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From Farm to Flame: Jackson County is Planting to Protect with SoyFoam

Jackson County producers donate pails of soy-based firefighting foam to local fire departments

HERON LAKE – Across local fire departments, rural communities and state agencies, SoyFoam’s feel-good story is spreading throughout Minnesota.

This spring, the farmer-led Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC) launched the soy checkoff-supported SoyFoam campaign, “Planting to Protect: From Farm to Flame.” The Council is offering more than 40 organized soybean counties in Minnesota the opportunity to donate SoyFoam to area fire departments, and the Jackson County Corn & Soybean Growers are getting in on the action by donating SoyFoam pails to the fire departments in Heron Lake, Alpha, Okabena, Jackson and Lakefield.

“We are proud to be able to donate the SoyFoam product to the fire departments in our community. The departments were very appreciative of the product not only because of the safety of the product for the environment, but for the health of the firefighters as well,” Jackson County Corn and Soybean Board Treasurer Albert Henning said. “These donations help support our local firefighters with safer, more effective tools and promote a new use for soybeans.”

Made with soy flour, SoyFoam is the first and only Greenscreen Certified Gold Fire Foam with zero intentionally added PFAS, aka forever chemicals. Firefighters have a nearly 10% higher chance of a cancer diagnosis, and cancer is the No. 1 cause of death among firefighters. Cross Plains Solutions, the developer of SoyFoam, has partnered with the soy checkoff to continue testing and promoting the product as a safer alternative to traditional firefighting foam.

“For our soybean farmers, your checkoff investment is helping out the environment and the firefighters who use it,” said Council Director and past Chair Tom Frisch, who has served on the Dumont Fire Department since 2000. “It’s a checkoff investment that is coming to fruition and helping build demand. For our firefighters, rural, city or anywhere in Minnesota, providing a PFAS-free alternative is our goal. For the public in general, homegrown, renewable products benefit all of us.”

SoyFoam is compatible with existing foam inductors and aerating nozzles and is comparable in cost to traditional firefighting foam. With a shelf life of 10 years, SoyFoam can be frozen, heated and thawed and will still be fully functional. It’s also projected to increase demand by using protein from 12 million bushels of U.S. soy.

For more information on the “Planting to Protect: From Farm to Flame” campaign, visit mnsoybean.org/soyfoam.

About the Jackson County Corn and Soybean Growers

The Jackson County Corn & Soybean Growers Board is affiliated with the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, a 15-person, farmer-led board that oversees the investment of

checkoff dollars on behalf of the state's nearly 26,000 soybean farmers. The Council is governed by the rules of a federally mandated checkoff program requiring all soybean producers to pay a fee on the soybeans they sell. This money is used to promote, educate and develop market opportunities for soybeans.

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To schedule an interview or for more information, contact Grace Britton at 507-420-2444 or by emailing gbritton@agmgmtsolutions.com

Photo caption: Jackson County Corn & Soybean Treasurer Albert Henning (far right) makes a SoyFoam donation to the Okabena Fire Department.

