

**Seed Certification-Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board Meeting**  
**February 10, 2009**  
**Oregon State University, LaSells Stewart Center**  
**Agriculture Production Room**

**Members Present:** Russ Karow\*, Dan Walters, Dan Hemshorn, Nancy Osterbauer, Larry Curtis, Bill Young, Barbara Reed, Isabel Vales, Barry Schrupf, Carl Haugerud, Dennis Lundeen\*, Adriel Garay\*, Dan Curry\*, Anita Azarenko,  
Via Phone: Phil Hamm, Jim Steinke and Rob Lane  
(\* Indicates ex-officio member)

**Members Absent:** Tom Chastain, James Peterson, Bill Braunworth, Greg Bingaman, Jim Cramer

**Guest Present:** Terry Burr, Iraj Motezedian, Solomon Yilma, Sandy Smith, Randy Knight, John J Zielinski, Jeff McMorran, Sugae Wada, Julie Hendrix, Rachel Hankins

**Call to order:** 12:47 PM Intro By Dan Curry

**Approval of Agenda**

Terry suggested that we move the Potato Advisory Committee to the beginning so that Rob Lane and Phil Hamm wouldn't have to stay on the phone.

Dan Walters motioned, Barry seconded. All approved.

**Approval of the 2008 Minutes**

1. Dan Walters had corrections to pg. 4 – OSTA, Mannagrass issues were in Australia, not Argentina. Argentina was discussed because all annual ryegrass must be certified this year and perennial next year. Dan Hemshorn motioned to accept the change, Carl Haurguard seconded, all in favor

**OSU college of Agricultural Sciences report – Larry Curtis**

1. Budget – This is new territory because the state budget is bad. The experiment station will have to give back \$700,000 and may have to give back several million. Extension will give back several thousand. The plan is to manage through this biennium and the begin working on the budget for next biennium. Cuts may be in the double-digit percentages (was last estimated at 9%). College of Ag is in support of the governor's budget because they were kind to higher education. Federal stimulus package may have an effect on the final budget. Also, they support the Federal House's version because they were in support of higher education.
2. Search for a dean – Interviews are occurring this month for all five candidates. They are three-day interviews, with the interviewees traveling all over the state, Portland, Pendleton and more. Bill Boggess last week, this week is Dr. Lommel. Dr. Craig Beyrouthy next week, the last weeks are Dr. Gregory Bohach, and Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy – both from Purdue. These candidates make up a large strong pool. This is beneficial because we need someone to lead us through the coming tough times. College of Ag has a very open process, so whoever gets hired will hopefully have the same philosophy. On March 4<sup>th</sup> the committee will evaluate the candidates, after which the Provost will make the decision. Larry thinks the process will happen fairly quickly.
3. Special Grants – final request go in on Friday. There will be quite a bit of help from government

relations. Grants are not going to go completely away like they did in 07. The last four years have seen a steady downward trend (10-20%). Getting support from stakeholders will be especially important this year. We will be asking for letters in the next month. Specific grants in the works are for grass seed cropping work, potato work, barley genome mapping, dryland cropping, organic cropping systems, and Meadowfoam. Decisions on special grants should be known in March.

### **OSU Extension Service Report Anita Azarenko**

1. Urban/Rural interdependence – They brought together stakeholders from Oregon and talked about interdependence throughout the state. The idea behind the extension outreach is to show the urbanites their reliance on rural and vice versa
2. Growing opportunities – This program includes NRCS, farmers, Austin Family Business Program, Extension faculty. The goal is to talk about farmers in transition, those exiting the system and farmers entering the system, to talk about gaps in knowledge and how to bridge those gaps.
3. Sustaining Food and Agriculture Systems – information resource center for people interested in a center for sustainable food systems. Looking for external funds to begin increasing the knowledge of information available both at OSU and state wide.

### **OSU Crops and Soil Science Department Report - Russ Karow, Department Head**

1. Russ presented the following document for review by the board:

#### **CSS Update January 26, 2009**

The following are highlights of activities over the past months in Crop and Soil Science (CSS) and the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) as they affect clientele groups affiliated with CSS.

#### **1. College of Ag Sciences**

- a. A search for the North Valley Crops Agent positions was completed the week of January 19 and an offer will be made for this fixed-term position. The individual will be housed in the Washington Co Extension Office and work with growers in the Washington, Yamhill and Polk County area.
- b. The search for the new dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences is nearly completion. These are the candidates and their interview dates:  
Dr. Bill Boggess: February 2-4  
Dr. Steven Lommel: February 11-13  
Dr. Craig Beyrouy: February 16-18  
Dr. Gregory Bohach: February 18-20  
Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy: February 23-25  
Background information is posted to the CAS website (<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu>). Public presentations will be recorded and available through this same web site. The appointed stakeholder panel will meet with each candidate in Corvallis. One member of that group, Dalton Strauss, is a member of the Search and Screening Committee which will make final recommendations to Provost Randhawa. Off-campus interviews will be held in the Pendleton area and at either the North Willamette Research and Extension Center near Aurora or the Food Innovation Center in Portland, depending on availability of space. All interested College stakeholders are encouraged to engage in this search

process wherever possible. The official announcement regarding interview process specifics will be shared with clientele group administrators once it is released.

2. **Federal budgets** – Congress has passed a continuing resolution to fund USDA and many other federal programs. Under a continuing resolution special grants are not funded. The new congress is in the process of reviewing FY09 options. We know Senate special grant recommendations from last fall. These are shown below. House recommendations have not been released and may not be released except as the final joint recommendation. There are no indications at this time as to what President Obama will do with special grant requests but Obama has expressed an interest in agricultural research and may be supportive of research funding in some form. If special grant programs are of importance to you and your industry, please email, send a note or call your congress person and indicating that funding should be continued until greater clarification is obtained on how agricultural research will be funded in the future. As you are likely aware, research programs can not be easily stopped and started, so some level of continuing support will be helpful until longer-term decisions are made.

| <b>Federal Special Grants Related to Crop and Soil Science</b> |             |              |                             |
|--|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
|  | FY08 actual | FY09 request | FY 09 Senate recommendation |
| Grass Seed Cropping Systems                                    | 335K        | 500K         | 150K                        |
| Potato Research  | 1112K       | 1800K        | 750K                        |
| Meadofoam development  | 179K        | 275K         | 0                           |
| STEEP  | 441K        | 1000K        | 0                           |
| Barley Genome Mapping  | 502K        | 1000K        | 0                           |

WSU manages the Grass Seed Cropping Systems special grant funds. In order to be positioned to best utilize any FY09 funds that may be made available by Congress, WSU has released a GSCSSA request for proposals with a March 2, 2009 due date and has tentatively set Thursday, April 16 as the date for a meeting of the advisory groups for this special grant program.

3. **State Budgets** – As you likely have read or heard, state revenues have decreased significantly and all state agencies are being asked to make budget reductions between now and the end of the current fiscal year – June 30, 2009. Reduction levels are roughly 1.2% of a biennial budget, 2.4% of an annual budget or a just less than 5% cut in funding from Dec 1 to June 30. Colleges have been asked to deal with these initial budget cuts internally. The College of Ag has indicated that the intent is to deal with the cut using reserves and by not immediately filling vacant positions. Additional cuts will be needed given current revenue forecasts but details are unknown at this time.

The Governor’s 2009-11 budget was announced on Dec 1. It provides some protection for OSU teaching budgets but this protection is dependent on other revenue shifts that may or may not happen. If the shifts do not occur a 4.3% budget reduction would be needed. Ag Experiment Station and Extension budgets are both cut by 1.7% in the Governor’s budget and extension an additional \$1 million. All of these reductions are entirely dependent on the approach the legislature chooses to take and so are up in the air at this time. Given a projected revenue shortfall of \$1 billion, it is likely that significant cuts will need to be made in non-mandated programs such as AES and Extension in the coming biennium unless new sources of revenue are identified.

4. **Sun Grant** – Camelina trials that are part of the Tristate Sun Grant Camelina project have been

completed at Corvallis, Pendleton, Lind, WA and Moscow, ID. A quarterly report on these trials can be found at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/bioenergy>. Proposals for a second round of Sun Grant Funding are being reviewed at this time. A proposal to look at Triticale as a biofuel feedstock (Mike Flowers), Russian Dandelion as a source of natural rubber (Daryl Ehrensing) and a proposal to work with Pacific Ethanol in Boardman to explore possible cellulose ethanol feedstock sources (current residues, double-cropping strategies, CRP harvest, etc.; Russ Karow coordinating with WSU, UI and OSU project leaders) have been submitted by researchers in CSS.

5. **ODA-OSU Oilseeds Project** –oilseeds project work has begun for the 2008-09 season. Small plots work on Hyslop Farm (fall plantings of canola, flax and camelina plantings) and grower field trials of canola are in the ground. Spring plantings on Hyslop are planned. No significant disease or insect problems (other than slug damage) has been observed. Additional data and information about this project can be found at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/bioenergy>. ODA has appointed a canola advisory committee which met for the first time on January 9. This committee is co-chaired by Dan Hilburn (ODA) and Russ Karow (OSU) with members Mark Mellbye (OSU Extension), Craig Armbrust (Oregon Specialty Seed Growers), Tomas Endicott (Willamette Biomass Producers), Katie Fast (Oregon Farm Bureau), Scott Setniker (grower), and Ed Motecocco (vegetable grower and past member of the Oregon Processed Vegetable Commission). A specialty seed grower is likely to be added to the committee. Next committee meetings are Feb 13 and 27 in Salem. The committee hopes to have a recommendation to ODA Director Coba by late spring. Hearings would then be held through the summer.
6. **Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA)** – The 2009 meeting of AOSCA will be held in Oregon. June 26 - July 1 are the tentative dates. Tours of Oregon's seed industries will be included as part of this meeting. Dan Curry and Dennis Lundeen will be coordinating the meeting in cooperation with AOSCA staff. Any input that you have regarding tours and other activities should be directed to Dan Curry.

## 2. Additional information and Discussion

- a. Employees – Mark Mellbye and Susan Aldrich-Markham retired, Mark will work ½ time. Nicole Anderson was hired to work in the north valley. She will be a fixed-term person due to the budget – but funding is secured for at least two years. Central Oregon Madras Experiment Station appointed Dr. Bo-ming Wu to a plant pathology position. The position will start March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- b. Canola issue – ODA provided funding for research at OSU for Canola. They are in the third year of research. There is an advisory board made up of various groups that would be impacted by canola growing in the Willamette Valley. Vegetable growers and researchers will provide information to the group and will come up with a recommendation. Hearings will be made through the spring and summer, and hopefully a final recommendation will be made by the fall. Production will either stay like it is with a special permit or become open to production in some form. WVSSA drafted a letter with approximately fifty groups signed on in agreement to leave the program like it is. They are also looking at other oil seed crops such as flax, or some cold season safflower, and camelina. All of these crops have benefits to be used as a rotation crop in grass seed cropping systems, and also with Biofuels and bio products, and the flax and safflower into extremely high food markets. There is a ban currently in the Willamette Valley for oil production, also in Malheur County next to Idaho, also restricted in Union County.

### **Horticulture Department Report Anita Azarenko**

1. E-organic website – national extension website; launched last week. An organic specialty seed guide is available through e-organic. The sites primary emphasis is on vegetables and dairy, but they are starting to expand to other crops
2. Collaborative workspaces – infrastructure developed to allow people to “get together” to get information peer reviewed and posted on e-organic and other websites. Hired a person to help do the architecture and web design. Also need to have support to help train people how to use it.
3. Coordinated Ag Project – Genomics and SoulCap, to combine information from researchers and distribute it to the public.
4. Specialty Crops Research Initiatives – Block grants managed by the ODA. Should be able to access those for specialty crop activities. Folks in D.C. are encouraging committees to contact ODA and ask to partner with ODA and Land Grant Universities. Contact Dalton Hobbs at ODA. Possible 1.2 million available in grants. ODA will be interested in having Industry involved.
5. Employee Update – Rob Golangasfy started in the fall. Hired a nursery plant selection person who will start in Dec. Ramesh will be here for one year starting on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, a research assistant will be hired.
6. Jack Steng – Retired cropping systems person. Were asked to “pause” in the search for a replacement. Not a freeze, just a chill.

### **Potato Advisory Committee – Jeff McMorran**

1. Jeff presented the action items on behalf of Rob.
2. Powdery Scab – current standard is that any powdery scab will not allow them to have blue tags and had to be written on the report. Some concern that one potato in the whole lot would put it in the same category as a lot with much. Amended to say “one potato w/ powdery scab in 400 will not effect a lot”
3. Volunteers – House keeping items: Two references were made that were not compatible. Part B said that any volunteers would not be tolerated, but the table showed tolerances for volunteers at different levels. Part B would be changed to refer to the table.
4. Chemical injury – Greenhouse chemical injury did not seem to affect the crop the next year, so the reference to chemical injury was removed from the winter grow out. Standards showed that if chemical injury in a field was seen in excess of 3% it would be held for greenhouse. Suggested change: if it is held for the greenhouse, any chemical injury observed would be reported.
5. Standard Winter Grow Out tuber numbers – Oregon is currently 220 tubers, plus 20 tubers per acre. Most states have 400 tuber size, and multiples thereof. Would use current standards for under 11 acres. From 11-20 acres: 1 400-tuber sample. 21-40 acres would be 2 400-tuber samples and 40+ acres would be 3 400-tuber samples
6. Committee adjustment – Potato growing has shifted throughout the years. Commission passed a motion to transfer one Central Oregon position to an at large position. In addition to the at large position, the commercial grower from Malheur county would both be selected by the commission.
7. Discussion – Isabelle made the motion and Dan Walters seconded, all in favor. All motions passed as presented.

### **Grass and Legume Advisory Committee – Dan Hemshorn**

1. Presented action items 1-10. Updated standard for Chicory to make it more similar to what the other standards read. Sunflower standards to address open pollinating sunflower standards versus the hybrids that were passed last year. Amend the Annual, Intermediate, and Perennial ryegrass to add a isolation from Festulolium to prevent cross pollination. Correct the Festulolium standards to remove a line that isn't relevant. Velvet bentgrass isolation between other bentgrasses: it was discussed at the GLC that showed that they didn't cross pollinate, but must maintain mechanical distance. For less than 5 acres it would only have to be 165 ft. More than 5 acres would be with current isolation. White Clover changed at all levels from 99% to 98% pure seed. Germination on seashore paspalum down to 75%. Also edited the standards for vegetative propagation.
2. Amendment to the Blue Wildrye to put it more in line with standards for a self pollinating species, not a cross pollinating species. Isolation from 900 ft to 60ft for Foundation, 30ft for registered, and 15ft for certified.
3. Request that Seed Certification have results from flow cytometry test for all Festulolium, so you can apply the correct isolation requirement to that field. This only needs to be done to document a new variety, not with each submitted sample. Some discussion was made to determine if this was meant to be a requirement for new varieties, or old varieties, or just for isolation issues. Will this be a case by case issue? It was agreed that the motion would address new varieties coming in. Changed to "OSCS to require flow cytometry results for new varieties."
4. Other discussion on items 1-10 (11 will be discussed separately)
5. Dan Walters commented on the Velvet bentgrass – only saw one plant breeder (Reed Barker) listed. It was pointed out that Colin Scott was also there.
6. Item 8 – Adriel commented on germination, it is the production practices that are not there yet, has seed of all stages. Agreed that it is fair to change germ requirements until they get the production practices up to snuff.
7. Dan Curry commented on White Clover, White and Red are at one level for inert, but Crimson is at a different level. Now White will be on the same level as Crimson, and Red will be on it's own level. Iraj clarified that this was an industry standard and was acceptable. Bill Young made the motion to accept the motions (with changes as discussed) and Dan Walters seconded. All in favor.
8. Motion 11 – Postponed so that all the proposals about OSTA's request could be discussed at once.

#### **Cereals Advisory Committee – Carl Haugerud**

1. Presented that they met in The Dalles. No recommendations were made, but there was lots of discussion.

#### **Mint Advisory Committee – Randy Knight**

1. No state meeting was held this year: they decided instead to attend the national committee. There is included a directory for mint stock. There were two varieties propagated in the greenhouse in Union County, and one field production in Baker County. No acreage signed up through Seed Certification for mint rootstock but there was interest.
2. Discussion – None

#### **Forestry Seed – Barry Schrupf**

1. During the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, they re-wrote their bylaws to fit their declining size. They also conducted their usual business reporting of business in each of the states. Oregon tree seed activity

has been fairly low in the past six years or so. There was more discussion about turning over all the administration over to Washington state but nothing was decided.

2. Discussion - Jeff asked if the bylaws had to be approved by the Certification board. Barry commented that this group existed as an independent group before Washington and Oregon Certification, so he believes they don't have to.

### **Seed Conditioners Committee – Jim Steinke**

1. Jim Steinke presented via phone. There was only one motion that came out of the committee that will be discussed later with the other two committees.

### **Special Joint Advisory Committee Meeting – Dan Curry**

1. Dan Curry gave a brief background of the proposal. In June, OSTA discussed that they wanted OSCS to require a second germ when a lot has been re-cleaned. After much discussion in December, committee meetings nothing was decided, and OSTA again discussed it and again requested the change. In response to the proposal, there was a joint committee meeting of the GLAC, CAC, and SCAC to discuss this one item. 49 people were involved in the two-hour discussion. Dan felt that the issue was well aired out and everyone's role was discussed and understood. Motions were made out of each of the committees to bring to the board today. Dan Walters agreed it was a good discussion and felt that everyone was on the same page in understanding that the Federal Seed Act and Seed Certification require different things. Even though people in the industry still feel that it is OSCS's job to make sure the FSA is followed, many others who think that is not logical. Dennis explained OSCS's current process of tagging on separate germination and purity test. Terry asked Adriel if a lot has been re-cleaned and they ask for a new germ, is there a way to go back and check on the original germ to see if there is a difference between the first and second germs. Adriel said that it hadn't been done. Theoretically, you wouldn't expect a change, because you are always using random pure seeds. As long as the time is not considerable between the first and second sample, you are comparing comparable seeds. Unless there was mishandling of the seed lot i.e. rained out. Sometimes you will actually see an increase in the second germ, because the fresh seed is dormant, and in as little as three weeks in some species you will see them overcome dormancy. Russ Karow commented that the only way you might see germ rates go down is with cleaning damage. Dan Walters went on to clarify that the requirements for seed certification is different than the FSA requirements for shipping.
2. Dan Curry said that there was going to be an internal change at OSCS. If a seed lot has just been re-sampled there would just be re-sample on the report. The second part was that if it had been re-cleaned, it would only say "re-cleaned" not "re-sampled, re-cleaned" as it has in the past. This was not a motion, just an internal change.
3. All the motions from the advisory committees were very similar. The cereals committee was one word different than the other two committees. They all want the same thing to happen, they just disagree on what words to use. Nancy suggested specifying when a backup germination would be required, just as a guide for growers. Dan Walters explained that it was written specifically to make sure that no one was confused if OSCS required it. Iraj remembered that the word "should" was discussed at length and all parties agreed upon it. Dan Hemshorn pointed out that Richard Payne's letter also used the word "should." Dan Curry also pointed out that on pg. 10 of the Certification Handbook there is a section reminding growers to follow the FSA. Dan Curry voted for the Grass and Legume Committee's motion and asked that the "this will not change the current certification rules" not be put in the book. Jim Steinke said that it should just be put in to put it to bed. Dan Walters remembered that it was more for clarification for this committee, rather than meant to go in the handbook.

4. Dan Walters motion to take the wording from Grass and Legume to make it in the standards, Jim Steinke seconded.
5. Adriel had a question on whose responsibility it was to request the germ. Dennis said it was on pg. 10 and Dan Walters said it didn't matter because it wasn't OSCS' duty to enforce it.
6. Iraj said that if he has a grower read it he would think that it was required by Seed Certification, the way it was written, unless there was a sentence added.
7. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Foundation Seed – Dan Curry**

1. Dan started by going over the activity summary. There are no breeders on campus, but there are still older varieties that are viable. He pointed out that the purpose of storing and maintaining the varieties was just to make sure there is seed available to our growers.
2. Jeff asked who verified that Fawn Tall Fescue is actually breeder seed. Russ Karow said they bring back any emeritus faculty to look at it and ask "Does this look like what you remember it to be."
3. Dan Hemshorn asked if there were any plans to increase production on Potomac or any clovers since there is more interest. Dan Curry said yes, they had 5 acres of clover and, if needed, would grow more. There was also 8 acres of Potomac that will be produced again this year.

#### **Potatoes – Isabel Valez**

1. Isabel reported that the website was moved to Drupal to be more user-friendly. Also they decided to focus just on tri-state varieties for tissue culture and working very closely with PVMI. There are new material transfer documents.
2. Last year maintained 60 clones in the clone bank. Decided they need to expand a little bit more, just for backup because they had a problem with tomato wilt virus.
3. Cleaned two new clones because of trouble with PVS.
4. Produced 750 pounds of mini tubers that will be distributed for planting this spring.

#### **Wheat – Russ Karow**

1. Russ Karow reported that Jim Peterson continues to work closely with Washington Crop Improvement Association. There are royalties coming in from the Clearfield Wheat, which allows the program to grow larger amounts of seed to expedite the variety release programs. There is some discussion about revisiting the agreement that was signed in the early 90's between Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, and there is talk of revisiting that (mainly from Idaho) for the tri-state release program.

#### **National Clonal Germplasm Repository – Barbra Reed**

1. Barbara presented the following report to the seed certification board meeting.

#### **National Clonal Germplasm Repository Report for Seed Certification Board Meeting – 2009**

Barbara M. Reed



**Status Report:**

The Corvallis Repository houses about 11,000 total accessions including 4236 seed accessions. Seed from fruit, nut and specialty crops in the Repository collection are backed up at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Ft. Collins, CO. In addition 324 seed accessions were sent to the Svalbard seed bank as a secondary backup. Seed and plant material distribution (to both foreign and domestic scientists and clients) continues to be a major component of the facility. There were requests for 632 seed accessions and 83 new accessions were added to the collection. Seed intake and distribution are handled by the graduate research assistant, Ms. Sugae Wada.

**Seed Research:**

Ms. Sugae Wada is completing her Ph.D. program in Horticulture with Barbara Reed. She is studying the seed structure, taxonomy and physiology of the species of *Rubus* in the seed collection. Ms. Wada has determined scarification and germination requirements for the seeds to overcome double dormancy. She has documented the seed coat structure of species in many of the 12 sub genera with scanning electron microscopy and is looking at the taxonomic characters of the seed coat. We are currently working on an OSU Agricultural Research Foundation grant to develop a brochure for the industry that will allow identification of cultivars based on seed morphology. This project and her degree will be completed by mid year.

2. In other discussion, Barbara said they were on continuing resolution (and will be until March), which means they have been on a flat budget for three years. They won't be replacing their seed scientist who left a few years ago. The grad student has been handling much of the incoming and outgoing seed. They are a clonal lab. The grad student is working on research of germination of *Rubus* (blackberry) seed.
3. Russ asked if there restriction on who can get seeds. Barbara said the only restriction would come from the country of the requester and phytosanitary requirements.
4. Smoke enhancing germination of *rubus*. Blackberry has a dormancy problem without scarification. Papers are impregnated with smoke, soaked in water, and then the seeds are watered with the smoke water. This did help the germination of some species of blackberries more than 10%.

**Oregon Department of Agriculture – Nancy Osterbauer**

1. Nancy – working on developing a PCR test and submitted it to a journal and are waiting for results from the journal. Weed-free forage side is testing horse pellets for viability of weed seeds. There is some concern that even though the seed was pelletized it would still germinate.

**Oregon Seed Trade Association – Dan Walters**

1. Below is the document that was presented

**OSTA Report to the 2009 Seed Certification-Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board  
February 10, 2009**

Correction to the 2008 report: Mannagrass (*glyceria* sp.) is an issue for export to Australia, not Argentina. Argentina was mentioned because of a new requirement that all Annual ryegrass imported into Argentina must be certified beginning in 2009. This mandate takes includes

Perennial ryegrass beginning in 2010.

Mannagrass update: The export situation of Oregon annual ryegrass shipments to Australia is improved. Australia prohibits the import of certain species of *Glyceria* not including *G. declinata*. Willamette Valley annual ryegrass lots occasionally contain some *G. declinata* but the seed cannot be distinguished from the prohibited species visually. Both the ODA and the OSU seed lab were helpful in finding ways to address the problem. In the end, the simplest approach was to test the *Glyceria* seed for ploidy. Since *G. declinata* is diploid and the prohibited species are all tetraploid, a flow cytometer test showing that the seed is diploid is now acceptable documentation. With this tool seed labs here can test any Mannagrass seed found. Seed companies are finding that if seed is cleaned in to 22,000 lb and tested with an ISTA approved lab, they can be issued an OIC (Orange International Certificate). Such lots are regarded as meeting testing requirements and are not subject to routine retesting in Australia.

State of the industry:

**Sales:** Sales in spring of 2008 were average for most companies. Sales in the fall season were very poor as domestic and international markets reacted to economic crisis. Industry wide sales were estimated to be down by 15 to 20%.

**Inventories:** Seed stocks are high thanks to weak sales and large carryover of the '07 crop. Of the major species, Tall fescue is of the greatest concern as it is believed that acreage remains higher than needed and stocks remain very high. Perennial ryegrass inventories are also uncomfortably high. However, it is thought that production has reduced to a level below market needs. It is expected that inventory levels will correct in time, but this is not likely before spring of 2010.

**Production:** In reaction to weak sales and overstocks, production numbers have decreased (and may decrease more) for 2009. It is likely that revenue to Seed Certification and the OSU seed lab will decrease as the number of acres and sample volume will be lower again this year.

**International:** Shipping to the EU has decreased sharply after very high activity in previous months. This is largely in reaction to the weakening of the Euro against the dollar. Weaker sales and a good 2008 crop in Europe also contributed.

**Crop rotation:** High wheat prices in 2007 spurred a marked increase in wheat plantings on acres previously in seed production. Though prices have softened, this trend has continued again for the 2009 crop as growers plant wheat to manage rotation and value wheat as a cash crop. Clover acres are also at very high levels both in response to high prices and interest in other alternatives for rotation.

The Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association is attempting to enforce the language and intent of the ODA administrative rule 603-052-0850 establishing Rapeseed Production Districts. This rule is being reviewed this year in meetings called by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as a result of requests by Oregon State University for permits for multiple productions of rapeseed, or canola, for oil. This rule was established in 2005 with industry input. Seed growers and companies are concerned that a recent push for increased production of biofuel crops in these districts will result in the ODA relaxing or eliminating this administrative rule. Presently, fields of oilseed rape can only be planted by special permit from the ODA. Approximately 300 acres of special permit plantings exist in the Willamette

Valley district for the 2009 crop year, with more expected in 2010.

Rape, *Brassica napus*, is very invasive and can spread and survive thrive in a wide range of climates. These districts would be threatened--probably eliminated--by an influx of fields planted to rapeseed for oil production. Pollen contamination, and more importantly escalating populations of insects and disease, would soon make production of these high value crops impractical, if not impossible.

Several production areas around the globe have been rendered useless for vegetable seed production by the presence of wild rape brought in as an oilseed crop. Growers and marketers from around the world are very concerned about this possibility here in Oregon. To date more than 40 national and international Trade Organizations and Companies have written letters and signed in support of the WVSSA's position paper supporting maintaining the integrity of the Special Production Districts. This rule is seen as a necessity if the production of high value seed of brassica species for seed is to continue in those districts.

The merits of biofuel aside, the economics of rape seed production must also be questioned. Prices for biofuel rapeseed are established on relatively low value, low input production in Canada which has in excess of 16 million acres of canola production. In the US, North Dakota is the largest producer with around 1 million acres.

## 2. Other discussion

- a. 15-20% decline in fall shipping, which is the largest shipping season.
- b. Perennial ryegrass has the opportunity to correct very soon, but has the potential to overcorrect.
- c. International – the strengthening dollar has worked against us. Europe is not as interested because they had a better production year and the weakening Euro.
- d. Cleaner fields than in the past due to the weather – chemicals are working better, and re-discovery of crop rotations due to higher wheat prices.
- e. Oilseed /rape seed – growers that are making money from radish seed feel that they will be put out of business by the oil seed. Several international companies have signed the position paper and have said that if oil seed is grown, they will pull their production from the Willamette Valley. Also, if this becomes feral on the road sides, it may increase diseases and pests that were historically at no or low levels, which also may affect the specialty seed fields.
- f. Jeff asked if grass seed growers were interested in the oilseeds. Dan Walters said it would rotated with annual ryegrass – on fringe ground with low inputs. Also if it shows up in a grass seed field, it is considered a noxious weed. It is known in Canada to be a feral weed and grows in ditch banks, etc.
- g. Adriel asked if there had been discussion with Australia to eliminate the requirement. Dan Walters didn't know – his company doesn't deal with that.

## Seed Services – Dan Curry

1. ISTA asked for warehouses all over the world to test their seed lots to see if the larger lots are homogeneous, up to 55,000 lbs. If they do this to 6 lots and 5 of those lots are homogeneous then they

- will be allowed to ship over seas in those larger lots. The current restriction is 22,000 lbs.
2. Seed Certification – total certification acres were down 3% in 2008 up 3% 2007. So we are pretty stable. Oregon Certification Review Committee published their changes, the breeders were involved with that change. Now Seed Certification has online seedling signup capabilities. In June, AOSCA is having their annual meeting in Portland.
  3. Seed Lab – As of last February, they have ISTA membership. On March 6<sup>th</sup> there will be an audit, and they will become accredited by July. They provided a few special tests this year, for example, spring/winter wheat, and sprout testing on wheat seed. Also there was ploidy testing on Mannagrass. All but one came back as diploid. Another uniform blowing procedure will be presented, this time as an alternative, not to replace other methods. Also, the lab will be 100-years-old this year, and they hope to have a celebration in May.
  4. Dennis – Under the certification tab there is a green and white sheet with the new acre figures. We are within a normal range – the lower end - but still not significantly down. In the orange booklet, the backside of the second white page has a bar graph to represent the certified acres passed. The acres in our system are down a little bit, but we won't know exactly how much until April 15<sup>th</sup> signups. There is also a grey booklet that explains how to do online signups (seedlings). In addition, there will be crop signups online this season. Pioneer is building a hybrid corn seed plant near Hermiston. They are talking to us about certifying hybrid corn seed, mostly for OECD shipments. 300-1000 acres this year, increasing up to 3,000-5,000 in the next few years.
  5. Adriel- ISTA accreditation will help the industry by being able to provide Orange Certificates and be able to do Canadian grading. Now Canada doesn't have to pull another sample and do grading. Also, thinking of organizing a workshop for grass seed cleaners again so they can understand the complexity of seed cleaning and what test results mean. Research in 3 areas 1. anything they can do to speed germination, 2. anything that can help them come up with faster inert determination (uniform blowing procedure). The only way to check inert in seashore paspalum is blowing. 3. Coming up with better perennial/annual ryegrass detection using biotech procedures. They depend on money from samples, are going through a low phase, and hope to make it through.
  6. Anita asked what happens to the acreage that goes out of certification. Dennis answered that some of them go into uncertified (wheat or grass) or other crops such as corn, vegetables, or nursery crops. Jeff mentioned there was a lot more carrot seed in central Oregon than there was in the past. Terry mentioned that in the north valley many grass seed fields are followed by beans and corn, and we do a lot of MLH on beans and corn.

#### **Other Business**

1. New department in College of Forestry: Brenda McComb new head of the old Forest Resource

#### **Closing – Dan Curry**

1. Dan Curry closed by saying thanks to Julie Hendrix, and her staff, for getting the binders together
2. Dan Walters moved to adjourn and was second by Dan Hemshorn