

# Ohio Soybean News™

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION



**10 Years of Reaching  
Classrooms and  
Communities through  
GrowNextGen p. 16**

OSA Kicks Off Hometown Tour p. 6

Ohio Soybean Council  
Visits Egypt p. 12



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# Ohio Soybean News

November-December 2023  
Vol. 13, No. 6



## RESEARCHING A BETTER BEAN

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**COVER STORY:** Ohio stands at the forefront of an innovative convergence — weaving together the realms of agriculture and education through GrowNextGen (GNG). This ambitious venture, powered by Ohio soybean farmers and their check-off support, is redefining how students perceive and interact with the world of agriculture. Read more about this program on pages 16-17.

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**Patrick Knouff**  
Ohio Soybean Association President  
Shelby County soybean farmer

## A Letter From the President

Even as another harvest season comes and goes, a farmer's work is never finished. The same can be said about the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA). It is the reason I am always honored to be part of

this organization: we are here for farmers year-round.

That is exactly what I witnessed at our first ever Ohio Soybean Hometown Tour stops back in August. The Hometown Tour series saw OSA come to your neck of the woods and share great discussion on policy and demonstrations from some of the latest innovations and research in agriculture. The turnout at these events was amazing and I am continually impressed by all that our industry has to offer. You can read all about the first four Hometown Tour dates on page 6.

Events like these also highlight the importance of our members and I would urge you to consider OSA's membership options if you have not already. Members are what drive our organization to have the opportunity to put on our Hometown Tour and spread our message across the state of Ohio and beyond, and now more than ever it is important to ensure that agriculture is heard from. For more information on how to join OSA, visit [SoyOhio.org/Membership](http://SoyOhio.org/Membership).

The next generation is a truly bright group of people, and there are scholarships available for college students courtesy of Ohio Soybean. OSA will be offering one \$1,000 scholarship to students of any major with a passion for the soybean industry. The scholarship will be applied to the 2024–2025 school year. All majors are eligible, but applicants must show a strong interest in the soybean industry and agricultural advocacy. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student at a college, university or technical school and have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Applicants must also be immediate family (child or grandchild) of a current OSA member OR a Student or Young Adult Member (SYA) of the Ohio Soybean Association. Applications are due by January 12, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

The Ohio Soybean Council Foundation also has \$44,000 in scholarships available to both undergraduate and graduate students this year. Applications for these scholarships are also due by January 12, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

Visit [SoyOhio.org](http://SoyOhio.org) for more information on both OSA and OSC scholarships.

As always, thank you for your support of our organization, and I wish both you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

Patrick Knouff



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## OSA Debuts Hometown Tour Across Buckeye State

This August, the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) debuted the Ohio Soybean Hometown Tour. This series of regional meetings took the place of the annual Grain Farmers Symposium that usually happens in December, and was meant to bring OSA out to farmers, instead of the other way around. Four of the first five events happened between August 10-29 at Goebel Farms in Williams County, Layman Farms in Hardin County, Kemp Farms in Preble County and Bluegrass Farms in Fayette County.

After months of planning, farmers were treated to lunch and discussions around the policy work that OSA does while also introducing elements of new innovations and research. From presentations to field demonstrations, these topics gave farmers insight into practices and technologies that are applicable to them in the field.

More than 200 attendees were spread across the first four stops on the Hometown Tour, which kicked off in Northwest Ohio at Goebel Farms in Stryker. Here, guests heard from Dr. Chris Winslow of The Ohio State University about



water quality and saw a demo of an autonomous tractor from Dr. Scott Shearer also from OSU.

Next the Hometown Tour stopped at Layman Farms in Kenton near the end of August, and attendees were treated to another autonomous tractor demonstration from Dr. Shearer as well as a presentation from Tom Verry on a biofuels update from Clean Fuels Alliance America.

The last week of August saw the final two events in the first wave of the Hometown Tour. The third stop was at Kemp Farms in West Manchester. Here attendees heard from Rep. Rodney Creech, saw an update from Airable Research Lab from Barry McGraw as well as getting a look at an on-farm soybean research test plot from OSU's Dr. Laura Lindsey.

Just one day later, OSA traveled to Bluegrass Farms in Jeffersonville for the final event of the month which gave attendees an update from U.S. Soybean Export Council and an international market outlook from Will McNair as well as a deep dive into Soybean Cyst Nematode and other soybean pathogens from OSU's Dr. Horacio Lopez-Nicora.

The Ohio Soybean Association would like to thank all of the attendees and sponsors for making these first events a success. A special thank you also goes to the hosts of the four Hometown Tour events and all of the work these farmers put in to making this new concept a success.

OSA has one more event in the works for the first wave of the Ohio Soybean Hometown Tour, so be sure to check back to SoyOhio.org/Hometown for more information on the fifth regional meeting planned for Northeast Ohio in the near future! ♦



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# OSA Advocacy Efforts in Full Swing as Legislative Bodies Return for Fall Session

Property taxes, pesticide regulations and anti-check-off legislation were among the policy topics being tackled by the Ohio Soybean Association this fall. Both Congress and the Ohio General Assembly returned from summer recess and took up these issues and many more with impacts to OSA members. Here's a recap of some of our advocacy in action.

With farmland property taxes forecasted to increase in many counties around the state, OSA was back at the Ohio Statehouse to call on lawmakers to pass House Bill 187 and Senate Bill 153, legislation which would require CAUV values be averaged over a

three-year period. OSA President Patrick Knouff provided testimony in favor of legislative action on the issue in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

The U.S. EPA has proposed a new regulatory framework that would impose enormous new regulatory burdens on nearly every herbicide user in Ohio. OSA collected farmer signatures from across the state on a letter which calls on the EPA to withdraw this complicated, harmful and unworkable strategy. The organization is planning additional outreach to EPA and



members of congress in the near future on this issue.

During debate on the 2024 Agriculture Appropriations bill, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz of Indiana introduced an amendment that would threaten the viability of agricultural research and promotion programs often called "check offs." Many OSA members responded to an action alert urging members of congress to reject the amendment. Ohio's congressional delegation heard the message loud and clear, helping to defeat the amendment on the House floor. ♦

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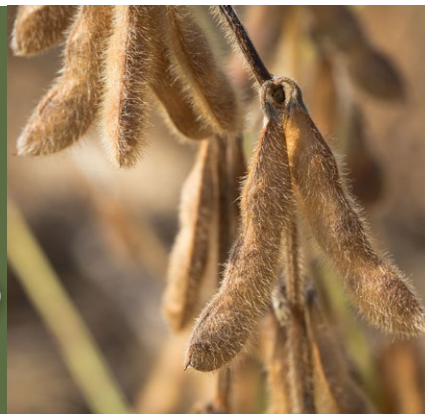


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Apply by January 12, 2024

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# Ohio Soybean Association Welcomes New Director of Public Affairs



of Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in social science education, and is active in his local

community. Kern and his wife, Amie, live in Amanda and are the parents of three children. ♦



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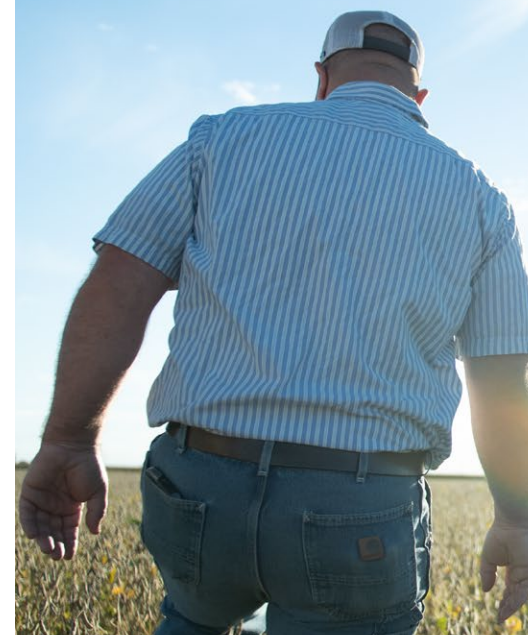
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OHIO SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

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See how we are keeping you at the forefront of innovation by clicking the "Ohio Field Leader" tab at [OCJ.com](http://OCJ.com).



Brought to you by Ohio soybean farmers and their checkoff.



## Soybean Farmers Capitalize on Egypt's Growing Population

By **Madison Layman, Manager of Demand and Market Development**

The Egyptian population is on the rise and looking for sustainable protein sources, and U.S. soybean farmers are capitalizing on this opportunity. Egypt is the third most populous country in Africa with a population of 106 million people. Their population is expected to grow by two million people annually in the future. So, the question arises, how will Egypt feed this growing population? That is where Ohio and U.S. soybean farmers come in.

Your soybean checkoff invests in projects with the U.S. Soybean



Chad Warner presents SEC graduate with certificate during the 101st training program.

**QSSB Learning Mission to Egypt shows Ohio and U.S. soybean farmers who their checkoff dollars are impacting.**

Export Council (USSEC) that identify emerging markets for Ohio and U.S. Soy and establish a presence in those regions to build relationships. One such program is the Soy Excellence Centers (SEC). The SECs are a workforce training program for companies that are imperative parts of the soybean supply chain — crush plants, feed mills, poultry production, aquaculture production, and more. The students who complete these programs show great appreciation for the course work and they had the opportunity to meet the farmers who support their education.

This September, Darke County soybean farmer Chad Warner, Wayne County soybean farmer Dave Dotterer and Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) staff member Madison Layman attended a qualified state soybean board (QSSB) learning mission to Egypt. Warner and Dotterer both serve on

OSC's demand committee which invests in projects that creates a preference with customers to increase sales of Ohio soybeans. The mission consisted of 40 participants from 10 QSSBs who traveled with USSEC staff to see what programs are being funded by their soybean checkoffs.

"We just got back from Egypt with a greater understanding of how our third largest customer of soybeans is utilizing the product in the aquaculture and poultry industry," said Warner.



Chad Warner, Dave Dotterer and Madi Layman visited World Fish's in-pond raceway system.

**< QSSB Learning Mission sits with 101st Soy Excellence Center training class.**

The Soy Excellence Centers began in Egypt in 2019 as an initiative to diversify markets for U.S. Soy. The mission coincided with the Center's fourth year of operation and 100th SEC training program. Located at World Fish, a global leader in aquaculture training that suits the needs of local environments, students and farmers interacted to talk about program highlights. World Fish Country Director Dr. Ahmed Nasr-Allah shared his gratitude for the collaboration between their company and U.S. soybean farmers.

To go one step further, the group also spent time with students of the 101st SEC training program focused on poultry production. Cairo University's dean welcomed the group and shared about the history of the institution before heading over to the training program. Catching the tail end of the program, farmers got a glimpse into training material and had the opportunity to present certificates to the graduating trainees.

"Handing out diplomas and seeing young people going through the program was huge. This was a valuable resource for them to take back to their companies and expand their skills," said Warner.

Since the start of the SECs, U.S. Soy exports to Egypt have increased 62 percent.

"I talked with a woman who attended the poultry production training. She raises her own chicken, keeps what her family uses and sells the rest in her community. She is using the training to expand her operation and improve efficiency with a goal to someday build a large-scale barn," said Layman. "These programs are not only touching large businesses, but smaller ones that support local families and

neighbors. It is great to see Ohio soybean farmers backing a program that inspires these ideas."

Also, during the trip, the group toured the largest feed mill in Egypt — Dakahlieh Poultry. The facility was state of the art and processed 120 tons of soybeans every hour. It is ten times larger than the average facility in the Middle East. Prior to COVID, they were producing 600,000 tons a year and are slowly increasing production back to that number. Dakahlieh produces poultry, aquaculture and pet food. Ninety percent of the poultry feed leaves in 50-kilogram (110 pound) bags and uses a feed formulation with 25 to 30 percent soybean meal. Aqua feed leaves in 25-kilogram (55 pound) bags and use a feed formulation with 25 to 50 percent



**Dakahlieh Poultry packages 90 percent of its poultry feed for shipment. Customers like checking quality of every bag.**

soybean meal. A majority of feed is used domestically with a small amount exported to Asia, Europe and other Middle Eastern countries.

The group also toured a Made 2: Marine Fishery and Hatchery in northern Egypt. This facility operates with fresh water and saltwater pulled from the Mediterranean Sea. They raise seabass, sea bream, shrimp and tilapia on a feed formulation of about 14 percent soybean meal with 45 percent total protein content. Their facility sports several in-pond raceway systems, a hatchery system and larger outdoor tanks for shrimp and sea bream. Twenty percent of their production stays in the



**The group celebrated the fourth anniversary of the Soy Excellence Centers.**

domestic market and the rest is exported. The average Egyptian person consumes around 20 kilograms of fish annually. Fish is a growing protein source globally.

The U.S. and Ohio soybean industry have an influential impact in the future of Egyptian food security. As Egypt's population continues to boom, the demand for protein will grow high and the country is looking for ways to keep costs low. Investing in workforce development and training programs through USSEC has helped diversify the markets for U.S. Soy and increased efficient protein production in the countries that need it.

"Having USSEC and boots on the ground is very impressive, and to have all those connections," said Warner. "We would not be nearly as successful without those in-country staff here to make connections."

By traveling to these regions, farmers see how their operations and investments impact human health and the world. As the third largest export market for the U.S. Soy and the fourth largest export market for Ohio soy, Egypt will continue to be a strong customer thanks to the investments done by farmers.

For more information about the Soy Excellence Centers, visit [soyexcellence.org](http://soyexcellence.org). To learn more about how your checkoff invests in new markets, visit [SoyOhio.org](http://SoyOhio.org). ♦

# Grounding Students in Agriculture: The Rise of Virtual Field Trips

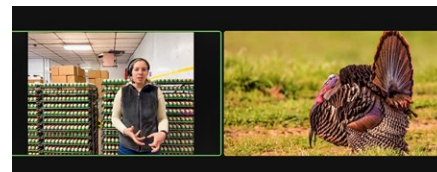
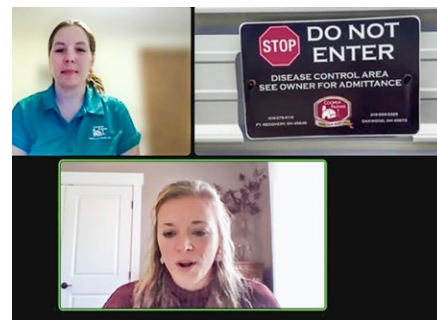
In the world of teaching, keeping lessons up-to-date with ever-changing ag technology can be a challenge. But what if you could take local students straight to growers and experts without leaving the classroom? Thanks to GrowNextGen's Virtual Field Trips funded by Ohio soybean checkoff dollars, Ohio educators are doing just that, opening up a whole new world of real-life learning to their students.

**Science in Action:** Connecting Straight to the Source

At the heart of GNG virtual trips is the promise of connecting students to the very source of their food. And it's not just about watching a video. These live sessions offer direct interactions with STEM professionals — the growers and experts who are eager to share their knowledge.

**Imagine this:** Ohio students, regardless of whether they're in middle school math, life science, biology, or environmental science, getting a front-row seat at Weaver Eggs. Here, they dive deep into poultry nutrition, understanding what keeps hens healthy, and even exploring STEM-related careers that make this industry tick. Beyond that, they explore the mammoth task of feeding over a million hens, every single day. Plus, the connection between the soybean industry and the poultry industry is explicitly shared to help students understand more about our interconnected ag economy.

Or consider another journey — this time to an Ohio soybean farm during the harvest season. From across the state, hundreds of students find themselves right alongside a farmer, exploring the mechanics



of a combine, understanding the intricacies of grain storage, and even learning about global soybean trade. All in real-time, and all rooted in the high-tech, high-talent industry of modern farming.

### Making the Connection to Industry Easy for Teachers

But what's in it for the teachers? The answer: Easy integration into their lesson plans. With low to no prep required, educators easily incorporate these trips into their curriculum. And with the assurance that the content is aligned with educational standards through

GrowNextGen, teachers can comfortably let the experts reinforce science, technology, engineering, and mathematical concepts in a real-world setting for students.

### Virtual Visits, Real Impact

The numbers speak for themselves. The virtual visits are impacting education:

- Trillium Farms VFT: 384 classrooms
- Marzetti's VFT: 205 classrooms
- Consolidated Grain and Barge VFT: 87 classrooms
- Cooper Farms VFT: 111 classrooms

Virtual Field Trips produced by GrowNextGen reach between 3,000-7,000 students each.

These figures underline a truth we've known all along: When science connects to the real world, classroom learning becomes more engaging and effective.

### Planting Seeds for the Future

By grounding students in the realities of agriculture, these virtual field trips are more than just a learning tool. They're a bridge to a deeper understanding of the world around us, and possibly, a glimpse into future careers for many of these young Ohioans. ♦



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# GrowNextGen & OSC: 10 Years of Reaching Classrooms and Communities Through GrowNextGen Bridging Science Classrooms and Agriculture

Ohio stands at the forefront of an innovative convergence — weaving together the realms of agriculture and education through GrowNextGen (GNG). This ambitious venture, powered by Ohio soybean farmers and their checkoff support, is redefining how students perceive and interact with the world of agriculture.

### Planting Seeds

It all began with a conversation: "How can we get soybeans into Ohio's classrooms?" This seed of curiosity, planted over two decades ago, has now blossomed into the GNG initiative.

"I was working as a curriculum writer for Worthington and Upper Arlington Schools back in 1996," Jeanne Gogolski said. "My colleague, Carol Warkentien, and I were hired by the Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) to come up with 'ways to reach teachers in Ohio.' We spent three months

### "Farmers and teachers have a lot in common."

talking to farmers, agriculture experts in industry and education leaders about the 'best' ways to get this information to teachers. A presentation to the OSC Board about the many ways to reach teachers and students was received very well and we were hired to implement many of the ideas. These materials and programs were very successful, leading to the inauguration of GrowNextGen about 11 years ago. At that time, soybeans were at an all-time high and checkoff dollars were used to create a brand, website and a program."

Its objective is clear: Engage students, illuminating the important, tech-forward landscape of modern agriculture in Ohio. This is achieved

GrowNextGen brings agriculture science to the classroom by providing real-world educational tools to engage the next generation workforce and is backed by funding from the Ohio Soybean Council and Ohio soybean farmers.

through an array of initiatives, ranging from virtual field trips to comprehensive workshops.

"GrowNextGen provides relevant, accurate information and training about agriculture connected to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)," Gogolski said. "With only 4% of students taking agriculture courses in Ohio, it is necessary to help others understand modern food production. Everyone eats — shouldn't people understand food production? Many of agriculture's challenges are rooted in STEM — water quality, soil health, seed science and climate change to name a few. Students interested in

STEM should know that agriculture is a viable and exciting industry and feeding 9 billion people in sustainable ways is an important challenge. We cannot expect students to consider ag careers when they don't know anything about agriculture."

### Hard Work and Endurance

The numbers speak for themselves. Over the last decade, GNG's education team has trained hundreds of Ohio science teachers, and equipped classrooms with over \$1,000,000 in science resources. Through the work with teachers and the GrowNextGen Ambassador program, over 500,000 students have been impacted.

"Our goal is to inspire teachers to connect the agriculture industry

This fall, Hunt coordinated an online session called "Planning for Science Fair Success" that drew over 100 teachers. The ripple effect was evident within days. "Today we had a teacher reach out from GrowNextGen.org requesting soybean seeds for students doing science fair projects. They wanted to get access to get different varieties of seed for students to test salinity tolerance and other variables."

With a growing community of nearly 10,000 GNG online subscribers, the education community is showing how receptive it is to bringing agricultural science into the general science classroom.

"Sometimes we will hear a science teacher say, 'I don't teach agriculture,' But they DO teach genetics, soil science, water quality, life-cycles of

**"Its objective is clear: Engage students, illuminating the important, tech-forward landscape of modern agriculture in Ohio."**

to their classroom," said GNG's lead educator Jane Hunt. Hunt is a driving force behind the program on the ground across Ohio. With 30 years of teaching experience, Hunt knows what works in the science classroom.

Chickenology gives teachers a closer look at genetics and how the environment plays a role in how organisms grow and change.

animals and many, many other topics that are connected to agriculture," Gogolski said. "We help them to understand that these topics are made RELEVANT and REAL by connecting them to food production!"

Chris Brown, a 7th and 8th grade science teacher from Glandorf Schools, summed up why teachers are quick to sign up, "We're able to hear from industry professionals and teachers who have been doing this for



GrowNextGen helps introduce students to different career fields in a thriving industry.

years. It's wonderful to get that wealth of experience all in one place."

### Nurturing and Cultivating

At the heart of GNG's success lies another hero - the Ohio grower. Beyond their financial support, they've become the very backbone of this initiative. They've opened their farms to students, mentored them, and shared the authentic tale of modern agriculture.

"I want to thank Ohio's farmers for trusting us with their checkoff dollars over the years," Gogolski added. "Their investment in science teachers and students has been incredible and inspiring to those of us doing this work every day. I am so proud to represent agriculture in Ohio!"

### Faith in the Future

New innovations like GNG e-learning modules saw more than 7,000 students participate.

As we stand at this juncture, reflecting upon a decade of transformative partnerships, one thing is certain. Farmers and teachers have a lot in common. Whether in the fields or classrooms, the shared vision of educators and growers is nurturing not just crops, but the very future of the industry. ♦



## Q&A with Shelby Guthrie, 2022 Teacher Leader of the Year

### Can you tell me a little bit about your background?

I'm Shelby Guthrie, a 6-12 agriculture educator with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and Agriculture Education from Wilmington College. Currently, I teach agriculture education (animal, plant, and food science, as well as national parks and conservation) and serve as an FFA advisor at Greenfield Exempted Village Schools. I am in the process of obtaining a Masters in Biology through Miami University Project Dragonfly in connection with the Cincinnati Zoo Botanical Garden. My upbringing fostered my deep passion for agriculture education, where I flourished in connecting with others who share a passion for exploring new horizons of science and creating bigger connections.



### When and how did you first hear about the GrowNextGen program?

I first learned about GrowNextGen through a colleague during my time as a student teacher. As I transitioned into a teaching role, I recognized the immense potential it holds for educators, industry professionals, leaders, and students. This motivated me to become more actively involved in GrowNextGen.

### How does it feel to be recognized for your hard work as Teacher Leader of the Year?

Being honored as Teacher Leader of the Year by GrowNextGen was an immensely rewarding experience. What made it truly special was that it made me feel recognized for my commitment to the community and highlighted the innovative

teaching methods I use to educate others through various projects and commitments.

It was a moment of acknowledgment that went beyond myself; it showcased the power of collaboration and dedication. It demonstrated how a collective effort involving students, colleagues, and the community can yield remarkable results in agriculture education. This award served as a reminder of the lasting impact we can have on students' lives by providing them with opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

As I reflected on this recognition, it reinforced my passion for fostering growth and innovation in the field of agriculture education. It inspired me to continue pushing boundaries and exploring new horizons in education, all with the aim of

creating meaningful and enduring experiences for my students.

### How have you implemented GrowNextGen into your classroom?

Utilizing GrowNextGen's educational resources and online e-learning courses has significantly enriched my experience as an educator. It has empowered me to confidently teach subjects I was previously uncomfortable with. Growing up in diverse backgrounds, GrowNextGen has opened doors for me to explore areas I may not have ventured into as a student in agricultural education. By extending these opportunities to students from similar backgrounds, it grants them insights that I myself didn't have.

### Is there anything else you would like to add?

In this era of rapidly evolving educational landscapes, GrowNextGen stands as a beacon of innovation and excellence. It's not just a resource; it's a catalyst for transformative learning experiences. As educators, we have the privilege of witnessing firsthand how it empowers students, awakening their curiosity and nurturing their potential.

So, whether you're a seasoned educator seeking new inspiration or a novice eager to embark on an educational journey like no other, GrowNextGen is your steadfast companion. It doesn't just enhance education; it elevates it to a whole new level, making it an adventure filled with growth, exploration, and a deep connection to the world of agriculture. ♦

## OSC Joins Big Crowd at Farm Science Review

The 61st annual Farm Science Review (FSR) took place in London from September 19-21, with the Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) once again taking part for the entirety of the event. With the weather cooperating and farmers still not entirely ready to get into the field for harvest, the show saw more than 116,000 attendees walk through the gates across the three days.

OSC had a fresh look in the organization's usual building at the corner of Friday Avenue and Tractor Street. Council board members were there to answer questions relating to what the checkoff is and the value

farmers receive from it. This year's Farm Science Review display also featured an electronic trivia game and a table from The Ohio State University on plant research.

GrowNextGen also had a hand in the event with a demonstration showing guests how to make soy-based chapstick. On top of the biodiesel pump, attendees also could learn more about biofuels with an informational display on the ins and outs of the product. People who entered the OSC building left with giveaways featuring facts ranging from checkoff value to animal agriculture to soil testing kits,

with one lucky patron winning the coveted pig grill.

The event also featured demonstrations outside of OSC's building, with 500 acres of soybeans and corn harvested over the three days, making FSR the only farm show with both soybean and corn harvest.

The Ohio Soybean Council would like to thank all of the attendees who came through our building this year, and we look forward to seeing you again next year! Next year's Farm Science Review is scheduled for September 17-19, 2024. ♦

## H2Ohio Enrollment Open for Producers in Maumee River Watershed

Improved best management practices and updated incentives are being offered.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced a new round of H2Ohio open enrollment for producers in the 14 counties of the Maumee River Watershed project area.

Producers in the following counties are eligible to enroll or re-enroll acreage into proven, science-based, best management practices (BMPs) that contribute toward improving water quality in Lake Erie and other bodies of water:

- ▶ Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, Wood

Producers must develop an approved Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) to enroll into other BMPs being offered in 2024 & 2025. Available BMPs include Overwintering Cover, Subsurface Phosphorus Placement, and Manure Incorporation and Utilization.

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) work directly with each producer to review and approve VNMPs, assess the compatibility of implementing additional BMPs, and provide conservation education. Additionally, a new management software, MyFarms,

will help producers and their advisors with the creation of VNMPs and with H2Ohio's enrollment, certification, and verification processes.

SWCDs are now hosting informational sessions for producers to learn more and sign up. Producers should contact their local SWCD with questions and submit program applications.

### Best Management Practices and Incentives

Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) Implementation*	\$10/acre - Basic, \$15/acre - Precision
Subsurface Phosphorus Placement	\$20/acre
Manure Incorporation and Utilization	\$35/acre - Poultry litter, solid, \$60/acre - liquid
Overwintering Cover	\$40/acre

\*Completed VNMP is required for enrollment

H2Ohio is Governor DeWine's initiative to ensure safe and clean water in Ohio. It is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to improving water quality over the long term. H2Ohio focuses on encouraging agricultural best management practices, restoring wetlands, and replacing home septic systems to reduce nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms. For more information on the H2Ohio initiative, please visit [h2.ohio.gov](http://h2.ohio.gov). ♦



## Ohio Welcomes Two Trade Teams From Korea

In August and September, Ohio welcomed two different groups from Korea to look at Ohio agriculture and more specifically Ohio soybean farms to see firsthand. These visits gave the Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) an opportunity to show an international market the value Ohio soybeans have to the rest of the world.



The first visit featured a team of 11 Korean soyfood industry professionals. These industry professionals visited OSC board member Scott Metzger at Metzger Family Farms LLC in Williamsport on August 19. The team heard presentations from OSC staff about the checkoff organization and from Metzger about his operation. They then ventured out to a nearby non-GMO soybean field to check out this year's crop progress. The team was in town leading up to the international soy conference SoyConnex in New York City.

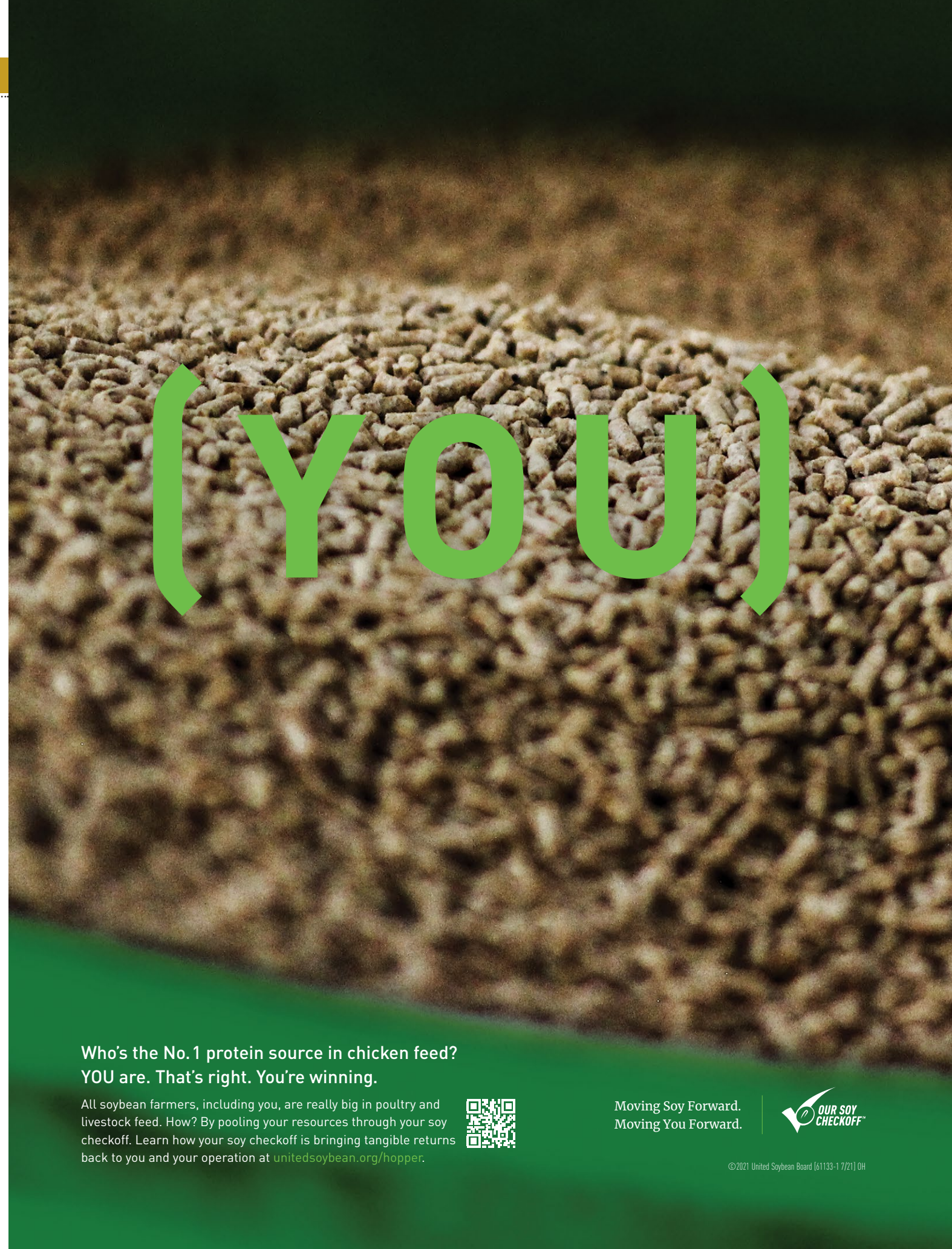
The second group visited as part of the Korea Soy Food Masters Program. This group once again visited Metzger's farm in Williamsport and consisted of Korean food manufacturers, dietitians and news reporters. The group continued to visit various locations across the state



of Ohio before joining the Ohio Soybean Council at the September board meeting that took place at Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory on September 13.

Here the guests from Korea had lunch with the board and gave a presentation on the Korea Soy Food Masters Program. This program is managed by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) and is funded by the Ohio Soybean Council. The program is in its second year and promotes U.S. soybeans and soy food products while targeting chefs and dietitians in the Korean food service industry. Applicants receive a guidebook covering the health benefits of soy as well as soy food recipes followed by a test. Those who pass the test are deemed Soy Food Masters.

The board also saw a presentation directly from the team about the work they do in Korea with the soybeans they buy from the United States detailing the products into which Ohio soybeans go before the food masters team departed, giving a link directly to the importance beans from the Buckeye State have on the rest of the world. ♦



(YOU)

Who's the No. 1 protein source in chicken feed?  
YOU are. That's right. You're winning.

All soybean farmers, including you, are really big in poultry and livestock feed. How? By pooling your resources through your soy checkoff. Learn how your soy checkoff is bringing tangible returns back to you and your operation at [unitedsoybean.org/hopper](https://unitedsoybean.org/hopper).



Moving Soy Forward.  
Moving You Forward.



## Bringing Modern Ag to the Classroom

“These workshops are shaping how the next generation sees agriculture.”

Farmers know that the world of agriculture is always changing. But how do we support teachers and students in keeping up? That’s where GrowNextGen (GNG) Workshops come in. Developed by the Ohio Soybean Council in partnership with **EducationProjects.org** and their network of experienced Ohio educators, these workshops give teachers the tools they need to bring the latest in ag science to their students.



“These workshops give teachers the tools they need to bring the latest in ag science to their students.”

### What's Happening in GNG Workshops?

Teachers today want to show students the real-world applications of what they’re learning. GNG workshops help them do just that with a focus on current ag topics:

- ChickQuest teaches about the life cycle of chicken eggs. With hands-on activities, teachers get a fresh way to talk about science, technology, engineering, and math.

- In the Ag Biotech Academy, teachers dive deep into seed research. They get their hands dirty with biology and chemistry labs and hear from folks who work in the industry every day.

- Chickenology gives teachers a closer look at genetics and how the environment plays a role in how organisms grow and change.

- The Experience Food Science: Field to Package workshop pulls back the curtain on the journey of food. From research to packaging, teachers see how the science they teach is used in the real world.

### The Lead Educator Making it Happen: Jane Hunt

While all these workshops are making an impact, it’s Jane Hunt who’s steering the ship. Teachers trust her, and industry folks respect



her. With 30 years of teaching experience, Hunt knows what works in the science classroom.

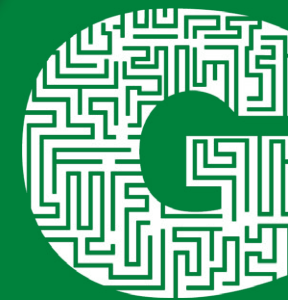
Hunt is both the heart and the brain of

the operation through her pivotal role with **EducationProjects.org** as the lead educator for GrowNextGen. Her expertise, down-to-earth passion, and hands-on approach have been instrumental in elevating the stature and impact of GNG workshops with teachers across the state.



### Why This Matters to Farmers

For farmers, it’s clear. These workshops are shaping how the next generation sees agriculture. By making sure teachers have the latest info, we’re ensuring students get a clear picture of modern farming. With leaders like Jane Hunt and the GNG team, we can be confident that the future of agriculture is in good hands. ♦



# GROW NEXT GEN

## BY THE NUMBERS



60

Ohio zip codes represented during the September 2023 teacher webinar



86

Average new subscribers to the GrowNextGen Newsletter added monthly



526

Teachers have participated in professional development since 2022



2,168

Followers of @GrowNextGen on social media platforms



8,775

Students being reached through Virtual Field Trips in October 2023



48,921

Consumers reached by Ambassadors with soy-based activities since 2022



## OSC Attends SoyConnex in New York City

In its second year, Soy Connex, the global U.S. Soy summit hosted by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), hosted more than 700 participants, including international customers from 58 countries together with U.S. Soy farmers, related food and agriculture industry professionals, commodity exporters and others to discuss today's global economy and the need for collaborative efforts among those who grow, sell and choose U.S. Soy.

Amongst these attendees were OSC Chair Jeff Magyar (Ashtabula Co.), OSC Vice Chair Bill Bayliss (Logan Co.) and OSC staff member Madi Layman. OSC representatives were able to connect with international buyers and talk about the quality of Ohio soybeans. OSC was a platinum level sponsor for the event and was recognized with a standalone display area and breakout out session sponsor.

The need for a nutritious, safe, and affordable global food supply, economic viability for farmers and sustainable solutions were recurring themes throughout the two-day conference. The more than 500,000 U.S. soybean farmers are viewed as major contributors to ensuring people around the world have access to protein-rich, sustainably sourced nourishment. Factors impacting the global economy such as international trade, supply chain challenges and



innovations, and the need for global cooperation for mitigating climate change were also examined during conference presentations.

"If this year's Soy Connex event has underscored anything, it's that U.S. Soy is truly woven into the fabric of the global economy," said Jim Sutter, CEO, USSEC. "U.S. soybean meal and oil exported to over 80 countries worldwide help provide nutrition security for a global population and demonstrate the tremendous impact of U.S. Soy farmers' conservation practices, and U.S. Soy's lowest carbon footprint around the world. With over half of the world's food and beverage companies publicly committed to sustainable agriculture, the demand for U.S. Soy is poised for growth."

At this year's Soy Connex, participants heard engaging presentations on macroeconomics, the geopolitical climate, sustainability and supply chain innovations, while also diving into more sector-specific information including soybean

The Ohio Soybean Council sent three board members and staff to SoyConnex in New York City in September.

oil, soybean meal for livestock and poultry feed, soybean meal for aquaculture feed, and soy food and beverage production.

Conference speakers included USDA Chief Economist Dr. Seth Meyer, who shared insights from the latest supply and demand numbers for U.S. Soy and its impact on the global food and feed industries relating to the soy complex.

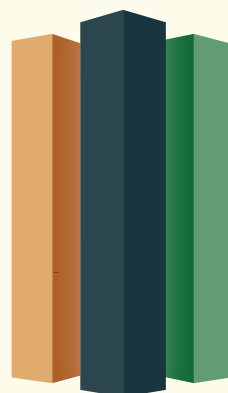
The final day of Soy Connex featured sessions focused on issues impacting the future success of the U.S. Soy export pipeline.

"At USSEC, we are dedicated to serving as a global connector," said Stan Born, USSEC Board Chair and U.S. Soy Farmer (Illinois). "This year's Soy Connex was a celebration of the vibrant history of global agriculture, and a look at the technological innovations of today and the future. This annual event is another way USSEC brings together important participants in the global soybean industry to maintain and grow global collaboration." ♦

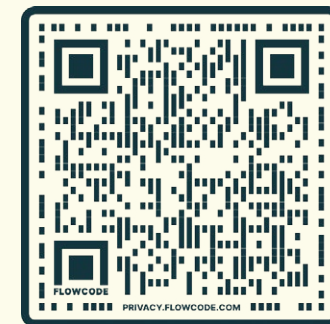


## You Grow a Protein Powerhouse for Global Food Security

Find out how ASA/WISHH's soy checkoff-supported work with Edesia Nutrition led to the company developing a product that contains **25% more soy flour** than earlier formulations. Adding more soy allows Edesia to reach more people throughout the world.



Trade. Development. Food Security.



Top photo courtesy of SNI Global





## GNG Ambassadors: Bridging the Gap Between Students and Modern Agriculture

In a rapidly evolving world, understanding modern agriculture is essential. To bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, GrowNextGen (GNG) Ambassadors have been pivotal. Through their outreach, they have demonstrated the intricacies and innovations of today's farming practices to the youth, making them better prepared for tomorrow.



GrowNextGen recruits college students to serve as ambassadors. It's a paid position where education and agriculture students are able to gain deep real-world experience. Each selected ambassador goes through comprehensive training with Venture Lab and Education Projects staff, setting a strong foundation for their outreach efforts.

### 2023 Highlights:

- **COSI Science Fest:** Engaged 1,600 attendees with hands-on activities like soy ink crafting and soybean necklace creations.
- **School Sessions:** Students at dozens of schools including Cedarville High School and Liberty Union engaged with practical demonstrations ranging from biodiesel production to soil compaction's effects.
- **Public Events:** Outreach included sessions at JA Inspire to Hire, Wood County Ag Day, Ohio State Fair, and many county fairs. Topics spanned from the importance of water quality to drone utilization in modern farming.

### Spotlight: Ambassador Shelbie Snoke

Snoke, at the Ohio State Fair, exemplified the mission of GNG Ambassadors. Her interactive sessions on water quality, using macroinvertebrates as live examples, provided attendees with



tangible insights into farming's environmental impact. As Snoke reflected, "The depth of what I've learned, from agronomy to biodiesel, has been truly transformative."

### Making a Difference

Through direct engagement with students, the GrowNextGen Ambassadors are influencing a generation to understand and respect the nuances of modern agriculture. Their efforts are building a brighter, informed future for farming. With support from growers, these young leaders will continue to champion the cause of soybean farmers through outreach. ♦

## Behind the Beans: Putting the Farmer First



professional staff and our organizational operations.

As executive director I have enjoyed working with the farmers on the OSA and OSC Boards. At OSA we advocate for effective state and federal policies and develop ways to engage our farmer members. In the policy world there is something new and challenging every day and our staff team works hard to stay on

regional meetings for farmers this summer called the Hometown Tour, to connect farmers to OSA and provide timely agronomic and policy updates.

At OSC our board invests soybean checkoff funds to maximize the value of soybeans and increase profit opportunities for their fellow farmers. I am proud of our record of checkoff investment results, and we can point to many success stories. With our partners at OSU we built the Soybean Research Center to do cutting-edge research that benefits Ohio farmers on yield, pests, diseases and nutrient management. We were pioneers in research and commercialization of new uses for soybeans, leading to the establishment of Airable Research Lab. We have led the way in promoting more ag and soybean content in the K-12 science curriculum, through our education platform called GrowNextGen. We provide timely information directly to farmers through our Ohio Field Leader program.

We have been very fortunate over the years to have many farmers serving on our boards with vision for the future, dedication to doing work that benefits their fellow farmers, and commitment to supporting the work and development of our staff members. I am also proud of our staff team — they work hard and are driven by the missions of OSA and OSC, and they are an extremely talented group. In the years ahead farmers will face both opportunities and challenges, and I am excited to see the positive impact OSA and OSC will have in helping Ohio farmers to thrive regardless of what the future brings. ♦

I grew up in a small town in northern Indiana, and many of my friends were from farming families. One of my grandfathers grew up on a small farm in Hancock County, Ohio, and my other grandfather operated a poultry operation in my hometown. So from a young age I understood the importance of crop production and animal agriculture, but my first direct experience in agriculture was when I was hired for a position with the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) in June 2007. I am honored to work for the soybean farmers of Ohio. When I joined OSA and OSC I was responsible for managing our international marketing and transportation projects, along with starting and developing our new Foundation. In November 2009 I was promoted to executive director. In that role I have provided staff leadership and support to the farmer board members of OSA and OSC, and managed our team of



Merritt with OSA board members Ryan Rhoades, Scott Metzger and Rusty Goebel on a trip to Washington, D.C., to talk with legislators

top of the issues and provide good advice to our board members. Recently we successfully advocated for an expanded H2Ohio program and a reduction in the scope of the commercial activities tax in the state budget, and pushed back on proposed federal EPA regulations that would limit farmers' weed and pest control options. And we are always looking for more ways to drive value for our OSA farmer members and our corporate partners. We hosted several

"Researching soybeans is a really interesting line of work. There's always something new going on every day. And **it's exciting to be at the forefront of this push for more bio-based products.**"

-ALEX SHAND, INNOVATION ENGINEER  
AIRABLE RESEARCH LAB

# HERE IN OHIO, WE GROW POSSIBILITIES.



OHIO SOYBEAN COUNCIL

Innovation helps drive soy demand and benefits your operation. By investing in the Ohio Soybean Council, farmers get a firsthand look at the new products and research that is revolutionizing the industry, helping to further global demand, improve yields and create new opportunities for future generations.

Learn more at [SoyOhio.org/HereWeGrow](https://SoyOhio.org/HereWeGrow)

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