

# GIANT VIEWS Biographies

## John Becherer, United Soybean Board

Becherer is the Chief Executive Officer of the United Soybean Board. The organization is made up of 64 farmer-directors who oversee the investments of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. Checkoff funds are invested in the areas of animal utilization, human utilization, industrial utilization, industry relations, market access and supply.



## Bryan Gerard, JGL Inc.

Gerard is the President of JGL Inc., a global licensor of genetics, specializing in wheat and soybeans. He is also on the Board of Directors and a minority owner of ACCESS Plant Technology. Gerard sits on the Executive of the American Seed Trade Association and currently chairs the Association's Stewardship Committee, as well as representing ASTA to the Cereal and Pulse section of the International Seed Federation.



## Rick Brasington, Buckhorn Inc.

Brasington is the Food Market Manager for Buckhorn Inc., supplier of reusable packaging products and services. Brasington has been with the company for 18 years. During his career with Buckhorn he has developed innovative and safe ways to package seed for the industry. The current seed box that Buckhorn manufactures is the standard for the industry.



## Pat Hinner, Agra Industries

Hinner is President of Agra Industries, a company started in 1962 by Hinner's father, Roger, as Merrill Iron & Steel. In 1998, Agra Companies was formed to provide the seed, feed, grain, milling, fertilizer and ethanol industries with facility and in-plant equipment needs. Since 1976, two of Roger's sons, Pat Hinner and Robert Hinner, have managed and expanded the agricultural business, increasing the product line to include the construction of complete seed plants and seed plant components.



## Patty Buskirk, Seeds By Design and Terra Organics

Buskirk is the owner of Seeds by Design Inc., producer and supplier of vegetable, herb and ornamental sunflowers for the wholesale/dealer trade, and Terra Organics which grows certified organic vegetable, flower and herb seed in Maxwell, California. Before founding Seeds by Design in 1994 and Terra Organics in 1999, she bred crop varieties for Northrup King in Gilroy and NPI Seed in Chico.



## Bruce Howison, Syngenta

Howison is Vice President, Marketing for Syngenta Seeds and Traits. In this role Howison leads marketing and strategic planning in the five-year horizon which drives business growth goals for seeds and traits. He is also on the Board of Directors of Greenleaf Genetics. He has 22 years of experience in the ag industry. He joined Syngenta in 2004 as Head of Brand Planning and Business Development. Prior to joining Syngenta, he held various roles with Advanta Seeds and Cargill.



## David Dennis, Performance Plants

Dennis is the co-founder, President and CEO of Performance Plants, a leader in the plant biotechnology industry. The company is working on new technologies that deliver much-needed crop traits, like Yield Protection Technology, a mechanism that allows plants to survive drought. Performance Plants has licensed its technology to The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and Syngenta Seeds Inc.

