

**Minutes of the OECD Annual Ryegrass Subcommittee
of the Grass and Legume Advisory Committee
January 4, 2010**

Committee Members: Wade Biegler, Biegler Farms; Quinn Gillespie, Tangent Seed Lab; Reed Barker, Grass Genomic Testing, Inc.; Adriel Garay, OSU Seed Lab; Matt Herb, Oregro Seed Co.; George Pugh, Pugh Seed Farms; Harry Stalford, Stalford Seed Farms; Brad Jeffreys, DLF-International Seeds; Iraj Motazedian, OSCS; and Dennis Lundeen, Chair, OSCS

The subcommittee was created at the Grass and Legume Advisory Committee (GLAC) meeting on December 9, for the purpose of reviewing the “Proposal for Facilitating Rapid Movement of Certified Annual Ryegrass into Foreign Markets” presented by OSTA at that meeting. The GLAC committee determined further discussion on this topic was needed.

Matt Herb reviewed the proposal and emphasized that for OECD Annual ryegrass to move timely into EEC countries, shipments as early as the first week of August are needed. Since a full fluorescence test on ryegrass takes twenty-one days, and harvest may not be until mid-to-late July, it is difficult to get seed tagged in time for this early shipment. Iraj Motazedian reviewed current ways to tag seed more quickly including Advance Tagging, Early Sampling, and use of the Grey Tag (Not Finally Certified).

There was discussion with regard to the difference of ISTA and AOSA reporting on ryegrasses. AOSA rules require a fluorescence test and reports both the percentage of Annual and Perennial ryegrass. ISTA requires a purity and reports any ryegrass found as *lolium spp*. Adriel Garay outlined the differences between ISTA and AOSA testing of ryegrasses. Reed Barker indicated that the fluorescence test is very inaccurate to determine Perennial from Annual ryegrasses. Harry Stalford indicated concern that changes may jeopardize the quality of OECD ryegrasses shipped out of the country. Dennis Lundeen indicated that, at this time, Oregon Seed Certification Service is signed to an MOU with USDA-AMS to use AOSA testing for purity and germination on OECD certified seed.

The discussion moved toward a request that OSCS work with U.S. OECD authorities to develop an optional additional field inspection program that would allow for quicker shipment of seed, that the fields may be able to be tagged once all field inspections are completed, and that seed test 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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis Lundeen