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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Crop Farmers, Poultry & Livestock Producers Depend on One Another**

#### *Our Communities Benefit from Mutual Success*

U.S. farmers not only grow crops we enjoy eating, but they grow the crops that feed animal agriculture. Livestock consume soybean meal (SBM), a valuable protein source that accounts for about 80 percent of a soybean’s volume and typically represents about 65 to 70 percent of a soybean’s value. Soybean meal provides many nutritional advantages for livestock and poultry diets.

In fact, poultry and livestock consume so much U.S. soybean meal that animal agriculture serves as U.S. soybean farmers’ number one customer. Domestic poultry and livestock consume about 98 percent of the soybean meal used in the United States, so soybean farmers work to support local animal producers. Soybean farmers through their checkoff, a research and promotion program, fund projects to ensure soybean meal continues to be a reliable, affordable and high-quality feed source to meet the needs of animal agriculture diets.

“It makes sense, soybean farmers and animal agriculture working together,” says Lewis Bainbridge, soybean farmer from Ethan, South Dakota. “We are each other’s number one customers. It is important to remember how connected we are from the crops we grow to the animals we raise and feed – our farms and operations are tied to one another.”

The top 10 soybean-meal-consuming states, in order, are Iowa, North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Texas, Minnesota, Alabama, Mississippi, California and Oklahoma. Each of these states is a major producer of poultry and livestock. And of those 10 soybean-meal-consuming states, only Iowa and Minnesota produce enough soybeans to meet the demands of their poultry and livestock producers.

“Our nation’s poultry and livestock producers are both our neighbors and customers of soybean meal,” added Bainbridge. “We are serious and genuine in our support of their livelihoods.”

#### ***Growing our communities***

Livestock production is responsible for about \$300 billion in economic output in the United States. Animal agriculture accounts for more than \$16 billion in income, sales and property taxes, and employs more than 2.5 million Americans.

Combined, both livestock and agricultural industries have brought much-needed tax revenue to communities to help maintain safe roads, keep schools open and provide an overall better way of life for most rural Americans.

“We are proud to contribute and be partners in the success of the U.S. animal agriculture industries,” Bainbridge says. “Together we are strengthening our communities and ensuring the success of U.S. animal and production agriculture. We care for the well-being of our neighboring farmers and are proudly raising our community’s standard of living together.”

To learn more about soybean farmers’ involvement in U.S. animal agricultural and the economic impact animal agriculture has in your state and community, visit [animalag.org](http://animalag.org).

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