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January 19, 2017

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Soy Growers: Proposed Rule on Biotech a Progressive Step for Plant Breeding Innovation

The American Soybean Association (ASA) responded positively this week to a notice of proposed rulemaking from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the regulatory framework for plant breeding innovation. ASA welcomed the proposed rule, which continues to require premarket approval by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of plants derived through transgenic biotechnology while excluding products from new breeding innovations, such as gene editing. ASA President Ron Moore, a farmer



from Roseville, III., issued the following statement on the proposed rule.

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■ BASF

Soy Grower to Take Part in Inaugural Parade as Part of **RFD's Rural Tractor Brigade**

American Soybean Association (ASA) President and Illinois farmer Ron Moore will take part in the inaugural parade for President-elect **Donald Trump** in Washington on Friday, driving a tractor alongside other agriculture leaders as part of RFD-TV's "Rural Tractor Brigade."

Moore and his wife Deb will join members of the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) and representatives of the American

Farm Bureau Federation, U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance, National Pork Producers Council and the National Association of Farm Broadcasting.



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Soy Growers Welcome Perdue as Nominee to Lead USDA

American Soybean Association (ASA) President and Illinois soybean farmer Ron Moore welcomed the forthcoming announcement of former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue as the nominee to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the administration of President Donald Trump in a statement late Wednesday.

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Soy Growers, Industry Leaders Talk 2017 Policy Outlook at National Biodiesel Conference

Soy leaders attended the national biodiesel industry conference hosted by the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) this week in San Diego, Calif. American Soybean Association (ASA) biodiesel representative Mike Cunningham (IL), ASA Washington staff and numerous soybean farmers and state soybean association leaders participated in the conference. A prominent theme throughout the event was the federal policy outlook for 2017



and the challenges and uncertainty facing the industry in the year ahead. The expiration of the biodiesel tax credit at the end of 2016 creates great uncertainty for biodiesel producers and stakeholders and the challenges of getting it extended are heightened this year by the effort and focus of Congress on enacting comprehensive tax reform.

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Soy Growers Urge Continued Support of U.S.-Cuba Ag **Trade**

The American Soybean Association (ASA) and other agriculture groups urged continued support for advancing relations between the U.S. and Cuba late last week. In a letter to President-elect Donald Trump, the groups state that net farm income has seen the largest three-year drop since the Great Depression, and increasing access to foreign markets, like Cuba is vital to the growth of American agriculture.



"As a broad cross-section of rural America, we urge you not to take steps to reverse progress made in normalizing relations with Cuba, and also solicit your support for the agricultural business sector to expand trade with Cuba to help American farmers and our associated industries," the letter states.

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EPA Finalizes Neonicotinoid Policy, Finds Most Uses 'Do Not Pose Significant Risks'

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs finalized its "Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products," which is aimed at protecting bees from <u>neonicotinoid</u> exposure. The preliminary risk assessments looked at three neonicotinoid pesticides: clothianidin, thiamethoxam and dinotefuran. The EPA found that "spray applications to a few crops, such as cucumbers, berries, and



cotton may pose risks to bees that come in direct contact with residue." However, they concluded that most approved uses "do not pose significant risks."

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Annual ASA Banquet Sold Out

The American Soybean Association (ASA) Awards Banquet is officially sold out. The annual event that brings together state affiliates and ASA members from across the country to recognize and celebrate the successes, accomplishments and education of the many farmer-leaders, soybean associations and industry representatives who have done outstanding work to benefit U.S. soybean farmers and the soybean industry.



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Early Riser Sessions Reward Commodity Classic Early Birds

At Commodity Classic, the early bird catches some great education thanks to a great line-up of Early Riser Sessions. Early Riser sessions begin each day at 7 a.m. They are eye-opening presentations on market trends, ag issues and other important topics.



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Illinois Soybean Podcast: Ag Outlook 2020: Short-term **Bearish & Long-term Bullish**

"Overall, 2016 will be another down year, despite more record yields. USDA-ERS data indicates about a 15 percent drop in farm incomes," said Steve Johnson, farm management specialist with Iowa State University. "As we enter the fourth year of depressed prices, successful farmers are watching their margins, paying attention to cash flow and cutting costs."



<u>Listen now</u> to hear Johnson's specific recommendations for managing costs, marketing your crops and "overcoming your financial emotions" to make better decisions for your operation.

ILSoyAdvisor.com podcasts are funded by the Illinois Soybean Association checkoff program.

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Other News

Pruitt Speaks Publicly on RFS, WOTUS

Enlist Duo OK'd for Use on Three Crops in 34 States

International Market Development

WISHH Welcomes New Business Development Manager

Keenan McRoberts is the new business development manager for the American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (ASA/WISHH). This innovative program devotes funds and staff resources to the expansion of markets for U.S. soy protein in human diets and animal feed in the developing world. McRoberts was raised on his family's farm and exotic animal ranch in western Nebraska. He received his Bachelor of Science in biochemistry from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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USSEC Participates in New Year's Gathering of Japan's Vegetable Oil Industry

The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) kicked off 2017 by participating in the 57th Japanese Vegetable Oil Industry New Year Event. Japan Oilseed Processors Association (JOPA), Japan Rice Bran Oil Industry Association, Japan Margarine Industry Association, Japan Oil & Fat Importers & Exporters Association, Japan Oil & Fat Wholesalers' Association, and Japan Mayonnaise Manufacturers' Association jointly organized this event. Nearly 500 participants, ranging from oil manufacturers, wholesalers, traders, governments, and other relevant industries, attended this large



event to pledge further progress of the Japanese vegetable oil industry together.

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