

Farm Update: Spring 2023

It's officially planting season! We will have similar acres of corn, soybeans, tobacco, sweet potatoes, and cucumbers as in the past. At the moment, we are planting corn and will be finishing this process shortly. Afterwards, we will begin transplanting tobacco and starting to plant cucumbers. We are continuing to grow pickles for Mount Olive Pickles, so make sure to support the brand that supports us by grabbing some of their pickles when you're at the store next time. While the 2023 planting season is a little different from the past, we continue to remain committed to producing the highest quality crops and providing the highest quality care for the acres we farm.



17th Annual Landowner Appreciation Dinner



Recognition of Scott's 10 years of service

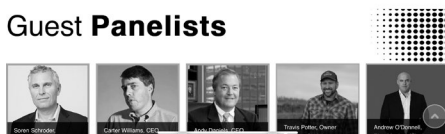
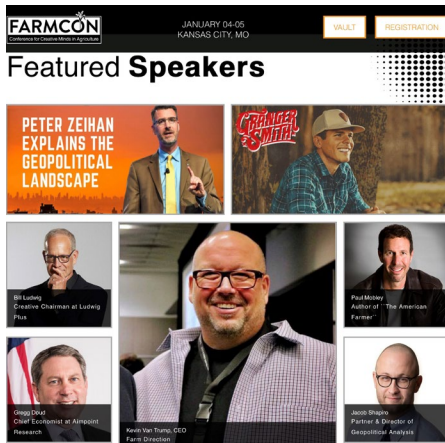
After a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19, our annual landowner appreciation dinner was once again held in late March. While this dinner was technically our 17th landowner dinner, we have been hosting this event for the past twenty years and are happy to have brought this tradition back. We had a great turnout, with everyone being able to meet and catch up, as well as enjoy the catering from The Farm House, located in Newton Grove. At the dinner, Reggie educated the group on the United Soybean Board (USB) and United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC); he is an active representative for both organizations. The USB is composed of 77 volunteer farmer leaders with the common goal of increasing return on investment for all soybean farmers in the U.S. The USB does research and promotion, while the American Soybean Association lobbies and has offices located in St. Louis and Washington, D.C. With members representing the soy supply chain, USSEC focuses on differentiating, elevating preference, and attaining market access for the use of U.S. soy internationally for human consumption, aquaculture, and livestock feed. An exceptional employee of ours, Scott Strickland, was also recognized. Scott has been the Operations Manager for Strickland Farming Partnership for the past ten years and has been a great asset to the operation. Reggie stated that the best thing that has happened to the operation is Scott joining the team.



Reggie Selected for USSEC Board of Directors

Reggie was recently appointed to the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC) Board of Directors. USSEC's mission is to maximize the utilization, value, and access to markets of U.S. soy around the world by nurturing relationships, growing awareness, and demonstrating the value. The organization gets its funding from the U.S. soybean checkoff, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service matching funds, and industry. Reggie explained this funding and the soybean checkoff at the landowner dinner. The checkoff is entirely supported by the farmers who grow the commodities. These farmers make individual contributions of 0.5% of the market price per bushel sold each season. In turn, half that contribution goes toward the national checkoff, which is the United Soybean Board, and the other half goes toward Qualified State Soybean Boards. The soybean checkoff focuses investments in three key areas: education, promotion, and research, all while fostering the demand for U.S. soy.

Winter Travels



The first part of 2023 has been busy for Reggie, starting off in January when he attended FarmCon in Kansas City. At the event, he heard from geopolitical guru Peter Zeihan, which was his main reason for attending. Peter provides great insight and a unique perspective on world events. Also, Reggie represented the United Soybean Board (USB) at the International Production and Processing Expo in Atlanta in late January. It is the world's largest annual poultry, meat, and animal food industry event. The 2023 event had 27,712 registered attendees representing 125 countries. Early in February, Reggie was able to travel to Panama for the USSEC's board retreat. It was a unique experience where he was able to interact with hardworking

members and also met and heard from former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. Reggie greatly enjoyed hearing the former president's unbelievable story and believes he is an exceptional example of leadership. His book No Lost Causes is a must read. Lastly, the USB's February meeting was held in Nashville. The meeting objectives were to continue to build 2024 portfolios, launch initiative updates, and review fiscal year 2023 priority area program progress.



Reggie and President Uribe



Pictures from the International Production and Processing Expo, where Reggie represented the USB and spoke to a group about the organization's goal to produce and preserve quality in U.S. soybean production.

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