



OSCS Corn Sub-Committee to the Cereals Advisory Committee

November 13, 2025

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Paul Wilkerson, Corteva

Blaire Britten, Bayer

Jesse Benbow, OSCS

Andrew Altishin, OSCS

Craig Agidius (Secretary), OSCS

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM via Zoom.

Tasks

1) Approve the 2025 meeting agenda

No additions or amendments were made.

2) Approve the 2024 Corn Subcommittee minutes

Craig reviewed the committee minutes from the previous year noting that there were no changes from last year. Minutes from the 2024 meeting, as provided via email, were approved.

3) Review 2024 CAC meeting minutes / Certification Board action items

Craig briefly reviewed the CAC minutes from the previous year mentioning that none of them were directly related to corn as there were no action items from the Corn Sub-Committee last year. The action items from the CAC were voted on and approved by the Certification Board.

4) Certification News

Appendix 1

Andy provided a brief overview of certified acres (various crops) for the 2025 season showing a trend of decreased acres in comparison to the previous year. The 2025 certified acres can be viewed on the OSCS website <https://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/committees-and-publications>. He provided an update regarding internal changes for OSCS staff. John Zielinski fully retired. Tami Brown has taken over John's Marion County area. Jesse Benbow has expanded his area to cover Tami's previous area.

5) Review of 2024 Corn Certification Activities

Appendix 2

Craig provided an overview of total acres for 2025 certified corn: number of contractors, number of 2025 certified fields, number of fields that were foundation class, and number of fields that were certified class. He reviewed hiring/training staff for temp corn inspectors noting that he was able to secure two inspectors for Hermiston and one inspector for the Milton-Freewater area. He briefly described how the field inspection process works and the OSCS protocol.

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6) Discussion of 2025 inspection season, concerns, and comments

No concerns or comments regarding the 2025 inspection season.

7) Call for other business

No calls for other business.

8) Nominate a committee member to attend the 2024 CAC meeting

Bayer representative, *Blair Britten* volunteered to attend the 2025 CAC meeting. Blair agreed to attend the meeting on December 12, 2025 to represent this subcommittee.

This meeting adjourned at 9:17 AM



Andrew Altishin

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2025 Year in Review

Total Acres Certified of all Crops – 179,710 (-8.6%)

Total Acres of Grass Crops Certified – 141,603 (-7.9%)

Total Acres of Small Grains Certified – 21,165 (-16.4%)

Total Acres of Legumes Certified – 7,008 (34.2%)

Total Acres of Misc. Other Crops Certified – 9,934 (-19.3%)

Total Acres of Potatoes Certified – 2,748 (-18.3%)

Total Acres of PVG Certified – 124 (-26.6%)

Total Acres of Corn – 2,142 (-34.6%)

Updates

- John Zielinski fully retired
- Tami Brown has taken over John's Marion Co. area
- Jesse Benbow has expanded his area to cover Tami's previous area

OSCS Staffing

- 3 Administrative staff
- 2 Information Technology Staff
- 5 Seed Certification Specialists
- 3 Part-time/seasonal Seed Certification Specialists
- 6 Seed Certification Samplers
- 3 Seasonal corn inspectors
- 1 Manager and Seed Certification Specialist
- Various part-time student employees (office and potato greenhouse)



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Corn Program Overview

Program Year: 2025

- 2,142 Total Acres (*34% decrease from 2024*)
- 2 Growers
- 201 Oregon Fields (*19% decrease from 2024*)
- 190 Foundation Class (*11.5% decrease from 2024*)
- 11 Certified Class (*66% decrease from 2024*)

Hiring/Training of Staff

- Average field assignments range 60-80 fields/inspector for the season
- 3 inspectors – 1 in Milton-Freewater, 2 in Hermiston
- Hire local employees – knowledge of area
- State issued vehicles provided
- Training workshop/meeting end of 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