



Extension Service

Oregon Seed Certification Service

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2017 Seed Certification, Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2017

LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University Campus

Members and Guests in attendance:

Dean Dan Arp (Chair); Mike Flowers; Tom Chastain; Sagar Sathuvalli; Jeremiah Dung (tele); Bob Zemetra; Kenneth Frost; Andy Hulting; Jennifer Kling; Brian Parker; Mike Macy (tele); Scott Setniker; Warren Dole; Duane Klundt; Ron Pence; Jay Noller; Dan Curry; Dennis Lundeen; David Stimpson; Kevin Hawman; Jodi Keeling; Rick Myers; Tami Brown; Jeff McMorrان; Terry Burr; Andy Altishin; Brandi Cox; John Zielinski; Barry Schrupf; Rachel Hankins; Oscar Gutbrod; Mary Beuthin

Members unavailable to attend:

Joyce Loper; Sam Angima; Lee Von Borstel; Missy Fix; Bill Braunworth

Introductions & Approval of Agenda

Dan Curry called the meeting to order at 12:50pm. He welcomed guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves. A quorum of 10/19 members must be present to conduct official business; with 15 members in attendance the meeting proceeded. Warren moved to accept the agenda as written with no changes or additions; Brian seconded (Dole/Parker). All in favor.

Approval of 2016 Meeting Minutes

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the 2016 meeting minutes. Duane moved to accept the 2016 meeting minutes from this group; Tom seconded (Klundt/Chastain). All in favor.

OSU College of Agricultural Sciences report

Chairman Dan Arp thanked all members as representatives of the industry. He provided the group with an update on the College of Ag Sciences. Student numbers are up with the College graduating nearly 500 students in 2016; around the same number is expected this year, and the likelihood of graduates getting jobs is high.

There are three ongoing faculty searches: the Mid-Columbia research station, and Malheur are looking for Directors following retirements, and the College is also looking for a new Head of the Department in Applied Economics. Over the past two years, about 25 people were hired throughout the College due to legislative support and funding. In the current "interesting" legislative session, it is not expected that the funding needed for upcoming Statewide projects into the next biennium will be increased; there are efforts being made to speak with legislators and make the case that the services provided by the college should be financially supported by the state.

OSU Extension Service report

Sam Angima was unable to attend in person, but he provided a brief Extension report that was read aloud to the group. It included notes about the current staffing shortage in the Willamette valley following the transfer of Clare Sullivan and a failed search for the Marion and Clackamas county crops agent. The search may resume if legislative funding is procured. Eleven new positions were added in 2016 across the state for Ag Extension, funded by new money from legislature for the 16/17

biennium. Extension revamped the pesticide safety program under a new coordinator (Kaci Buhl), and the new worker protection standards trainings have been going well. The programs help Ag businesses to comply with new EPA guidelines concerning employees.

OSU Department of Crop and Soil Science report

Jay Noller provided the group with a printed report and gave highlights. New and continued accreditations in the Crop and Soil Science (CSS) department bring fresh courses and degree opportunities, along with new faculty. The base operating cost for the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) will increase over the next few years due to new regulations and requirements driven by state mandates and policies. In order to maintain the same level of service for the Statewide programs, the legislature will need to find an additional \$9.4 million in funding for the college. Crop and Soil Science is strongly affiliated with Agricultural Research Service-FSCRU in grass-seed related research. There is currently an open recruitment to fill a temporary, half-time Entomologist, co-funded by ARS, CAS, and CSS.

OSU Horticulture Department report

There was no Horticulture report.

Recommendations from Advisory Committees

Potato Advisory Committee

Mike Macy and Jeff McMorrان provided a brief overview of the PCAC meeting in January. Two items discussed at the meeting should be mentioned, although no action items are required. First, the group discussed changing the class terminology used in Oregon from the current (Nuclear, G1, G2, G3) to a “first year in the field equals G1” based labeling. There has been a movement nationally for standardizing in this way, but until most other states adopt it the group is not ready to make this change. The second discussion was about officially adding another class following the G5 class, which is allowed in the OSCS Handbook but not addressed directly in the Potato Standards. The group decided not to make a change in the standards, but ask OSCS to handle it as an internal process.

Action item 1: Change the tolerance for Other Varieties / Off Types at G1 from 0.0% to .01%. At a zero tolerance, one single chimeric plant can be cause to reject the entire lot and the group felt it too strict. This change affects Table 5 (page 16) of the OSCS Potato Seed Certification Standards.¹

Action item 2: Officially allow Latent Virus Testing for PVY to be done in the Winter Grow Out program, as a matter of efficacy and practicality. The approved verbiage will be changed in Section XIII-A and Table 6, footnote b of the OSCS Potato Seed Certification Standards.²

Mike moved to accept both of these changes as presented; Sagar seconded (Macy/Sathuvalli). All in favor.

Grass and Legume Advisory Committee

Brian Parker led the group through the action items from the GLAC. In 2015, the group was approached by a company looking to make a change to the Creeping Bentgrass standards, but the committee tabled the discussion pending review of variety specific standards. The GLAC reviewed the history of standards and held discussion at the 2016 meeting.

Action item 1: Update creeping bentgrass standards. Remove the two columns on the right of the Seed Standards section, updating the cultivar list at the same time. Remove statement: “Fields of Penn links, Penneagle, Penn A-1, Penn A-2, Penn G-1, Penn G-2, Penn G-6 and Seaside II are limited to 5 seed crops following the establishment year.”

Duane moved to accept the proposal as written; Warren seconded (Klundt/Dole). All in favor.

^{1,2} See the 2016 PAC meeting minutes for specific approved wording.

Action item 2: Update creeping bentgrass, Idaho bentgrass, redtop bentgrass, velvet bentgrass, Bermudagrass and creeping bluegrass standards to correct a typo reverting all field isolations from 300ft to 330ft for Certified class fields less than 5 acres. The original error occurred during the time of conversion from rods to feet. Brian moved to accept the proposed standards as written; Mike seconded (Parker/Flowers).

In discussion, Duane brought up the question as to whether 330 feet is adequate when it comes to pollen flow, particularly for bentgrass. Dan offered that the standard is set to mimic our other grass seed standards and in alignment with AOSCA. The group continued to discuss the likelihood of an upcoming increased need for research and tighter standards for several, if not all, cool season grasses in light of the continued increase of “GMOs” and the need to protect all intellectual property. All in favor.

Action item 3: Update the teff standards to reduce the seedling application sign up from 60 days to 15 days, and change the crop sign up to June 1 or 15 days after planting. The proposed wording by the GLAC reads, “The seedling application must be submitted within 15 days of planting. Application for crop inspection must be submitted by June 1, or 15 days after planting, whichever occurs last.” In discussion the group decided to make the teff signup requirement one single signup for both seedling and crop due to the quick-growing habit of the grass and typical June planting time. In discussion, Radish came up as having a similar growth issue, and it was suggested to adopt the wording used in that crop standard, substituting June 1 and 15 days. Dan read back the motion, and the group amended the wording to more concisely read, “Include two inspections, a seedling and seed crop inspection. The seedling and crop application must be submitted by June 1. If planted after June 1 applications must be submitted within 15 days after planting. Crop inspection will be made during the early flowering stage.”

Warren moved to accept the changes as amended; Tom seconded (Dole/Chastain). All in favor.

Action item 4: Update the seashore paspalum standards to reduce seedling application sign up from 60 days to 15 days. Warren mentioned that it can take about 30 days for emergence, and recommended that 30-45 days would be more reasonable for the application deadline. Due to the quick-growing nature of the crop the concern is that there be time for field inspectors to get there before row closure.

Brian moved that the wording be changed from 60 days to 30 days, rather than 15 days as originally proposed; Warren seconded (Parker/Dole). All in favor.

Action item 5: Update the soybean standards to require a flower inspection at Foundation and Registered class. The proposed wording reads, “Includes one inspection for Certified class seed, a flower inspection is required for Foundation and Registered class seed.” The group agreed that the seedstock classes should have an additional inspection.

Brian moved to accept the proposed change as worded; Warren seconded (Parker/Dole). All in favor. Following the vote, there was a brief discussion about soybean production in Oregon; many did not realize that OSU had released a variety suitable for the climate, Owyhee1, released from the Malheur Experiment Station in Ontario.

Cereal Advisory Committee

Andy Altishin stated there were no action items or updates from the Cereals Advisory Committee.

Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee

Warren Dole reported that the SCAC had put forward an item for this group regarding the problem of multiples in ryegrass, that the lab consider that multiples of 3 or more florets be considered inert. Since the meeting, and upon closer review of AOSA rules it was determined to be outside the

jurisdiction of certification. At a recent OSA meeting there was discussion about what to do with double florets, and it was tabled due to the need for more information.

Tree Seed Project

Tree seed certification in Oregon is currently handled by Washington State Crop Improvement Association (WSCIA), effective through 2019. Barry Schrupf reported that the Northwest Forest Tree Seed Certifiers Association met on May 31, 2016; there were no recommendations from that meeting for this group, but he provided a brief report on the proceedings pertinent to Oregon. In 2015 there were 68 Certified bushels collected in Oregon and 180 in Washington (Douglas fir, Grand fir, and Sitka spruce); those numbers compare to 22,000 or 33,000 bushels collected in the 1990s. Most of the collection is for OECD sales, commonly to France and Germany. Robert Karrfalt, US OECD Designated Authority for tree seeds, retired last month.

Mint Advisory Committee

Scott Setniker reported that the MAC met in January and had no action items for the Board this year.

USDA-National Clonal Germplasm Repository Report

There was no USDA National Clonal Germplasm Repository report.

Oregon Department of Agriculture Report

Ron Pence reported that Katy Coba has moved on and that the ODA hired Alexis Taylor as the new Director about 2 weeks ago. She is learning quickly and exited to get out into Oregon agriculture and meet growers. Prior to coming to ODA she was undersecretary for farm and Foreign Ag Services at USDA, coordinating their role in international food assistance and has a lot of experience implementing provisions of the 2015 Farm Bill. She spent time as an advisor to Congressman Boswell of Iowa, where her family has owned a farm for 150 years. ODA continues to work to resolve the slow pay/no pay complaints. There has been interest in adding other kinds of seeds to the program, currently it only covers grass seed; there is a committee working on this for the legislative session next year.

There have only been a few seed regulatory complaints over the past year. ODA hired a Seed Regulatory Compliance Officer, Nate Miller, who will review seed records of various warehouses, But will be focusing primarily on education and outreach.

Oregon Seed Association Report

Duane Klundt reported that OSA has been very active and is keen on the ryegrass multiple florets issue. The group is very engaged and motivated, focused on several issues affecting the industry. There is an active call to go to Salem in April to have conversations about several bills on the docket that will have influence on agriculture in the state. Committees of several groups continue to work together with ODA and the Bargaining Association to make interactions less adversarial and more collaborative moving forward.

OSU Seed Services Report

Dan Curry provided a review of Seed Certification, Seed Lab and Foundation Seed activities starting with retirements and new hires. Following the retirement of Adriel Garay last winter, the Seed Lab hired Dr. Dave Stimpson at the end of July. Seed Certification had several retirements in 2016, including Sandy Smith and Julie Hendrix. Rachel Hankins transitioned into Sandy's position and Brandi Cox was hired to replace Julie, who had been the Office Manager for 20 years and worked at OSU for 40. To our retirees, thank you for your years of service! And, welcome to our new hires!

The Seed lab has a couple of new projects. One is with a group of mechanical engineering students to see how they might be able to mechanize the purity process. Secondly, the Lab hired a software team to write code that would allow data to be entered on an iPad, cutting down on redundancy, inaccuracy, and inefficiency.

Oregon Seed Certification certified 246,669 acres in 2016; we are thankful for continued support from the industry. We continue to work with the USDA National Designated Authority on OECD tag attachment issues. This year, a tagged shipment from WA arrived in the Netherlands with only one staple holding the tag; the current interpretation by that country of the OECD rules is that two staples may be used (Oregon OECD are double stapled), but this is only in effect through August 1 of 2017, after which point they will require them to be sewn. Please be aware that this may affect OECD shipments later this year, at least to the Netherlands.

Seed Services is looking to ISTA to take leadership in the possible use of the BDI PCR test in differentiating annual and perennial ryegrasses. There is a committee working on the vetting of the process, which includes some volunteers from the Oregon seed industry.

Following much research and hard work, OSU Seed Services presented some options about how the industry could change the ryegrass multiple seed unit rules in AOSA. Currently the work is on hold. With the support of our seed industry, a rule proposal was made to change the way we report ryegrass in test reports. The AOSA Rules Committee did not agree with the proposal, so the Oregon industry sponsors asked to pull the rule from consideration at this time.

Seed Certification Centennial

Dennis Lundeen, Certification Manager, entertained the group with a slide show of photos honoring the Centennial year of Oregon Seed Certification Service and providing some bits of historical information. He thanked the group for their continued service to OSCS and the industry over the years. The open house celebration that had been planned for December 15, 2016 was cancelled due to an ice storm closing the OSU campus; it has been rescheduled for Friday March 24th, 2017. Please refer to the page attached at the end of these minutes for more information.

Old / other business

Dave Stimpson provided an update to the Palmer amaranth reporting concern in seed lots. Previously the lab had been required to report any amaranth, including pigweed, as *Amaranthus spp* in the noxious section. According to reports from ODA and WSDA regarding the occurrence of Palmer in the states, it is not known to occur in either Oregon or Washington. Based on this, the OSU Seed Lab is listing it as common under the assumption that it is pigweed, and has retroactively adjusted reports to reflect this change. If you think you still have this issue with a report, please contact the lab and they will be happy to correct it.

Also this year, for the first time ever, ISTA is meeting in the US in conjunction with AOSA and SCST; the meeting will be in Denver in June.

Adjournment

Dan Curry thanked Brandi, Mary and the rest of the Certification staff for all of their efforts in preparing for this meeting. Duane made the motion to adjourn, and Warren seconded (Klundert/Dole). All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:07pm.

Minutes prepared by Mary Beuthin

All advisory committee meeting minutes and supplementary materials are available online at the OSU Seed Certification Online Services website (<http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu>), or by request.



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2016 Snapshot of the Oregon Seed Certification Service

- Staffing
 - 3 Administrative staff
 - 2 Information Technology staff
 - 1 Systems Manager
 - 1 Software Engineer
 - 8 Seed Certification Specialists
 - 10 Part-time/seasonal Seed Certification Inspectors
 - 4 Fulltime and 4 part-time Seed Certification Samplers
 - 1 Manager & Seed Certification Specialist
- Types of Crops Certified by acreage
 - Grasses 82.93%
 - Tall fescue 47%, Perennial ryegrass 29%, Kentucky Bluegrass 6%
 - Cereals 10.43%
 - Wheat & Club Wheat 88%, Barley 5%, Oat 4%
 - Legumes 3.45%
 - Alfalfa 38%, Red Clover 27%, Crimson Clover 13%
 - Other Crops 3.19%
 - Potato 36%, Corn 30%, Sunflower 18%
- Programs Administered
 - Oregon Certified Seed
 - Part of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA)
 - OECD Certified Seed
 - Administered in Oregon for USDA-SRTD
- Stats for 2016
 - 246,669 acres and 5,650 fields
 - 28 Oregon counties with certified crops
 - 84 different crop types certified, and 1,238 different varieties.
 - Growers: 721
 - Warehouses: 363
 - Contractors: 418
- Celebrating 100 years!
 - On Friday March 24th from 1:30-4:30 at the OSU Crop Science Bldg, OSCS will be celebrating the 100th (plus) year of offering certification services in Oregon. There will be, displays emphasizing the various aspects and history of seed certification in Oregon, and snacks and cake-- please join us to celebrate!



In 2016 The Oregon Seed Certification program is recognizing it's 100th year of providing Certification Services to the state. The beginnings of this is from a man closely associated with OSU and the College of Agricultural Sciences in particular, George Hyslop. It all began when he saw a need for certification of potatoes that were true to variety and relatively free of disease, so they could be effectively marketed in California. There are very few records from these early years, but it was almost a one man show during this time. In 1918, there were obvious problems with "mixed wheat". Regional varieties were commonly grown and shared amongst growers, but would often get contaminated and/or blended together as there was no set method to determine varietal purity. A small excerpt written by Hyslop on March 18th, 1919 illustrates how new certification was to the state:

"The rules and regulations under which I did seed certification last summer were simply formulated in my head and have never been put on paper before. A farmer who wanted his seed certified made arrangements with the County Agent of his county and when one of us were in that county we inspected the field. If it passed the field inspection we asked for a threshed sample and made the final inspection. After that we issued the certificate, a copy of which I enclose. I am willing to admit that this is rather a crude form of certificate and that it does not have the advantages of the sealed bags of grain used by the Canadian Seed Growers Association but still it has served a very good purpose and works out fairly well thus far in this state. In issuing certificates, it has been necessary for the field to be free from any appreciable quantity of weeds which are not readily separated also for the fields to be free from mixtures which would result in grading the wheat down. These same things are borne in mind in connection with the threshed sample, in addition to this grain that is threshed too close so that the seed coat is seriously injured or that is rather light in test weight is rejected. I think the sample should have a test weight of fifty-six pounds if it should have not enough wheat of other classes to grade below No. 1, for instance not an uncommon mixture is White Club in Marquis. Two percent of this mixture is sufficient to throw it into No. 2, therefore a sample which has more than one and on-half percent of spring White Club wheat or other spring wheats of classes other than the hard Red Spring would be rejected because it is too dangerously close to the line. A mixture of Forty Fold in Marquis is not so serious in that Marquis is practically always spring planted and the Forty Fold does not head out when spring planted. It being present usually only as a volunteer."

"On Classes of wheat other than the hard Red Spring and the Hard Winter I usually do not certify stuff carrying more than three per cent of mixture, of course, in these other classes five percent is allowed. With Forty Fold I have had to be more lenient in that it is pretty hard to get that variety at the present even reasonably free from mixture."