

Around Dakota Ag

Dakota Digest



KUDOS: ASA President Wade Cowan (left) presents Harvey Morken with the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award — Membership Focus during the banquet in Phoenix.

▲ ASA recognizes ND farmer

The American Soybean Association recently presented Harvey Morken, Casselton, N.D., with the Lifetime Achievement Award — Membership Focus.

The award honors individuals who have provided outstanding leadership and dedication to ASA and helped further the interests of soybean farmers.

Morken's success in signing up new members helped the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association increase membership enough to receive a second national director on the ASA board this year.

► New western SD ag development representative

Robert Weyrich has been hired as an agricultural development representative for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. He previously worked for SDDA assisting crop and livestock producers in marketing product through specialty, organic and various nontraditional avenues. Ag development representatives work collectively with producers, landowners, developers and local leaders in identifying the quality growth opportunities vital to the long-term sustainability of rural communities. Weyrich will be based in the western region of South Dakota. To contact Weyrich, email bob.weyrich@state.sd.us or call 605-295-0155.



ROBERT WEYRICH

► ND Soybean Growers officers

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association board of directors recently elected Craig Olson, Colfax, president; Ryan Richard, Horace, vice president; and Eric Broten, Dazey, treasurer. Luke Kuster, Grand Forks, was re-elected secretary. During the association's annual meeting in February, the following producers were re-elected to serve on the board of directors: District 1, Craig Olson, Colfax, and District 3, Ryan Richard, Horace. During the reorganization meeting, Joe Ericson, Wimbledon, was appointed to an at-large position. Aaron Brakke, Oxbow, was re-appointed as the industry representative.

► SD Corn Utilization Council elects officers

The South Dakota Corn Utilization Council has elected fourth-generation farmer Reno Brueggeman of Miller as president. Brueggeman joined the SDCUC board of directors in 2013. He and his brother are involved in a fourth-generation, diversified farming operation. They also own and operate Brueggeman Crop Services, a Channel seed dealership and crop insurance agency. He also serves as clerk on his township board. The board of directors also elected Justin Davis of Ipswich as vice president and Ryan Wagner of Roslyn as secretary-treasurer. SDCUC is responsible for the collection and administration of a 1-cent-per-bushel corn checkoff program. Money funds research and development of new uses and markets for corn and corn byproducts that benefit South Dakota economically and environmentally.



RENO BRUEGGEMAN



NEW TEAM: North Dakota Soybean Growers Association officers are (from left) Eric Broten, Dazey, treasurer; Ryan Richard, Horace, vice president; Craig Olson, Colfax, president; and Luke Kuster, Grand Forks, secretary.

Sponsored by Monty's Plant Food

Extra Insurance Ensures the Highest Yields.



Charlie Hubbard

Springtime has arrived. But instead of warmth and sunshine, many parts of the country are faced with cooler temperatures and wet soil conditions. As a grower, what impact does this have on planting and the prospects for a successful season?

Adverse soil conditions can range from too cool (below 55 degrees) to too damp. This causes sub-surface, side-wall compaction and ultimately results in a wide range of nutrient deficiencies.

"Growers who plant too early will most likely see nutrient deficiencies," says Charlie Hubbard, agronomist for Monty's Plant Food Company. "Deficiencies in manganese, phosphorus and zinc will slow the crop's emergence and overall growth, leading to a loss of yield."

It is far easier and more cost-effective to address nutrient deficiencies at planting, rather than trying to rescue a crop

in-season. That's why growers who understand Hubbard's perspective are analyzing their soil and assessing their planting conditions now — and preparing their fields to deliver maximum yield.

Microhance handles nutrient deficiencies at planting.

Farmers who apply a starter in-row on the seed, or even 2x2, should consider using a micronutrient package such as Microhance®. The combination of essential nutrients could make the difference between early success and constantly trying to catch up.

Microhance can also be foliar or soil applied and is designed to provide nutrients at any stage of growth, which in turn helps maximize yield potential. It includes boron, iron, manganese, sulfur and zinc, all of which enhance plant metabolism. Microhance also offers plants an organic form of

nitrogen to enhance green-up and growth.

"Adding Microhance at planting is like giving yourself extra insurance for the season," says Hubbard. "Why not ensure that you will get the highest yields possible?"

For further information on Monty's products and to find your local Monty's dealer, contact Joe Koll, Monty's Plant Food's Product Consultant and Sales Support Representative for North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, at (701) 205-5486 or jkoll@montysplantfood.com. For more information on Monty's Plant Food products, please visit www.montysplantfood.com.



Success you can see.®



Transgenic wheat now a step closer

TWO scientists from Kansas State University are working on a transgenic wheat that tolerates warmer temperatures during wheat's critical grain filling stage.

With just a single added gene to boost thermo-tolerance, this wheat could increase yields by up to 35%, claims Harold Trick, a plant pathologist.

Wheat has an optimum temperature range during the grain filling stage of 59 to 64 degrees F. Trick explains that for every 1 degree rise in temperature above that level, 3% to 4% of yield could be lost.

As the grain begins to fill, it accumulates starch. This starch will account for 75% to 85% of the dry weight, making it an important part of the final test weight. That starch is converted from sucrose by the enzyme-soluble starch synthase.

Trick and his team sought a way to increase the wheat plant's tolerance to these higher-than-optimal temperatures. They started with rice, a tropical plant grown at higher temperatures that also has grain that fills. They found a single SSS gene that provides more thermo-tolerance when added into the genome. This gene shows the best yield increase at temperatures of 85.1 to 90.1 degrees.

They are now working to cross this thermo-tolerance into elite wheat varieties that have their own heat tolerance potential.

Because no genetically modified wheat is currently in the U.S. supply chain, this heat-tolerant wheat will eventually need a sponsor that can take it through the regulatory process before it can be planted by wheat growers.