



OSCS Corn Sub-Committee to the Cereals Advisory Committee

November 18, 2021

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Brian Haverkamp (Chair), Corteva / Pioneer

Josh Hunziker, Bayer

Doug Larkin, Syngenta

Kori Sakahashi, Syngenta

Andrew Altishin, OSCS

Tami Brown, OSCS

Dale Brown, OSCS

Craig Agidius (Secretary), OSCS

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 PM at the Hermiston Agricultural Research & Experiment Center conference room.

Tasks

1) Approve the 2021 meeting agenda

No additions or amendments were made.

2) Approve the 2020 Corn Subcommittee minutes

Tami reviewed the committee minutes from the previous year. Minutes from the 2020 meeting, as provided via email, were approved.

3) Certification News Appendix 1

Andy provided a brief overview of the certified acres (various crops) for the 2021 season. The 2021 certified acres can be viewed on the OSCS website under Activity Summary. He also provided an update regarding new hires and internal promotions for OSCS. Mel Laam promoted to Office Manager. Mason McKinney hired as new Seed Certification Specialist- training mostly with Small Grains. Craig Agidius hired as new Seed Certification Specialist- training to take over Corn Program as new coordinator. Tami Brown, current Corn Program Coordinator, will be taking over the Potato Program. Andy mentioned that OSCS is still working under Covid-19 protocols with the main office closed to the public as well as certain extension offices being closed or working under limited operations.

4) Review of 2021 Corn Certification Activities Appendix 2

Craig provided an overview of total acres for 2021 certified corn: number of contractors, number of 2021 certified fields, number of fields that were foundation class, and number of fields that were certified class. He also mentioned that there were fewer certified class fields in 2021 in comparison to those of 2020 likely resulting in the decreased number of total acres. Craig also reviewed hiring/training staff. He noted that

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the Field Inspections and Seed Movement categories have not changed in the last few years but could be further reviewed if requested.

5) Discussion of 2021 inspection season, concerns, and comments

No concerns or comments regarding the 2021 inspection season.

6) Call for other business

No calls for other business.

7) Nominate a committee member to attend the 2021 CAC meeting

Bayer representative, *Josh Hunziger* volunteered to attend the 2021 CAC meeting. Josh agreed to attend the meeting on December 14th, 2021 to represent this subcommittee.

This meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM



Andrew Altishin

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Appendix 1

2021 Year in Review

Total Acres Certified of all Crops – 229,047 (-3%)

Total Acres of Grass Crops Certified – 190,390 (-5.2%)

Total Acres of Small Grains Certified – 22,568 (5.3%)

Total Acres of Legumes Certified – 6,429 (38%)

Total Acres of Misc. Other Crops Certified – 9,660 (<1%)

Total Acres of Potatoes Certified – 3,052 (2.5%)

Total Acres of PVG Certified – 41 (-55.4%)

Total Hemp Fields Inspected – 8 (-78.4%)

Total Acres of Corn – 2,497 (-6.3%)

New Hires

- Mel Laam, Office Manager, OSCS Main Office
- Mason McKinney, Seed Certification Specialist (Polk Co., small grains support), OSCS Main Office
- Craig Agidius, Seed Certification Specialist (Benton Co., Corn program coordinator trainee), OSCS Main Office
- Tami Brown shifted responsibilities to take over the hemp program.
- Open Positions
 - o Linn County Sampler
 - o Union County Sampler

OSCS Staffing

- 3 Administrative staff
- 2 Information Technology Staff
- 7 Seed Certification Specialists
- 6 Part-time/seasonal Seed Certification Specialists
- 8 Seed Certification Samplers
- 1 Manager and Seed Certification Specialist
- Various part-time student employees



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Updates

- Still operating under Covid-19 protocols (main office and select extension offices closed to the public or following reduced in-person interactions).
- Continuing encouragement of online sign-up processes and credit card usage.



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Corn Program Overview

Appendix 2

Program Year: 2021

- 2,497 Total Acres (*5% decrease from 2020*)
- 2 Growers
- 257 Oregon Fields (*5% increase from 2020*)
- 239 Foundation Class
- 18 Certified Class

Hiring/Training of Staff

- Average field assignments range 50-60 fields/inspector for the season
- 4 inspectors – 2 in Milton-Freewater, 2 in Hermiston/Boardman
- Hire local employees – knowledge of area
- Must use own vehicles
- Training workshop/meeting mid-June
 - In-field training continues when season begins July 1
 - Training continues as needed through the summer

Field Inspections

- Each field is inspected at least 4 times
- One isolation inspection prior to pollination (locate field, purity of plant type, contamination checks), and a minimum of 3 inspections during pollination
- Acreage determines number of counts per inspection (1 count = 50 plants; 50 m/f if Hybrid)
- Counts performed at three increments of silk presence during pollination (5-15%, 16-65%, >66%)
- Intensive timing; time between inspections can greatly vary due to variety, weather/field conditions, and inputs but averages one inspection every 2-3 days.
- Field information is available online to ensure all fields are signed up and confirm they have been inspected

Seed Movement

- Ear inspections are required for Foundation corn single crosses and inbred lines (inspect corn ears for off-colored or different textured kernels)
- Starts end-August going through end-October – 6 days a week
- Transfers Pending Final Certification are required to maintain certification; use eCertification site to print transfers