

# Building Our Better Tomorrow.



Our soybean checkoff.  
*Effective. Efficient. Farmer-Driven.*

## Soy and Dairy

Improvements in the dairy industry have led to cows that produce higher levels of milk. Increased milk production requires a balanced diet high in protein and nutrients. This is where advances in diets come in; developing a feed formulation that is protein efficient benefits the cows and stimulates strong milk production.

For dairy cows, soybean meal is the standard protein. It's a reliable, consistent quality protein that can be utilized year-round in feed formulations.

Soybeans are used in a variety of ways in dairy diets:

- **Dehulled and Solvent Extracted Soybean Meal (SBM)** – A principal source of protein in dairy diets obtained by grinding and toasting soy flakes remaining after oil extraction.
- **Whole Roasted Soybeans** – Soybeans that have been heated and promote the reaction of reducing sugars and increasing the availability of bypass protein.
- **Extruded Soybeans** – Uses high pressure to grind the beans, generating heat and releasing the oil, as well as deactivating the anti-nutritional factors.
- **Heat-Treated SBM** – SBM that has been subjected to greater heating during processing is an excellent source of Rumen Undegraded Protein for cows.



## Missouri Soybean Farmers Depend on Livestock

In the state of Missouri, county health ordinances can have an impact on livestock and poultry operations under their jurisdiction. Ordinances in 15 counties have affected the ability of producers to develop new livestock facilities or expand existing operations.

For soybean farmers in these counties, the ordinances affect their largest customer and in return have an impact on their soybean operations as well.

“Missouri soybean farmers need animal agriculture to succeed,” says Dale R. Ludwig, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC) Executive Director/CEO. “Livestock and poultry producers are Missouri soybean farmers’ number one customer, and we are committed to supporting them through our animal agriculture initiative efforts.”

MSMC has partnered with the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, Missouri Beef Industry Council and the Missouri Pork Association to help educate soybean farmers and rural neighbors

on the importance of animal agriculture and the issues livestock and poultry farmers face. Together the groups conduct lunch-and-learn seminars, inviting farmers, rural neighbors, county officials and other local leaders to livestock facilities to learn about good management practices and the efforts that animal agriculture producers go through to ensure a safe, healthy food supply exists.

“These programs should help more Missourians understand and appreciate our livestock-producing neighbors,” says Ludwig.

In addition to their lunch-and-learn programs, MSMC is working with the United Soybean Board to develop promotional materials, press releases and producer profiles highlighting livestock and poultry producers with good management practices to be distributed to Missouri media.

“Everything we can do to help Missouri’s livestock and poultry producers is a plus for Missouri’s soybean farmers,” says Ludwig.



## Animal ID Provides Network for Disease Response

Many farmers have a list of readily available contacts in case of on-farm emergencies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) developed the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for the same reason, according to Wayne Maloney, public information specialist for USDA-APHIS.

Three voluntary components make up the NAIS system: registering premises or livestock operations, animal identification and animal tracing.

"Premise registration ensures producers are notified quickly in the event of an animal disease outbreak," says Maloney. "The goal can only be reached if producers register with their contact information."

Of the possible 1.4 million livestock operations in the United States, over 400,000 have been registered. Producers can register their premises at the NAIS Web site, <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.

Animal identification is the second component of NAIS. This step assigns each animal an identification number at their birthplace or premise of origin.

Animal tracing represents the third component of NAIS. This component is under development by state governments and the private sector. Once complete, producers will be able to choose an animal tracing database and report animal movements that might pose a risk of disease transmission.

In addition, other "external identification levels" exist, such as country-of-origin labeling, food safety and consumer demand, says Michele Vise-Brown, chief executive officer of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA).

With heightened awareness of foreign animal diseases like bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza (AI), a quick response to animal disease situations remains critically important to U.S. animal agriculture.

Animal disease situations matter to soybean farmers as well, since they impact the amount of soybean meal indirectly exported as meat. A study by the United Soybean Board on the value of meat exports to soybean farmers projected that a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza could result in a reduction of 576,000 metric tons of indirect soybean exports in the first year of the outbreak.

"NAIS provides the infrastructure that enables a quick response to an animal health emergency," says Maloney. "A quick response is critical to maintain consumer confidence in the safety of the U.S. food supply."

This confidence in the U.S. food supply extends to all of agriculture, including soybean farmers. In addition, this program helps ensure the safety of soybean's number one customer.



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## Understanding Allergens and Soy

Soy is an allergen in human and swine diets, which consequently has been a barrier to soy's inclusion in both diets. Because of this, the soybean checkoff works with the National Pork Board and QUALISOY to study soy's role in swine allergenicity.

Reducing allergens in swine rations could reduce losses of efficiencies due to morbidity caused by an animal's allergic reactions to soy. The project looks to use genomic strategies to develop elite soybean varieties with reduced allergenic properties, creating feed ingredients with improved digestibility.

Improving the digestibility of soybean meal could allow for greater inclusion of soybean meal into swine diets, improving the long-term demand for soy. The goal of this project is to create a model that could lead to improvements in human nutrition, pet foods and feed for aquaculture and poultry.

