

# Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee



# CHECKOFF CHRONICLE

Farmers are Stewards of Michigan's Land

A Quarterly Periodical Publication

Issue 1

Spring 2006

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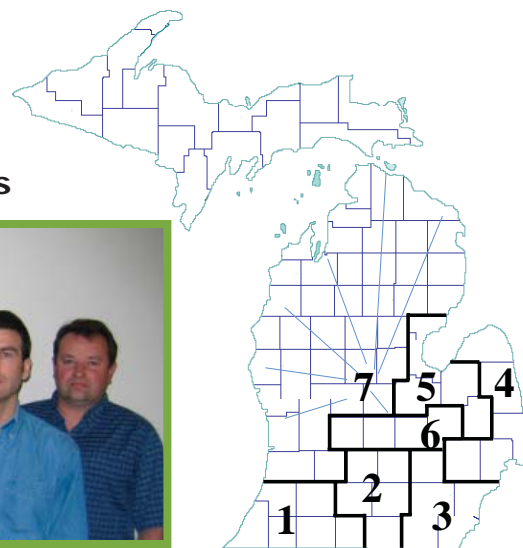
Dear Michigan Soybean Producer:

2006 marks the 30th anniversary of the inception of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC). The new year offers a new opportunity for the staff and directors to try something a little different. It is with great excitement that we bring to you the *Checkoff Chronicle*. Since the MSPC doesn't typically communicate with all our soybean producers regularly we feel it is "high time" to do so. This "new" publication will arrive in your mailbox four times per year and will share with you both the latest and upcoming activities your soybean checkoff investment is funding right here in Michigan. We're planning a four page, easily read piece with an occasional insert. Included within this issue is the *2005 Annual Report of the MSPC*. As always, we welcome your comments. All our best for a safe planting season.

Representing your soybean interests,  
*The Directors and Staff of the MSPC*

We hope you enjoy the *Checkoff Chronicle*. If you are receiving duplicates please contact our office via mail and include a copy of the multiple addresses with a note of the correct address to the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, PO Box 287, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 or FAX 989.652.3296.

If you would like to receive this quarterly publication via e-mail contact our office by e-mailing to [soyinfo@michigansoybean.org](mailto:soyinfo@michigansoybean.org).



## MSPC Board of Directors



Back Row: Mark Bierlein, Andy Welden, Benjamin Chaffin, and Herb Miller  
Front Row: George Zmitko, Jim Domagalski, and Jason Woods

1976

MSPC . . . Thirty Years of Success

2006



## MEET THE DIRECTORS

With the new year brings a new publication to your farm and many new faces to the soybean checkoff board here in Michigan. We'd like you to know who your seven fellow soybean checkoff farmer directors are and a little bit about them.



I'm Jim Domagalski, soybean producer from Columbus, MI in St. Clair County. I have served on the soybean checkoff board since 1998 and am currently serving as chairman. I've previously held the offices of Treasurer and Vice-President. I also represent Michigan's farmers on the National Biodiesel Board. In addition to my 600 acre farm which includes a soy-corn-wheat rotation, I work for Consumers

Energy. My wife Lorry and I went through a volunteer soybean promoter (VSP) program "years ago" and have enjoyed all the opportunities this industry has brought us. I hope you too are understanding and appreciative of some of the many things your checkoff has been involved in. We hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of the *Checkoff Chronicle*. The directors would be happy to receive your call to answer any checkoff question you have or to discuss soybean research and educational opportunities with you.

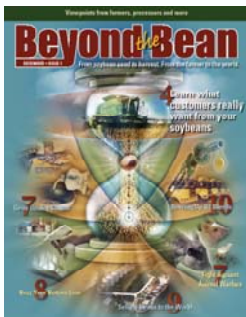
Wishing you a prosperous 2006,  
*Jim Domagalski*  
MSPC Chairman

## DATES OF INTEREST

- June 21 MSPC Board Meeting
- July 18 - 20 MSU Ag Expo
- August 1 Deadline for Yield Contest Application

## BEYOND THE BEAN

To get a lowdown on national happenings, watch for *Beyond the Bean* a fairly new national publication from the United Soybean Board which is mailed every two months to the nearly 500,000 soybean producers nationwide.



## MICHIGAN AG COUNCIL

**March 2006:** Michigan Ag Council puts its 2005 research into action. This group which currently includes Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, Michigan Farm Bureau and GreenStone Farm Credit Services is focused on communicating the

positive messages of farming in Michigan to consumers across our state. The soybean checkoff was supportive of this effort as there is a lot of soy meal consumed by livestock in Michigan (primarily pork, turkeys, chickens, and beef). We hope our efforts will expand with additional support expected from Michigan's livestock organizations and agri-businesses across the state. We applaud Michigan's farmers for being true stewards of the land, be it for fertilizer and pesticide applications, alternative fuel use, or in your seed selections.



## CHECKOFF MESSAGES AIRED WEEKLY VIA MFRN

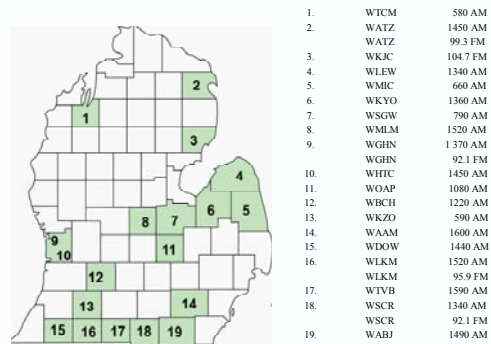
For many years, the soybean checkoff has been working weekly with Michigan Farm Radio Network (MFRN) to get the word out on issues, products, and happenings of Michigan's soybean industry such as:

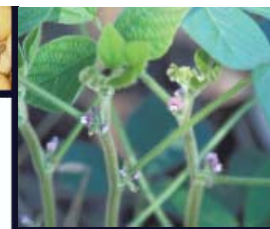
- the soyfoods health claim
- cleaner burning soy candles
- SCN, SBA, and SBR challenges and management recommendations
- *Soybeans Go to School* kits educating fourth graders
- soybean research meetings for farmers
- soy biodiesel in school buses and county road commissions
- and much, MUCH more!



Michigan Farm Radio Network • 325 S. Walnut St • Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 484-4888 • www.mfrn.com

You can listen to Michigan Farm Radio Network's noon report every Monday afternoon for a short update on what's new or what's happening with the soybean checkoff. MFRN has over 20 affiliate stations across the state. Refer to the adjoining map for the station closest to you. You can also read the weekly soybean checkoff activities update on the MFRN web site, at [www.mfrn.com](http://www.mfrn.com). Thanks to MFRN for many years of dedicated work to helping put these weekly announcements together for the benefit of Michigan's soybean farmers.





Most investments at Michigan State University are to research projects designed to have definitive, applied results that growers can use in making production management decisions in their soybean production. The overall intent is to implement our mission of affording soybean growers increased profit opportunities. We trust the provided research summaries will have applications as you make management decisions for your 2006 soybean crop. Since this is intended to only be a summary, additional project information is available from your county MSU Extension office.

## **Study the Effect of Glyphosate Application Timing and Row Spacing on Corn and Soybean Yield Loss from Weed Competition**

*Dr. J. Kells and Dr. K. Renner, Michigan State University*

**Objective:** Determine maximum weed height for glyphosate application to avoid yield loss from weed competition in 7.5 inch, 15 inch and 30 inch corn and soybean.

**Results:** Apply glyphosate before weeds exceed:

- 4 inches in 7.5 inch and 15 inch row soybeans
- 6 inches in 30 inch row soybeans
- 2 inches in 15 inch row corn
- 4 inches in 30 inch row corn

### **Observations:**

- Corn is more sensitive to early season weeds than soybeans
- Yield loss from early season weeds occurs earlier in narrow rows than wide rows (both corn and soybeans)

## **Determining Optimum Spray Timing for Soybean Aphid Control**

*Dr. C. DiFonzo, Michigan State University*

**Objective:** Optimize spray timing for soybean aphid (SBA) control.

**Results:** The study confirms the validity of the currently recommended threshold of 250 SBA per plants under increasing populations. Plots sprayed too early or too late suffer yield loss compared to plots treated at the recommended threshold.

## **Impact of Foliar Fertilization on Soybean Aphid (SBA) Number and Grain Yield**

*Dr. C. DiFonzo, Michigan State University*

### **Objective:**

1. Determine if foliar fertilization reduces SBA number and damage.
2. Determine if foliar fertilization contributes to plant health for deterring SBA.

**Results:** The research provides no evidence to recommend foliar feeding to either reduce SBA numbers directly nor is there research evidence that foliar feeding improves the health of plants infected by the SBA.

## **Effect of Low Soybean Populations on Weed Competitiveness in Soybean**

*Dr. K. Renner,  
Michigan State University*

**Objective:** Determine if the cost of seeding soybeans at higher populations and planting narrow rows is recovered with increased soybean yield in the presence and absence of weeds.

**Result:** The cost to seed soybeans to obtain a finished stand of 180,000 plants/A was recovered by greater soybean yield in weed free and weedy conditions in 7.5 inch and 15 inch rows in 3 of 5 locations. The greatest economic return for the 30 inch row width was at 120,000 plants/A (harvest population)

## **Soybean Seed Applied Inoculation Needs**

*Dr. K. Thelen, Michigan State University*

**Objective:** Test different commercially available soybean seed inoculants for effect on soybean growth and grain yield.

### **Results:**

1. On sites with a soybean cropping history, inoculated plots averaged 1.3 bu/A higher than the check plots. Because most commercially available inoculant products are relatively inexpensive, the 1.3 bu/A expected yield increase will generally cover application/product costs.
2. No statistically significant differences in grain yield were found between inoculant products used in the trials.
3. Apron Maxx fungicide treatments did not alter the effects of the inoculants when used in combination; nor did it provide a significant yield difference when compared to untreated plots.

## **SOYBEAN YIELD CONTEST**



MSPC and the Monroe County MSU Extension are sponsoring the 2006 Michigan Soybean Yield Contest. The Yield Contest is open to all Michigan soybean farmers. First prize will receive up to \$1,000 reimbursement for expenses to the 2007 Commodity Classic, March 1-3, 2007 in Tampa, FL.

### **Contest application forms are due August 1.**

Entry classes include: Group III irrigated, Group III non-irrigated, Group II irrigated, Group II non-irrigated.

For an application or more information contact the Monroe County MSU Extension office at 734.240.3170 or for a downloadable form after June 1 visit:  
[www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org)



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## New Uses



### BIODIESEL NEWS:

**September 2005:** Six biofuel related bills were introduced to Michigan's Legislature regarding biodiesel. The bills cover issues such as a differential tax rate on biodiesel, renaissance zones for renewable energy facilities, requiring state fleets to use biodiesel and ethanol, partial funding for renewable fuel infrastructure, standards for use of diesel, biodiesel, and hydrogen and setting up a Commission to encourage the use of alternative fuels such as biodiesel.

**October 2005:** American Trucking Association (ATA) Endorses B5. "ATA is proud to endorse the use of biodiesel in blends of up to 5 percent," said Rich Moskowitz, ATA regulatory affairs counsel. "It fits in with our mission of ensuring an adequate diesel fuel supply-something important to the trucking industry. Promoting B5 is a step in the right direction."

**October 2005 - December 2005** MSPC Executive Director Frahm visits with multiple school districts who participated in a cost-share project to use B20 in their diesel bus/school fleet. A report detailing the one year findings is being written and will be available soon at [www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org). Most of these school districts continued using biodiesel after the grant ended.

### ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL BUSES KEEP ROLLING WITH BIODIESEL



In the summer of 2004, we reported that St. John's Public Schools had used B20 in their entire diesel fleet successfully for over 1 million miles...

**UPDATE:** Now, two years later, St. John's is back to report they'll roll over 2 million miles with B20 in their fleet by the end of this school year. Garage Foreman and Head Mechanic, Wayne Hettler, reports that "In the four years St. John's has been using biodiesel, we've had zero fuel injector problems and continue to reap biodiesel's benefits in our fleet."

### BIODIESEL MARINA CAMPAIGN

Through a cooperative effort with MSU last fall, a group of four marketing students designed a campaign to promote biodiesel to Michigan's marinas, yacht clubs, and diesel boat owners this spring. Watch as these efforts set sail.



MARINE SOY BIODIESEL

... leave only waves.