



Bond Opens Soybean Genome Mapping Facility at the National Center for Soybean Biotechnology

U.S. Senator Kit Bond again put his footprint on Missouri agriculture with the opening of the Soybean Genome Mapping Facility at the world-renowned National Center for Soybean Biotechnology (NCSB) housed at the University of Missouri (MU) in Columbia, Mo. NCSB, recently named by Congress, leads the globe in developing new varieties of soybeans for U.S. soybean producers and an arsenal of traits to enhance and protect U.S. soybeans.

“Investing time and money in the life sciences is not just about investing in institutions. It is about investing in our students, our faculty, our health, our jobs, our economy, our future and our power to solve real problems of real people,” said Bond.

Enhancements and renovations supported by Bond at the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources provided \$2 million toward the genomics laboratories in the agriculture building. In addition, a lauded National Science Foundation grant and matching funds program provided more than \$1 million for genome mapping equipment.

“This facility continues the franchise for Missouri agriculture in terms of life science research as it relates to soybeans, and Missouri soybean farmers can continue to be proud of the work done in Washington, D.C., by our senior senator,” said Dale R. Ludwig, executive director/CEO of the Missouri Soybean Association (MSA).

NCSB is a collaborative program among scientists at MU, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service Plant Genetics Unit in Columbia, and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Mo. There are currently more than 30 researchers working together in a wide range of fields, starting with biotechnology.

“Biotechnology is bringing hope to those in the developing world by providing crops that are more tolerant of drought and more resistant to insects and weeds. The work here on the soybean genome will further our knowledge in this area and help our farmers to be more productive and the crops they grow to be healthier,” said Bond.

The ultimate goal of NCSB is to provide innovative molecular approaches that can be applied toward soybean improvement. In addition to receiving NCSB support, collaborative scientists compete at a high level for other funding sources, including the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, federal agencies and private industry.

“New facilities and infrastructure such as this for our scientific team to improve soybean varieties are paramount for our long-term success and we could not be more appreciative of Senator Bond’s work on behalf of the soybean industry,” said Ludwig. 🍌

U.S. Senator Kit Bond explains the importance of the new Soybean Genome Mapping Facility, along with Dale R. Ludwig; U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof; U.S. Senator Jim Talent; MU Chancellor Brady Deaton; Tom Payne, MU Vice Chancellor and Dean of College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; MU President Elson Floyd; and Henry Nguyen, chairman of NCSB (left to right).

