



# CHECKOFF CHRONICLE

Farmers are Stewards of Michigan's Land

A Quarterly Periodical Publication

Issue 2

Summer 2006

### MSPC Directors

**JAMES DOMAGALSKI**  
*President*  
Columbus, **District 4**  
586.727.9639

**ANDY WELDEN**  
*Vice President*  
Jonesville, **District 2**  
517.849.2582

**MARK BIERLEIN**  
*Treasurer*  
Reese, **District 5**  
989.868.3534

**BENJAMIN CHAFFIN**  
*Secretary*  
Ithaca, **District 7**  
989.463.4081

**HERB MILLER**  
Niles, **District 1**  
269.683.7888

**JASON WOODS**  
Deerfield, **District 3**  
517.447.3217

**GEORGE ZMITKO**  
Owosso, **District 6**  
989.723.1886

**MSPC Staff**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Gail Frahm**

FIELD OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
**Keith Reinholt**

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR  
**Kathy Maurer**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
**Noelle Byerley**

**Office Contact Information:**  
Michigan Soybean  
Promotion Committee  
PO Box 287  
Frankenmuth, MI 48734  
989.652.3294  
[www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org)

## EARTHTRACE FUELED BY BIODIESEL

Earthrace, an impressive 78 foot vessel powered by 100% biodiesel, is coming to Michigan!

Earthrace is attempting to break the world record of circumnavigating the globe by a motor powered vessel. The current record held by British Boat Cable & Wireless since 1998 completed the race in 75 days. This race of 24,000 nautical miles, is the longest on record. With its wave piercing hull, Earthrace submarines through the waves at a top speed of 45 knots. This is the edge the team will need to not only break the world record but to do so by 10 days.

Earthrace is currently on a world tour of 60 cities promoting biodiesel and renewable resources. The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee is a proud sponsor of Earthrace's tour through the Great Lakes. For more information on Earthrace visit their web site at:

[www.earthrace.net](http://www.earthrace.net)

### 2006 Earthrace Tours the Great Lakes, Stops and Dates:

	<u>August</u>
Detroit	18-19 <sup>th</sup>
Port Huron	20 <sup>th</sup>
Straits of Mackinac	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Grand Haven	24 <sup>th</sup>





## MEET THE DIRECTORS

In a continuing effort to introduce your seven fellow Governor appointed soybean checkoff farmer directors to you, this newsletter brings to you Andy Welden.



I'm Andy Welden, soybean producer from Jonesville, MI in Hillsdale County. I have served on the soybean checkoff board since 2003 representing District 3 which covers Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties. I'm currently serving as Vice President. In addition to my 1,100 acre farm which includes

a soy-corn rotation, I work for the Hillsdale County Commissioner and am a seed salesman.

Serving on the MSPC board has been rewarding and enlightening. The soybean industry is dynamic and in constant change. This global industry is an important key to the future of agriculture and the farming industry as we now it today. I look forward to continue serving as a board member and finding profit opportunities for Michigan soybean farmers.

To a profitable future,  
*Andy Welden*

## DATES OF INTEREST

- July 18-20 MSU Ag Expo Soybean Exhibit in Tent A
- August 1 Deadline for Soybean Yield Contest Application
- August 16 MSPC Board Meeting
- Earthrace Tours the Great Lakes in August, 2006 with stops in:
 

Detroit	18-19 <sup>th</sup>
Port Huron	20 <sup>th</sup>
Straits of Mackinac	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Grand Haven	24 <sup>th</sup>

## 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, and Group II non-irrigated.

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

## GO PAPERLESS

If you would like to receive your copy of *Checkoff Chronicle* by e-mail please send your request to [kmaurer@michigansoybean.org](mailto:kmaurer@michigansoybean.org).

## MSU AG EXPO

Michigan State University is celebrating their 27th Ag Expo on July 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> at the MSU campus on the corner of Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. Soybeans will be a featured crop at the MSU Crops and Soils Science Display and at the MSPC exhibit.

We will have a booth in Tent A across from the food tent. There will be daily drawings of \$25 Biodiesel Buck Certificates good for B2 biodiesel blends and higher (2% biodiesel and 98% petroleum diesel). Stop by and sign up.

Also featured in our booth will be agronomic information such as the most up-to-date details regarding soybean rust and aphids. Don't forget to stop by for soybean cyst nematode and marestail sampling information.

Soybean recipes and soynuts are always a favorite at our booth.

**See you at the MSU Ag Expo!**



As we met with soybean growers at winter grower meetings and fall plot days, three topics were frequently mentioned;

- history of “stagnating” **soybean yields**
- challenges from the **soybean aphid**
- challenges surrounding **soybean rust**

## STAGNATING SOYBEAN YIELDS

are not unique to Michigan. While other states indicate only marginal soybean yield increases, a review of Michigan’s crop yields (corn, soybean, and wheat) by the Michigan State University Extension Service (MSUE) indicated a surprising trend for soybeans. The yield trends for the three crops compared a five-year period including 1990-1994 with a five-year period including 2000-2004.

Statewide average soybean yields for the 1990-1994 time frame were 36.8 bu/A compared to a 33.6 bu/A for the 2000-2004 time frame. A surprising 8.7% decline! For the same references for corn, the bu/A actually increased by 9.4 bu/A (8.4%) and for wheat the increase was 17.4 bu/A (35.1%). Comparisons for national yield trends for the same time periods were: soybean increased by 6.8%, corn increased by 18.2% and wheat increased by 8.3%.

Other than soybean yields showing such a discrepancy, the question is why were wheat yields four times the national average? Even though there is no single reason, wheat growers began to recoup the benefits of the research and educational efforts of Wheat 2000. If the Wheat 2000 program was partially responsible for increasing wheat yields, could a similar program be developed for soybeans? After a review of the data, it was apparent there was an educational and research need for Michigan’s soybean producers. With a successful Wheat 2000 model in place, it was decided to model a soybean program after this and call it SOYBEAN 2010!



With leadership provided by the soybean checkoff program, a core group from MSU, Michigan Farm Bureau, and the Michigan Agri-Business Association was formed. A Project GREEN grant was obtained, grower surveys have been analyzed, and 2006 research plots have been planted.

Nearterm efforts included:

- ✓ general needs analysis such as agronomic reasons for the yield challenge
- ✓ disease and insect trends
- ✓ communication needs of established research, etc.

Longterm we will:

- ✓ research the identified challenge
- ✓ effectively communicate the research results for grower application



## SOYBEAN APHID (SBA)

challenges have been an every-other-year thing since SBA

was first identified in 2001. Through a collaborative effort by the North Central Soybean Research Program, the SBA research and educational efforts have been models of success. Insecticide use, spray thresholds, spray timing, and predicted SBA pressure are well documented. Dr. Chris DiFonzo at MSU has been exceptional in her devotion to address the SBA research and communication needs.

On-going SBA research continues in the areas of:

- ✓ using suction traps to collect aphids for predicting aphid pressure
- ✓ natural enemy control by evaluating which predators are the most effective
- ✓ seed applied insecticides for evaluating the effectiveness under differing SBA pressure and the economics of its use

Additionally, Dr.

Chris DiFonzo has been a collaborator

with Dr. Dechun

Wang, MSU soybean geneticist, in the development of SBA resistant germplasm suitable to Michigan environments.

Two SBA resistant plant introductions have been identified with plans to release breeding seed in the fall of 2006. Proper licensing of the seed for distribution through sublicenses is being implemented. Realistically, SBA resistant varieties are still five years away but efforts to date appear promising. Until SBA resistant varieties are available, checkoff investment in established SBA control will still be effective.

**SOYBEAN RUST (SBR)** has only been a “potential” challenge to Michigan soybean producers; however, education and research efforts for SBR have been unsurpassed. Educational meetings, spray techniques, scouting, etc. have caused some producers over concern. Our goal is to keep growers aware but not alarmed.

In cooperation with MSUE, we have collaborated in the production of four SBR bulletins detailing such things as:

- ✓ fungicide use
- ✓ spray application technology
- ✓ information resources
- ✓ scouting guidelines for growers to use in preparing for SBR

These are available from your county MSUE office or at [www.msue.msu.edu/portal/](http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/) under “2006 Soybean Growers.”

Because of Dr. Wang’s nationality and networking in his native China, we have a unique opportunity to do SBR germplasm selection work in this naturally infested environment. 2006 will be the third-year of research funded by the soybean checkoff in collaboration with MSU and a China collaborator. One must appreciate this is a longterm effort which will yield positive results - eventually. In the meantime, be aware but not alarmed of the possibility of SBR.



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 35  
Ithaca, MI



### Summer 2006

- Earthrace & Biodiesel
- Soybean Yield Contest
- Soybean Aphid & Rust
- Soybean 2010
- Amusement Co.'s & Biodiesel



## New Uses

### RIDE INTO THE FUTURE

The MSPC is partnering with three Michigan amusement companies: Elliott's, McDonagh's, and Schmidt's to have fair and festival goers *Ride Into The Future...* with soy biodiesel. The amusement companies will be using B20 in the generators that power the rides and in their semi-tractors that haul them from event to event.

With increases in fuel prices the companies hope to save money by switching to soy biodiesel as well as help the environment and make people aware of a great product.

The grant will allow:

- ✓ reimbursement for up to one-half of any added cost for soy biodiesel resulting from the use of a B20 blend or higher
- ✓ promotion in the way of literature, press releases, signage, displays, and banners
- ✓ other advertising means such as posters, radio, etc.



*Soy Biodiesel...Fueling Fairs, Festivals and Fun!*

### FARM BUREAU HELPS SPREAD THE WORD ON SOY BIODIESEL



MSPC through a "Soy Biodiesel Market Development Grant" program is working with county farm bureau promotion and education committees this summer in the promotion of soy biodiesel. Currently we have signed contracts in place with the following counties:

Barry	Cass	Lenawee	Saginaw
Bay	Clare	Kalamazoo	

Contracts are pending for the following counties:

Charlevoix	Ionia	Muskegon
Genesee	Monroe	

The grant involves the reimbursement for soy biodiesel related items such as displays, fair booths, signage, banners, as well as sponsorship for informational biodiesel meetings. The counties have been creative with their ideas on educating the public about the benefits of biodiesel.

We look forward to working with these volunteers.

If you are receiving duplicates of this mailing, please contact our office via mail and include the copies of the multiple addresses with a note of the correct address to the MSPC, PO Box 287, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 or FAX details to 989.652.3296.

