

**Minutes of the 2009 Meeting**  
Grass and Legume Advisory Committee  
Certification, Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Board

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 Salem Conference Center Salem, Oregon

Members present: Rodney Hightower, Brian Parker, Wade Biegler, Ken Strahan, Dan Nelson, Colin Scott, Les Gilmore, Adriel Garay, Dan Curry, Mark Mellbye, Tom Silberstein, Reed Barker, Bill Young, Dennis Lundeen, Jim Hendrickson, Roger Ruckert, Brad Jeffreys, Randy Knight

Guests present: Frank Prantl (Pennington Seed); Dan Hemshorn (Pickseed-Seed Research); Dan Walters (DLF-International Seeds); Sharon Davidson (Agri Seed Testing, Inc); Jay Burr (The Scotts Company); Kevin Turner (The Scotts Co.); Matt Herb (OSTA/OSTA); Dennis Combs (Dennis Combs Ag Consultant, Inc.); David Lundell (Dennis Combs Ag Consultant, Inc.); Rachel Hankins (Oregon Seed Certification Service); Terry Burr (OSCS); Iraj Motazedian (OSCS); Barry Schrumph (OSCS); Sandy Smith (OSCS); John Zielinski (OSCS)

Call to Order and Introductions: Chairman Biegler called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Those in attendance introduced themselves and stated their respective affiliations.

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting and 2009 Special Meeting.

**Motion passed** to accept the 2008 and 2009 Special meeting minutes as published.

Item 2: Amend the certification standards for Hybrid Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) to address isolation between different classes of the same variety.

**Motion passed** to amend the standards to read, "Isolation between fields of the same variety must be adequate to prevent mixtures". Randy Knight had consulted a sunflower plant breeder from North Dakota to get his recommendation. The breeder considered isolation in this case as somewhat moot because bees disperse pollen.

Item 3: Review how the ammonia test is being used for certification purposes.

Dan Curry stated that the lab does an ammonia test on Blue, Hard and Sheep fescues to confirm the presence or absence of red fescue. The lab also collects the same information on samples of red fescue and had been stating the results on the lab test up until recently for about a year. The question was raised why the ammonia test results were being reported on the test when the customer did not request that information. The Seed Services Advisory Committee ruled that the information should not be included on the report for samples of red fescue. The point was made that the ammonia test is required when applied to Blue, Hard and Sheep fescue seed stock and could also help in identifying potential problems in red fescue. Sharon Davidson pointed out that the ammonia test is not in AOSA rules. There seems to be a problem getting the same interpretation of the ammonia test results between labs due to the inability to distinguish between the shades of green and yellow. Adriel Garay said it can be very difficult for the analyst to distinguish morphologically between the red fescues and the Blue, Hard and Sheep fescues. Barry Schrumph said a field inspection allows you to see red fescue in a Hard, Blue or Sheep fescue but the reverse is not true. Reed Barker stated that an ammonia test should only be used as an indicator to support a decision as opposed to an infallible test like a chromosome or ploidy test. Adriel said the ploidy numbers overlap between these groups, therefore could not be used as a definitive test, only an indicator like the ammonia test. Adriel said AOSA rules allow a lab to include additional information, like the ammonia test, in order to make a decision. Sharon Davidson said if the OSU lab is going to use the ammonia test on red fescue, then the private labs will need to run the same test and that it would add time and expense to the testing process. There continues to be a need to report the results of the ammonia test on Hard, Blue and Sheep to discourage the addition of red fescue seed to a Hard, Blue or Sheep fescue lot. A **motion passed** to continue using the ammonia test, as in the past, for determining certification eligibility of Hard, Blue and Sheep fescues and state that activity as a footnote in the Certification Handbook. The wording in the Handbook would read, "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), Certified (2% yellow fluorescing seedlings).

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Item 4: Add Oregon certification standards for Soybeans.

Randy Knight presented soybean standards that resulted from research into standards used in the states of Washington, North Dakota, Minnesota, Arizona, Ohio and Iowa. A **motion passed** to accept the soybean standards as presented.

Item 5: Investigate ways of making annual ryegrass tag eligible faster in order to meet foreign market deadlines.

Reed Barker questioned the rules that would be used on annual ryegrass to determine certification eligibility, AOSA or ISTA and if the intent was to ship annual ryegrass without a fluorescence test. Sharon Davidson said no fluorescence test is required when ISTA rules are used. Matt Herb explained the financial advantage for Oregon growers to produce specific annual ryegrasses for the EU this past year if the early marketing deadlines could be met. Matt said waiting 21 days for a fluorescence test would not allow the production to meet the market deadline for this specific EU production. Matt had reviewed his companies fluorescence tests on certified and uncertified annual ryegrass this past year and determined that the presence of perennial ryegrass indicated by the fluorescence test was not a significant factor. Roger Ruckert stated that, in his opinion as a grower, perennial ryegrass is not able to compete with annual ryegrass in a production field. Iraj mentioned the Early Sampling and Early Tagging programs that are now available through Seed Certification. Adriel said ISTA and AOSA require waiting fourteen days before taking a final count to measure germination. Adriel said many annual ryegrass samples germinate and exhibit fluorescence in less than fourteen days and that if the AOSA rules were changed to allow germination to be declared when it reaches 100% much time could be saved. Sharon Davidson suggested going to the OECD Authority and requesting an exemption for annual ryegrass from meeting AOSA rules when the grass is going to another country. For example, if the seed is going to the EU, it should only be required to meet the ISTA rules that are sufficient to do business in that area. Reed stated that tests that are faster than the AOSA approved fluorescence test are available now, however they are not approved. Dennis Combs said there is a good marketing opportunity available to us if we can qualify the annual ryegrass for tags and ship by the first of August. Roger Ruckert asked if tags could be released based on a mechanical purity and TZ with the fluorescence results to follow with the customer knowing the risk involving the fluorescence. Dennis Lundeen said that procedure had not been allowed for ryegrasses. Dan Curry stated that the EU claims that they replace the fluorescence test with a stricter field inspection protocol. Adriel mentioned the option to determine the ploidy level from leaf samples, thus earlier tag eligibility. A **motion passed** to have Seed Certification form a committee including members from grower, industry and seed certification groups to develop short-term solutions to speed up the process of tagging and shipping annual ryegrass for the 2010 crop. In addition, the same committee would initiate dialogue with the U.S. OECD Authority to investigate the use of the fluorescence test as it applies to the tagging and shipment of annual ryegrass to other countries. Dennis Lundeen will chair this committee. Currently other identified members of this committee are Reed Barker, Brad Jeffreys and Wade Biegler. Other members are yet to be determined.

Item 6: Dan Nelson asked what procedure is followed by a lab when a noxious weed is found in a sample and then a retest is done on the same sample and when a new sample is submitted. Adriel said the OSU lab averages the noxious weed content and carries that number forward on the retest report in either case if the lot was not recleaned. Sharon said her lab would do the same on the retest from the same sample but if a new sample is submitted without a re-clean no average is done.

Item 7: Matt Herb asked about the fee schedule that is followed by the OSU lab when a purity, germ and sod test are requested. Are the fees adjusted depending on the point in the process that the sod prohibited species is found? Adriel will check on the procedure and respond later.

Item 8: Reports

- OSU College of Agriculture / Crop and Soil Science Department Report

Dan Curry pointed out a report prepared by Dr. Russ Karow, Department Head, concerning departmental

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activities for distribution to the committee.

- Oregon Seed Services Report

Dan Curry provided a report explaining Seed Services activities for distribution to the committee. Dan also talked about the on-going efforts to qualify warehouses to ship OECD lots up to fifty-five thousand pounds. Dan said funding may be available to support the qualification effort.

- OSU Seed Laboratory Report

Adriel Garay told the group that the lab is now ISTA approved and providing that service to customers. He also announced that the lab would be offering workshops in January and February this year. The lab is providing vigor tests on many crops, including vegetables intended for early Spring planting. The lab is studying alternative testing methods for orchardgrass that are less complex than current protocol.

- Oregon Seed Certification Service

Dennis Lundeen commented on the addition of corn certification in Oregon and the expansion of sunflower and canola inspections. He reminded the group of web based services and on-going development in that area. Dennis requested feedback from on-line service users, especially if any problems are encountered. The annual Activity Report from Certification is available showing perennial ryegrass and tall fescue acres declining and annual ryegrass acres increasing, along with a significant jump in wheat acres. Overall acreage went down 4.2% this last year.

- Oregon Department of Agriculture Report

No representation at this meeting and no report provided.

Item 9: Elect 2010 vice-chairman from Oregon Seed Growers League representatives.

Roger Ruckert was unanimously elected incoming vice-chairman of the committee.

Item 10: Identify the representative attending the Certification Board meeting in February.

Dan Hemshorn will represent this committee at the annual Board meeting.

Item 11: Select date and time for next annual meeting of this committee.

By consensus, the next annual meeting of the committee will be scheduled for the Wednesday following the Oregon Seed Growers League annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Knight, Secretary  
December 15, 2009

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Enclosures

List of Committee members, page 5

Motions for consideration by the Certification Board, page 6

cc: Sonny Ramaswamy, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, OSU  
Jan Auyong, Assistant Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, OSU  
William S. Braunworth, Program Leader, Extension Agriculture, OSU  
Matt Herb, President, Oregon Seed Growers League and Oregon Seed Trade Association  
Guests in attendance

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**Committee Members**

Name	Affiliation	Term
Wade Biegler <i>Chair</i>	Oregon Seed Growers League	2009
Les Gilmore <i>Vice-chair</i>	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2010
Rodney Hightower	Oregon Seed Growers League	2009
Dallas Goracke	Oregon Seed Growers League	2010
Collin Crocker	Oregon Seed Growers League	2008
Brian Parker	Oregon Seed Growers League	2009
Roger Ruckert	Oregon Seed Growers League	2011
Ken Strahan	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2008
Dan Nelson	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2008
Brad Jeffreys	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2009
Mick McGregor	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2010
Jim Hendrickson	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2010
Colin Scott	Turfgrass Breeders Association	2008
Bill Young	OSU Extension Specialist Seed Production	Permanent
Tom Silberstein	OSU Extension Agent Marion County	Permanent
Mark Mellbye	OSU Extension Agent Linn County	Permanent
Reed Barker	OSU Grass Genomics	Permanent
Russ Karow	OSU, Crop and Soil Science Department Head	Ex-officio
Dan Curry	OSU, Crop and Soil Science Seed Services Director	Ex-officio
Dennis Lundeen	OSU Extension Specialist Seed Certification, Manager	Ex-officio
Adriel Garay	OSU Seed Laboratory Manager	Ex-officio
Ron Pence	Oregon Department of Agriculture, Commodity Inspection Division Assistant Administrator	Ex-officio
Randy Knight <i>Committee Secretary</i>	OSU Extension Specialist Seed Certification	Ex-officio

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**Motions recommended for approval by the Certification Board at its next annual meeting**  
February 11, 2010

1. Amend the certification standards for Hybrid Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) to address isolation between classes of the same variety.
2. Amend the certification standards for fine fescue to include a footnote stating, "The ammonia test is done automatically on all certified seed lots of species in the Blue, Hard and Sheep fescue complex to determine the presence of other fine fescue (yellow fluorescing); tolerances are: Foundation (zero yellow), Registered (one yellow seedling), Certified (2% yellow fluorescing seedlings).
3. Accept soybean (*Glycine max*) certification standards as presented.
4. Request OSCS to form a committee that includes members from grower, industry and seed certification groups to develop short-term solutions to speed up the process of tagging and shipping annual ryegrass for the 2010 crop. In addition the same committee would initiate dialogue with the U.S. OECD Authority to investigate the use of the fluorescence test as it applies to the tagging and shipment of annual ryegrass to other countries. Dennis Lundeen would chair this committee.