

Established: August 17, 1966

Serving the legislative interests of Ohio soybean farmers for 49 years.

September/October 2015



### LETTER FROM the president

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As your new Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) president, I want to introduce myself. My name is Adam Graham and I farm soybeans and corn in Logan County. I previously served as OSA's first vice president

and secretary. Like most of you, I'm busy harvesting and looking forward to another crop year in the books. Besides playing the role of a soybean farmer, I'm a husband and father. I studied Agriculture right here in Ohio at Wilmington College, and have been farming for 25 years. I look forward to bringing you updates and insights into the work OSA is doing on your behalf.

On the legislative side, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati recently issued a stay that temporarily blocks enforcement of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule in all fifty

states. One of OSA's focus areas has been water quality. Therefore, OSA along with the American Soybean Association commends the court for its decision and is now calling on the EPA to pull the rule and commit to working with farmers on more practical ways to meet the U.S. water quality goals. The federal court used the same argument advanced by the nation's soybean farmers—the misapplication of the rule's significant nexus test, or how connected a body of water in question is to a body of water under Clean Water Act jurisdiction—as a key reason for its decision. OSA will keep you updated on any key legislation throughout the year that has an impact on your bottom line, such as the WOTUS rule. I encourage you to visit [www.soyohio.org/association](http://www.soyohio.org/association) for additional OSA news and resources.

Have a great harvest.

**Adam Graham**  
OSA President  
Logan County soybean farmer



### LEGISLATIVE update



Brought to you by Seed Consultants.

## OSA Urges Congressional Delegation to Support "Safe Trucking Act"

The Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) recently partnered with eight trade associations in Ohio and delivered a joint letter to Ohio's Congressional delegation urging the state's representatives in Washington to approve the Safe Trucking Act.

"Collectively, the group believes the reasonable, commonsense legislation will make truck shipping safer, more efficient, productive and better for the environment," said Adam Graham, OSA president and soybean farmer from Logan County.

The group issued the following statement:

"The Safe Trucking Act is a commonsense solution to outdated weight limits for trucks that are forcing shippers to put more vehicles on the road and wasting fuel with partial loads. By giving states the authority to allow heavier trucks equipped with six axles, rather than the typical five, to access designated interstate highways, the proposed legislation will safely boost the efficiency and productivity of our nation's trans-

portation network while driving economic growth. Passage of the Safe Trucking Act will result in lower overall shipping costs, safer roads and less environmental impact. We urge the Congress to approve the legislation with dispatch."

The nine associations urging Congressional support for the proposed federal legislation include:

- Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Materials Association
- Ohio AgriBusiness Association
- Ohio Cattlemen's Association
- Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
- Ohio Farm Bureau
- Ohio Forestry Association
- Ohio Manufacturers' Association
- Ohio Pork Council
- Ohio Soybean Association



## Another look at 20 years of fertilizer recommendations

There are likely as many varied opinions on the validity and the accuracy of the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations as there are farms and soil types. No matter what that opinion may be from field to field, it is hard to deny that the document has had an incredible impact on crop production in Ohio.

“The Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa were first published in 1995,” said Steve Culman, assistant professor of soil fertility at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and state Extension specialist in soil fertility. “It was the culmination of 40 years of calibrated field studies. They calibrated fertilizer rates with agronomic response. The idea is that it is a self-contained document that looks at the three macronutrients in our agronomic crops. For phosphorus and potassium it looks at soil test levels and the probability of seeing a yield response. This is a precursor to the 4 Rs in many ways. There is also some discussion of some secondary macronutrients and micronutrients as well.”

The information from the recommendations has undoubtedly saved millions of dollars in on-farm fertilizer expenditures, helped contribute to increased yields, and had tremendous environmental benefits, but Culman knows there is still plenty of room for improvement for the 20-year-old document.

“Since then, many things have changed in agriculture. We grow crops very differently than we did 20 years ago. We grow soybeans differently and genetics are different,” he said. “This was before glyphosate resistance and there is a lot more no-till now which changes how nutrients are cycled in soils. With the backdrop of water quality issues in the state today there is a lot of justification in re-looking at this and a lot of interest in revising things a little. Certain soil types are going to require more or less fertility — not two or three times more or less — but we are looking at this with an open mind. We are entertaining the possibility that these recommendations may have been too high or too low.”

With funding from the Ohio Soybean Council and soybean checkoff, the massive undertaking really got started in 2014.

The research will result in a new updated document and recommendations within a few years.

“We need good information and our process needs to be transparent. Several years from now we will have 50 and 100 site years per crop and nutrient to look at. That is the goal,” he said. “We are trying to collect as much data as we can in the next few years and see what it means and extract as much information from that as possible. My timeline for an official revision would be in three to five years. It may be broken down by state and even region, so it may not be tri-state any more. I am in contact with the state specialists at Michigan State and Purdue to see what we are going to do moving forward.”

The success of the project is largely dependent on the cooperation from farmers and private agribusinesses.

“The original was done primarily on OSU research farms over 30 or 40 years. We do not have that luxury now. The success of this project is incredibly reliant on farmers buying into this and wanting to be part of the solution for better nutrient management,” Culman said. “We are branching out to work with not only Extension researchers, but also people in the industry like crop consultants, ag retailers, co-op agronomists, and CCAs. The devil is in all the details of coordinating that. There are a lot of moving parts to this.”

This year the field trial numbers will be increasing as the research continues.

“We have more than 20 growers putting trials out. Last year we had 10. The majority of the folks we are working with will be putting in trials this fall when the majority of fertilizer is applied, though there are a few sites going in this summer,” Culman said. “We have around 30 different OSU sites going in this year as well. We are working with a dozen or so private consultants and if others are interested in working with us, we are more than happy to add more. We are getting the wrinkles ironed out, but we have money in the budget to put out a lot of different sites. We are trying to scale up and make farmers aware that we are running fertilizer trials. We are appreciative of the growers who are working with us now and hope to get more. We are very flexible about the size of the plots.”

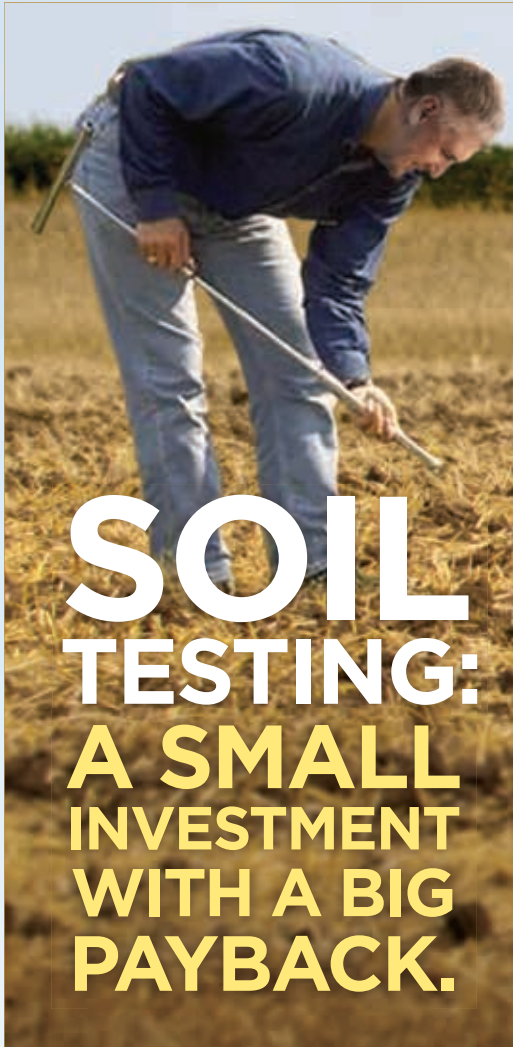
With the incredible focus on nutrient management and water quality issues in Ohio in recent years, the reassessment of fertility recommendations takes on even broader implications than 20 years ago, particularly for phosphorus.

“We can either be proactive about this or sit on our hands and let this be regulated. Most people I have talked to are reserving judgment about whether the current phosphorus recommendations are too high or too low,” Culman said. “We know there are problem areas out there and that there are all kinds of approaches. This is primarily a document focused on rate, but maybe rate is not the most important part of improving water quality. We don’t know that yet.”

In the end, no fertility recommendation is going to be perfect for every field every year, but Culman thinks that significant improvements can be made that will lead to improved nutrient management on farms in the future.



*Steve Culman, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, is working on revising the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations.*



# SOIL TESTING: A SMALL INVESTMENT WITH A BIG PAYBACK.

A small investment in soil testing yields information that can help you manage nutrients which can be up to 10%-20% of your overall crop budget for the year.

Testing as soon after harvest as possible gives the most accurate

readings for fall nutrient application. Fall testing also gives you time to think about and analyze your results. You will have more time to seek out expert advice and make the best economic decisions for your fields.

## **FALL APPLICATION CAN MINIMIZE SOIL COMPACTION.**

Fields tend to be drier in the fall than in the spring, so traffic from heavy equipment has less potential to cause compaction or ruts in the field. If damage does occur from fall application, there is opportunity for winter freezing and thawing to help reduce the effects before the next crop season.

Making nutrient applications in the fall rather than waiting until the rush of spring can also save valuable time, while lowering your risk of heavy spring rainfalls washing away nutrients. The Ohio State University Extension recommends that farmers practice the 4Rs of nutrient management – right source, right place, right time, right rate – or consult your extension agent.

**YOUR SOYBEAN CHECKOFF DOLLARS AT WORK** The Ohio Soybean Council was founded in 1991 to manage the Soybean Promotion and Research Program, more commonly known as the soybean checkoff. This report is the first in a series on soybean management best practices designed to get information from university researchers to soybean growers across the state as quickly as possible.



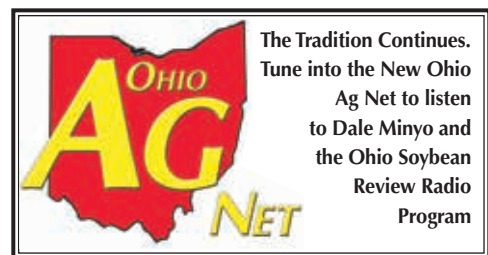
## OSA Leaders Back Ohio Issue 1

During the September meeting of the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA), the farmer leaders of OSA voted to support Ohio ballot Issue 1. Issue 1 will be on the Ohio ballot in November of 2015, and Ohio Soybean leaders believe it's critical because it creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts. Supporters of the amendment state that it would:

- End the partisan process for drawing Ohio House and Senate districts, and replace it with a bipartisan process with the goal of having district boundaries that are more compact and politically competitive.
- Establish the bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission, composed of 7 members including the Governor, the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, and 4 members appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the General Assembly.
- Ensure a transparent process by requiring public meetings, public displays of maps, and a public letter explaining any plan the Commission adopts by a simple majority vote.

- Require a bipartisan majority of 4 members in order to adopt any final district plan, and prevent deadlock by limiting the length of time any plan adopted without bipartisan support is effective.

“Ohio deserves the best government possible,” said Adam Graham, OSA president and soybean farmer from Logan County. “By passing Issue 1, we can ensure better legislative districts determined by a bipartisan and transparent process, resulting in competitive and more compact, legislative boundaries.”



**LATE-SEASON INSECT DAMAGE  
CAN BE COSTLY TO  
OHIO SOYBEAN GROWERS.**

Minimizing insect damage over an entire growing season can boost yields and income by up to \$90 per acre. Dr. Andy Michel at The Ohio State University recommends scouting pre-emergence, post-emergence and right before soybeans completely dry out before harvest. Late-season pests can damage seeds and pods right up until harvest. Ohio soybean farmers are encouraged to report their findings via e-mail at [michel.70@osu.edu](mailto:michel.70@osu.edu) or by calling 330-263-3730.

For more detailed information, visit [SoybeanRewards.org](http://SoybeanRewards.org).



## OSA Announces 2016 Member Benefits

It's a new membership year for the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and whether you renewed your membership or just joined, below is a complete list of your membership benefits for 2016:

### Seed Incentive

- 3-year members will receive a coupon worth \$205 off the purchase of a minimum 100 bags of soybean seed from a participating company listed below:
  - o Seed Consultants
  - o Pioneer
  - o LG Seeds
  - o Rupp Seeds
  - o Schlessman Hybrids
  - o Stewart Seeds
  - o Wellman Seeds
- Each new or renewing member will receive their choice of a Monsanto BioAg product:
  - o 100 units of Optimize® dual-action inoculant
  - o 100 units of TagTeam® LCO *MultiAction*® inoculant
  - o 50 units of QuickRoots®
- 10% discount on one time purchase at Tractor Supply Company
- Rebate coupon for \$.05/gallon up to 2,000 gallons of soy biodiesel
- Subscription to *Ohio's Country Journal*
- 6 Issues of the *Ohio Soybean News* magazine
- 9 issues of the *Ohio Leader Letter* - OSA member-only newsletter
- **New Members:** Eligible to win 50 hours on a 8600 CAT tractor

For more information, visit [www.soyohio.org/association](http://www.soyohio.org/association)

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## Congress Approves Reauthorization of U.S. Grain Standards Act

Congress passed a reauthorization bill this week that renews important provisions in the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA).

These include allowing the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to collect fees for export inspection and weighing services, renewal of the USGSA Advisory Committee and stronger language requiring FGIS to provide export inspections in the event of a suspension of services by a delegated state inspection agency. The latter was a priority for the American Soybean Association (ASA) and other farm organizations following the withdrawal of services at the Port of Vancouver by the Washington State Department of Agriculture in July 2014 and the refusal by FGIS to take

over until a lockout of dock workers at the port ended the following month.

The resulting disruption of exports was costly to both exporters and farmers, and undermined the reputation of the U.S. as a reliable supplier of grain and oilseeds to foreign customers. At the request of ASA, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), and American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the Senate Agriculture Committee obtained a commitment from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to hire private security personnel to guarantee the safety of FGIS inspectors, which had been an issue in the Port of Vancouver suspension.

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