



**MICHIGAN SOYBEAN
PROMOTION COMMITTEE**

a new release



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SOYBEAN DIRECTORS REAPPOINTED TO MICHIGAN SOYBEAN CHECKOFF BOARD

Mark Bierlein of Reese, Richard (Andy) Welden of Jonesville and James E. Wilson of Yale were all reappointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm for their next three-year terms on the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC).

Mark Bierlein, farmer and owner of WMW Bierlein Farms, Ltd., has been an active participant on the MSPC board since 2004. Mark raises soybeans, corn, white wheat, and edible beans on his farm in Reese. He has farmed for 33 years with his brother on the fourth generation 2,500 acre farm. The brothers also manage Bierlein Seed, Inc. which raises and processes seed. Currently Bierlein serves as Treasurer on the MSPC and he is starting his second full three-year term representing soybean farmers in District 5 which covers Arenac, Bay, Saginaw, and Tuscola counties.

Andy Welden, farmer and owner of Welden Farm in Jonesville, has been an active participant on the MSPC board since 2003. Welden produces commercial and food grade soybeans in rotation with corn and wheat. Andy has been a leader in the Ag industry by serving as a field reporter for USDA, past Township Supervisor and currently serves as County Commissioner. Andy also serves on the Farm Service Agency County Committee and the Michigan Soybean Association, and has also represented Michigan at the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) in Washington DC. Welden's began his second full three-year term on the soybean checkoff board as President. Andy represents soybean farmers in District 2 which covers Eaton, Ingham, Calhoun, Jackson, and Hillsdale counties.

James E. Wilson, farmer and owner of Wilson Brothers, has enjoyed farming with his brother since 1978 in Yale. The farm expanded from 500 acres to 1,800 plus acres. Wilson grows soybeans, corn, and wheat. Jim currently serves on the Michigan Soybean Association board as President. Jim is beginning his first full three-year term on the MSPC board and represents soybean producers in District 4 which covers Huron, Sanilac, St. Clair, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Michigan soybean farmers are represented by seven governor-appointed farmer directors which make up the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. MSPC's mission is to, "Efficiently and effectively leverage checkoff resources to increase profit opportunities for Michigan soybean producers while enhancing a positive public image of the soybean industry." The other four MSPC directors are: Herb Miller, Niles; Richard Janssens, Monroe; George Zmitko, Owosso; and Benjamin Chaffin, Ithaca.

The board's FY10 meeting schedule is December 16, 2009; January 20, 2010; March 10, 2010; June 16, 2010; August 25, 2010; and September 9, 2010. Most board meetings are held at the Crops and Soils Teaching and Research Farm at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

For more information on the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, log onto www.michigansoybean.org, e-mail questions to soyinfo@michigansoybean.org, or call us at 989.652.3294.

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