



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN  
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

**a new release**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 4, 2010**

**Contact: Gail R. Frahm, Executive Director**  
**989.652.3294**

## **Soybean Meal Favored by Michigan Quality Beef Producer**

Beef producer Corey Oeschger relies on soybean-based feed to provide the high-quality protein his commitment to quality demands. And that commitment paid off when the farm owned by his parents Dale and Linda Oeschger was named a Michigan Quality Beef Producer by the Michigan Cattlemen's Association.

The Oeschgers own Lindale Farms near Bay Port, in Michigan's Thumb, and operate it with Corey. The 100-year-old family farm received the designation for high marks in the national and state Beef Quality Assurance programs that promote a safe, wholesome, and healthful beef supply.

Beef Quality Assurance is a national program designed by farmers to ensure that beef cattle are healthy, safe, and wholesome; meet federal management guidelines; and meet or exceed consumer expectations.

The program provides technical assistance, record keeping, and education for maintaining and improving cattle care and handling; implementing good management practices; enhancing carcass quality; and preventing drug residues, pathogens, and carcass defects.

Michigan's program follows the guidelines set by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association plus three additional requirements that limit the use of certain antibiotics, the areas on the animal's body where medicine can be injected, and the volume of intramuscular injections.

The Oeschgers take pride in their ability to care for cattle well and carry out responsibilities outlined in the Code of Cattle Care. In signing the code, they commit to

- provide necessary food, water, and care to protect the health and well-being of animals.
- use disease-prevention practices to protect herd health, including access to veterinary care.
- provide facilities that allow safe, humane, and efficient movement of cattle and restraint when necessary.
- use appropriate methods to humanely euthanize terminally sick or injured livestock and dispose of them properly.
- train personnel to handle and care for cattle properly.
- observe cattle regularly to ensure their basic needs are being met.
- minimize stress when transporting cattle.
- keep updated on advancements and changes in the industry so they can make decisions based on sound production practices and consideration for animal well-being.
- zero tolerance of persons who willfully mistreat animals.

As part of the Beef Quality Assurance Program, producers pass a certification test and undergo national beef quality audits.

Corey and his parents are the third and fourth generation to operate the family farm. He partners with his father, Dale, as they finish 600 head of beef cattle annually at the farm, where mother Linda handles bookkeeping.

Corey, who completed his studies in the Michigan State University Institute of Agricultural Technology in 2005, also feeds out 100 head of cattle each year under his own CO Farms name.

Young cattle benefit from a good source of protein, and Corey uses soybean meal to provide that protein. Soybean meal gives his cattle a good start as a highly digestible, easy-to-feed protein supplement.

Michigan beef cattle consume 20,000 tons of soybean meal annually — the meal from nearly 855,490 bushels of soybeans.

Farmers in Huron County, at the tip of Michigan’s Thumb, raise more beef cattle than those in any other county in the state. Corey represents them by serving on the Michigan Farm Bureau beef advisory board.


The Oeschgers recycle manure by applying it to crops as an organic fertilizer when the weather is appropriate for keeping it out of groundwater and surface water. Corey believes that farmers benefit from staying in the forefront of careful soil and water conservation rather than waiting for regulations to guide their practices.

It’s a commitment to quality that helps the Oeschgers produce quality beef for consumers.

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee invests soybean checkoff funds to enhance the profitability of Michigan’s soybean producers. MSPC builds markets for soybeans by conducting educational programs, promoting biodiesel and other new soybean uses, and funding agronomic research. A board of seven Governor appointed farmer-leaders directs MSPC on behalf of the more than 11,000 Michigan soybean farmers. For information about soybean checkoff call 989.652.3294 or visit [www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org). To learn more about good stewardship practices and the connection between crop production, animal agriculture, and people, visit [www.animalag.org](http://www.animalag.org).

– end –

**Photo cutlines (full-resolution photos are available upon request from Gail Frahm at [gfracm@michigansoybean.org](mailto:gfracm@michigansoybean.org))**

	Young farmer Corey Oeschger enjoys a break from feeding his beef cattle near Bay Port, Michigan. The soybean-based feed provides the high-quality protein his commitment to quality demands. <i>Photo by Beth Stuever.</i>
	The farm sign speaks to the quality commitment at Lindale Farms in Huron County, Michigan: Real Food for Real People, brought to you by the Oeschgers. <i>Photo by Beth Stuever.</i>