



# LEADER letter

OHIO SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Established: August 17, 1966

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

November 2015



## LETTER FROM *the president*



November is here, the holidays are right around the corner and the farmer leaders of the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) will be taking some time to travel to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to meet

with our legislators on issues impacting the soybean industry. One of the issues at hand will be advocating for a higher Renewable Fuels Standard. The Environmental Protection Agency calls for 100 million gallons of annual growth in biodiesel, while OSA and the biodiesel industry are lobbying for an annual increase of 200-300 gallons to reach at least

2 billion gallons for 2016.

Next month, OSA and the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association will host the annual Ohio Grain Farmers Symposium on December 17 at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Attendees can expect to hear from business and industry leaders on the most critical topics for farmers including water quality, legislative updates, biotechnology and more. OSA's annual meeting is also held in conjunction with the symposium so you won't want to miss out. Register at [www.ohiograinfarmerssymposium.org](http://www.ohiograinfarmerssymposium.org). Hope to see you there!

*Adam Graham  
OSA President  
Logan County soybean farmer*



## LEGISLATIVE *update*



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## House, Senate Strike Deal to Avert \$3 Billion in Crop Insurance Cuts

The House and the Senate have come to an agreement that would avoid more than \$3 billion in cuts to the nation's crop insurance program as part of the budget package. The agreement follows a tumultuous three-day fight over the bill's inclusion of the proposal that would have accomplished the cuts by reducing the rate of return for crop insurance companies from 14 percent to 8.9 percent.

The cut remains in the version of the budget passed by the House and currently before the Senate, but House and Senate Agriculture Committee leadership met with Congressional leaders and secured an agreement to eliminate the cuts as part of an omnibus spending bill later this year.

The Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and the American Soybean Association (ASA) remain in trust-but-verify mode on the issue. While we are happy to see an agreement to remove the cuts, the language still remains in the bill, and

we will watch House and Senate leaders closely to ensure that the agreement is honored and the cuts eliminated.

Compounding the pain of the proposed cut, agriculture is facing FY-2016 sequestration. While defense and most other domestic spending are exempted from this 6.8 percent cut in the bill, agriculture spending, including payments through the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, are not.

The cuts would have a distinct impact on farmers. Consolidation is already occurring in the crop insurance industry, and this will only speed up that consolidation, which will mean fewer choices and a less efficient private sector delivery system for producers.

OSA will continue to oppose any budget deal that includes a cut in the safety net.

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## OSC Looking for Farmer Feedback

**Have you or someone you know recently converted to natural gas by connecting to an existing pipeline, or are considering converting? If so, we want to hear from you.** The Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) would like to discuss the steps of how it was done, challenges, return on investment and any concerns. The discussion will be conducted via phone and should only last 15-20 minutes. Results will be used to draft a high-level case study.

This work is part of an OSC-led project to assist Ohio soybean farmers in understanding and make strategic decisions about connecting a farm to an existing natural gas main pipeline.

**If interested, please contact Barry McGraw, Director, Product Development & Commercialization, Ohio Soybean Council at 614-476-3100 or [bmcgraw@soyohio.org](mailto:bmcgraw@soyohio.org).**

## Ohio Soybean Council Foundation Offers \$36,000 in Scholarships

### Scholarships will be awarded to graduate and undergraduate students

The Ohio Soybean Council Foundation (OSCF) recently announced scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students for the 2016-2017 academic year.

In order to ensure the future prosperity of the U.S. soybean industry, it is important that students understand the wide variety of opportunities available in agricultural careers. The scholarship program encourages undergraduate students at Ohio colleges and universities to pursue degrees in one of the many academic fields that support the future of the soybean industry including agriculture, business, communication, economics, education, engineering, science and technology.

“In order to fulfill the workforce needs of agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we need to engage the best and brightest in all fields from engineering and chemistry to agronomy and economics,” said Amy Sigg Davis, OSCF scholarship selection committee member and soybean farmer from Warren County.

#### Undergraduate Scholarships

There are a total of eight undergraduate scholarships available, including six general scholarships of up to \$3,000 each that will be awarded to students pursuing an eligible major.

Available to one undergraduate student is the \$5,000 *Bhima Vijayendran Scholarship*, named to honor Dr. Vijayendran’s contributions to the soybean industry through his scientific research of new uses for soybeans and commercialization activities at Battelle. This scholarship was founded to support those pursuing a degree related to science, technology or soybean research.

Also available to one undergraduate student pursuing agricultural business or communications is the \$3,000 *Farmer, Lumpe and McClelland Excellence in Communications Scholarship*. This scholarship was founded to provide

resources to young people with a passion for agricultural and business communication.

Undergraduate scholarship applicants must be Ohio residents and enrolled as full-time students at an Ohio college or university. The applicant must have attained at least sophomore status by fall 2016 with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Eligible majors include biology, biochemistry, bioengineering, molecular biology, chemistry, engineering, biotechnology, bioenergy, biofuels, food science, crop science, environmental science, agricultural communications, agricultural business, agricultural education or any of the agricultural disciplines or related fields. Applicants must also demonstrate the desire to pursue a career related to the soybean industry and/or agriculture.

#### Graduate Scholarships

Two scholarships of up to \$5,000 each are available to graduate students who are enrolled as a full-time student at an Ohio college or university and have proof of legal residency in the United States.

Applicants must be conducting research in bioproducts, biobased materials, biotechnology, bioengineering, biopolymers or a related field, and focused on advancing the soybean industry.

#### The deadline for undergraduate and graduate applications is January 15, 2016.

All OSCF scholarships will be competitively awarded with funds paid directly to the educational institution. Scholarships are not renewable, although recipients may reapply. For more information and to download the scholarship applications, visit the Ohio Soybean Council Foundation at [www.soyohio.org/scholarship](http://www.soyohio.org/scholarship).

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“ASA absolutely opposes any effort by Congress to reopen any part of the farm bill as part of budget negotiations, and we implore lawmakers to reject any attempt to target crop insurance or any other farm bill programs for further cuts. Speaking frankly, our farm economy is simply not in the shape it was even three years ago when we began the process of writing the farm bill. Crop values are down almost 50 percent, and our farmers face volatile weather ranging from flooding in the Carolinas to drought in Texas and fires in California. Farmers need a stronger safety net, not a weaker one, and now is hardly the time to pull the rug out from under them by weakening the nation’s investment in the crop insurance program.”

“We stand with Chairmen Roberts and Conaway and Ranking Members Stabenow and Peterson in their defense of the 2014 Farm Bill and the critical safety net it provides farmers. Faced with the need to confront our nation’s budget responsibility, we worked alongside these committee leaders for three full years to craft a piece of farm legislation that strengthens our safety net and brings savings to the table. That’s more than can be said for any other industry sector. This burden is something that must be spread across the board, not shouldered unfairly by a select few.”

## American Soybean Association Seeks Candidates for SOY Scholarship

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is looking to present a scholarship award to a high school senior interested in pursuing agriculture in college.

The Secure Optimal Yield (SOY) Scholarship is a \$5,000 one-time scholarship award presented to a high school senior who plans to pursue agriculture as an area of study at any accredited college or university in the 2016-2017 academic year. The scholarship is managed by ASA and is made possible through a grant by BASF Corporation.

The scholarship is presented in \$2,500 increments per semester. The student must be a child or grandchild of a current ASA member, maintain successful academic progress and be in good standing with the college or university to receive the full amount of the scholarship.

Final selection will be made the first week of December during the ASA Board meeting. The student will be notified prior to an official announcement made during Commodity Classic in New Orleans, La. on March 4, 2016.

BASF sponsors the winner and one parent to attend Commodity Classic to participate and receive special recognition at their booth on Thursday and the ASA Awards Banquet on Friday. To apply, visit [www.soygrowers.com](http://www.soygrowers.com)



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## Horn Named Beck's 4th Quarter Young Leader

Many kids who grow up on a family farm dream of one day making it their career. Too often, families find that the farm is not big enough to sustain the addition of another generation. This was the case for Kyle Horn of Huron County, but he knew there was nothing he wanted to do more than farm and found a way to get back to it.

After spending some time as an industrial electrician, Kyle has returned to agriculture and is now a vital part of the next generation to work on his family's farm. His dedication and passion for the industry has earned him the honor of being a Beck's Young Farm Leader – a program that celebrates young farmers who are getting involved in the industry and their communities.

“We like to encourage young farmers to get involved and become the next generation of leaders. Agriculture is a vital industry and these young farmers are essential to a bright future,” said Bruce Kettler, Director of Public Relations at Beck's Hybrids.

Kyle has been working full-time in agriculture for the last six years as a seed salesman and as part of the farming operation with his dad, uncles and cousin producing corn and soybeans and raising a small herd of cattle.

Kyle and his family diligently manage the inputs for their operation by utilizing soil sampling, strip banding fertilizer and selecting the right seed for their farm because they are near Lake Erie and want to do their part to protect water quality. Additionally, commodity prices are down and input prices are up meaning a slim profit margin. They understand what they do impacts the future of the industry.

Kyle is hopeful the future generations will include his three children, who occupy his time off the farm with school activities, sports and 4-H. While the demands of farming deter him from being a head coach, he takes an active role in their activities when possible and recently agreed to be a 4-H advisor - following in the steps of his grandfather who spent 69 years involved in the 4-H program.

“I'm here for the long haul; I have three children, I grew up here and my wife's from the area. We want to raise our children here, and if we don't participate in our community and try to make it as good as possible I don't know who will,” said Kyle. “I think growing up on a farm was vital to who I am, it's taught me work ethic,



*Kyle and his wife Angie are proud to be raising their boys on the farm and hope that Gavin, 10; Max, 8; and Zac, 5 will benefit from the values instilled by being involved in agriculture.*

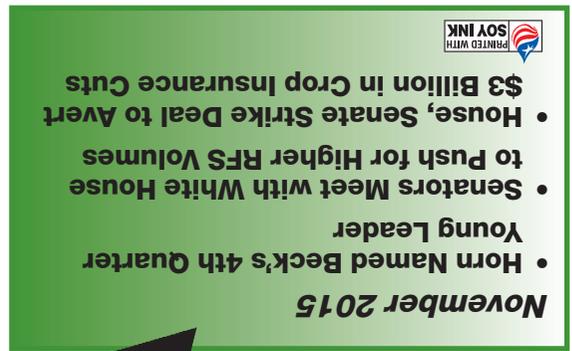
it's taught me nothing is given to you, you go out and earn it; I want to teach my children that same lesson.”

“We are happy to have Kyle in our industry and pleased to see him honored as a Beck's Young Farm Leader,” said Adam Graham, OSA president and soybean farmer from Logan County. “He not only understands the challenges of farming today, but is looking ahead to the challenges we are creating for tomorrow's farmers. We enjoy honoring young people in agriculture and encourage more farmers to nominate themselves or someone they know for the Beck's Young Farm Leader program.”

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