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Indiana, Penn., Farmer Sees Work of the Soy Checkoff

Andy Fabin participates in USB "See for Yourself"

HARRISBURG, PA (September 26, 2012) – From the use of biodiesel at a major U.S. airport to the use of soy oil for the baking and frying industry, Indiana, Penn., soybean farmer Andy Fabin witnessed first-hand some of the many ways soybeans are used during the United Soybean Board's (USB's) 2012 *See for Yourself* program.

Sponsored by the national soy checkoff, the fifth-annual program offered Fabin and nine other soybean farmers from across the country the chance to tour a number of sites related to the checkoff's objectives to improve the value of U.S. soy meal and oil; ensure the industry and its customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate; and meet the needs of U.S. soy customers.

"The *See for Yourself* experience really opened my eyes to industries in our country and abroad that use our beans to make so many different products," Fabin said. "It was interesting to see how high quality soy-based ingredients are used to fortify foods that help make people's lives better. After the experience I feel confident in saying that the USB has found a great balance of research and promotion that ensures farmers get the biggest bang for their checkoff dollar."

Participants spent the first day of the tour in St. Louis, Mo. First, they heard about the work of each checkoff program area at USB's headquarters. Then they toured a barge-loading facility on the Mississippi River, met with a soybean researcher to discuss research advancements in soybeans and visited Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, which uses biodiesel in much of its equipment.

In Mexico, participants got a glimpse of soy use in the U.S. soy industry's second-biggest international market. The group visited a company that imports more than 600,000 tons of U.S. soybeans each year to crush for oil in the frying and baking industry. Participants also toured two food-production companies that fortify their products with soy, a great source of protein. The country is also the largest international market for U.S. soy meal, and the farmer-participants toured two dairy farms that use U.S. soy meal in feed.

"The checkoff started the *See for Yourself* program to give soybean farmers the opportunity to evaluate specific checkoff-funded research and promotional activities as well as interact with checkoff leadership," said Rick Stern, New Jersey soybean farmer and chair of USB's Audit & Evaluation committee, which sponsors the program.

"It's beneficial to both sides," Stern said. "The participants get an in-depth look into the checkoff, and, as directors, we gain so much from our conversations with the participants and their take on checkoff programs. We had an exceptional group of participants this year and really value their comments and ideas."

The 69 farmer-directors of USB oversee the investments of the soy checkoff to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff

funds to increase the value of U.S. soy meal and oil, to ensure U.S. soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate, and to meet the needs of U.S. soy's customers. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff.

About the Pennsylvania Soybean Board

The [Pa. Soybean Board](#) is a farmer-controlled Board responsible for managing Pennsylvania's share of funds received from the nationwide Soybean Checkoff program. The funding is available under an assessment program, approved by Congress in 1990, under which soybean farmers contribute 50 cents of every \$100 they receive for their beans at the first point of sale. Funds are used to develop markets, educate consumers, and research new ways to utilize and produce soybeans more efficiently. The efforts of the checkoff are directed by the United Soybean Board, composed of 69 volunteer farmer-leaders who are appointed to the national board by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

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