



LEADER letter

OHIO SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Established: August 17, 1966

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

December 2015

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LETTER FROM the president



As I write this mid-December, the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) is gearing up for its annual meeting and Ohio Grain Farmers Symposium. This is always a time of reflection and a time to plan and prepare for whatever 2016 may bring.

OSA made water quality in the state a priority in 2015, and will continue to do so in 2016. OSA accomplished a lot with the help of other agricultural organizations and OSA members like you. OSA helped limit the regulatory impact and reinforced the importance of the 4-R Nutrient Stewardship program (using the right fertilizer source at the right rate, at the right time and at the right place).

Exports make a huge impact on the soybean industry as well. One legislative action that occurred in 2015 that will affect exports was the Trade Promotion Authority, or TPA. OSA

and ASA supported the passage of this bill in order to empower the Obama Administration to negotiate trade agreements. Hindering this authority only does damage to our ability to negotiate trade agreements with our customers in the global marketplace.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a significant piece of legislation that will have a positive impact on agriculture and certainly Ohio. As exports to Asia are so vital to soybeans, understanding exactly how this partnership will expand our markets is important. OSA and ASA will continue their work to educate influencers about the potential impact on Ohio agriculture and garner support from legislative leaders.

On behalf of all the OSA board members, I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Adam Graham
OSA President
Logan County soybean farmer



LEGISLATIVE update



Brought to you by Seed Consultants.

OSA Welcomes Highway Bill with Crop Insurance Fix

The Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) welcomes recent news that the Senate approved the conference report on the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, more familiarly known as the Highway Bill. The final legislation is formally titled the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and will now head to President Barack Obama for signature.

Providing funding certainty for road and bridge construction and maintenance was a priority for the American Soybean Association (ASA) and OSA in the legislation, as well as reversing the \$3 billion in cuts to crop insurance that were included in the bipartisan budget deal passed in October.

"With the recent cut to crop insurance, soybean farmers should be relieved to see these cuts reversed," said Adam Graham, OSA president and soybean farmer from Logan County. "Crop insurance is important for farmers in times of extreme weather and a \$3 billion in cuts would have been detrimental to the program."

While pleased with the results of the vote, Wade Cowan, ASA chairman noted that ASA would be

on the lookout for similar attacks in coming budget discussions.

"ASA will continue our opposition to any attempt to cut the farm bill programs in the budgeting process," he said. "These programs seem to be low-hanging fruit to lawmakers who don't understand how important they are to the nation's food producers, and we will continue to fight to make sure they stay whole. We thank Chairmen Roberts and Conaway and Ranking Members Stabenow and Peterson for their continued defense of the farm safety net, and for securing the fix for this most recent grab at the crop insurance program."

With regard to transportation, the multi-year reauthorization provides certainty for state and local governments to maintain and move forward with transportation projects. It provides new flexibilities and streamlines environmental review and permitting processes aimed at accelerating projects. The bill also establishes new national freight policies and programs aimed at improving freight movement and strengthening U.S. economic competitiveness.