



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

a new release



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**Michigan Soybeans Taking A Greater Role
in Global Campaign Against HIV/AIDS
WORLD AIDS DAY MESSAGE
December 1, 2008**

Today, World AIDS Day, is a sobering reminder that more than 33 million people worldwide are living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). More than 15 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Yet, suffering can and is being reduced. As a soybean farmer, I am gratified that my crop is playing an increasing role in helping people living with HIV lead productive jobs and be able to care for their families as well as feed orphans.

Michigan soybean farmers were instrumental in creating the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) program. WISHH is seeing more and more interest in developing country efforts, including in programs that are part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). HIV/AIDS-infected people may need 50-100 percent more protein than uninfected people. Soy is ideally suited to help meet their requirements for protein, calories and micronutrients.

The role of food in the campaign against HIV/AIDS got new momentum in July when President Bush signed the Henry J. Hyde and Tom Lantos United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act. This legislation expands PEPFAR for five additional years, from 2009 through 2013. Launched in 2003, PEPFAR is the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history. President-elect Barack Obama has stated his support for the expanded PEPFAR program and an "all-hands-on-deck" strategy to fighting HIV/AIDS.

In such efforts, Michigan soybean fields can be an important source of nutrition to help promote greater progress and relieve human suffering.

For more information about WISHH, go to www.wishh.org

For more information about PEPFAR, go to www.pepfar.gov

For more information about World AIDS day, go to

http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20081027_WAD_2008.asp

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