

24th Annual Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee Meeting
December 12th, 2012 10:00am LaSells Stewart Center

Committee Members in present: Jessie Peters, Drew Bell, Mike Coon, Dan Curry, Les Gilmore, Randy Black, Jake Stockfleth, Warren Dole, Mike Hawman, Jim Parsons, Hubert Christensen, Adriel Garay, Darrin Walenta, Sean Vibbert, Dan Curry, Russ Karrow

Committee Members absent: Larry Falk, Gary Banowetz

Guests: Loren Behrman, Dennis Lundeen, Hailey Opel, Don Opel, Jodi Keeling, Sabry Elias, Farhad Shafa, John Zielinski, Barry Schrumps, Terry Burr, Sandy Smith, Iraj Motazidian, Kevin Loe,

Sean Vibbert called the meeting to order at 10:01

Jake Stockfleth moved to approve the minutes from 2011

Warren Dole seconded the motion. All in favor.

Automatic Sampler update and discussion:

- Big picture is we haven't found evidence of people stacking the samples (cheating). Sabry points out that 82% were in tolerance. See the attachment for more in depth discussion.
- Jake started the discussion on additional measure that OSCS can take to prevent cheating. He suggested random checks of lots throughout the growing season. Both the automatic sampler and probe sample would be submitted. The probe sample would be done at the labs convenience, the results would be compared, and if they were significantly out of tolerance there would be serious consequences, such as loss of certification status.
- Jim Parsons talked about how the department of Ag fines come back at the seed company – doesn't fall back on the warehouses.
- Mike Coon suggested that it would be a better solution to address problem warehouses directly, rather than a random sample all of the warehouses.
- Iraj Motazedian said that we have been doing this and we only found one warehouse with bad samples.
- Adriel Garay – sees another scenario that we may just be dealing with random sampling variation – that seed cleaners just don't know how to clean well. It is more common to see more variability in less pure lots.
- Jake – it's not so much the inert, but the weed content. Would like to see the data analyzed by weed content.
- Dan Curry asked if we have an action plan in place if someone comes to us with a complaint. Iraj says we do, we probe the lot in question, and we can take away their auto sampler rights for certified seed ONLY.
- Kevin Loe suggested that it should be more of self policing by the warehouses and seed companies pulling their own samples and doing additional testing

- Hubert Christensen suggested a pool and everyone gets pulled out every so often, pulled out and given to a sampler and they pull a 'check sample' that day.
- Barry Schrupf brought up the question of what the threshold should be. Iraj pointed out in the past that it was if one sample made certification and the other one should.
- Adriel said that 2 data points is very weak statistically and that you should take more samples and dig a little deeper to see if there is more issues there. More of an educational program approach rather than a punishment program.

Motion

- Jake makes a motion that Seed Certification change our current lot checking system to make it more random, and year round. All automatic samplers will be put into a pool, and names will be drawn on a random basis and names will never come out of the pool. It is up to seed certification for the number and frequency.
- Seconded by Hubert Christensen, all in favor

Online Update:

- Farhad Shafa explained the new tracking system that the seed lab has. Originally it started as the seed lab wanting to know how much time analysts were spending on each sample. We took it one step further and implanted a tracking sample like FedEx or UPS. The seed lab can now see what is coming, and warehouses can now see where their sample is in the system. Soon all samplers will have this on an iPad or iPhone. Farhad passed around a sheet that shows what the seed lab sees, and there is a sheet in the packet that shows what a warehouse/grower/contractor sees. 60% of warehouses do not use the online samples. The biggest issue is handwriting and incomplete information. Online samples take 30 seconds to enter into the system. Handwritten can take as little as 3 minutes, or as much as a ½ hour, depending on who has to be called, or what information is missing. 50% of the calls that the seed lab receives can be answered if people looked it up on the computer. If an 'entry person' has free time they can go and help people in other departments. Every time we save time, it makes the seed lab more efficient. We even ordered custom Avery-type labels that people can use to just stick the labels on. There will be a small charge for these.
- Drew Bell requests that the labels change so that they could fit more on one page etc. Farhad explained that we tried, and there is no easy way to do that, no information that we can drop to make it smaller etc. Drew also asked if there was a price difference between handwritten and online, and said there should be since there was a cost difference.
- Jake says he is with Drew and wants a surcharge for hand written. Drew says he actually wants a discount for online instead.

Recommendation

- Jake recommends that seed certification and lab adds a surcharge for hand written certificates. \$20 surcharge per hand written certificate. Mike Coon 2nds. All in favor

Reports:

- **Russ Karrow** gave an update on the south valley extension position. Paul Marquardt starts on March 1st after he finishes a degree at Purdue. Office location will be in Linn County but responsibility is Linn, Benton and Southern part of Polk County. Marion Co is never never land. ¼ time for Tom is Clackamas traditional extension, and ¾ crop and water conservation in Marion County. Paul will have certification responsibilities and will go into Lane County for grower issues in certification only – since Lane Co doesn't give money towards the extension program. All new people are 9 months and the other 3 months they have to come up with their own funding. People are solving this in different ways, tax districts, grants etc.
- **Dan Curry:** passed around 2 sheets (attached at the end of minutes) one for College of Ag and one for Seed Services. Dan also announced the names of the people receiving certifications of recognition for their service on the committee. Sean Vibbert, Drew Bell, Jim Parsons, Larry Falk, Les Gilmore and Warren Dole.
- **Dennis Lundeen:** Certification report – for the second year in the row our seed acreage has increased. Which follows along with the rest of the seed industry. He directed people to activity summary and the information in it to highlight a couple of items. TF, PR, and AR went up. AR went up 70%. Talked about re-hiring for Randy knights position.
- **Adriel Garay:** for the seed Lab – passed around 2 handouts – attached at the end of the minutes. Thinks overall the seed lab did better, and did well, but not to the level that they wanted to. So they will continue to improve each year. This year they did get up to a backlog of 10 days, which is longer than they would like. Wanted to talk about needs and opportunities. Need to update their fees, mostly for an inflation rate. They have not changed their fees for 5 years. Also working on some rule proposals. For orchard grass for AOSA you have to use multiples as inert, where as in ISTA the multiples are pure seed. Also working on ending PR before 21 days, down to 14 days. 7 days for chilling and 7 days after planting. Looking into the data that shows they have expressed maximum germination and florescence for final count at 14 days (including chill). Also in March/April they are going to have a quality workshop again. This time they will do one in Spanish.
- **Randy Black:** with the ODA report- slow pay no pay law was re-vamped and there are new rules and they should be adopted this month. Two investigations right now, one company two seed growers. Also a few investigations into labeling issues.

Closing:

- Jake nominates Drew Bell for vice chair, and Sean 2nd it, all in favor.
- Warren Dole will serve on the certification board again.
- Time and place of the next meeting – Wednesday after Seed League at 10am.
- Motion to adjourn from Jake and 2nd from Hubert all in favor

**CSS Update
December 8, 2012**

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** - Dr. Dan Arp, CAS Dean, is focusing time and energy on the 2013 Oregon legislative session. The Governor's budget has been released and has the Statewide Public Service Programs at level funding. Given known increases in retirement and health insurance costs, level funding results in a spendable budget reduction. The Oregon University System as a whole, and OSU as a part of this system, is slated for a @7% funding increase in teaching budgets. Dean Arp will ask that the statewide programs be treated similarly to OUS. As most CAS research and extension faculty have teaching appointments, obtaining a similar increase in funding seems logical. Several new initiatives with clientele partners were proposed and Dean Arp was told that funding for some of these projects is being considered. A fermentation science center (breads, cheese, beer and wine) is among these and seems to have some traction. Andrew Ross (cereal quality and products), Pat Hayes (barley breeding) and Shaun Townsend (hops breeding) are likely participants in such a center.
2. **OSU Extension** – Given current knowledge of 2012-13 funding, Mike Borman/Bill Braunworth/Russ Karow (the interim College of Ag Extension leadership team) are working on both short-term and long-term staffing plans for agricultural extension. If state funding for 2013-15 is slightly increased (the 7% adjustment), the Ag extension budget would have a just over \$200K in recurring funding to use to fill critical, vacant positions. Critical positions are those where we are still interested in doing work in an area and have no backup support to have that work area covered. Backup at this point includes people in part-time, post-retirement positions, in grant funded positions that can provide some general support, or people elsewhere in the state or region who can serve as a resource. A livestock position in Malheur County and horticulture position on the coast are highest priorities. Both of these positions are those where a current faculty member has left or is leaving and there is critical program need.
3. **Current Department Budgets** – Departments and branch experiment stations are now operating under a @19% budget reduction in the current biennium – an additional 5% cut from what was originally planned. While the College had been operating under a 14% budget reduction, once the impact of university mandated but underfunded salary increases and benefit cost increases was fully understood, additional budget reductions were needed to balance the 2011-13 budget. Reserve funds will be used by many units to cover activities in 2012-13 but in most cases will be exhausted by the end of that fiscal year. Unit leaders have been told to begin planning 2013-14 budgets at an existing funding level. If there is a slight increase in funding, some additional funds may be provided to departments and branch stations.
4. **University Teaching Budgets** – Student enrollments are high (@26,000) and out-of-state and international student enrollments increasing. Given these factors and the fact that tuition is now a majority part of teaching budgets versus state funds, the teaching “side of the OSU house” is in reasonable financial condition. Additional teaching FTE needs to be found to cover increased class loads and needs. Some extension faculty have had portions of their positions bought out to do classroom teaching. College of Ag research and extension faculty will need to figure out how to meet position needs with one foot more consistently on campus or perhaps through teaching classes electronically from wherever they may be. Campus-based extension specialists are all picking up some level of teaching responsibility.
5. **Federal budgets** – Federal FY 12 ended on September 30. Budgets were much the same as in FFY11 minus an @2% across the board budget reduction with some exceptions – USDA-ARS took a bigger hit. No formal budget has been proposed for FFY13. The continuing resolution in place for the first six months of FFY13 leaves many programs in limbo as far as how to proceed in terms of budget planning in the coming fiscal year. If changes are not made to the “fiscal cliff” legislation that is on the books, budget impacts will be disastrous. Federal funds are a small but significant part of the College budget and also one of the major sources of grant funds for faculty (NIFA, ARS pass through funds, Specialty Crops Research, SARE)
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's salary. OSU grant funding totaled \$207M in 2011-12 – a third straight year of funding above \$200M. The College of Agricultural Sciences grant total in 2011-12 was \$54M, over one-fourth of

OSU's total. While at significant levels, grant funding has declined just slightly over the past two years for both OSU and CAS. Reductions in grant funding may be due to reduce levels of federal grant dollars and/or saturation of existing faculty in terms of the number of grants they can handle as part of their workload. Once newly hired faculty come to stride in their positions, grant funding may again increase. While grants can provide valuable operational support, they also dictate the direction of research or extension activity that the faculty member must do. This can sometimes reduce the potential for faculty to take on new or emergency need activities for which they do not have operational support.

7. **OSU Foundation** - OSU is setting records for 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. The Oregon Potato Commission approved use of their 2011-12 fund balance (@\$68K) to provide seed money for a Potato Research endowment and has already obtained industry funds of over \$100K. More information about endowments can be provided to anyone interested.

8. **Positions**

- a. Dr. Sagar Sathuvalli has been hired as the new potato breeder at Hermiston and began work on December 1. He brings strong traditional plant breeding expertise as well as extensive molecular breeding knowledge to the position.
- b. Dr. Stuart Reitz, former Research Entomologist with the USDA-ARS in Tallahassee, FL began work as a cropping systems agronomist in Malheur County on August 27th. Dr. Reitz brings an exceptional background in integrated insect pest management to the position.
- c. The special tax district for support of Malheur County Extension and research activities was passed. A second Malheur County position has been advertised and permission is being sought to interview three candidates. Interviews may be held in January. This person will focus on crops other than onion and potato and as well as some water quality issues. This position will be a fixed-term position given the tax district funding base.
- d. Dr. Paul Marquardt has been hired to serve Linn, Benton, and Polk as a field cropping systems extension faculty member. Paul will be housed in Linn County. Some cross-over work into Lane county may be done. He will share Polk county responsibilities with Nicole Anderson, North Willamette Valley Field Crops faculty member.
- e. The Clackamas County Extension Service District (20%) and College of Ag Extension (5%) are paying for 25% of a traditional field crops extension position to service Clackamas and Marion County. Traditional extension work in Marion County will be limited. The other 75% of this position, which is held by Tom Silberstein, is funded through a College of Ag cooperative agreement with the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District to provide educational and applied research services to the SWCD. Work for the SWCD is dominantly conservation orientated. We do not know if this contract will be extended beyond June 30, 2013.

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.

Prepared by Russ Karow, Head, CSS

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South Willamette Valley Field Cropping Systems Faculty Hire

Russ Karow, Dec 12, 2012

- Paul Marquardt
 - BS –Biology- Pacific Lutheran (Tacoma, WA)
 - MS – Entomology – Purdue (corn rootworm studies)
 - PhD – Weed Science – Purdue (herbicide resistant volunteer corn management)
 - Has done work on transgenic crops, on nitrogen management in corn cropping systems
 - Has written extension publications and given extension presentations
- March 1, 2013 start date
- Linn Co Extension – office location
- Responsibility for Linn, Benton and parts of Polk counties, cross-over into Lane where clientele are active in both locations
- Limited work in Marion Co – phone calls, several annual meetings, no field visits
- Will have responsibility for working with the Linn Co seed certification staff
- Like other recent young faculty hires, Paul will have a 9-month appointment and will need to secure summer salary (after a two-year start-up period) through grants, contracts or other sources. We are confident Paul will have success in securing funds through company sources and through regional and national competitive grants. Another desirable option is for on-going grower support through other than assessment sources. For example, potato growers have started an endowment that can be used to provide summer salary for the just hired potato breeder at Hermiston; grass seed industry already has such an endowment in place to fund a portion of the turf position in HORT; growers in Malheur Co created a tax district to fully fund several extension positions in that county. We realize that industry groups are being “hit up” for more and more funding but it does not seem that the general public, either state or federal, is going to provide funding despite our best efforts to show them the benefits of doing so. If there is value in having talented people in place to do research and extension work for natural resource groups, it seems we are going to need to look toward different modes of operation than in the past.
- Paul will be expected to work with graduate students
- Paul will have the opportunity to take on some regional extension specialist duties if that seems appropriate once he has some experience in his position

OSU Seed Services Report: December 12, 2012

- A referee was completed in early 2012 that compared 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 were forwarded to the AOSA Rules Committee for supporting an AOSA rules proposal. The rule proposal was voted upon and accepted into the AOSA Rules and became effective on October 1, 2012. This rule allows a DNA test to be performed rather than a six week growout test for ryegrass when determining the amount of annual ryegrass within a perennial ryegrass sample.
- A small referee comparing tall fescue purity results from some Oregon private labs and the OSU Seed lab was completed. The goal of the referee was to see how the purity results compared between five seed labs in the WV. The results of the referee were:
 - a. Some samples produce more uniform inert results, whereas others produce more variable inert results, indicating that variability in test results is associated to the nature of each submitted sample, thereby, to the nature of the lot itself.
 - b. There is a strong suggestion that samples obtained from lots that are cleaner and more uniform produce more uniform purity test results, whereas, lots that have not been cleaned as effectively and are not uniform may be producing variable test results. This needs to be further investigated.
 - c. The results, in combination with the joint visual verification made by the analysts of each other's separations, indicate that the analysts are making correct separations of inert. They are reporting the correct amount of inert material present in each submitted sample and each working sample.
 - d. Despite the nature of each lot and each submitted sample, there is a need to continue researching for purity testing methods that can produce more consistent results than the current method.
- 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 2013. So far we have nine warehouses in the WV that have successfully completed the experiment and are able to ship internationally seed lots up to 55,000 lbs. We have six warehouse that would still like to participate. For any questions, please call Dan Curry at 541 737-5094.
- OSU Foundation seed has three oil seed varieties of flax available for sale. 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.

OSU Seed Laboratory
Proposal to Eliminate the Factoring Procedure in Orchardgrass Testing

Factoring is a mathematical procedure used to estimate the percentage of pure seed present in multiple seed units of orchardgrass (OG) (AOSA Rules, Vol. 1. sec. 3.7 and Table 3B).

Example of separations required when testing orchardgrass purity



Problems created by current factoring rule in AOSA

- Factoring reduces the purity in every sample of OG tested by AOSA rules as compared to ISTA rules (not harmonized)
- High inert presents an image of lower quality compared to ISTA test results
- Current rule is conflicting because multiple are considered pure seeds for germination but only partially for purity.
- Procedure is inefficient, due to separating, weighing, factoring and calculating

Benefits of eliminating the factoring procedure

- Increases purity results by approximately 2%, which is a more accurate description of the planting value of the seed lot because multiple seed units do germinate.
- Harmonizes AOSA with ISTA rules in regards to multiple seed units of OG.
- Pure seed portion will be the same for purity and germination testing which make the method objective and verifiable.
- Contributes to efficiency to respond to the time goals of the industry.
- Provides better description of the planting value of the seed as sold and planted.