

Hoosiers Receive Awards for Supporting State's Livestock Expansion
Rush County Agricultural Roundtable Outstanding Farm-City Relations

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (December 7, 2007) — Nine Hoosiers received “Beyond the Fence Awards” for their outstanding support and promotion of Indiana’s livestock industry in 2007. The awards, sponsored by the Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA), were presented at the Indiana Livestock Forum held in Indianapolis on December 6 at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

Pork Producer Mike Beard and chairman of ISA’s soybean demand committee says ISA sponsors the livestock awards and livestock education programs because livestock production is critical to Indiana soybean farmers.

“Soybean farmers need a strong livestock industry because 98 percent of our soybean meal is fed to livestock,” says Beard. “Recognizing those individuals and organizations that support the responsible development of Indiana livestock is part of ISA’s livestock education program.

The awards were presented to:

- Rush County Ag Roundtable for Outstanding Farm-City Relations;
- Ralph Booker, Marshall County Plan Director, for Outstanding Public Official;
- Mike Veenhuizen, Johnson County, and Miriam Robeson, Carroll County, for Outstanding Industry Support;
- Randy Curlless, Wabash County, and Nancy Cline, Tipton County, for Outstanding Community Involvement by a livestock Producer;
- Tejo Willemsen, Madison County, for Outstanding Neighbor Relations;
- Bob Yoder, Marshall County Cooperative Extension Service, and Drew Cleveland, Indiana Farm Bureau, for Outstanding Organization Support.

ISA funds the Growing Indiana Agriculture (GINA), an education and awareness program with the goal of increasing soybean meal demand by developing Indiana’s livestock industry in a manner that is environmentally safe, socially responsible, and economically viable.

Funded by the soybean checkoff, Growing Indiana Agriculture programs are a part of the Indiana Soybean Alliance’s strategic plan to grow Indiana’s soybean industry.

Greg Hall, then president of the Rush County Chamber of Commerce, and Tom Tully, then president of the Rush County Economic and Community Development Corporation, formed the Rush County Ag Roundtable in December 2004. For more information on the Rush County Ag Roundtable, visit the Rush County Chamber of Commerce's website at www.rushcounty.com/econ/agroundtable.html.



Members of the Rush County Ag Roundtable with members of the Indiana Soybean Alliance

-30-

The Indiana Soybean Alliance works to enhance the profitability of Indiana soybean farmers through the effective and efficient investment of soybean checkoff funds and the development of sound policies that protect and promote the interest of Indiana soybean farmers. The ISA is working to build new markets for soybeans through the promotion of biodiesel, livestock, international marketing, new soybean uses, and research. ISA is led by an elected farmer board that directs investments of the soybean checkoff funds on behalf of more than 28,000 Indiana soybean farmers and promotes policies on behalf of the ISA's 900 dues-paying members.