no soil is disturbed the class would be no-till. The grower will need to determine, based on the amount of soil disturbed, if the tillage is categorized as strip-till or one of the other classes.
Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) is the state soybean checkoff organization. ISA ensures there are strong, viable markets for soybeans through the discovery and development of innovative new uses that have major commercial value. Through partnerships with development companies, entrepreneurs and universities, ISA’s new use innovation efforts have led to the creation of popular commercialized products, including: soy candles, soy crayons and soy-based concrete sealants.

To learn more about Indiana soybean checkoff investments, visit indianasoybean.com.
Indiana biodiesel production capacity reached 107 million gallons in 2018. That’s a lot of #Croppportunity for Indiana soybean farmers — adding 63 cents per bushel of the whole bean sold. With more oil #Croppportunities like these, just imagine how far your soybeans can go.

JUST WATCH US

#CROPPORTUNITY
Recently, the Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA), in partnership with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, (ISDA) received a $600,000 grant for the INfield Advantage program through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

INfield Advantage is a proactive, collaborative opportunity for farmers to collect and understand personalized, on-farm data to optimize their management practices to ultimately improve their farm profitability and benefit the environment. This program is a partnership between ISA, the Indiana Corn Marketing Council and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

“The INfield Advantage program shows how great partnerships can be in agriculture, and this program is something we are very proud to work on with our partners and Indiana farmers,” said ISDA Director Bruce Kettler. “This funding will ensure that our Hoosier farmers are able to connect, learn more about their farms and receive personalized and field specific data.”

This funding will be used to provide farmer participants with soil health assessments, soil chemical tests, and tissue samples in the fields enrolled in the program. Funding will provide enrollment into sustainability benchmarking tools such as Land O’ Lakes, Truterra. This funding is also allocated for agronomic technical assistance and incentive payments to farmer participants.

“Indiana’s soybean and corn checkoffs are charged with conducting research and educating farmers about the best practices for producing a crop,” ISA Board President David Rodibaugh, who is a soybean farmer from Rensselaer, Ind. “Our INfield Advantage program provides very good information that farmers can apply to their own farms to improve their bottom line in a more earth-friendly manner.”

These partnerships between state agencies, federal partners and Indiana farmers are crucial for improving Indiana agriculture and increasing soil conservation.

Join us LIVE Tuesday, April 21 (7-8 pm ET) on Facebook as we host the
Student Soybean Innovation Competition Awards Ceremony
as 12 student teams pitch innovative soy-based products.

Join us for a look at the newest student innovations that offer the potential to shape the future of agriculture!

The ISA sponsors this competition with Purdue to develop new uses for soybeans. Twelve teams have developed new products, conducted patent searches and created marketing plans all in the hopes of winning our $20,000 grand prize. Be there virtually on April 21 to find out who wins!

Facebook Live Event Details:
*To participate in the Facebook live event ‘like’ and ‘follow’ the Indiana Soybean Alliance Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/IndianaSoybeanAlliance/

An ISA Facebook registration link for the awards ceremony will be available and sent out on April 14. For those unavailable to participate in the Facebook live event there will be a recording of the entire event available on Indiana Soybean Alliance’s YouTube Page on April 22.

We look forward to your VIRTUAL participation on Tuesday, April 21 (7-8 pm ET)
In early February, the annual Purdue University Ag Alumni Fish Fry amassed hundreds of Purdue alumni and friends at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. This year, among those who were named as Distinguished Alumni—the highest honor bestowed by the Purdue Ag Alumni Association—was Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) board member Mark Legan, who farms near Coatesville, Ind.

“It’s very humbling, looking at some of the past recipients, it’s quite an honor to be chosen,” Legan said.

Legan began his relationship with Purdue by receiving his Bachelor’s degree in animal sciences and Master’s degree in Extension Education. He worked as a Purdue Extension educator for seven years before he decided to start farming, and, he noted, “Things went crazy from there.”

Legan now farms 500 acres of corn and soybeans in addition to keeping 3,000 sows on Legan Livestock and Grain, Inc., which he operates alongside his wife, daughter and son-in-law. For someone who didn’t come from an ag background, Legan couldn’t have imagined how much agriculture would influence his life before Purdue.

“I actually went in as a freshman at Purdue studying biochemistry,” he said. “Animal sciences appealed to me with the chemistry and biology involved in it and also my love for animals. Farming was one of those things that was a wish list type of deal for me.”

But the farming itself is far from the extent of Legan’s involvement in agriculture; he has long been active in agricultural leadership, as well. In the past, he served as president of the Indiana Pork Producers Association, and was a board member on the National Pork Producers Council.

Along with his position on the ISA Board, Legan also currently serves on the U.S. Meat Export Federation Executive Board. On the state level, he has worked closely with Indiana’s Board of Animal Health, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Water Board and the Advisory Committee for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

He believes starting his academic journey at Purdue has, in part, made him the person, leader and farmer he is today.

“Purdue is one of the top quality ag colleges in the world, and there’s a lot of people there that invested in me and mentored me,” Legan said. “I’m very grateful that I was selected out of a lot of deserving people, and I hope I can live up to the honor.”

ISA board member Mark Legan received a distinguished alumni award from Purdue University during the ag school’s annual Fish Fry in February.

ISA and ICMC staff Lauren Taylor and Ariel Kittle greet visitors who attended the annual Purdue University Fish Fry in Indianapolis in February.
Indiana's livestock farmers do more than bring home the bacon. They are investing in our state.

Indiana ranks among the top six states in corn, soybean and hog production. In Indiana, these industries account for a combined total of 47,269 jobs. Add in the ripple effect of those jobs and that's an additional 27,419 jobs.¹

With tax contributions, increased revenue and quality job creation, Indiana’s farmers improve the financial strength of our state.

Your checkoffs along with commodity organizations are promoting livestock and associated industry growth. After all, Indiana’s livestock are a grain farmer’s best customer.

Learn more at FarmersDeliver.com.

Funded with Indiana soybean and corn checkoff dollars.

MAKING HIGHER
meal value
SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

Animal nutritionists are your top customer. The higher the nutritional value in soybean meal, the more they’ll use it in their rations. That’s why we’re looking for the next #Croppportunity to improve soybean meal, which improves its value, which improves your price. How far can we go?

JUST WATCH US

#CROPPORTUNITY
The American Soybean Association (ASA) is celebrating its “First Soy Century” as it recognizes its 100th anniversary throughout 2020. The roots of ASA were formed when brothers Taylor, Noah and Finis Fouts hosted the first Corn Belt Soybean Field Day at their Soyland Farms operation in Camden, Ind. on Sept. 3, 1920. The event drew nearly 1,000 farmers from six states, who were interested in learning more about this new commodity – soybeans.

Among the collectibles for this anniversary is a book written by Jill Wagenblast which chronicles the first 100 years of the ASA decade by decade. Wagenblast is the director of publications and special projects for the ASA. She grew up on a small farm in Brighton, Ill., and she has several years of experience writing about farm issues.

The Forward in the book is written by USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky. “As ASA celebrates its 100th anniversary, this book tells the story of its life as an organization dedicated to soybeans as a crop and the farmers who grow them,” he wrote. “During its 100 years, ASA has stood at the forefront of building a U.S. soybean industry that is strong and economically vital to our country.”

ASA plans a robust year of activities to celebrate the association’s centennial including:

- A policy-focused event on July 8 at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.
- A dedication ceremony on Aug. 4 for an historical marker to be located on the Fouts family farm in Camden, Ind., the site of ASA’s birth in 1920.
- A forward-looking symposium entitled “The Next Soy Century” on the campus of Purdue University on Aug. 5, featuring an impressive line-up of thought leaders and industry experts.

Save the date! All Indiana soybean farmers are invited to the events on Aug. 4-5. For more on the ASA’s 100th anniversary, go online to asa100years.com.
For every $1 invested in soybean checkoff programs, $12.34 is returned to the U.S. soybean farmer

Learn more about your checkoff investments at www.indianasoybean.com and www.incorn.org

Funded with Indiana corn and soybean checkoff dollars.
2020 Indiana General Assembly closes with positive results for farmers

BY DAVE BLOWER JR.

Addressing a concern that Indiana farmers have talked about for many years, the Indiana General Assembly adopted a measure to allow Indiana Farm Bureau to offer its members health benefit plans gives options to farmers and their families that are not present in today’s marketplace.

“We’re very happy that the state legislature addressed this critical need for farmers,” said ICGA President Mike Beard. “Health care expenses are among the biggest costs we deal with, and this gives many Indiana farmers options that they haven’t had in the past.”

The new law allows for innovative, affordable health benefit choices for owner-operators with no employees. ISA and ICGA supported the bill, and submitted letters of support to the House Insurance Committee.

The law allows for innovative, affordable health benefit choices for owner-operators with no employees. ISA and ICGA supported the bill, and submitted letters of support to the House Insurance Committee.

The new law establishes four conditions that an association such as Indiana Farm Bureau must meet to qualify as a nonprofit agricultural organization. SB 184 defines “nonprofit agricultural organization coverage” as health benefit coverage that is:

• Sponsored by a nonprofit agricultural organization or an affiliate of a nonprofit agricultural organization
• Offered only to members of the nonprofit agricultural organization and their families
• Deemed by the nonprofit agricultural organization to be important in assisting its members to live long and productive lives
• Offered to members of the nonprofit agricultural organization in every county in Indiana

The new law states that nonprofit agricultural organization coverage is not considered insurance under Indiana law, but the coverage provided by a nonprofit agricultural organization is subject to the state insurance premiums tax. The law requires the nonprofit agricultural organization to annually certify that its plan reserves are adequate and conform to the appropriate actuarial standards of practice. The law authorizes the nonprofit farm organization to obtain reinsurance coverage, and it requires the nonprofit agricultural organization to adopt a complaint procedure.

Hoosier lawmakers also adopted a bill regulating the use and application of farm pesticides. This legislation provides certainty and transparency for Hoosier farmers and retail agribusiness, as well as the tools that the Indiana State Chemist’s Office needs to deter bad actors.

Civil penalties are not high enough to change the behavior of some violators. The new law is expected to reduce or stop off-target movement of pesticides and preserve the ability to utilize newer crop protection technologies. Currently, the Indiana State Chemist (OISC) develops guidance documents, reviewed by the Indiana Pesticide Review Board, regarding enforcement actions for pesticide violations. FY 2019 policy established a three strikes response to off-target movement violations, which would result in a license suspension following a third off-target violation over a five-year lookback period. Although ISA and ICGA supported a tiered point system that was originally in the legislation, the final bill requires the Pesticide Review Board appoint a working group to further study the matrix and recommend changes next year.

At present, civil penalties for violations cannot exceed $100 for private applicators or $1,000 (for 3+ violations) for commercial applicators. The new law shifts from fluid guidance documents and maximum civil penalties to a matrix that will be applied to use violations and determine the resulting administrative action or civil penalty imposed.
Times of uncertainty

These last few weeks have been a trying time for many. For our healthcare workers, for our grocery store employees, for our essential businesses, for our fellow Hoosiers and for our farmers, we’ve all been feeling overwhelmed.

The world hasn’t quite stopped spinning, but it’s certainly slowed down.

Uncertainty is not new for our farmers. From trade negotiations to inclement weather to fluctuating crop prices, they have faced the challenge head on. And now a critical time for agriculture, the planting season, is just around the bend.

Our team at ISDA is working tirelessly to ensure that our 94,000 Hoosier farmers have everything they need to be ready to plant their crop, just as they have each and every year. Through all the chaos, one thing is certain: our farmers will continue to devote their lives to supplying Hoosiers with healthy, safe and plentiful food options.

We have faced similar global crises in the past, like polio in 1916 and in 1917 with H1N1, or the Spanish Flu, and again in 1957 with H2N2. Now, all of these diseases are unique in their own way and no two are the same or should be treated the same. But, this goes to show that worldwide, no matter the obstacle, we are able to overcome challenges.

We have witnessed a several positive things with our new found time at home. With students turning to e-learning they have more time to play outside. Children can see what their parents really do for a living and how hard they work at their jobs as they observe them working from home. Families are gathering around recently dusted off dining room tables, enjoying homemade meals or local take out. We have seen fellow Hoosiers take time for themselves to go outside and walk or play with their kids. It’s a nice break from the former hustle and bustle of our daily lives.

Those in agriculture know there are no days off. There is always a sense of stress about what is happening on the farm and where the economy is headed. This constant sense of uncertainty makes agriculture one of the most stressful jobs. But, you remain resilient. You look ahead, global pandemic or not, you’re still going to order feed, seed and supplies. Widespread disease or not, you’re still going to prepare the planter and equipment. You rest assured that the world will keep on turning. Thank you for pushing on. We can all take a lesson from you.

In times of uncertainty people become anxious and worry about things out of anyone’s control – but isn’t every situation uncertain? Isn’t each new day a gift? We must forge on and look ahead to brighter days. For us, and hopefully you, we lean on our faith to keep us upright and facing the right direction.
Roads and bridges in poor condition cause obstructions and detours that cost producers, processors and end-consumers money – not to mention the impact on quality of life in rural communities. The Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) partner with the local agencies and invest checkoff dollars to perform load testing and analysis to make sure Indiana’s infrastructure can handle the capacity necessary to keep the state’s corn and soybeans moving.

Visit incorn.org or indianasoybean.com to learn more.
IT TAKES HEART.
Grit and determination got you here. Faith will keep you going. You were made for this.

BECK’S