



LEADER letter

OHIO SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Serving the legislative interests of Ohio soybean farmers for 48 years.

December 2014

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LETTER FROM the president



It's hard to believe we are already approaching 2015! Inside this December issue of the *Ohio Leader Letter*, you will find a list of highlights that could not have been possible without your membership support. Policy plays an important role in agriculture. Come to

think of it, without policy advocates, successful legislative action such as the Farm Bill, wouldn't happen.

Speaking of policy, several Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) board members recently attended the biodiesel advocacy fly-in day. The group met together in the morning then went to Capitol Hill for individual meetings with House and Senate members to share the message of the importance of quick extension of the biodiesel tax incentive. Shortly after meetings with House and Senate members, the Senate passed a one-year

extension of multiple tax incentives and credits, including several that affect soybean farmers. Reinstatement of the tax incentive was one of the National Biodiesel Board's top legislative priorities for the year. The bill is expected to be signed into law by President Obama in the coming days. The passage is a testament of the agriculture industries strength as a united industry that has maintained support from lawmakers.

I also want to personally congratulate Bret Davis, one of our own, for being selected as Vice President of the American Soybean Association (ASA). Bret serves on the OSA Board of Trustees and is representing Ohio very well at a national level.

In closing, I wish you the best as you continue offseason planning, and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

Tommie Price
OSA President
Putnam County soybean farmer



LEGISLATIVE update



Brought to you by Seed Consultants.

Davis Named Vice President of the American Soybean Association

The American Soybean Association (ASA) recently announced the 2015 officers and committee assignments. Among the group of volunteer soybean farmers was Bret Davis, Delaware County soybean farmer who was elected to serve as Vice President.

"I am really honored to have been elected and look forward to working with the other officers," said Davis. "Soybean checkoff dollars cannot be used for lobbying, therefore, membership with the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and ASA is extremely important."

Davis currently serves on the OSA Board of Trustees. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the state soybean checkoff organization, the Ohio Soybean Council. In addition to his leadership positions with state and national soybean organizations, Bret is an active member of the Delaware County Farm Bureau and Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association.

ASA's nine-member executive committee now consists of Secretary Ron Moore, Ill.; Treasurer Davie Stephens, Ky.; Vice Presidents Kevin Hoyer, Wis.; Bret Davis, Ohio; Joe Steinkamp, Ind. and John Heisdorffer, Iowa.

ASA also confirmed that Wade Cowan from Brownfield, Texas, as its newest President and moved outgoing President Ray Gaesser from Corning, Iowa, to the position of Chairman. Board members also elected Richard Wilkins, Greenwood, Del., to serve as First Vice President.

"I'm pleased with the team we elected and think it's an important step toward a world class standard as an organization," Cowan said. "We will work together this year to unify and move agriculture forward."

Gaesser said he looks forward to working with the newly elected leaders this year.

"We have a great team elected for leadership at ASA," he said. "We're excited about being proactive and addressing those issues that impact soybean farmers."

Elections were held in St. Louis at ASA's annual winter board meeting, and the meeting also served as a venue to celebrate the retirements of Alan Kemper, Jim Andrew, Robert Ross, Dean Campbell, Danny Murphy, Bob Worth and Ron Bunjer.