

Seed Certification-Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board Meeting
February 11, 2010
Oregon State University, LaSells Stewart Center
Agriculture Production Room

1) Introductions

- a) Board members present: Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Dr. Mike Flowers, Dr. William Young, Dr. Barbara Reed, Phil Hamm, Carl Haugerud, Dan Hemshorn, Dr. Barry Schruppf, Dan Walters, Jake Stockfleth (for Jim Steinke), Dr. Bill Braunworth, (for Bill Boggess), Dr. Isabel Vales
 - b) Board members absent: Dr. Bill Boggess, Dr. Keith Jayawickrama, Dr. Anita Azarenko, Dr. Tom Chastain, Dr. James Peterson, Dr. Reed Barker, Rob Lane, Scott Gibson
 - c) Guests: Rachel Hankins, Randy Knight, John Zielinski, Dennis Lundeen, Jeff McMorran, Dan Curry, Julie Hendrix, Nancy Osterbauer(for Jim Cramer), Dr. Adriel Garay, Terry Burr
 - d) Motion to approve agenda made by Dan W., - 2nd by Dan H.
- 2) Last year's minutes: motion to approve made by Carl H., - 2nd by Dan H., - all in favor
- 3) OSU College of Agricultural Science report (by Sonny Ramaswamy)

This meeting was held just after his first three months of being at OSU. He gave a brief report on the financial situation and proposed budget cuts: 12% cut for Agriculture stations, 10% for Education, and 10% for Extension. With the passage of Oregon Measures 66 & 67, there is a "buffer" in the amount of money they saved. The state is short \$300 million. We are waiting for the legislative session to end and to see what the economy does. They did eliminate 60 positions (faculty, office specialist, and technical support), mostly through attrition or positions that were not refilled. The good news is that there is going to be easing up on the hiring freeze to fill critical need areas. The university has asked departments to reorganize themselves. Traditionally, everyone was organized around disciplines or areas. After the faculty review panel returns a report to him, there will be discussion with Research Stations about restructure. Also, guidelines were given by the university on how to restructure. Sonny will be traveling around the state this month talking with different stakeholders to make a final decision. On March 1, 2010, they will articulate a plan based on three words: preeminence, purpose, and impact. Preeminence—meaning 'best for everything'—College of Ag is already at the top throughout the United States. Purpose—discoveries that the staff and students make must have purpose. Impact—that the College of Ag must have an impact on communities, on science, and on economic processes. On March 15, 2010, the plan will be turned into the provost. Then it will be distributed far and wide for feedback from internal and external stakeholders. In March/April/May, tweaks will be made, and by July 1, the final plan must be in place and ready to execute. There is a "first do no harm" mentality. Over the next year or two, there are opportunities to continue tweaking. The final structure should be in place in 2011/2012.

Discussion:

- a) Dennis – "How is the College of Ag going to fit into the new 'group' the university put us in?" The university is using Healthy Planet, Healthy Economy,

Healthy People groups. Ag science is in the Healthy Planet group along with College of Forestry and College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences. That allows us to enhance synergies and become more collaborative. The idea is to allow us to be more competitive for grant dollars, donations, and for using the marketing of intellectual property (PVP, etc.).

- b) Randy – “The interaction that OSU has with other Top 10 land grant universities, is there any interaction?” Yes, there is collaboration and interactions, and we look for opportunities to collaborate and work together. We met with Idaho to see where the gaps are and what OSU can do to help fill those groups (with Washington State) and vice versa. Also, examples are commodity groups such as tri-state potatoes and wheat.
 - c) Stella Coakley – If we would like to receive the handouts from town hall meetings, we can be added to the stakeholder list. There are three questions Sonny has asked for people to provide input on. Everyone is trying to make it an open process. Feel free to forward it to everyone (Adriel asked about using lists of seed growers or cleaners, and Sonny replied, “Send it!”).
- 4) OSU Extension Service report – Bill Braunworth
- a) Budget – The cut that was applied to Extension was 10%. Scott, who distributes funds, said 15%, but with the passage of Oregon Measures 66 & 67, there is a little bit of surplus. We expect a 12% cut to the units for this year. We are working on a staffing plan to see what programs will look like with a 15% budget cut and are in the middle of that process right now.
 - b) Extension transformation – We are trying to transform into three spheres of activity. There have been several models of how the structure would work. The past few weeks have been about getting feedback and coming back with revisions. Scott will take recommendations from the Extension cabinet and committee who will digest that and return a report to the provost in March.
- 5) OSU Department of Crop and Soil Science report – Russ Karow
- a) Wheat situation – Clearfield Wheat is very successful in the Wheat licensing realm. The model they are using is the “seed associate” role. They are current exploring opportunities to work with a group outside the university to help enforce the license agreements.
 - b) Potatoes – How do we develop varieties that will be pulled into the marketplace rather than pushing varieties into it? They just met with McDonald’s and Simplot to figure out what they want and what we should be bringing into the marketplace. McDonald’s says that they have a very narrow range, “We don’t want you to improve things dramatically.”
 - c) Hops program – A press release just sent out about an outside program called India Hops: two independently wealthy men want to develop a program for aroma hops for microbrewing. Demand is coming from the microbrewers rather than from large brewers who don’t want to tweak their process for a new variety. Again, we discussed how we can get things pulled into the marketplace without pushing them in.
 - d) A philosophy: what can we develop that will occupy a few thousand acres here and there that no one can take away from us? Where can we be leaders in the world?

- e) Soy beans – Questions that need to be addressed: Regarding cold temperature resistance, how do we get those beans into the marketplace? PVP and possibly an alternative to Canola.
 - f) Flax – discussion about resurrecting winter flax.
 - g) Grants – There are still special grants from the federal government for the things we do such as potatoes, grass seed, barley, and wheat. Thanks to all the groups that continue writing letters to congress for their support of those programs.
- 6) OSU Horticulture Department report – Anita (not present)
- 7) Cereal Advisory Committee – Carl Haugerud
- a) Commingling of seed lots – At present, seeds from different growers can only be combined if they are signed up with the same grower of record. The problem occurs if a field is lost and the company must find a new field to replace it. The new field cannot be combined with the other fields until it passes final certification. The issue is storage for many large grain growers. The following motion was made: Allow commingling of production from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho fields that have passed field inspection for certification of the same variety of small grain. Require additional testing for noxious weeds (500gms/million pounds, or part thereof). The commingled lot would have to meet Oregon requirements for final certification. This provision would be allowed only at warehouses that have an approved and operating automatic sampler. Motion to approve made by Lee VonBorstel – 2nd by Sandy Macnab. Motion made at Cereals Advisory Committee meeting, not board meeting.
 - b) Discussion – Dan Walters asked how Washington handled it, and Barry replied that they allow it.
 - i. Russ asked if they require extra testing for noxious weeds. Barry said, “That’s where we take the lead.” Further, he commented, there is concern over Jointed Goatgrass, which we take very seriously.
 - ii. Nancy asked how we would handle it in terms of origin if we were to ship the seed internationally. Barry responded that we would handle it like any interagency work including showing all states of origin on the paperwork.
 - c) Trait testing – is used to determine the presence of a novel trait such as GMO or an herbicide-resistant trait. BASF has developed a Clearfield Wheat which is resistant to the herbicide *Beyond*. Jim has used this line to cross with varieties that are developed for our area. BASF has set the standard for the trait for certification. All certified seed production must be sprayed with the correct rate of *Beyond* and must be tested. The Cereals Advisory Committee, Seed Certification staff, and the wheat breeding program developed the following proposal:

CLEARFIELD TRAIT TESTING: Provisionally in 2010 for wheat varieties that contain the Clearfield Herbicide trait

 - i. Each lot will be required to meet the minimum trait standard as defined by the trait owner and specified in the variety description. The minimum Clearfield trait standard for the 2010 harvest season will be 92% as based on the Clearfield Confirm assay. If PCR testing for the trait becomes available for operational use, then results of that test may be considered, in addition to the Clearfield Confirm test, for the intent of satisfying this provision. All sampling and testing procedures will follow standard OSCS policy, and OSCS will make the final determination of seed lot eligibility. OSCS may monitor

this program through requests of additional or larger tests. Additionally, seed stock documentation for new field applications must include Clearfield Confirm assay test results indicating the seed stock has also met the 92% requirement.

- ii. OSCS will require a signed affidavit from the grower of record that certified seed production fields have been sprayed according to the Clearfield wheat seed production guidelines.
- d) Motion to approve made by Carl H. – 2nd by Mike F.; after discussion, all in favor
- i. Randy K. asked if it has been specified which labs the samples have to be sent to. Mike responded that samples must be sent to BASF-accredited labs, so it must be one of those labs. Adriel offered that OSU's Seed Lab is accredited and must be reviewed annually by BASF.
 - ii. Isabel asked why there is no PCR test available. Adriel and Mike agreed, no. Barry said that Washington is in discussion to get a PCR test.
 - iii. Terry asked, if the grower agreement already specifies spraying, why does certification have to ask for this information? Mike said that the grower/stewardship agreement does *not* require the grower to spray, but it is recommended. The certification agreement *requires* the spray.
 - iv. Dennis said this will bring up a lot of questions and open doors on how we are going to handle novel traits. He said this next year will include discussion on how everything went.
 - v. Dan asked for a comparison with other states. Colorado and Washington already have this, and Kansas and North Dakota are considering it but haven't gone this far yet.
 - vi. Adriel questioned how this is going to be reported. Lee VonBorstel requested the Clearfield results be on the same report as the purity and germ results. Barry said if it is on a certified sample, then it can be put on the final report. John said commercial samples are usually pulled from the truck going into the bin. In our proposed standards, only samples pulled by Seed Certification staff or an automatic sampler will qualify.
 - vii. Jake asked, "How do you know the spray verification is correct?" John replied that the grower will sign an affidavit that specifies what chemical was used and if it is within the correct application range, and that it must be signed and dated by the grower of record. The actual affidavit has not been finalized yet. Seed Certification will finalize after the proposal is approved. Eligibility will not be set until the signed affidavit is received.
 - viii. Dan W. asked how long the test takes and how expensive is it? Adriel said it takes about the same amount of time as a germ and that it doesn't cost as much as the time it takes to do it. Dan informed us that it is \$64.
 - ix. Russ asked why there would be a test on a commercial sample at all. Adriel replied that having a commercial test will give you an idea how the seed lot is doing, but the test is not eligible for use for Seed Certification. That way, if there is no chance it will make certification, they can avoid the additional cost.
- 8) Grass and Legume Advisory Committee – Dan Hemshorn
- a) Amendment to Hybrid Sunflower standards – Randy explained the need to address the isolation between different classes of the same variety, "Isolation between fields

- of the same variety must be adequate to prevent mixtures.” Motion made to accept the amendments as stated in the standards made by Dan H., -- 2nd by Jake S. No discussion, all in favor.
- b) Amendment of the certification standards to include a footnote in the standards of Fine fescues. “The ammonia test is done automatically on all certified seed lots of species in the Blue, Hard, & Sheep complex to determine the presence of other Fine fescue (yellow fluorescing). Tolerances are: Foundation (zero yellow), Registered (one yellow seedling), and Certified (2% yellow fluorescing seedlings).” There is no change, just a clarification. Motion made to approve by Dan H., -- 2nd by Bill Young. No discussion, all in favor.
- c) Standards for Soybeans as a new crop – Motion made by Dan H., -- 2nd by Carl H. after discussion, all in favor.
- i. Some discussion from Russ about footnote 1 regarding “seeds” versus “plants” and which was the correct wording. Dan suggested this was a typo consideration and didn’t need a new motion.
 - ii. Phil asked if there are no standards for disease in Soybeans. Randy replied that, no, he didn’t see any in other states. Jake said this is more of a starting point so they could be adjusted or added next year. Aren’t they cross-pollinated? Randy said no, they are self-pollinating. Nancy added that there is a table somewhere that lists suggested isolations if something more concrete is needed, and Randy agreed that is an option also. Adriel asked, if footnote 1 is amended, do you expect the lab to differentiate the seeds and report those separately? Randy said yes, the same as with dry beans. Adriel wanted to know if you would have a description of the seed characteristics of that variety. Randy said yes.
- d) Annual ryegrass early tagging – Dennis led discussion and explanation on the new Annual ryegrass proposal. The discussion moved toward a request that OSCS work with United States OECD authorities to develop an optional additional field inspection program that would allow for quicker shipment of seed; that the fields maybe able to be tagged once all field inspection are completed and that seed tests results would be used to monitor the program. In addition, there was a request that OSCS outline the current early tagging options and present it at the OSTA meetings on January 12, 2010, and inform those companies which may need to ship seed under these methods. A motion was made by Dan H., -- 2nd by Jake (basically just a support by the board for the proposal). After discussion, all in favor. The discussion: Phil asked how offsite tag printing is going. Dennis said very well. We are sending digital images to offsite printing locations, and everything seems to be going well. Farhad said the only time we hear something back is when something goes wrong—and we haven’t heard anything. Dan W. said the direction Seed Certification has been going with eCertification and offsite printing has been excellent! Before they were tagging seed that might go uncertified just so it would be tagged. Also, it generated a lot of extra tags lying around. Dan H. said he would agree, that it has helped with shipping on weekends and with marketing. Adriel said putting a tag based on an additional field inspection, is this the first time you have done this? Dennis replied yes. Adriel wanted to know for Tetraploid varieties, would you be taking an extra sample? And are the methods the Seed Lab proposed acceptable?

Jeff said yes. Dennis clarified by saying during the second inspection (before row closure), the inspectors would collect a tissue sample to be tested. Dan H. wanted to know if seed marked 'Not for Reimportation' was tested and met the standards after shipping, could you reprint tags and make it eligible for reimportation? Dennis said it seems like we could if it was in the original bags, then we could take about reissuing tags and removing the 'Not for Reimportation' wording. This would probably be very rare, because if you were to bring it back, you would probably want domestic tags. Dan H. said it'd be nice to have some flexibility on both ends. Dan W. said the idea behind this is that if it says 'Not for Reimportation,' it may give the buyer the idea that it's good enough to buy, but they don't want it back. They would like to get away from that wording on the tags. Adriel said the idea behind these is to get through the testing faster. The Seed Lab is researching to see if they can get the chilling down to one week from two weeks.

9) Mint Advisory Committee – Randy Knight

- a) Verticillium – There is concern for the industry standard for people propagating mint in greenhouses. They were purchasing a sealed medium for planting, and, after investigation, realized that most of it was not pasteurized or fumigated. Most people were out of compliance with the standards due to this. To fix it, they proposed changes for the standards. "All soil, sand, and bulk unsealed potting media used in greenhouses must be pasteurized or fumigated with approved material and rates. Commercially produced potting media in sealed containers must be stored and handled to prevent any contamination with Verticillium." Some of the greenhouses have been using sealed material for fifteen years or more. Discussion led to the idea that the greatest risk of exposure to contaminants was after the packaged was opened but still being stored. Motion made by Dan W., -- 2nd by Dan H. After discussion, all approved. The discussion: Jeff asked, "Do you have references for approved materials and rates?" Randy said yes, it is in the original. Jake asked, if by putting in the "fumigated" comment, you have to have a license, etc... Nancy replied that you are better off leaving it the way it is. Phil asked if there is any research data to support that there is no Verticillium in the greenhouses. Randy said no, it is all anecdotal evidence. Dennis added that our inspection reports would be the verification. Terry said we only test plants that are showing symptoms, and Randy concurred that we aren't doing random sampling. Phil asked, are they allowed to use pots over again? Randy replied that he thinks the pots they are using don't lend themselves to re-use. He said he was very impressed by their knowledge and level of preventing contamination and housekeeping practices. Phil asked if their cleaning is standard? Dan W. said he thinks we are overthinking this. The industry has been regulating themselves for years. Phil cautioned this may be a move in the wrong direction. You are loosening the standards a bit, and there are risks involved. Randy said that we understand there are risks, and we are concerned.

10) Forest Tree Seed Advisory Committee – Barry Schrupf

- a) There was no activity in Oregon for 2008-2009. The same occurred in 2007, 2005, and a few other years. In comparison to earlier years, anything under 1000bu is not very much. There is an agreement with WSCIA and OSCS that the program is the same. Tree seed activity is virtually only for the OECD program now. The BLM and USFS aren't participants in the program anymore. A new agreement allows WSCIA

to run the program in both Oregon and Washington to cut down on two structures. Both seed inspectors in Oregon agree to do inspections for WSCIA. The agreement will be in place for five years. The Association of Tree Seed Growers were agreeable to the change. They also had no motions to forward to the board. There was discussion on the OECD scheme on seeds collected from pre-selected stands to go in the OECD Selected class rather than the Source Identified class.

- b) Dan W. asked about the reason for the decline in tree seed activity. Barry responded that if you go back to the mid-1960s, the situation was the forest service buying huge amounts of seed because they were aerial seeding and needed large quantities of seed (mostly Douglas Fir). After sixty years, the trees stopped growing due to using offsite seed sources (for example, seed from eastern Oregon being growing in western Oregon). The Northwest Tree Seed Certifiers Association was formed. They then turned it over to the seed certification agencies and remained on the advisory board. The change is that they now use seed orchards, so they have more control over their seed sources. They felt that paying for seed sources was not needed. Budgets became lean.

11) Potato Advisory Committee – Jeff McMorran for Rob Lane

- a) Remove G1 unit planting requirement. (2nd year in the field) devised at a time when G1 material were typically very small acreage fields. Now that G1 are larger fields, it isn't cost effective to tuber unit plant. The advisory committee proposed the change to the standard: remove requirement that G1 class lots be 'unit planted.' Change the Potato Standards Part IX-F-3 (page 13) to remove the requirement that G1 class seed be unit planted. Specifically, the wording change on page 13 would be revised to simply say, "Generation-1 – Must be planted from Nuclear class or higher seed stock."
- b) Clarifying Definition of "Proprietary Potato Varieties." What is a proprietary variety? We were challenged on this with *Carlingford*, which cannot be protected in the United States but is protected in Canada. The following motion was proposed: Approval of "Proprietary" varieties: All potato material with proprietary status **in the United States** must have permission from the owner or agent prior to release of inspection reports or issuing final certification. These rules are applied only in the sense of seed certification, not in a legal sense.
- c) Limit Re-Certification eligibility to lots of 2% (or less) Mosaic in PHT. Latent varieties were allowed to be up to 5% in G4 lots. But to put 5% and eligible for re-certification was not in line with other states standards. Stated: Revise the potato standards to limit lots eligible for recertification to lots with 2% or less mosaic readings in the post harvest test. Specifically, this would add the following footnote "f" to the table 7 (section XIV-F, Pg 16) referenced on mosaic tolerances for Gen 4 (following the "5.00"): footnote f = Only lots at or below 2% mosaic are eligible for recertification. Revise the statement under IX-F #7 (page 13) to read: 7. Generation 5 – Must be produced from Generation 4 or higher seed stock with a maximum of 2% mosaic in the post-harvest test. This class is not eligible for recertification in Oregon.
- d) Motion to approve all motions made by Jake, -- 2nd by Phil. All approved, no discussion.

12) Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee – Jake Stockfleth

Problems getting a quorum due to lack of participation from the east side, plus participation in the valley being low at some meetings. The proposal would remove

the geographic limitations. Mark moved, and Jake seconded, a motion to remove the geographic limitations from the membership of the committee. It would be a change to the bylaws. There was emphasis that the east side would still be invited to participate, but if they declined, the option would go to someone else. Motion made by Jake, --2nd by Carl H.

- a) Phil Hamm asked how many people are on the committee. Iraj said there are 12 people, usually 3 from east of the Cascades (who also usually don't participate). Last year one person participated. Phil asked if it would be reasonable to reduce the number below 3 as an option. He wanted to know if any of the meetings had the option of video conferencing. Iraj said, no, we haven't gone there yet. OSTA and Seed League called around to try and fill vacant positions, and no one was interested. No one even suggested that travel was the reason for non-participation. Jeff asked if it is possible to remove the limitation but leave a comment that "preference will be given to eastern Oregon participants." Jake said he didn't think the committee would have a problem with that. Phil said he thinks it is important to have eastern Oregon participate. Perhaps if it was dropped to 2, with video conferencing as an option, next year if no one was interested, you could reduce it further. Jake said the cost of using the Polycom at the convention center may be prohibitive. Russ said if you wanted to use Polycom, you would have to move to the Marion County Extension office. Bill Y. said grass seed production is 92-93% in the Willamette Valley. Phil asked why this was set up originally. Iraj said that the bylaws were set up before his time, but besides Potatoes, this is the only committee with geographic limitations. Mike asked why we should take the limitations away and suggested adding another "at large" to each category. Jake said the quorum doesn't matter; he was thinking of a different committee he used to sit on. Barbara suggested in addition to adding positions, add a teleconference. Jake said he thinks we should take it back to the committee and discuss more. Phil said Polycom has come a long way, and with the numbers Bill Y. presented, they don't deserve 3 spots. They are having a growers meeting in Hermiston soon and will press the issue and present the alternatives to try to get some participation.
- b) Jake amended the motion to go with Phil's suggestion to give it one more shot and try Polycom or teleconferencing. Motion to table the first motion and a new motion to take it back to the Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee, --2nd by Bill Young. All in favor.

13) Foundation Seed Programs

- a) Dan Curry – Grass seed foundation seed report of what is on hold and what is for sale. The purpose is to keep production of seed that cannot be purchased in the private sector. "Not for sale" means seed is available on the private market, and we don't want to compete, but if the seed production goes away, we have some in refrigerated storage.
- b) Mike Flowers – has nothing.
- c) Isable Vales – This year is the 25th anniversary of the potato variety program. Thirty-four varieties have "graduated" from the program. We are coordinating orders with Idaho and PVMI and working closely to better address the needs of the industry. February 15 is the deadline for mini-tuber orders for 2011 planting. There are some tubers left for sale. We are giving priority to tri-state varieties and may be more

- flexible with older varieties to fill up two greenhouses. We are focusing on two specialty varieties and two russet varieties. We also set up DNA fingerprints of varieties for variety recognition and for breeding purposes.
- d) USDA – We are having difficulty germinating seeds due to different issues. Grad students increased germ from 1% to 60-70%. There is interest from growers to develop different cultivars; for example, there are many more Marionberries sold than are ever grown because cultivars look and taste similar. Under a microscope, it is easy to tell the cultivars apart, so you can know what you are growing. We will be producing an Extension bulletin so people can know if they have a Marionberry or something different. Barry asked if the plants are distinct as well. Barbara said, yes, they are by leaf shape and other characteristics, but by the time concern comes around, it is already fruit season at the processing plant, and they need to tell from the berries. Isabel asked if you could use a hand lens. Barbara said only if you want to go blind. Adriel asked if your research in smoke to activated germination, do you have any new good results? Barbara said cellulose in blackberries reacts with smoke and germinates. They burn cellulose and capture the smoke in filter paper, then put the filter paper in water and use the water to cause germination. That and GA and a type of acid had about the same results.
 - e) ODA – Nancy – Potatoes will be getting together to inspect fresh potatoes for processing and updates from APHIS for trading. ODA can certify for Organic. Also, Ron Pence and Gary Neuschwander are heading up a committee with OSTA for seed sampling. Costs are being increased for different services.
 - f) Oregon Seed Trade – Dan Walters – He doesn't have much to add to the written report submitted. A few bankruptcies have been filed over the past few weeks since times are tough. The biggest issue to add is the Tall fescue in inventory. The reports are when growers receive money, not when seed actually moves. Tall fescue movement is down almost half. This is after 1-2 years of record production of Tall fescue. Warehouses are bursting at the seams with Tall fescue. Perennial ryegrass is still overstocked but at a lower rate. The Tall fescue market is so narrow, but Perennial ryegrass can be substituted into most mixtures. China has bought a lot of Tall fescue seed because prices are cheap, but they are very particular about quality. Phil asked if they moved far less Tall fescue this year, what happened to price during that time? Dan W. said the price is almost half. Sod Quality seed was offered with the variety name. The grower would have gotten \$0.75 several years ago, but he was recently offered \$0.28 and is thinking about it. Dan H said a lot of Kentucky 31 came on the market because it was too wet to make hay in some states. Also, housing starts are way down... totally different than it has been in the past.
 - g) OSU Seed Services – Dan Curry – There is a committee looking at genetic tests for Perennial ryegrass. They claim they can tell if it is Annual ryegrass or Perennial ryegrass. This opens up a lot of questions of how seed is marketed. ODA applied for a federal state marketing grant. This grant will allow them to participate in the ISTA/ISF seed lot size research.
 - i. Dennis Lundeen – Thanks to everyone for coming today. In June, we hosted the 2009 AOSCA national annual meeting in Portland. Many committees met with agencies represented all over the U.S., Canada, and one from New Zealand. In other news, the website has been revised and the home page

updated. All online services have been updated and are more user-friendly. Seedling and crop sign-ups are all online now. This is a time saver for everyone involved and has cut back on paperwork. A new crop to Seed Certification is Field Corn, with two companies having production in the Hermiston/Milton-Freewater area. Pioneer Hy-Bred has built a new plant in Hermiston, Ore., and is planning to keep expanding over the next few years. Acreages were down this year according to our new plantings report, down about 10% in new sign-ups from last year and about 13% overall. Our overall acreage for 2009 was down only 4%. Seed conditioners have concerns with automatic samplers: there is variability between the automatic samplers and hand sampling. A small minority of samplers are the problem. About 10 years ago, there was a study, and it brought to light some concern. We are going to revisit the issue and do some studies this year. Dan W. supports that move. With the prices where they are, there is a huge temptation to keep a clean bucket in the corner.

- ii. Adriel – He already heard about the ammonia test. The Seed Lab is now ISTA certified, and they are also going to focus on Canada Grading (if the seed is graded here, you can drive right through the border). They had a Seed Quality Workshop which is still exciting and being improved each year with feedback from the participants. The Seed Lab had their 100-year anniversary. They hope to submit the Tall fescue blowing point method to AOSA this year. Last year, the issue was proposed as a choice, and this year they will propose it as a change to the only method. A new service is to determine the oil/protein content in seeds. Also, the shortening of the Annual ryegrass germ/fluorescence study that was already mentioned. Dan H. asked how the sample flow is, about normal? Adriel said they didn't see the large peak in August and September like usual, but they are seeing higher levels now. Jake asked if the rates are going up. Dennis said rates are staying the same. Adriel said rates are staying the same, but new tests are being established. Bill Y. asked both Dans if there is any advantage to having blue tags. Both agreed, yes, especially for export. Dennis asked if export is going to hold steady. Jake said, yes, there is some seed going for export, but they don't know how long it will hold.

14) Old Business – none

15) Adjourn

- a) Dan would like to thank Julie Hendrix and her staff for putting together the board binders.
- b) Terry questioned the board members about the confusion between Committee Terms and Board Terms.
- c) Dan H. is reappointed until March 12; Jake is appointed until whenever Dan W. is in.
- d) Motion made by Carl H., --2nd was by everyone.