

Seed Conditioner Advisory Committee
10:00 to 12:00 AM, Wednesday December 8, 2010
LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University

1. Twenty second annual meeting of the Oregon Seed Certification Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee called to order at 10:10 AM by the chairman Hubert Christensen. Other members in attendance were, Drew Bell, Randy Black, Mike Coon, Dan Curry, Warren Dole, Larry Falk, Les Gilmore, Dennis Lundeen, Mark Mellbye, Iraj Motazedian, Jim Parsons, Jessie Peters, Jake Stockfleth, Sean Vibbert, and Bill Young. Members absent were, Adriel Garay, Mike hawman, Russ Karow. Guests in attendance were, Terry Burr, Rachel Hankins, Jeff McMorran, Randy Knight, Ron Pence, Farhad Shafa, Barry Schrupf, Sandy Smith, Dave Turner, and John Zielinski.
2. Minutes of December 9, 2009 meeting mailed previously. Jake moved and Mike seconded a motion to accept the minutes. Motion passed.
3. Dennis Lundeen, manager of Oregon Seed Certification Service informed the committee about a confusion that might occur using only the last digit of the year of production in lot numbering. A zero in a lot number (-0-) for 2010 production may be confused in bookkeeping and computer records with a production in 1990, for example. He suggested using two digits for the year of production in the lot numbers. Jake moved and Mike seconded a motion to **“use the last two digits of the year of production in lot numbering.”** Motion passed.
4. Reports: Crop and Soil Science Department and Seed Services reports are attached. For Oregon Certification reports Dennis Lundeen informed the committee that:
 - Acreage of Certified fields is down about 17% from last year and 23% from 2005 Tall fescue and Perennial ryegrass are down while acreage of Annual ryegrass was up. Small grains remain the same.
 - Oregon Seed Certification Service had training for the samplers for ISTA sampling and other sampling issues.
 - We are auditing the automatic samplers in all warehouses with such samplers. We look at 1/3 of the warehouses with automatic sampler in a year. The objective is to make sure these samplers are working accurately.
 - Online sign-ups for new fields and crop sign-ups are going well. We offered online training for the growers of Lane and Washington counties to do their sign-ups at home. Unfortunately growers did not show interests.
 - We are reviewing our fees to see where we are. If we have to increase our fees in 2011, it would be an increase after eight years.

Mark Mellbye pointed out the importance of automatic samplers and that the Oregon Seed Certification Service should continue with this effort. Jim Parson moved and Mark seconded a motion that **“this committee supports the OSCS to monitor automatic samplers continually.”** Motion passed.

For ODA 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. They also mentioned that ODA certifies fields for noxious weed free forage before cutting the field. Noxious weed free hay is required for packing animals.

5. On other business Dan Nelson of Turf Merchants Inc. Asked about the possibilities of getting the OECD tags earlier than the time when the certificate is issued. Farhad pointed out that printing OECD tags and the certificate initiates from the same program and are related to each other.
6. Jake Stockfleth is committee’s representative at the Certification Board meeting for the next year.
7. Jim nominated Jake to chair the next meeting. Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed.
8. For the position of vice-chair Jake nominated Sean and Hubert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday after the Seed League at LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Iraj Motazedian, Secretary,

cc: Sonny Ramaswamy, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences
Bill Boggess, College of Agricultural Sciences
Sharon Davidson, President, Oregon Seed Trade Association
Bill Dunn, President, Oregon Seed Growers League
Certification Board Members

ATTACHMENTS:

**CSS Update
November 30, 2010**

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.

3. **College of Ag Sciences** – Departmental reorganizations are underway in CAS. A merger between Crop and Soil Science and Horticulture has begun with the goal of better aligning

these two units. This merger can provide a unified voice to the many agricultural groups involved with these units and should create opportunities for faculty to work even more broadly across field crop, vegetable and other horticultural crop systems. Our intent is to streamline operations to make it as easy as possible for faculty to continue and further enhance their successful work with students, clientele groups and their colleagues. In addition to the CSS/HORT merger, Animal Sciences and Rangeland Ecology and Management will be merged into a single department. General Ag and Ag Education will be merged with the College office of Academic Affairs. Other possible mergers are being discussed at the College level.

4. **OSU Extension** - The OSU Extension Service has also proposed organizational changes. Moving to an area administration model for faculty extension faculty is the most significant among the proposed changes. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/internal/organizational-transformation> provides background information. Bill Braunworth, Ag Extension Program Leader, is also working on both short-term and long-term staffing plans for ag extension.
5. **State Budgets** – State funding for the Ag Experiment Station, Extension and teaching activities at OSU is still an unknown. The Nov 19 state revenue forecast was positive in that it was no worse than expected. Program funds for this current fiscal year will not be cut further, but prospects for the next biennium are grim. In teaching activities at OSU, student and out-of-state student numbers were up significantly in the past school year and we have another record enrollment – @23,700 students – in the current year. These increases, as well as increases in tuition, have off-set many of the cuts faced in the teaching budgets of the university. However, the Ag Experiment Station and Extension service do not have the same capability to off-set budget reductions and so are faced with significant challenges. This disparity between sectors of the university will become even more obvious in the next biennium. The 2009-11 state budget has one-time federal stimulus funds built into it as a revenue source and we also know that insurance and retirement system increases are coming in 2011. There was also a change in income tax withholding that will increase revenue for the current biennium but decrease it for the next. Unless something magical happens in the state economy, an additional 20-25% budget reduction is projected for agricultural research, extension and forest research lab programs. Given that budget in these program are 90% or more salaries for faculty and support staff, there will be major changes in assigned duties for faculty, long-term program holes when faculty retire from or leave the university, and likely some layoffs.
6. **Federal budgets** – Congress is meeting in a lame-duck session to consider FFY 11 spending bills. Our government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) and some believe we may operate under a CR for the entire fiscal year. In the proposed budgets, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative program (new name for CSREES) receives a significant increase (over 60%) in funding to a request of \$429 million in FY11 up from the \$262 million enacted in FY2010. In comparison, the National Institute of Health is slated to receive a 3% increase to \$32 billion. There is a significant difference in spending on health issues versus food and agriculture in the US. While AFRI funding has increased, most of this funding is for competitive grants versus base budget funding Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension. While OSU scientists are competitive in these grant arenas, in some cases, there were no grants for which to apply in the last year. For example, there are no grants available for traditional weed science or soils management work. This problem has been resolved for current grant competitions but will require constant vigilance. Special grants

(earmarks) which have funded a number of programs in the College of Ag and CSS have been approved for grass seed (though at a significantly reduced level) and dryland cropping systems (STEEP) research but have been discontinued for barley and meadowfoam work. However, under a Continuing Resolution, funding for special grants is not provided so even those where funding was earlier proposed may not receive funding. Tristate potato research work was moved to a line item in the USDA budget. If we operate under a continuing resolution even this work may not be funded as it was not included in the USDA FFY10 budget. The best case scenario for our ag research would be to have the proposed USDA budget formally approved. The future for special grants seems bleak given the budget concerns in DC.

7. **Wheat breeding position** – two candidates have been interviewed for the wheat breeding position vacated by Dr. Jim Peterson. Dr. Bob Zemetra interviewed the week of Oct 11 and Dr. Ed Souza the week of Nov 8. These interviews included both on and off-campus activities. Information about these candidates and recording of their on-campus seminars can be found at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/> (see bottom of page). The search committee meet on Nov 24th and has invited Dr. Zemetra back for additional conversations. We hope to have the new wheat breeding program leader on board in early 2011.
8. **Cereal Biotechnologist and Potato Breeder leave OSU** – Drs. Oscar Riera-Lizarazu and Isabel Vales, OSU Cereal Biotechnologist and Potato Breeder, respectively, began work at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) on July 1. Given the current budget unknowns and the College of Ag freeze on additional tenure-track position hires, the likelihood of refilling their positions in the short-term is slim. Jeff Leonard, long-time research associate in the Riera-Lizarazu program will lead a transition team to assure completion of current year research activities and coming year grant funded work in that program. A statewide potato variety development transition program is also being developed with Solomon Yilma (research associate in the campus-based potato program), Brian Charlton (Klamath County Extension Faculty member) and Fahrettin Goktepe (recently hired Central Oregon researcher) as program co-leaders.

Despite all the budgetary difficulties and changes taking place, good things are happening in Crop and Soil Science and the College. The annual newsletter for CSS can be found at the website <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/alumni/newsletter>. This newsletter provides highlights of happenings in the Department over the past year. You are also invited to subscribe to the College's news magazine "Oregon's Agricultural Progress" (<http://oregonprogress.oregonstate.edu/index.php>) and to the College's monthly newsletter ("The Source") for highlights of recent activities (<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/news/newsletters>).

Prepared by Russ Karow, Head, CSS russell.s.karow@oregonstate.edu; 541-737-2821



OSU Seed Services Report: December, 2010

- **Seed Lot Size Research**

Thirteen Oregon Grass Seed Warehouses have signed up to participate in the ISTA/ISF Seed Lot Size Experiment. The steps for warehouses to complete the project include developing a quality manual, having five of six large seeds lots pass a homogeneous test and to have five percent of their large seed lots that are shipped internationally tested for homogeneity. The training program started in September of this year and will conclude during the summer of 2012. The financial support for this program comes from Agri Seed Testing, the OSU Seed Lab, the ODA, Seed Certification and a grant from the USDA. There is room for two more warehouses to participate. For any questions, please call Dan Curry at 541 737-5094.

- **Shorter Annual Ryegrass Testing**

The OSU Seed Lab is working on a project with other labs that would shorten annual ryegrass germination and fluorescence tests for as much as seven days early. Currently, following the AOSA Rules, one must run the germination test of annual ryegrass a full fourteen days, even if the analyst believes that the test should end earlier. At this time, research has shown that germination and fluorescence tests that end early have had similar test results with those going the full fourteen days. If this AOSA rule proposal is adapted next June, this would allow shippers of ryegrass to ship up to seven days earlier.

- **ISTA Accredited Samplers**

The OSU Seed Lab has trained Washington Department of Agriculture samplers to be ISTA accredited samplers. This would allow WDA to sample ISTA lots and send them to the OSU Lab to be tested. Next year, the Idaho Department of Agriculture may also be trained by the OSU lab to be ISTA accredited samplers.