

# Soybean Checkoff Farmer-Directors Attend Planning Meeting

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — During their annual meeting, the 61 farmer-directors of the United Soybean Board (USB) continued their efforts to create a more competitive U.S. soybean and increase demand for soy-based products and soy biodiesel.

The farmer-directors conducted a joint "Connections" planning meeting with other soybean farmer-leaders, approved new plans to improve the composition of U.S. soybeans and launched a major soy biodiesel checkoff-funded initiative.

"The Connections meeting outcome will help ensure that the soybean checkoff addresses the

major issues facing U.S. soybean farmers," said newly elected USB Chairman David Durham, a soybean farmer from Hardin, Mo. "Those issues include keeping U.S. soybean farmers competitive, increasing the utilization of soy biodiesel, upgrading transportation infrastructure and improving the composition of U.S. soybeans."

As a precursor to their board meeting, checkoff farmer-directors participated in a two-day joint planning meeting with farmer-leaders and staff from Qualified State Soybean Boards, the American Soybean Association and state soybean associa-

tion boards to coordinate future plans to increase competitiveness and profitability for U.S. soybean farmers. More than 300 farmer-leaders came together to develop joint strategies for addressing issues affecting the soybean industry.

Checkoff farmer-directors also launched a major initiative encouraging U.S. soybean farmers to request and use soy biodiesel. The biodiesel promotion efforts are a part of a larger checkoff-funded Biobased Products Initiative (BPI) created to promote the use of soy-based products and soy biodiesel. Through the BPI, nine states and one region of

states will conduct activities such as meetings communications campaigns and with farmers, fuel suppliers and educators to increase the utilization of soy biodiesel within the farming sector.

During the meeting, USB also approved a new action plan for the Better Bean Initiative (BBI). USB established the BBI to build demand for U.S. soybeans in domestic and international markets by improving the composition of U.S. soybeans. The plan includes efforts to increase product and market development such as identifying traits that will increase the quality and value of U.S. soybeans, develop standardized tools to measure protein and oil content and create brand equity for resulting new soybean varieties and finished products.

The USB farmer-directors also elected its leaders for 2003. They elected David Durham of Hardin, Mo., as chairman of the board and nine others to serve on the executive committee. Other farmers elected as officers include Vice Chairman Jerry Ford of Lake Village, Ark., USB Secretary Chuck Friedrich of Aurora, S.D., and USB Treasurer David Schmidt of Iowa City, Iowa.

Other farmers elected to the executive committee include: Criss Davis of Shullsburg, Wis., USB international marketing chair; Janice Peterson of Bloomington, Ind., domestic marketing chair; Eric Niemann of Nortonville, Kan., new uses chair; Bryan Hieser of Minier, Ill., production chair; Greg Anderson of Newman Grove, Neb.; communications chair; and Jim Sallstrom of Winthrop, Minn., audit and evaluation chair. Richard

Borgsmiller of Murphysboro, Ill., serves on the executive committee as the checkoff organization's immediate past chairman and was also named trade analysis chair.

Eight soybean farmer-leaders also were officially sworn in as new directors after receiving appointments from Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. They include: David Wilson of Lincoln, Ala.; Jack Reed of Salem, Ind.; Roy Bardole of Rippey, Iowa; John Wrap of Ottawa, Kan.; George Martin of Nebo, Ky.; Mark Pietz of Lakefield, Minn.; James Robertson of Inverness, Miss.; and Jason Bean of Holcomb, Mo.

The board also honored 10 farmer-leaders whose terms concluded. Two of these farmer-leaders were founding USB directors when the soybean checkoff began in 1991: Harold Phillips of Stevenson, Ala.; and Jerry Slocum of Coldwater, Miss. Other retiring directors honored at the meeting included Robert Williams of Poseyville, Ind.; Ron Sterler of Sanborn, Iowa; Gary Parker of Morgan, Kan.; Gerald Day of Sturgis, Ky.; Doug Magnus of Slayton, Minn.; Michael O'Leary of Danvers, Minn.; David Haggard of Steele, Mo.; and Jimmy Barbour of Friendship, Tenn.

USB is made up of 61 farmer-directors who oversee the investment of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soybean checkoff.

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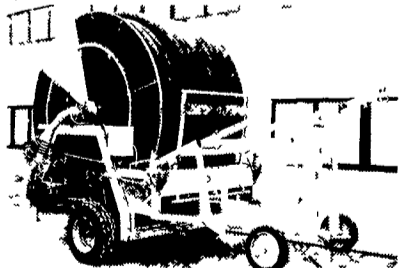
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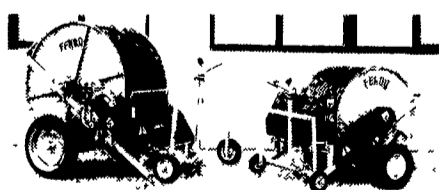
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## ROVATTI SLURRY PTO DRIVE PUMPS

Rovatti TL slurry pumps are high-pressure slurry pumps with a unique "bolt on" chopper system

The standard pump features a high efficiency open-vane impeller with an interchangeable wear ring and fixed cutting blade to handle all but the very toughest of straw, hay or other difficult residuals. For these conditions, the chopper unit can be simply bolted to the pump where it is driven by the existing pump shaft, enabling it to handle virtually any waste products requiring chopping.

A number of additional features make these the most versatile and reliable units on the market:

- Spectral permanently lubricated mechanical seal for longer life
- Over-sized bearings
- Lubricated chopper shaft bearings
- Chopper shaft shear-pin to reduce risk of damage to the shaft and impeller
- A range of four tractor pto pumps and four bare-shaft pumps with flows from 105-1000 gpm
- Replaceable wear ring
- 540 rpm or 1000 rpm speeds
- Finest grade cast iron for high efficiency
- Unique water-cooled gearbox for extended gear life.

The pump is mounted on a heavy-duty wheeled cart with pto shaft, 6" quick-action suction fittings and 4" discharge fittings as standard.



## Gelbvieh Launches SmartBuy Program

WESTMINSTER, Colo. — The American Gelbvieh Association recently launched a new program to follow up on its highly effective SmartCross crossbreeding program. SmartBuy combines a source-verified, pre-conditioned calf-tagging program with a cash incentive program for buyers of SmartCross calves.

SmartCross is a crossbreeding program that shows commercial cattle producers how to make more profitable cattle using registered Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls in a crossbreeding program. SmartCross encourages commercial producers to have a balance of Gelbvieh and British genetics to hit the profit center in the beef industry.

SmartBuy follows up by identifying calves with the most profitable blend of Gelbvieh and Angus-based genetics. To receive a SmartCross tag at least 75 percent of the calves in a load must be sired by registered Gelbvieh, registered Balancer or registered Gelbvieh x Angus hybrid bulls and out Angus-based cows (red or black).

"Our biggest challenge in gaining credibility with feeders for Gelbvieh-influenced calves is lack of ability to identify those calves," says Don Schiefelbein, AGA Executive Director.

"Many times Gelbvieh-cross calves are misidentified as they go through the sale ring and the Gelbvieh genetics are not recognized. SmartBuy gives seedstock producers a chance to work with their top commercial producers to identify SmartCross calves with a balance of Gelbvieh and Angus genetics."

The calves must also be vaccinated according to the guidelines for VAC 34 or VAC 45. All calves to be vaccinated prior to shipping and producers must follow Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) guidelines by giving all injections in the neck.

The AGA Board of Directors also approved a cash incentive program for buyers of tagged SmartCross calves. The American Gelbvieh Association, for a limited time, will pay buyers \$2 per head for every SmartCross-tagged calf purchased.

Contact the American Gelbvieh Association office today to receive a SmartBuy brochure explaining the program in detail. Visit the AGA website at [www.gelbvieh.org](http://www.gelbvieh.org) or call the AGA office at 303-465-2333 for more information on industry-leading Gelbvieh programs.