

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee Meeting  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 10:00 am LaSells Stewart Center

Committee Members Present: Jim Parsons, Mike Coon, Drew Bell, Dan Curry, Warren Dole, Sean Vibbert, Les Gilmore, Dennis Lundeen, Mark Mellbye, Randy Black, Jake Stockfleth, Jessie Peters

Committee Members Absent: Hubert Christensen

Guests Present: Iraj Motazedian, Jeff McMorran, Terry Burr, Randy Knight, Alex Hawman, Farhad Shafa, Jodi Keeling, Travis Feigner, Barry Schrupf, John Zielinski, Dennis Lundeen, Sabry Elias, Sandy Smith, Rachel Hankins

Chair Jake Stockfleth called the meeting to order at 10:00am

Approval of 2010 minutes: moved by Jim Parson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sean Vibbert all in favor

Discussion of the Automatic Sampler Test:

- Sabry Elias reviewed his analysis of the sampling data
- Sabry indicated the best tolerance table is already in the AOSA Rules which discuss comparing sister samples, using the same method.
- Dan indicated that the SRTD office uses 2 different tolerance tables to determine tolerances when seed violations are involved.
- There was some discussion about creating our own tolerance table over the time of the study, assuming they were taken with different methods or to continue using the AOSA table because that is what federal seed act uses.
- There was a suggestion from Mike Coon to group them in species to see if that makes a difference in the consistency of the samples. Most agreed that this was a good idea.

Discussion of the ODA Fumigation Research:

- Randy Black provided a hand out with additional information and contacts. There was no discussion.

Discussion on OECD Production and tagging of seed lots

- OECD rules wording indicates that the National Designated Authority (USDA in the US) is responsible for the OECD Seed Schemes. OSCS is responsible for OECD lots being tagged in Oregon. Tags must be attached under supervision and then the sign off sheet is signed as verification. Dennis Lundeen found the exact OECD wording and read it to the group
- Mark Mellybe gave a historical account of how the Linn Co. policy evolved and how the drop off verification works well for them, because of the driving patterns and routes they use.
- Warren Dole from Riverview Seed (east side) said that he receives the tags and sews them directly into the bag, and then they have Jane verify the lot, but he acknowledged that not everyone has the capability to do this.

- Iraj pointed out the difference between regular certification tags and OECD tags is that we do need to make sure that if the warehouses hang their own tags, that they are tagged correctly. Also, there have been some complaints from Europe that they don't like the stapled tags.
- Jake's underlying issue is that he is trusted to hang a certified tag, but isn't trusted to hang an OECD tag.
- There was a directive by Mike Coon, second by Warren Dole to OCS to review current OECD tagging policies with regard to the following:
  - o OECD tag attachment by authorized warehouse personnel
  - o OECD tag printing privileges for all tag printing locations.

#### Discussion on using of a de-bearder in the seed lab tests

- Dan Curry explained that the OSU lab had been using a small machine with perennial ryegrass to break up multiples before using tweezers and that it wasn't within the AOSA rules to use the machine, so it was stopped. Dan suggested that the bigger issue was actually that there is a perception that OSU's results have a higher inert content compared to other labs. To address that issue, a referee was conducted by Mark Mellbye and Dan Curry. Mark had Tamara take samples from three warehouses, divided them down and send them to other labs to see how each lab compared in inert level. This referee is just for tall fescue at the moment.
- All of this started from an AOSA test of different labs using native seeds. The results were all over the board, so AOSA started trying to get more labs in compliance, and reduce the options for each test that people aren't using any more or that produce varied results.
- Sabry asked why the dealers wouldn't want the de-bearder used. He thought it was more consistent and less variable, but Jake is worried that there would be more multiples, and warehouses would adjust the way they clean which would make the bag too bulky and difficult to handle..

#### Counterfeit Tags:

- Dennis Lundeen requested to add Tag Signatures to the agenda. He talked about counterfeit tags and the methods that we are using to combat that. Farhad discussed the steps we have taken to prevent counterfeit tags. Last year we added a water mark that is visible under black lights. Now OCS has added a digital signature – a digital encryption of the data on the tag. There is a program on the web, that you can type in the # and figure out if it is a legitimate OCS tag. . It is a one-way encryption, so it cannot be deciphered.

#### Reports:

- Dan Curry gave the CSS update and the OSU Seed Service Report (see attachments)
- Dennis Lundeen gave a brief update for Certification – highlighted a few of the parts of the Activity summary. Main points are that our acreages increased for the first time since 2007. Annual ryegrass acres are definitely up. Also hired a computer program after 30 months of searching.

- Sabry Elias gave the update for the seed lab. The OSU Lab hired a new supervisor, Carrie Lewis. Samples were late because of late harvest. Ploidy tests were up.
- Randy black gave an update for ODA – revamped Slow pay/no pay law (see attachments). These chapters are not available online yet.

Mike Coon nominated Jake Stockfleth to be vice chair next year, Jim Parsons 2<sup>nd</sup>, everyone in favor except Jake

Warren Dole will be the representative to the Seed Certification board.

Next years meeting same place same time Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>

Warren Dole moved to adjourn Sean Vibbert seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:35am

#### **CSS Update November 22, 2011**

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.

1. **College of Ag Sciences** – The mergers of the Department of Crop and Soil Science with Horticulture (forming the School of Integrated Plant, Soil, and Insect Science - IPSI), Animal Sciences with Rangeland Ecology and Management, and General Ag and Ag Education with the College Office of Academic Affairs will be considered by upper level OSU and OUS administration this fall or early winter. There is no reason to believe that approval will not be granted. These mergers are intended to align departments in the College that have similar missions and goals for greater efficiency and synergies. Other changes in College organization may occur once budgets for the coming biennium are known.
2. **OSU Extension** - The OSU Extension Service has moved to a regional administration model for county extension faculty. Under this model, rather than being managed by a county staff chair, faculty in a group of counties would administered by a single person. There are coordination benefits to this approach. Ten of twelve regional administrators across the state have been identified. In the Willamette Valley, Derek Godwin will administer the West Central Region (Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Benton and Linn counties), Patrick Proden the Metro Region (Washington and Multnomah counties) and Mike Bondi Clackamas County and the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. With these administrative changes, Nicole Anderson’s supervisor has been changed to Derek Godwin to better reflect her north Valley regional ag appointment. Bill Braunworth, Ag Extension Program Leader, is also working on both short-term and long-term staffing plans for agricultural extension activities. The Ag extension budget as it presently stands is over a million dollars in the red and budget reductions of @14% are anticipated in the current fiscal year, more if additional budgets reductions are required of state agencies during the February 2012 legislative session.

3. **State Budgets** – Departments and branch experiment stations have been told to plan for an @14% reduction in budgets from the last biennium. In addition, all state-funded programs are operating under a 3.5% hold-back. The state has not given authority to spend these funds in anticipation of additional budget reductions when the legislature meets in February 2012. The November 17<sup>th</sup> state budget forecast was down an additional \$107M. This reduction plus that seen in August has depleted all reserve funds that the legislature had built into the current biennial budget. It would seem that authorization to spend the 3.5% holdback is unlikely.
4. **University Pay Raises** – You have or will likely hear about raises within the university systems. With record student enrollments at most universities and increased numbers of out-of-state and international students, the teaching “side of the house” is in good financial condition at all of the state’s major universities. Given this availability of funds and the need to maintain and attract additional faculty, the universities are providing raises. OSU will provide a 4% general raise and some equity and merit raises, the first since 2009. Raises for ag research and extension faculty are being funded centrally by the university versus being paid for from already depleted statewide program funds.
5. **Federal budgets** – Federal budgets are a mess, as you are well aware. All proposals to date for federal fiscal year 2012 suggest that funding for agricultural experiment station and extension activities will be level at best to slightly reduced. Special grants that have historically funded several million dollars of research at OSU (Grass Seed Cropping Systems, STEEP, meadowfoam breeding, etc.) are a thing of the past in the new budget reality. The College of Ag will need to become more dependent on teaching activities for the creation of new faculty positions and outside funding support as we move into the future. With the failure of the Budget Super Committee to reach a compromise plan, additional cuts in federal funds to the statewide programs and federally funded research are likely as these activities are part of the discretionary fund polls that will be automatically cut under the failsafe plan.
6. **Grant Funding** – Grants are the other means through which faculty will obtain funds for program operation and in the case of most recent hires, a portion of the person salary. The College of Agricultural Sciences grant total in 2010-11 was just short of \$60 million – a new record. OSU is setting records for both grant funding and funds contributed to the OSU Foundation to establish endowments and other funding mechanisms that are outside state and federal pools. Endowments will provide some level of on-going stability to those programs that have them. A number of grower/commodity groups are exploring the creation of endowments. More information can be provided to anyone interested.
7. **Positions** – The College gave permission to fill a new potato breeding position at Hermiston. Three positions have been lost in the potato program over the past two years with just this one backfilled. A field crops extension position in Malheur County was also approved. A death and a resignation have resulted in loss of all field crops extension expertise in the county at present. The Malheur position has closed and applicants were reviewed on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Follow-up with some candidates is underway to allow narrowing the applicant pool. The Hermiston position closed and initial screening was done on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>. Phone interviews will be held to narrow the pool. We hope to have new people in these positions in early 2012. Given budget unknowns, decisions on how to proceed with filling other priority extension and research positions cannot be made at this time.

Despite budget woes, variety development work in wheat, barley, potatoes, meadowfoam, hazelnuts and vegetable crops is still going strong. Weed management and soil science work has received national recognition. Seed crop work continues but at reduced levels given the retirement of key personnel. Blueberries, cane berries and other fruit related work continues to be an area of interest given nutritional concerns on a national level. Environmental landscaping and organic production are other areas of keen interest on many levels.

For more information about happenings in the College of Agricultural Sciences you are 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" (<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/news/newsletters>). The latter also provides links to the newsletters of a number of departments in the College including CSS.

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## **OSU Seed Services Report: December 7, 2011**

- A referee will be run early in 2012 that will compare results from an Allelic Discrimination test (A/D) with test results from both a USDA 400 seed growout test and an AOSA growout test. Results will be forwarded to the AOSA Rules Committee for supporting an AOSA rules proposal.
- A small referee comparing tall fescue purity results from some Oregon private labs and the OSU Seed lab is being run. The goal of the referee is to see how the OSU purity results compare with other labs in the WV.
- Fifteen 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, 2010 and will conclude during the summer of 2012. So far we have six warehouses in the WV that have successfully completed the experiment and are able to ship internationally seed lots up to 55,000 lbs. For any questions, please call Dan Curry at 541 737-5094.
- OSU Foundation seed has three oil seed varieties of flax available for sale for the spring of 2012. The spring varieties include a Foundation and Organic Omega, which is a yellow-seeded variety, and York, a brown seeded variety. Also for sale is Linore, which is a winter variety.