

ASA Applauds Release of USDA & Senate Democrat Farm Policy Principles

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is pleased with the long-term farm policy priorities prepared by both the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and by Democrats in the U.S. Senate. A primary goal for ASA in the farm bill debate is ensuring that soybeans are treated fairly and equitably as program crops.

"The Administration and Senate Democrats appropriately recognized the need for an effective safety net to offset low commodity prices and farm income within a comprehensive approach to other key issues, including conservation, trade policy and rural development," said ASA President Bart Ruth, a soybean

producer from Rising City, Nebraska. "ASA is particularly pleased that both sets of principles endorse enhanced conservation stewardship initiatives on productive farmland and a boost in development of renewable energy products, including soy-based biodiesel."

The September release of the USDA's "Report on Food and Agriculture Policy for the New Century" came as the House of Representatives prepared to consider the farm bill passed by the House Agriculture Committee in July. Simultaneously, the Senate Agriculture Committee was deciding how to proceed with its own version

of the omnibus farm policy legislation. It is doubtful that the farm bill process can be completed before Congress adjourns, which is expected by the end of October.

Ruth said, "In reviewing the USDA Report, ASA recognizes the constraints that the federal budget and domestic support commitments under the World Trade Organization place on development of the next farm program."

Ruth cautioned, however, that such constraints should not come at the expense of providing producers with an adequate safety net in the form of the marketing loan program, fixed decoupled payments, and counter-cyclical income support. ASA testified in favor of including each of these domestic farm program components in testimony before both Agriculture Committees earlier this year.

Responding to the Senate Democrat proposal, Ruth stated, "ASA appreciates the emphasis placed on increasing foreign food assistance, including through the Global Food for Education Initiative, and for foreign market development. Soybean producers will work closely with USDA officials and the Senate to develop farm program provisions that address the long-term needs of all U.S. producers in a manner that recognizes the importance of soybeans as the highest-value U.S. export crop."

More details on these legislative initiatives and other ASA policy can be found at <http://www.SoyGrowers.com>.



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Announces New Feature



"SoyCow" Consumes U.S. Soybeans, Helps Feed People

Thanks to a piece of equipment known as a "SoyCow" U.S. soybeans are turning into nutritious foods that please diverse tastes around the world. SoyCow is the common name given to these processing units. An estimated 4,000 of the units are grinding and steaming whole soybeans into protein-rich beverages, soups and other foods eaten in countries ranging from Africa to Russia to Canada.

Because of the potential for the processing units worldwide, the American Soybean Association's (ASA) World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) program is working to evaluate the potential for SoyCows in numerous countries. ASA and state soybean associations launched WISHH to build bridges between America's bounty and countries where rapidly growing populations of all income levels can benefit from soy in their diets.

In developing countries, protein

and good business opportunities are often both in short supply. The SoyCow can help fill stomachs and pocket-books. For an investment of about \$10,000 (U.S.), entrepreneurs can set up soy kitchens with the potential of producing 40 liters of soymilk per hour with a protein content of 3.5 percent, according to Malnutrition Matters, a non-profit organization based in Ottawa, Ontario Canada, that promotes the use of these processing units for developing countries.

Oklahoma-based Feed the Children (FTC) has helped install more than 350 of the estimated 2,100 SoyCow units in Russia. At the ASA Moscow office, Mike Moditch, Director for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), reports that SoyCows in Russia are currently using 30,000 metric tons of soybeans, and the number of units is increasing by 25 percent every year. Within the next five to 10 years, the total Russian soy food industry has the potential of creating a demand for at least 500,000 metric tons (18.37 million bushels) of soybeans a year.

FTC now has its sites set on expanding the "herd" of



Russia is home to more than half of the estimated 4,000 SoyCows in the world today. The processing equipment can turn U.S. soybeans into a wide variety of beverages, soups, breads and more for people who are seeking protein-rich food. (Photo courtesy of Malnutrition Matters)

SoyCows into the slums of Kenya where hopeful women are "raring to go" because they want to provide more food for their families and launch small businesses, according to FTC's Peggy Sheehan. This effort could provide soy foods every day to 12,000 people in 40 institutions. It complements FTC's health programs, including a center the group built to care for children that were abandoned because they or their family were suffering from HIV/AIDS.

"This work all begins with food aid," says Sheehan who has managed such programs for 34 years. "Charitable organizations need the commodities, such as soybeans and corn, to fight malnutrition. But food aid also provides us with a resource to help launch the businesses, such as SoyCow kitchens, that will foster sustained economic growth for individuals and the countries where they live."



Oklahoma-based Feed the Children (FTC) hopes to use "SoyCows" to support their work in Kenya, including this FTC center built to care for children abandoned because they or their families were suffering from HIV/AIDS. U.S. food aid and the SoyCow units allow FTC and other charitable groups to work with local people to make foods from U.S. soybeans and generate income in developing countries. (Photo courtesy of Malnutrition Matters)