

**Minutes of the 2010 Meeting**  
Grass and Legume Advisory Committee  
Certification, Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Board

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 LaSells Stewart Center Corvallis, Oregon

Members present: Collin Crocker, Brian Parker, Ron Pence, Ken Strahan, Dan Nelson, Colin Scott, Les Gilmore, Mary Beth Menard, Dan Curry, Mark Mellbye, Tom Silberstein, Reed Barker, Bill Young, Dennis Lundeen, Karl Dettwyler for Kevin Loe, Roger Ruckert, Brad Jeffreys, Randy Knight

Guests present: Virginia Lehman (Blue Moon Farms); Dan Hemshorn (Pickseed-Seed Research); Dan Walters (DLF-International Seeds); Denver Pugh (Grower); Terry Ross (Integrated Seed Growers); Sabry Elias (Seed Laboratory, OSU); Farhad Shafabakhsh (OSCS); Randy Black (ODA); Derek Lundberg (Pickseed); Don Floyd (Pickseed); Rachel Hankins (OSCS); Terry Burr (OSCS); Iraj Motazedian (OSCS); Barry Schrupf (OSCS); Sandy Smith (OSCS); John Zielinski (OSCS); Jeff McMorran (OSCS)

Call to Order and Introductions: Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 12:55 PM. Those in attendance introduced themselves and stated their respective affiliations.

Certificates of Appreciation to Committee Members: Dan Curry presented certificates to Les Gilmore, Brad Jeffreys, Dennis Lundeen, Brian Parker and Roger Ruckert. Mick McGregor was not present but a certificate was later mailed to him.

Approval of the Minutes: A **Motion passed** to accept the 2009 Annual and 2009 Special Meeting minutes as published.

Item 1: No-till Modified Land History (MLH) option for annual ryegrass (ARG)

Jeff McMorran told the group that the Oregon Ryegrass Commission had requested OSCS to consider no-till as an acceptable management option for reducing the crop history requirement for ARG. Jeff explained some research published in 1969 revealing that no viable ARG exists near the surface after three years out of ARG. This proposed change to the standards would only apply to the certified class. This option would still require an MLH and include all associated safeguards. A question was raised about requiring wider row spacing in this option but the group felt that might be too technical and restrictive. Currently much of the ARG is planted in seven or ten inch rows. Jeff pointed out the need to require no-till practices be used for the following two years after using this option to maintain eligibility. A **motion passed** to accept the option to plant ARG after two years if a continuous no-till is used after the previous ARG crop and an MLH option is applied. Subsequent plantings of the same variety following this option would also need to be no-till planted until you have been out of a different ARG variety for at least five years. The added wording in the Handbook on page four under "Modification of land history" would read, "..... minimum of three years **with conventional tillage, or two years for certified annual ryegrass production if continuous no-till is the field history since the previous annual ryegrass.**" The wording in the Field History section of the ARG standards would read, ".... to produce Certified seed. **Modified Land History provisions apply to this crop (see OSCS General Standards, IV, C. Land Requirements #2), which can reduce the period following a previous ARG crop to three years for conventional tillage practices and two years if a continuous no-till MLH option is used. PLEASE NOTE: If the two year out no-till MLH option is used, an ARG crop planted the following two years must also be no-till to qualify for certification.**"

Item 2: Review of Early Tagging Program for OECD annual ryegrass

Jeff McMorran provided a brief review of how the Program was implemented and carried out. From the OSCS perspective the Program was successful. All seed lots that passed the early field inspection and lab test eventually passed all required testing. Jeff went on to explain the only problem encountered was the ploidy test values we acquired did not always match the ploidy information on the OECD list of accepted varieties. Ploidy test results from four of the eleven varieties and nine of the eighteen seed lots did not match what was stated on the OECD list. This discovery delayed tagging on two of the varieties. Reed Barker pointed out there may be additional tests available to us in the near future that can assist in this effort to tag the product sooner. Jeff also stated the potential for isolation errors due to incorrect ploidy information, especially with OECD varieties. Dan Nelson asked about the process for acquiring the

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OECD certificate prior to final fluorescence and germ being available. He would like to receive early tagging privileges on perennial ryegrass that need an OECD certificate. Dennis Lundeen said OSCS would look into the possibility.

Item 3: Ploidy issues impacting the production practices of OECD annual ryegrass.

Jeff explained the potential for isolation problems resulting from incorrect ploidy information on annual ryegrasses, especially OECD varieties. Production fields of annual ryegrass are often positioned according to ploidy level to avoid the affect of pollen on genetic purity. When the ploidy level is incorrectly stated there is a significant risk that genetic purity will be compromised. It was suggested that there may be a translation problem regarding ploidy on OECD varieties. The OSU Seed Laboratory is equipped to test for ploidy information. Sandy explained to the group that OSCS does not require supporting documentation regarding ploidy level when a variety is submitted to the Program. The applicant for the variety simply states the ploidy level on the application. A **motion passed** to test the pre-control sample for ploidy level on all new varieties of OECD annual ryegrass submitted to OSCS.

Item 4: Rewording of annual ryegrass field history standards

Jeff explained that the current wording in the Field History section of annual ryegrass standards could be misleading. It might be interpreted that if perennial ryegrass is planted after annual ryegrass that the five years out of annual ryegrass could be reduced to something less than five years. This would not be the case thus the following wording was suggested for clarification in the form of a motion. A **motion passed** to change the wording in the Field History section of the ARG standards to read: "Land must not have grown or been seeded to any **annual or intermediate** ryegrass during the previous.....and certified. **Land must not have grown or been seeded to Perennial Ryegrass for two years to produce Certified class seed.**" Modified Land History provisions.....

Item 5: Proposed change to the OSCS isolation standards between slender and strong creeping red fescue.

Terry Burr explained the current standards for fine fescue that require isolation between strong creeping varieties of Red fescue and either slender creeping Red fescue or Chewings varieties with differing chromosome levels at Foundation and Registered generations. OSCS was not able to pass a production field this year due to this isolation requirement. The decision was appealed and the appeal panel recommended a change in the standards for this committee to consider. A **motion passed** to revise the wording in footnote #2 of the Fine Fescue standards to read: "....."Red or Chewings Fescues. **No isolation is required between Red fescue varieties having 56 chromosomes and those having 42 chromosomes (including Chewings) where satisfactory documentary evidence of the varieties' ploidy is accepted; Experimentals, and OECD varieties for which an authentic sample has not been provided, will continue to require isolation distances for cross-pollinating varieties. Forty-two chromosome Red fescue varieties (slender creeping) include: Count, Dawson, Marker, Rainier, Seabreeze, Seabreeze GT, SeaLink."**

Item 6: New certification crop standards for Plantain.

Sandy Smith presented revised Plantain standards. Two new plantain varieties were introduced to the OSCS variety review committee this year. The current standards are specific to Buckhorn Plantain and the intent is to broaden them to include all Plantain species. The revision would also add field and seed standards for the Registered class. Barry asked about the isolation requirements being the same for all classes. Sandy said the standards for Buckhorn came from the New Zealand certification program and they had the isolation listed the same for certified and foundation. Dan Walters asked if any of the plantains were listed as noxious. Randy Black for ODA said plantain is not a noxious weed in Oregon. A **motion passed** to accept the amended standards for Plantain as presented.

**Minutes of the 2010 Meeting**  
Grass and Legume Advisory Committee  
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Wednesday, December 8, 2010 LaSells Stewart Center Corvallis, Oregon

Item 7: New certification crop standards for Alkaligrass.

Randy Knight presented standards for *puccinellia distans* that resulted from seed standards used in another states certification program. Field standards were the result of combining portions of standards taken from bluegrass and fine fescue. Brian Parker suggested the inert in the seed standards be lowered to 5% in all classes due to his experience conditioning alkaligrass seed. Virginian Lehman thought we should broaden the standards to include all species, not just *distans*. She suggested there are species of alkaligrass that are more difficult to condition due to fluffy seed. Sandy said substandard tags are sometimes issued on seed stock lots with high inert but never on certified class. In light of addressing all species of alkaligrass with these standards, the committee agreed to set the inert at 10% for all classes. **A motion passed** to accept the standards as stated for *Puccinellia* spp. and a minimum purity of 90% and a maximum inert of 10% for all classes.

Item 8: Association of Official Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) review of breeder seed use in alfalfa production.

Dennis Lundeen was bringing to the attention of the group that AOSCA will be having discussions with the Alfalfa seed production community regarding the level of certified seed production being planted with breeder seed. There is a concern by AOSCA that the while the certification agencies allow the production of certified class seed using breeder seed, it was not the intent to see it as the normal production scheme. The evidence of a large number of alfalfa certified class seed production fields being established using breeder seed raises the question of how that much breeder seed is being generated in the alfalfa breeding programs. Dennis felt the discussion of this topic is likely to spill over into other crops in addition to alfalfa. Colin Scott said this topic is currently being discussed among members of the Turfgrass Breeders Association (TBA). The TBA is planning to put some guidelines in place for plant breeders to follow regarding the appropriate use of breeder tags. This may include specific wording on the tag. Reed and Colin both pointed out that the best scenario you can have is to go from breeder seed to certified if you are trying to maintain the genetic integrity of the variety and reduce inbreeding depression. The problem comes when seed that would not be considered breeder seed in some groups is being labeled as such. Virginia recommended that OSCS consider developing a standard format for a breeder tag that would include a statement making the person signing the tag responsible for the genetic integrity of the seed thus removing OSCS concerns or potential liability.

Item 9: Review of the change in the lot number to a 2-digit year.

Iraj Motazedian informed the group that the Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee approved the requirement of using two digits to indicate the crop year in the lot number that is put on the bags and associated documentation. OSCS had encountered some confusion in identifying the correct product when only one digit was used. This has not been a problem until 2010 but should now be resolved.

Item 10: Revise isolation standards for perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and meadow fescue.

Terry Burr said it was discovered that the current perennial ryegrass and tall fescue standards do not address the potential for cross-pollination with meadow fescue. During the discussion it was determined that this topic applied to all ryegrasses, not just perennial ryegrass. Virginia Lehman suggested to only address isolation of tall fescue with meadow fescue in the production of foundation and registered classes. **A motion passed** to make these changes.

After this meeting it was determined that additional changes needed to be made to annual and intermediate ryegrass standards to address isolation with meadow fescue. The field history standards were also recommended for change in tall fescue and meadow fescue. The chairman for the Grass and Legume Advisory Committee collected votes by email from members. The **motion passed** as of January 14, 2011 and will be included as a recommendation to the Board.

Item 11: DNA analysis per two optional test methods for ryegrass discrimination.

Reed Barker informed the group that he is aware of additional testing methods that can be used for

**Minutes of the 2010 Meeting**  
Grass and Legume Advisory Committee  
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Wednesday, December 8, 2010    LaSells Stewart Center    Corvallis, Oregon

ryegrass discrimination. He would like to have a revision made in the certification handbook to acknowledge the accepted use of these tests for tagging purposes. Iraj asked if these tests had been accepted by AOSA. Reed indicated there are two tests that are accepted by AOSA as a tentative proposed rule. Iraj was questioning if OSCS should include a tentative rule in the handbook. It was pointed out that by inserting language in the handbook to allow the use of these types of tests in general terms should be acceptable. Specific tests of this type will become available and the decision to use the test will be decided case by case. The proposed wording would only provide an option for OSCS to utilize a new method; in this case molecular marker tests. A **motion passed** to insert wording into the certification handbook in the last sentence on page 8, #3 to read: "A supplemental grow-out **and/or molecular marker** test may be used for tagging purposes.

Other business:

Reed Barker provided a handout he had written in 2006 titled "The Ryegrasses in U.S. Agriculture". The document addresses the taxonomic classification of ryegrass and the grouping of tall fescue and meadow fescue with ryegrass. Information that will be included in future discussions on isolation in these crops.

Item 12: 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 activities for distribution to the committee. Items of interest included reorganization plans for the College of Ag Sciences and OSU Extension, updates on State and Federal budgets as they relate to OSU, changes in leadership for the wheat and potato breeding programs at OSU

- Oregon Seed Services Report

Dan Curry provided a report explaining Seed Services activities for distribution to the committee. Dan said thirteen warehouses have signed up to participate in the ISTA/ISF Seed Lot Size Experiment. The financial support for this program comes from Agri Seed Testing, the OSU Seed Lab, ODA, Seed Certification and a grant from USDA.

- OSU Seed Laboratory Report

Dan Curry said the lab is working on a project that may result in shortening annual ryegrass germination and fluorescence testing time up to seven days thus allowing shippers of ryegrass earlier shipping dates. Dan said the lab has provided training for Washington State Department of Agriculture personnel to be ISTA accredited samplers and may provide the same service for other agencies.

- Oregon Seed Certification Service

Dennis Lundeen commented that feedback is indicating that on-line service is working well for users. The annual Activity Report from Certification is available showing reduced acres of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue and an increase in annual ryegrass and wheat acres. Dennis said certification fees are being reviewed.

- Oregon Department of Agriculture Report

Ron Pence and Randy Black provided two handouts titled "Legislative Concept" to the group. One provided a complete discussion of the "Slow Pay, No Pay subject. The other document provided detail on the intent to raise the cap on license fees for retail and wholesale seed dealers.

Item 13:    Elect 2010 vice-chairman from Oregon Seed Trade Association representatives.

**Minutes of the 2010 Meeting**  
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Wednesday, December 8, 2010   LaSells Stewart Center   Corvallis, Oregon

Brad Jeffreys was unanimously elected incoming vice-chairman of the committee.

Item 14:   Identify the representative attending the Certification Board meeting in February.

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

Item 15:   Select date and time for next annual meeting of this committee.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Knight, Secretary  
December 21, 2010

Enclosures

List of Committee members, page 6

Motions for consideration by the Certification Board, page 7

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  
      Sharon Davidson, President, Oregon Seed Growers League  
      Bill Dunn, President, Oregon Seed Trade Association

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Wednesday, December 8, 2010 LaSells Stewart Center Corvallis, Oregon

**Committee Members**

Name	Affiliation	Term*
Les Gilmore <i>Chair</i>	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2010
Roger Ruckert <i>Vice-chair</i>	Oregon Seed Growers League	2011
Kevin Loe	Oregon Seed Growers League	2012
Dallas Goracke	Oregon Seed Growers League	2010
Collin Crocker	Oregon Seed Growers League	2010
Brian Parker	Oregon Seed Growers League	2012
Bruce McKee	Oregon Seed Growers League	2012
Ken Strahan	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2011
Dan Nelson	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2011
Brad Jeffreys	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2012
Mick McGregor	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2012
Mary Beth Menard	Oregon Seed Trade Association	2012
Colin Scott	Turfgrass Breeders Association	2011
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

\* Term expires at the end of the annual Certification Board Meeting in February of the following year.

**Minutes of the 2010 Meeting**  
Grass and Legume Advisory Committee  
Certification, Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Board

Wednesday, December 8, 2010   LaSells Stewart Center   Corvallis, Oregon

**Motions recommended for approval by the Certification Board at its next annual meeting**  
February 8, 2011

1. Accept a revision to the certification handbook on page four under "Modification of land history", next to last line, to read, ".....minimum of three years **with conventional tillage, or two years for certified annual ryegrass production if continuous no-till is the field history since the previous annual ryegrass.**"  
In addition, add the following wording in the Field History section of the annual ryegrass standards, beginning in the third line to read, ".....Certified seed. **Modified Land History provisions apply to this crop (see OSCS General Standards, IV, C. Land Requirements #2), which can reduce the period following a previous annual ryegrass crop to three years for conventional tillage practices and two years if a continuous no-till MLH option is used. PLEASE NOTE: If the two year out no-till MLH option is used, an annual ryegrass cop planted the following two years must also be no-till to qualify for certification.**"
2. Request OSCS to routinely test, using pre-control samples, to determine the ploidy level on all new OECD varieties submitted for certification.
3. Amend the wording in the Field History section of the annual ryegrass standards to read, "Land must not have grown or been seeded to any **annual or intermediate** ryegrass during the previous five years unless of the same variety, class, and certified. ~~If following Perennial Ryegrass, the five year period may be shortened to two years to produce Certified seed.~~ **Land must not have grown or been seeded to Perennial Ryegrass for two years to produce Certified class seed.**
4. Amend the wording in footnote #2 of the fine fescue standards, second line, to read, "**No isolation is required at the Certified generation between strong creeping varieties of Red fescue and either slender creeping Red fescue or Chewings varieties with differing chromosome levels, as verified by variety descriptions or special testing. Slender creeping Red fescue varieties between Red fescue varieties having 56 chromosomes and those having 42 chromosomes (including Chewings) where satisfactory documentary evidence of the varieties' ploidy is accepted; Experimental, and OECD varieties for which an authentic sample has not been provided, will continue to require isolation distances for cross-pollinating varieties. Forty-two chromosome Red fescue varieties (slender creeping) include: Count, Dawson, Marker, Rainier, Seabreeze, Seabreeze GT, SeaLink.**"
5. Accept amended crop standards for Plantain as presented.
6. Accept new Alkaligrass crop standards as presented.
7. Accept revised Isolation requirements in the crop standards of all ryegrasses as presented in order to recognize the potential for cross-pollination with meadow fescue. Accept revised field history and isolation requirements as presented in tall fescue and meadow fescue crop standards.
8. Add the following wording in the certification handbook on page 8, C. Sampling and Testing Seed, #3, last sentence to read: "A supplemental grow-out **and/or molecular marker** test may be used for tagging purposes."