

**2014 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report
CFDA Number: 20.720**

Award Number: DTPH5614GPPS05

Project Title: Iowa Utilities Division State Damage Prevention Grant

Date Submitted: April 29, 2015

Submitted by: Cynthia Munyon

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the IUD will:

- Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

Workscope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Recipient will address the following elements listed in the approved application as stated in 49 U.S.C. §60134 (b).

- **Element 2 (Comprehensive Stakeholder Support):** A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders, including excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government in all phases of the program.
- **Element 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.

Accomplishments for this period (Item 1 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.”)

Element 2 and Element 5: Damage Prevention Summit

The two-day event was held March 24-25, 2015, at a new inside venue. Evites were sent to all interested stakeholders including, but not limited to, agricultural contacts, excavators, landscapers, municipalities, and utilities. The event included a locate rodeo, CEU workshops, sessions, and key note speakers. As of March 31st, post summit meetings were scheduled in April 2015 to review and assess.

Attachments:

- 1) Program
- 2) Evite

Element 5: Agricultural Outreach

The primary focus was to raise awareness of 811 to an agricultural audience. Reaching out to the agricultural community directly provides an opportunity to showcase Best Practices, provide educational damage prevention materials and assist in finding resources for any questions or concerns they might have. This was accomplished by working directly with the Iowa Soybean Association and its 37,500 members.

A full page agricultural 811 ad was designed for the “Know What’s Below What You Grow” marketing campaign. The ad was inserted in the “Iowa Soybean Review” magazine which is mailed to every farmer who has paid into the State of Iowa soybean check off. The magazine has a circulation of approximately 37,500 producers. The “Iowa Soybean Review” prints 8 issues (Jan., Feb., and March, April, Summer, Oct., Nov., and Dec.). An agricultural 811 ad was also placed in the online “Iowa Soybean e-Weekly” which is sent to approximately 5,000 Iowa Soybean Association member farmers each week. The ad will run for 52 weeks.

The agricultural campaign continued with a new WindScape Backwall 811 display and two banner stands for the farm shows. The display was used for the ISA invitation only On Farm Conference 2015 held February 18-19, 2015. The On Farm Conference was attended by over 500 farmers and crop advisors to hear the latest research results, conservation practice tips and speakers from On Farm Network, Environmental Programs and Services, and Analytics. The booth was well received and the logo/message appeared on the materials, ads, signage and CVENT invite. Distributed brochure and handouts to attendees which gave an opportunity to answer questions and educate. Many stopped at the booth because of the ad and wanted additional information.

The display was used again for the Hawkeye Farm Show held on March 3-5, 2015. The show was attended by 18,000 farmers, tilers, excavators and other stakeholders interested in agriculture. The Iowa Soybean Association listed the booth so its members would stop by for information. Received positive results based on the amount of interactions. The brochure and handouts also contributed to the success.

The target audience favorable received the 811 information but showed a definite lack of understanding the law regarding the need to call 811 on agricultural property. Reasons given for not calling 811 were varied. Many stated they did not call because they knew where all utilities were located on family century owned property. Others believed there was an exemption for calling 811 along fence lines and/or agricultural land was exempt. Several stated they were aware of the law but didn’t have the time to wait for a location because the job needed to be done that day.

Attachments:

- 1) Ads
- 2) Display
- 3) Ag Shows

Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: “Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.”)

Will be obtaining feedback and assessments regarding the March 24th-25th Summit.

The full page agricultural 811 ad in the magazine the “Iowa Soybean Review” was mailed to every farmer who paid into the State of Iowa soybean check off, giving it a circulation of approximately 37,500 producers. The “Iowa Soybean Review” prints 8 issues (Jan., Feb., March, April, Summer, Oct., Nov., and Dec.). The agricultural 811 ad in the online “Iowa Soybean e-Weekly” is sent to approximately 5,000 Iowa Soybean Association member farmers each week for a total of 52 weeks.

The On Farm Conference 2015 was attended by over 500 farmers and crop advisors. The Hawkeye Farm Show was attended by 18,000 farmers, tilers, excavators, and other stakeholders interested in agriculture. Distributed brochures and 1,702 handouts at booths. Had many attendees indicate they had seen the ad in either the ISA magazine or online weekly.

Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met. “)

There are no issues, problems or challenges to report.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

The mid-term financial status report was submitted to the Agreement Administrator (AA) and the Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) concurrent with this report.

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

Element 2 and Element 5: Damage Prevention Summit

Post-summit activities, review, and assessment.

Element 5: Agricultural Outreach

Agricultural ad will continue to run in Iowa Soybean Review remaining issues. Agricultural ad will continue to be displayed in the Online Soybean e-Weekly for the remainder of the total 52 weeks.

Requests of the AOR and/or PHMSA

No action requested at this time.



You're Invited!

Hello,

Mark your calendar and be sure to attend this year's [Damage Prevention Summit](#)! This free educational event is for anyone interested in industry best practices and preventing damage to crucial underground facilities.

- **What:** 7th Annual Damage Prevention Summit
- **When:** March 24 – 25, 2015
- **Who:** Anyone interested in a reduction of damages to underground facilities
- **Where:** FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. [Get directions](#)
- **Cost:** Free to attend!

Don't miss this opportunity to network with subject matter experts, industry professionals and equipment manufacturers/vendors

Get more details and

[RSVP today!](#)



Thank you to the 2015
CGI Summit Sponsors:



RBS Safety
Training



Welcome to the 7th Annual
Damage Prevention Summit

March 24—25, 2015

FFA Enrichment Center,
1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, IA 50023



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AGENDA / SCHEDULE Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Time	Room	SUBJECT/ SPEAKER	SHORT DESCRIPTION
8:30—9:25 a.m.	Exhibition Hall & Conf. Room B (107)	Registration & Breakfast & Vendors	
9:30—9:50 a.m.	Conference Room A (106)	Welcome & General Session / CGI Board	Who and what is Common Ground Iowa?
10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.	109	Track 1 : CPR / AED / First Aid Mary Ann Kinkade & Justin Schoenrock, IAMU	Adult, Child and Infant CPR and AED , then First Aid. 2 year certification.
10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.	112 & 113	Track 2: Trenching and Shoring— Competent Person Paul Kittelson & Mike Sewell, IAMU	The person with responsibility for the control of the excavation job. This session will address soil classification, protection systems and evaluating the dangers of the trench.
10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	108 at 1:00 p.m. From 10— Noon attend classes in rooms 114 & 115	Track 3: Locate Rodeo Travis Daniels, USIC, Mark Green, USIC, Ben Booth, IOC, Merlin Davis,	Locators from across the state will compete against one another in timed events locating underground water, electric, and gas utilities. First and Second place winners will receive cash prizes.

AGENDA / SCHEDULE Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Time	Room	SUBJECT/ SPEAKER	SHORT DESCRIPTION
		Track 4: Water CEU approved classes.	Key: WT=Water Treatment WD=Water Distribution WW=Wastewater
10:00—10:50 a.m.	114 & 115	Personal Protection Equipment Justin Vogt, IAMU	Good for all employees. This session will provide training and information on the selection, use, care and limitations of PPE. 1 CEU available from the IDNR, good for WT, WD & WW.
11:05 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	114 & 115	Hazard Communication – Right to Know Justin Vogt, IAMU	Basic information about chemicals in the workplace plus the hazardous effects of chemicals and how to handle them. Global Harmonization Standard (GHS) and the transition taking place from Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to the new Safety Data Sheets (SDS). 1 CEU for WT, WD & WW.
1:00—1:55 p.m.	114 & 115	Chlorine Safety Justin Schoenrock, IAMU	Employees handling gaseous or liquid chlorine. 1 CEU for WT, WD & WW.

AGENDA / SCHEDULE Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Time	Room	SUBJECT/ SPEAKER	SHORT DESCRIPTION
2:00—2:55 p.m.	114 & 115	Track 4: Water CEU approved classes continue: Vulnerability & Security Considerations for Water & Wastewater Facilities Justin Schoenrock, IAMU	Key: WT=Water Treatment WD=Water Distribution WW=Wastewater This course introduces the many vulnerability and security considerations that might be included in a basic assessment of water / wastewater plants. 1 CEU for WT, WD & WW.
3:20—4:10 p.m.	114 & 115	Emergency Preparedness Justin Vogt, IAMU	Good for all employees responsible for the care of people in public buildings. This session will discuss how to plan for the disasters that might occur. 1 CEU for WT, WD & WW.
4:10—5:00 p.m.	114 & 115	Chains, Slings and Wire Rope Justin Schoen- rock, IAMU	Employees handling material with lifting devices. The course includes specific cri- teria to evaluate chains, slings and wire ropes. 1 CEU for WT, WD & WW.

DAY 2

AGENDA / SCHEDULE

**Wednesday,
March 25, 2015**



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**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

AGENDA / SCHEDULE Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Breakfast, Breaks, Vendors, & Lunch	Room	Vendors available all day.
7:30—8:30 a.m.	CONFERENCE ROOM B (107)	BREAKFAST Sponsored by: Alliant Energy & Iowa Pipeline Association
9:30—10:00 a.m.	EXHIBITION HALL	BREAK Sponsored by: Alliant Energy & Iowa Pipeline Association
12:00—1:00 p.m.	CONFERENCE ROOM B (107)	LUNCH Sponsored by: USIC
2:30—2:45 p.m.	EXHIBITION HALL	BREAK Sponsored by: Alliant Energy & Iowa Pipeline Association

Quick Overview of the Classes

General Session 8:30—9:30	Welcome and Keynote speaker: Damage Prevention: What's New, What's Needed — Karen Lynch, PHMSA, US DOT	
Track 1: OSHA 10:05—11:05	Excavation Trench Safety Inspection Procedures—Darrell Brown, RBS Safety Training, LLC	
11:05—12:00	Concrete Safety—Paul Kittelson, IAMU	
1:05—2:30	What's New at OSHA—Mike Whitmore, IOSHA	
Track 2: Damage Prevention 10:05—11:05	New Technology and NTMS Demo—Connie Schmidt, SPHR & Cindy Haines, OCC	
11:05—12:00	Ticket Risk Assessment, Doug Kenyon, USIC	
1:05—1:45	Damage Prevention Matters—Silicia Boutchee, MidAmerican Energy Company	
1:50—2:30	One Call Enforcement and Mediation—Karen Lynch, CATS, Ben Booth,, IOC, Leon Hofer, Iowa Network Services & IOC Board Member	
General Session 2:45—4:00	Keynote speaker —Survival Story, Bryon Stillely, Chariton Valley REC & IOC Board Member, Ben Booth, IOC, and Wrap-up/Prizes	

AGENDA / SCHEDULE Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Time	Room	Subject / Speaker	SHORT DESCRIPTION
7:30—8:30 a.m.	Exhibition Hall & Conf. Room B (107)	Registration, Breakfast, Vendors	 
8:30—9:30 a.m.	Conference A (106)	Welcome & General Session: Damage Prevention: What's New, What's Needed Karen Lynch, PHMSA, US DOT	Cynthia Munyon, IUB & Chairperson of CGI Keynote: To advance public safety, environmental protection and pipeline reliability by facilitating clear communications among all pipeline stakeholders, including the public, the operators and government officials.
9:30—10:00 a.m. Break	Exhibition Hall	Vendor Show and Network Break	 
10:05—11:05 a.m.	112 & 113	TRACK 1: Excavation Trench Safety Inspection Procedures Darrell Brown, RBS Safety Training, LLC	OSHA requires that trenches and excavations are inspected before workers are allowed to enter. This session will provide the proper procedures on how to conduct an inspection to guard against cave-ins.
10:05—11:05 a.m.	108 & 109	New Technology & NTMS Demo Connie Schmidt, SPHR, & Cindy Haines, OCC	Learn more about the benefits of using the NTMS system and any other 'tools' available through One Call Concepts.

AGENDA / SCHEDULE Wednesday, March 25, 2015

11:05 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. OSHA Track	112 & 113	Concrete Safety Paul Kittelson, IAMU	Good for any employee constructing concrete forms and / or working with concrete during pouring, finishing, cutting operations or breaking up of old concrete for disposal. This session will discuss the hazards of concrete work, how to protect employees from those hazards and proper PPE to be used.
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11:05 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. Damage Prevention Track	108 & 109	Ticket Risk Assessment Doug Kenyon Director of Sales for USIC Locating Services, LLC.	Presentation is on Ticket Risk Assessment (TRA) is a predictive analysis that assesses the risk on tickets based on historical data/variables. Less specifically, it is how to leverage our two greatest assets: People and Technology to improve the communication process and lower overall damages for utilities.
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12:00—1:00 p.m.	Lunch in Conference Room B (107), Vendors: Exhibition Hall	Lunch and Vendor Show	
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AGENDA / SCHEDULE Wednesday, March 25, 2015

1:05—2:30 p.m. OSHA Track	112 & 113	What's New at OSHA? Mike Whitmore,	Overview of the new programs or changes in OSHA.
1:05—1:45 p.m. Damage Prevention Track	108 & 109	Damage Prevention Matters Silicia Boutchee, Damage Claims Recovery Manager, MidAmerican Energy Company	Planning can prevent damage to underground utilities.
1:50—2:30 p.m. Damage Prevention Track	108 & 109	One Call Enforcement and Mediation Karen Lynch – PHMSA, Ben Booth - IOC, Leon Hofer - Iowa Network Services, Dan Maschka - Northern Natural Gas	Roundtable discussion on current Iowa one call enforcement and what the state should do to create a mediation board.

2:30—2:35 p.m. Break	Exhibition Hall	Vendor Show and Network Break	 
2:45—3:30 p.m. General Session	Conference Room A (106)	Survival Story Bryon Stillely – Chariton Valley REC and IOC Board Member Ben Booth - IOC	Video from IOC and Bryon Stillely firsthand story of survival when he was badly burned and shocked. Bryon will discuss his ordeal.
3:30—4:00 p.m. General Session	Conference Room A (106)	Closing Comments, PRIZES	CGI Board Thank you for attending.



Who is Common Ground Iowa (CGI)?

Common Ground Iowa (CGI), a Regional Partner of the national organization Common Ground Alliance (CGA), is a member-driven non-profit organization under 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CGI works with all stakeholders to produce stronger, more effective results through partnership, collaboration, and the pursuit of common goals in damage prevention.

In promoting a spirit of shared responsibility, the CGI welcomes all stakeholders who would like to be a part of the identification and promotion of best practices that lead to a reduction in damage.

Background:

Officially formed in 2007, the CGI works to provide an optimal forum for all stakeholders to share information to enhance the damage prevention process and reduce damages to underground utilities. This allows achievement of results that would otherwise be impossible.

Purpose:

The purpose of the CGI is to prevent damage to underground infrastructure through education to foster a shared sense of responsibility for the protection of underground facilities. To accomplish this goal, CGI utilizes Common Ground Alliance's Best Practices for advancing underground utility safety in Iowa.

Structure:

The business and activities of the CGI are managed by the Board of Directors. CGI holds approximately 4 general membership meetings per year throughout Iowa.

Common Ground Best Practices:

Common Ground Iowa strongly supports and recommends the national CGA Best Practices. This collection of best practices are intended to be shared among stakeholders involved with and dependent upon the safe and reliable operation, maintenance, construction, and protection of underground facilities. The best practices contain validated experiences gained that can be further examined and evaluated for possible consideration and incorporation into state and private stakeholder underground facility damage prevention programs.

The Common Ground Alliance Best Practices are divided into nine chapters that provide a collection of current damage prevention best practices. The nine chapters include:

1. Planning & Design Best Practices
2. One Call Center Best Practices
3. Location & Marking Best Practices
4. Excavation Best Practices
5. Mapping Best Practices
6. Compliance Best Practices
7. Public Education Best Practices
8. Reporting & Evaluation Best Practices
9. Miscellaneous Best Practices

To get promotional materials or the Best Practices go to commongroundiowa.com

The 18 different stakeholder groups that are members of CGI: Agriculture, Electric, Emergency Services, Engineering/Design, Excavator, IDOT, Insurance, Interested Stakeholder, Locator, Municipalities, One-Call, Pipelines, Transmission or Distribution, Private Water, Public Works, Railroad, Road Builder, State Regulator, Telecommunications



Common Ground Iowa

CGI MISSION STATEMENT: "Through shared responsibility among all stakeholders, the CGI works to reduce damages to underground infrastructure ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices."

www.commongroundiowa.com

Common Ground Iowa Board Members & Summit Committee:

Chairperson: Cynthia Munyon, Iowa Utilities Board

Vice Chairperson: Dave Hraha, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities

Secretary: Travis Daniels, United States Infrastructure Corporation

Treasurer: Bob Meis, Alliant Energy

Program / Meeting Director: Merlin Davis, JEO Consulting Group INC

Marketing Director: Justin Jones, Black Hills Energy

Membership Director: Dave Swanson, ITC/ULCS

At-Large Director: Michelle Payne, MidAmerican Energy Company

At-Large Director: Paul Kleist, Alliance Pipeline

Notes:

Notes:



News impacting
the lives of Iowa
soybean farmers

IOWA SOYBEAN *e*weekly



Planting season off to a good, but cold start

Central Iowa farmers planted corn like crazy last week. Producers in the rest of the state made decent progress too.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Historical perspective on nitrates

A leading state water quality expert recently said nitrates in the Raccoon River have steadily trended upward for more than a century, but studies show concentrations have leveled off or even declined during certain time periods since the late 1990s.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



ISGA pushes for timely approval process in China

While farmers across the United States are in the midst of planting the 2015 crop a group of farmers from Iowa, Texas and Kansas traveled to Beijing, China to take part in the Forum on Biotechnology and Global Soy Trade.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Urban/Ag conservation tour in Calhoun County

Farmers and residents in Calhoun County are invited to an urban conservation practices bus tour of Rockwell City, Lohrville and Twin Lakes on Thursday, April 30. This event will showcase urban and agricultural interests working to improve water quality.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Hilton Coliseum flooded this week, future looking bright

A wave of blue corduroy flooded Hilton Coliseum this week as students from across the state participated in the 87th Iowa Future Farmers of America (FFA) Leadership Conference.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Branstad, Reynolds, Northey and Durham send letter to congressional delegation encouraging trade

This week Iowa leaders sent letters to the Iowa congressional delegation regarding the importance of international trade to the Iowa economy and called for specific action on pending Federal trade items.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Getting ahead during Plant '15

Although Plant '15 just started, some farmers are already ahead of the pack on Plant '16. These

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Myth buster

When it comes to informing the public about water quality and what farmers are doing to improve it, Sean McMahon often plays myth buster.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Avian influenza scare hits Iowa

Agriculture officials and farmers hope the H5N2 avian influenza outbreak subsides and the first case diagnosed in Iowa earlier this week will be the only one.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Iowa Food & Family Project cooks up new conversations about food and farming

There's no such thing as "too many cooks in the kitchen" when it comes to sharing first-hand information about the safe and wholesome food raised sustainably by Iowa farmers.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Opinion poll reveals farmer perspective on 2015 financial outlook

For the second year in a row, Iowa soybean farmers expect to see a decline in financial returns and will cut back expenses according to the Agri-Pulse Farm Opinion Poll. The poll was conducted this month in partnership with the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA).

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Iowa looks to lead the way in seafood production

Iowa is another step closer to being the nation's largest producer of seafood even though the nearest ocean is a thousand miles away.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Conservation priority over planting

Planting for 2015 started for Iowa farmers on Tuesday, but for some farmers in the Boone River Watershed equipment remained in the shed one more day so they could learn about conservation. Next to a strip-tilled field just North of Renwick a crowd of more than 55 gathered to learn about cover crops and tillage options.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



ISA spotlights commitment to water quality with the Iowa Cubs

The crack of the bat and the smell of popcorn will fill the air April 17 when the Iowa Cubs take the field for their home opener.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Forming future environmental leaders takes a little mud

As Wes Hanson sauntered into the forest and peered through a prism, you could almost see the concepts sticking like the mud that caked his shoes.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



The real story on nitrate levels in Iowa's rivers

Nitrate levels in Iowa's major rivers have increased more than threefold since the 1950s, but have stabilized — and even slightly declined — in recent decades, according to an in-depth review of available research.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



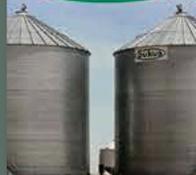
Deal reached on fast-track authority for Obama on Pacific Trade Pact

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News impacting the lives of Iowa soybean farmers

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Water quality forum on tap in Iowa City

Experts explored challenges Iowans face to remain a world leader in food production while protecting water resources at a symposium today in Iowa City.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



From UFOs to GMOs: the great food debate

According to Mark Bittman, UFOs are real, and they have landed in Aisle 3. The bestselling author and columnist for The New York Times addressed the future of food at University of Iowa's Food for Thought lecture, hosted for approximately 600 students, faculty and residents Wednesday night.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Branstad and Reynolds participate in Iowa Biodiesel Board's Day on the Hill

Rain and hail across Iowa yesterday were not enough to keep Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds from getting behind taking the wheel of a couple new biodiesel-powered pickups.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Iowans urged to tout GMO benefits

Biotechnology will play a key role in not only keeping people fed, but providing food they crave.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Cover crops pay

Ken Rulon doesn't think twice about writing a six-figure check for cover crop seed, even when soybean and corn prices are low.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



ISA Experience takes to the Hill

The ISA Experience class met on Tuesday, focusing their attention on the association's policy work.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Climate change presentation April 22 at ISU

Katharine Hayhoe, atmospheric scientist and climate change expert, will present, "Climate Urgency & How Iowa Farmers Can Take the Lead" April 22 at Iowa State University in Ames.

[To learn more, click here.](#)

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Soybean demand increases, prices do not

Record demand for soybeans and soybean products still isn't enough to boost prices as supplies overwhelm the market.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



ISA lauded for stewardship of resource, environment

Iowa soybean farmers were recognized by members of the Iowa House Agriculture Committee Tuesday for investing in water quality monitoring and increasing the adoption of conservation practices on farms.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Iowa Soybean Association scholarships available for Iowa high school seniors

The Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) is offering ten \$1,500 scholarships to high school seniors planning to pursue agricultural studies at an Iowa college. Applications are due by March 1 and winners will be announced April 15.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Accelerating water quality improvement

Years of progress and continued commitment to improving water quality were the focus when the Iowa Soybean Association appeared before two Iowa legislative committees.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Pheasant Fest session emphasizes conservation, agriculture collaboration

Join the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) for the Water Quality, Agriculture & Wildlife Special Session at the 2015 Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic on Feb. 21.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



STC analysis monitors rail performance for 2014 harvest

The Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) is working with the University of Minnesota on a research project, "2014 Harvest: Attaching a Garden Hose to a Fire Hydrant."

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Determining livestock feasibility

Remembering three simple words may help young farmers develop successful business plans now and in the future.

[To learn more, click here.](#)

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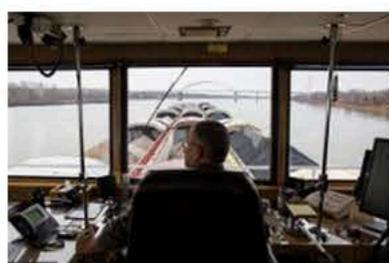
News impacting
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Soybean prices to move lower as production swamps demand

On the eve of a new crop season, Iowa farmers are wondering just how low soybean prices will go.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Barges sit for hours behind locks that may take decades to replace

On a recent winter morning, Randy Holt piloted the boat Bill Berry as it pushed a group of barges nearly as long as two football fields steadily down the Tennessee River to the Kentucky Lock and Dam here. But then Mr. Holt had to wait several hours at what has become a major choke point as boats moved one at a time through the narrow, cracked, 70-year-old lock.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Grower meetings further understanding

As regular Advance readers will know, the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) On-Farm Network® collects a lot of data from farmers. Now On-Farm Network staff are on a mission to get that data back to the farmers.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



Farmers urged to lend their support for biodiesel and improving Iowa's roads, bridges

Quality roads and bridges and demand for renewable fuels are critical to the continued competitiveness of Iowa grain farmers.

[To learn more, click here.](#)



ISA marks 50 years of research investment

As the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) looks back on 50 years and considers the next 50, staff and members are proud of the past and planned investments of soybean check-off dollars into research to improve soybean farmers' competitiveness.

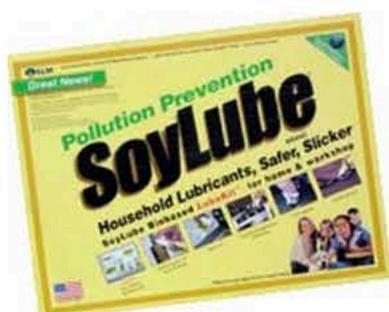
[To learn more, click here.](#)



Building a buffer around water quality regulation

The Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) supports numerous conservation practices farmers can utilize — including, but certainly not limited to buffer strips — and supports the choice of the Iowa farmer to determine which practices will best fit each farm and field.

[To learn more, click here.](#)

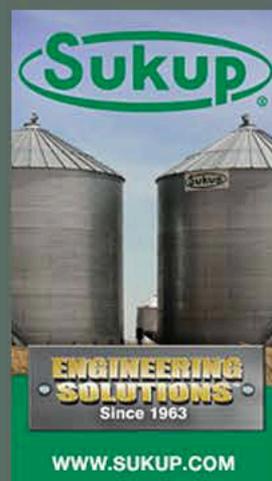


Checkoff helps commercialize 33 new soy-based products

What does foam that keeps floors from squeaking have in common with NASCAR racing tires? Both contain soybean oil. Both are on the list of 33 new products commercialized in 2014 with soy checkoff support. And both are driving demand for U.S. soybeans.

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USSEC Takes Moms to China to Talk GMOs

By Linda Funk, Flavorful Insight

USSEC Develops Innovative GMO Program in China with U.S. Agriculture Moms

Various media outlets in China have recently been increasing the public's fear level regarding GMOs by publishing unverified and often untrue information. Because China is the number one market for U.S. soybeans, after the United States, USSEC is concerned about the myths and misinformation appearing in the popular press and wanted to find a way to reach out directly to Chinese consumers.

Aware that mothers around the world are concerned for the health and wellbeing of their families, USSEC invited four moms to travel to China in September to speak about the safety of GMO soybeans. These four women are steeped in agriculture and have a deep knowledge of GMO soy. Nancy Kavazanjian of Wisconsin, Sara Ross of Iowa, LaVell Winsor of Kansas and Kristin Reese of Ohio were selected for this mission to talk with Chinese moms about the safety of GMO soybeans.

USSEC set up three meetings between working moms. Two meetings were with women from public relations agencies in China and the third included Chinese women at the U.S. Embassy. During these meetings, the U.S. moms talked about their families, their farms and the importance of technology, connecting with their Chinese

counterparts personally and professionally through pictures and sharing their stories. The meetings created a dialogue about food and families.

Because social media is such an important communications tool in China, the U.S. moms met with two personality partners or bloggers who have hundreds of thousands of followers. A conversation about day-to-day activities, feeding their children and GMOs ensued. Following this meeting, both bloggers indicated their interest in approaching GMO discussions through their blogs. Many questions were asked and lots of misinformation was dispelled during all the meetings. Pre- and post-meeting surveys were distributed to participants, excluding the embassy participants and bloggers.

"The results are positive and encouraging; over 80 percent of the participants shifted their views positively toward GMOs with one-third of those indicating they have gained a whole new perspective," states Jane Hu, session moderator and interpreter.

USSEC is working on next steps for this innovative program to continue the conversation in China to assure consumers about the safety and benefits of GMO soybeans.



KNOW WHAT'S BELOW WHAT YOU GROW

Many farms have been passed down through a family for generations or operated by a single owner for decades. You or someone you know may remember when and where underground utilities were installed on your land. But the location and depth of these lines can change over the years due to erosion, previous digging projects or uneven surfaces, so it's important to call 811 before activities such as deep tilling, ditching, soil ripping, installing drain tiles and stockpiling materials.

Always call 811 before you dig.

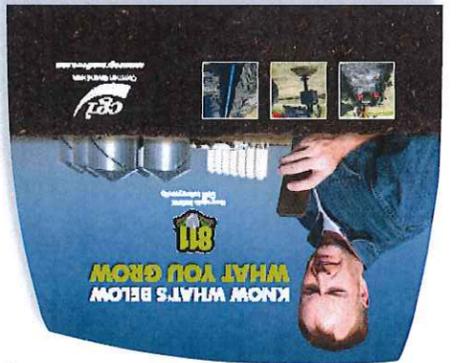


Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



Common Ground Iowa

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10 x 92" Skyline Windscape Backwall Display

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