

25th Annual Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee Meeting
December 4th 2013, 10:00am, LaSells Stewart Center

Members Present: Jake Stockfleth, Les Gilmore, Nate Kaser, Warren Dole, Hubert Christensen, Pat McClain, Drew Bell, Adriel Garay, Dan Curry, Dennis Lundeen, Randy Black, Jessie Peters, Rachel Hankins

Members Absent: Sean Vibbert

Guests: Bill Merrigan, Sandy Smith, Barry Schrupf, Terry Burr, Dean Boyle, John Zllezinski, Ron Pence, Kevin Loe, Andy Altishin, Mary Beuthin

Meeting called to order at 10:05

Warren Dole motions to Approve 2012 minutes, Les Gilmore seconds, all in favor.

Automatic Sampler Program: Overall seems to be no one is 'cheating.'

- Suggestions:
 - o Random check of the automatic sampler, to make sure it is working.
 - o During busy season, on going
- Overall everyone seemed happy with the new program, no major complaints from warehouses.

Online Sample Certificate Review:

- Online samples certificates have jumped from 40% to 88.2% of samples coming in from online.
- Have been getting 1-2 people a week signing up for online services, which Farhad estimates 90% of warehouses are signed up. Problem was there were a lot of warehouses who had online accounts, but did not use the online sample certificates.
- Jake is concerned that there are some smaller warehouses who aren't running right now that we aren't getting data from. Farhad agreed, and next crop season will be a true test.
- Hubert talked to 4 different warehouses this morning, Malpass' are happy with it, another warehouse (that he doesn't want to name) doesn't like it, Hubert and Steve Malpass have issues with it when they enter the grower, it disappears, and they have to re-enter it. Steve, Nixon Farms, and some of the smaller growers are 4-5 miles from their warehouse, and don't have a computer at the warehouse, the complaint is this makes the new system difficult to use.
- Dennis spoke about how to make corrections, and addressed some of the concerns raised above.
- Bill Merrigan said that the \$10 charge was heavy handed, and would probably encourage people to not go through OSU. Also people complain that "it's all gone" when they try to go back and enter the next in a series. Jake recommended we try to spread the word about how to make the information stay.
- Jessie reminded Bill that they can print them ahead of time, with an estimate weight, and then the sampler can correct the actual/final weight and bag count.
- Some discussion on whether or not we should remove the fee, or be more lenient in the waiving of fees. Fee is to stay, but they encouraged Seed Cert to be lenient in each individual case.

Stenciling lot numbers on all sides of bulk bags:

- Jessie suggests that it should only be for OECD, Jake thinks it should be for all bulk bags.
- Sandy asks how the bags are handled, would it be more reasonable to request it be stenciled on 2 sides instead of all 4?

- The committee recommends to not require stenciling on all four sides, but encourages it when shipping in the bulk bags, also supported that the samplers refuse to sample when lot numbers are not visible.

New informational item: Bags w/ Variety names: Dennis

- Dennis presented some information on bags with Variety names. It seems like over the past few seasons we have had more issues with mis-labeled seed. He offered the following tips on avoiding issues.
 - o If a recently named variety, make sure that OSCS is aware of the new name, and that it is official (otherwise we cannot tag it).
 - o If you have a variety "green grass" and you put it in bags labeled "green grass," that is okay. If you add "super duper" to the "green grass" but the bag looks the same (print/color) then you technically have a new variety, unless you add the trademark symbol.
 - o 2nd issue is Green grass variety, now you have Green Grass II, and you throw it into leftover "Green Grass" bags. Also not ok.
- Hubert pointed out that he had some seed brought in from another warehouse – had one thing in the bag, and the bags they were in were turned inside out, with a different variety name on the inside. Had OECD tags hung on it. Tamara had called Dennis for verification of that lot. It did have the correct name stenciled on the outside of it. This is considered acceptable by OSCS, because the bags were new, and the variety on the inside couldn't be read from the outside.

Reports:

- Dan Curry: See attached Seed Services Update.
- Dennis Lundeen: See attached OSCS report.
- Adriel Garay, Seed Lab
 - o Seed flow was better this year than it has been in the past, partly because of the online sample certificates.
 - o Also the testing process itself is more efficient, because the rules have been changed for the better, examples are the Orchardgrass in Purity, and the AR/PR germination to be finalized at 7 days if the germ has completed. This year they planted the seed the same day it was received, or the next day.
 - o Looking ahead: need to keep working on streamlining the testing process. Multiple florets really slow down the purity, because the rules say you have to break it apart, AOSA rules requires it, ISTA does not. Adriel has been encouraging the industry to move towards the ISTA rules.
 - o If you are looking to get your test results in a week, need to look at getting AOSA to accept TZ for viability, instead of germination.
 - o Seed lab is still offering workshops, and Adriel sees these as very helpful, and plans to continue them.
 - o Pat has one comment: as a compliment, you did great this year, but don't get cocky this was an awful season, and we have a difficult season coming.
- Randy Black
 - o 45,300 acres of weed free forage, 35 growers participated, 101 inspections, up a little bit from last year.
 - o Cereal leaf beetle: Klamath County was found to have 1 beetle in a test plot. Several weeks later in CA several more Cereal leaf beetles, Klamath Co. cannot ship outside the Klamath basin w/o certification, 30 day storage, or fumigation.

- No new slow pay/no pay since they suspended Western Production's license twice.
- Also participated in the winter workshop, which felt that it was a good exercise.
- Bill wants to thank ODA for help with tz/sod test issue. Also wants to request that they can just automatically get a sod tag without having to request a sod certificate (which costs an additional \$20). Randy said they would talk about it. All they would need is the crop and weed, and the germ/viability, and then apply the standards.
- Dan Curry for Russ Karrow: See attached CSS report.

Wrap up:

- Pat McClain motions Bill Merrigan to be vice chair, Hubert Christensen 2nds, all in favor
- Warren Dole will be the representative to the Board in 2014.
- Dan Curry encouraged people to stay for the GLAC if they are interested in Mechanical Purity/Florescence test changes.
- The next meeting will be the Wednesday after seed league next year.
- Pat moved, Nate Kaser 2nd all in favor for adjournment.

Seed Services Update

December 4, 2013

- 2013 Certification acres are at a five-year high of 243, 105 total acres.
- The busy seed testing season went very well for the OSU Lab. The turn-around time for the lab averaged three days through most of the harvest season and just peaked for a week at four days. There were many nice complements on the lab's performance.
- The USDA/ODA grant program for the ISTA/ISF Seed Lot Size Experiment has now ended. Ten Oregon warehouses successfully completed their testing and are now allowed to ship large lots (up to 55,000 lbs.) of grass seed species internationally, using the OECD system. Another warehouse had previously passed all requirements, so there is a total of eleven warehouses that can ship large seed lots internationally through the OECD system.
- The Oregon Seed Association hosted a "Winter Workshop" training day at the OSU campus for their members on Tuesday, November 12th. Certification and Lab staff presented the first topic called, "OECD Policies and Procedures." Presenters included Rachel Hankins, Sandy Smith, Jodi Keeling and Dennis Lundeen. An afternoon presentation called, "Review of OSCS On-Line Services" was presented by Farhad Shafa, Information Services Manager of OSU Certification. Over eighty people attend the informative meeting.

2013 Summary of OSCS Activities

Gains

We had two big gains this year with the addition to our staff of Andy Altishin and Mary Beuthin. Andy and Mary were hired as Seed Certification Specialists in February of this year. Andy has a background in Turf Management and most recently was an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent in Lebanon. He has major responsibilities in Yamhill and Washington counties in the Willamette Valley, and Union Co. in Eastern Oregon. Mary comes to us with a background in Natural Resources and most recently was employed at the NRCS Plant Materials Center near the Hyslop farm. Her major responsibilities are Polk and Benton Counties in the Willamette Valley, and our corn inspection program—primarily in the Hermiston and Milton-Freewater areas. We are grateful to have them as part of OSCS!

Losses

We had one large loss this year when our co-worker and friend Iraj Motazedian passed away on September 15th, after a two year battle with kidney cancer. Iraj started working for OSCS in 1990 and was an expert and go-to person for us on many certified crops. He was a key person in providing inspections in the Northwest section of the Willamette Valley and in Central Oregon. He was also an important part of the potato inspection program, and was the main force in the early development of our corn certification program. Outside of OSCS, Iraj was involved in several US-AID projects including assignments in Guatemala, Armenia and Afghanistan. In addition he was a leader within his faith community, a friend to many Iranian students who attend OSU, and a dedicated husband and father to his family. He brightened the lives of everyone he knew, and truly made the world a better place through his local and international efforts. He will be missed by all at OSCS.

Survey

OSCS completed an on-line customer satisfaction survey this past summer. The survey was initiated upon an industry request to help review our processes. The results were very positive. Almost 90% of respondents were satisfied to very satisfied with the service they received when they called our office. Plus, 90% approved of the overall service of Seed Certification. In addition, 78% felt the on-line services were somewhat to very easy to use, and 96% of the respondents felt their crop inspections were completed in a timely manner. Complete survey results will be posted on the OSCS website.

Certification Acreage

The acres of seed certified in Oregon have been very stable for the past 20 years. Acres certified have varied between 200-250 thousand acres for all but 1 of the past 20 years. The high being over 260,000 acre in 1999 and the low being 193,458 acres in 2009. In 2013 there was a 4% increase in acres from last year to bring us to 243,105 acres certified for 2013. Most of the increase came from new acres of tall fescue, and an increase in the “Other Crops” category, which includes corn and radish. Complete acreage information and distribution throughout the state is available in the 2013 Oregon Certification Activity Summary, which is available in print and on-line at our website.

CSS Update

November 24, 2013

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

- a.** CAS and the OSU Extension Service are preparing for the February legislative session. The College will ask for allocation of remaining funds for the new fermentation sciences program that includes wine, beer, distilled spirits, cheese and breads. Jobs creation, tourism and strong bipartisan support make it possible to ask for this funding. No other requests are anticipated. Work has also begun on preparation for the 2015 full session.
- b.** Faculty will be given 3% "satisfactory performance" raises on Jan 1. Funds for AES and Extension raises were not provided from OSU general funds, so raises will be taken from existing budgets. Even with this funding use, given anticipated retirements and turnover of faculty, the College anticipates being able to fill ten new positions in the coming year. These will be predominantly research positions and will be allocated through a priority staffing process.
- c.** CAS is in midst of a strategic planning process – draft to be rolled out for clientele review and comment in early 2014.

2. OSU Extension

- a.** Several horticulture extension positions are being filled in situations where there is no other backup support. Ed Peachey will move to a position providing horticultural field crop weed science support throughout the Willamette Valley.
- b.** There are no immediate plans to fill the vacant Marion County field crops position due to lack of funding. Nicole Anderson and Paul Marquardt have been asked to do a small amount of educational program work in Marion County but will not do any significant field work or routine field visits – we still need a person on the ground in the County at some point in time.
- c.** An extension soil fertility position is still under consideration but lack of extension funding may limit capability to fill this position in the short-term. Rather than a direct hire using extension funds, we may need to submit the position for priority staffing in the College.

3. OSU

- a.** Student enrollments are high - 26,158 including 3767 distance education students and 936 at Cascades Campus in Bend. There are national indications that as the job market continues to slowly improve, enrollment may stabilize or drop.
- b.** In the 2013 Oregon legislative session, legislation was passed to allow state universities to form their own management boards vs. the current single OUS board. The OSU has been appointed and will meet soon to begin outlining its operational guidelines.

- 4. Federal budgets** –total unknown. Sequestration has resulted in 7-8% cuts to federal agricultural programs and grants. Additional cuts may be in the offing if sequestration continues and military and other higher priority budgets see budget increases.

5. **Cereal Variety Royalties** – conversations regarding royalty charges for all future cereal varieties continue between OSU administration and the wheat industry. Even if no royalties are charged, new OSU varieties will be released under Title V of the Plant Variety Protection Act. This requires that seed be publically sold only as a class of certified seed.
6. **Endowments** - The Oregon Potato Commission signed paperwork to establish another endowment with a Klamath Basin focus (\$250K) in October. The first for \$500K was initiated in Oct 2102. The horticultural industry is working an endowment for support of vegetable/specialty seed crop work. Such endowments provide some leverage with CAS in refilling key faculty positions when they become vacant.
7. **Positions**
 - a. Pendleton Experiment Station
 - i. The Station Director position has been posted with a closing date of January 6. Dr. Stephen Machado is interim Director.
 - ii. The weeds position will be announced soon with a likely closing date of mid-February
 - b. The search process for the new head of Crop and Soil Science has begun. The position will soon be announced with a likely closing date in February as well. Karow will retire in December 2014.

For more information about happenings in the College of Agricultural Sciences 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; russell.s.karow@oregonstate.edu; 541-737-2821