



If you believe, belong.



American Soybean Association

Early History in Brief

The first Corn Belt Soybean Field Day was held in September 1920 in Camden, Indiana at the Fouts Brothers Farm. Growers at the event decided they needed an organization to further the goals of building a thriving soybean industry. The organization called itself the National Soybean Growers' Association. Taylor Fouts was the first president of the association. The organization's name was changed to American Soybean Association in 1925.

In early policy activity, ASA celebrated a major legislative victory when its work helped get a tariff levied on low cost imported soybean cake and meal in 1928. Then in 1930 ASA helped enact a stronger protective tariff for soybeans, soy oil and soy meal.

In 1940, ASA established its headquarters in Hudson, Iowa, where it stayed until 1978 when the headquarters was moved to St. Louis, Missouri, the current location.

ASA was the original creator and owner of the *Soybean Digest* magazine. The first issue was published in 1940. Years later ASA sold the magazine, which is now known as *Corn & Soybean Digest*. In 1947 ASA also published the first *Soybean Blue Book*, a directory for the soybean industry. This publication, which ASA also eventually sold, later became the *Soya Bluebook*.

In the late 1940s, representatives of ASA began traveling regularly to foreign countries seeking to find new markets for U.S. soybeans, soy oil and soy meal. In 1956, ASA established its first overseas office, located in Tokyo, Japan. By 1984, ASA had 11 international offices.

In 1962, the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association was founded and became ASA's first affiliated state soybean association. In 2009, ASA has 25 affiliated state associations.

Find out more about ASA policy accomplishments through the years at the links below:

20 Years of ASA Policy Accomplishments, 1986-2007:

<http://www.soygrowers.com/library/20year.htm>

Recent ASA Accomplishments:

<http://www.soygrowers.com/library/recent.htm>

ASA History Highlights:

<http://www.soygrowers.com/history/default.htm>