

**Seed Certification-Foundation Seed & Plant Materials  
Board Meeting  
February 14, 2012  
Oregon State University, LaSells Stewart Center  
Agriculture Production Room**

Attending: Terry Burr, Dan Walters\*, Sonny Ramaswamy\*, Larry Curtis\*, Dan Hemshorn\*, John Zielinski, Lee von Borstel\*, Barry Schruppf\*, Adriel Garay, Dennis Lundeen, Reed Barker\*, Bill Braunworth\*, Sandy Smith, Warren Dole\*, Phil Hamm\*, Kim Hummer, Jim Cramer, Iraj Motazedian, Julie Hendrix, Farhad Shafa, Jodi Keeling, Carrie Lewis, Dan Curry, Rachel Hankins.

\* Voting members

Dan opened with introductions.

Approve the agenda: Phil Hamm moved, second Dan Walters, all in favor.

Approve the minutes from 2011: Dan Walters moved, second Dan Hemshorn, all in favor.

Presentations –

- Dean Ramaswamy – College of Ag
  - o A blogger wrote that Agriculture is the #1 useless degree, Animal Science is the #4 useless degree, and Horticulture is the #5 useless degree. He backed his theory with the assertion that salaries for those degree-holders aren't in line with those of the IT and comparable industries. There's been a national backlash as a result. Graduates with Ag, Animal Science, and Hort degrees are responsible for the world's food, water, and air supplies, and OSU is very proud of its degree programs and graduates in those fields. Enrollment increases are in the teens.
  - o The College is again looking into the feasibility of merging Crop and Soil Science and Horticulture, to respond to the demands of stakeholders.
  - o The College created a leadership academy to help students develop 'soft' skills necessary for post-degree success – communication, networking, etc. Other colleges are interested in developing their own academies and have asked to participate in the College's academy.
  - o The College is working to develop a leadership institute for participants in various commissions and advisory boards to provide some of those same skills for industry people.
  - o Dan Curry is organizing the plant sciences farms under one roof, to help reduce redundancies and consolidate activities where possible. This is

expected to lead to reduced expenditures and more effective use of limited resources. The goal is to organize animal sciences farms under one roof also, in order to reduce their losses from \$1M a year.

- Some positions are being filled, even though there were significant budget cuts in 2012. Originally, cuts were estimated to amount to \$20M. The College ended up cutting \$8M, with an additional \$3M in 'hold-back' being withheld by the Legislature. \$60M in grants helped to offset the state cuts. So far this year, the College is about 1/3 off that. The goal is to raise \$100M, of which about \$70M to \$80M has been raised so far, for student success and teacher excellence.
- The Animal Science Pavilion, paid for via donations and a state grant, will be dedicated the Friday before Homecoming 2012. That day, Beaver Classic Cheese will also be unveiled. The artisan cheese is a product of the OSU creamery, which was resurrected after being shut down in 1969. Money was raised to restart the creamery, get ODA certification, and set it up by and for students.
- The Legislature is meeting annually now, instead of biennially, due to budgeting challenges. It's expected that there will be more cuts for OSU and ODA as the Legislature tweaks its processes. Sonny and others have been spending a lot of time with the Legislature to try to minimize the cuts.
- Bill Brawnworth, Extension Report
  - The Extension Regionalization Plan has become a reality. There are twelve regions around the state, with one shared administrator for every four regions. Some administrators share appointments between Extension and Experiment Stations. Each county has a leader who works on budgeting at the discretion of the regional administrator.
  - Staffing is down about 1/3 across the state. There were three agronomy positions in the Willamette Valley, but now there are two. There's hope for county-based funding to bring back some positions.
    - Terry Burr – Linn County passed a tax to fund Extension. Is Linn County now subsidizing the other counties in its region?
    - Bill – That tax doesn't go toward funding positions or FTE. It's for secretarial support, travel, etc. Malheur used its money to fund a position. Linn County's support for Extension may be a factor in determining where one of the remaining two positions will be located.
    - Sonny – Money from Linn County will not be used to cover needs of other counties.
    - Bill – Other counties need to pay for the support of their positions. State money pays for the faculty member, and county money funds support for that person.

- Russ Karow – CSS Update
  - There will be meetings to discuss how to deal with reduced staffing. Two people can't do what 3 or 4 did in the past. Since public funding has dried up, it's becoming more important to find ways to partner with stakeholders to obtain funding for services they desire. Charging royalties for varieties to help fund research activities is another possibility for funding.
    - Sonny – Have the focus group meetings been advertised?
    - Russ – The groups were just finalized prior to this meeting. They will be notified, along with groups that have volunteered to participate in the process and some other groups and agencies.

#### Advisory Committee Reports –

- Dennis Lundeen, Additional Certification Requirements
  - ACR's are tests and/or standards requested by the variety developer / owner / maintainer in addition to AOSCA and member agency requirements and standards for certified seed. They are to be used in conjunction with existing certification requirements as a determination of certification eligibility. At this time, all certification standards are species-based. ACR's are specific to varieties. They're developed by the variety developers and the developers must share the standards with all certifying organizations in order for them to be used in the certification process. The developers must also authorize the certifying agency to apply the ACR to lots for certification. Provides a mechanism for AOSCA to meet evolving needs of varietal developers. Provides developers with third-party verification of trait presence or compliance with other requirements.
  - There's already been a request by a seed company for such trait testing.
  - Canada, the western regional group of AOSCA, and AOSCA have all accepted the additional provisions for ACR's. The Oregon certification program is probably soon to follow.
    - Jim – When will this be implemented?
    - Dennis – If the motion passes in the Cereals Advisory Committee, it could be as early as spring. AOSCA is working on a document on how to apply the standards, and that will help determine how soon it'll be applicable also.
    - Jim – So there will be additional costs for Seed Certification to implement this.
    - Dennis – True. It depends upon if it's an additional test, or additional isolation or inspection requirements.

- Russ – What’s the potential for liability? Will the ACR’s be set out in such a way that it eliminates the liability for Seed Certification?
- Dennis – The standards are supposed to be written in such a way that Seed Certification won’t be held liable if there are gray areas. There are still a lot of questions to be answered for that.
- Discussion of what certification would be certifying.
- Dan Hemshorn – Grass and Legume Advisory Committee
  - #10 - Reed Barker’s definitions regarding Sampling and Testing Seed.
    - Seed Certification Handbook, page 9, Section C, Paragraph 3 – Tags may be issued upon receipt of either a tetrazolium test or a germination test which meets Oregon minimum viability standards, providing all other requirements are met. Ryegrass seed must have a germination and fluorescence before the lot can be tagged. A supplemental test may be used for tagging purposes.
    - Reed – definitions for the supplemental tests are needed. He suggests they get added to the Certification Handbook, on Page 12, as Paragraphs 6 and 7.
      - ✓ “6. Molecular tests are tests of either nucleic acid or proteins in plant cells. Tests are related to specific chains controlling plant characteristics that are used for certification purposes. These marker tests may be used for trait presence verification or as genetic identity tests.”
      - ✓ “7. Allelic discrimination test in ryegrasses. An allelic discrimination test may be used in lieu of a AOSA grow-out test to separate annual and perennial ryegrass types for certification samples.”
    - See page 4 and as #10 on the last page of the section, in the Grass and Legume tab in the meeting notebook, for the definitions.
    - Phil moved to accept the definitions, seconded by Warren. After minimal discussion, all in favor.
  - #1 - Barry gave background for new standards for Utah Sweet Vetch.
    - So far, fields in place in Central Oregon were planted in spring. Seedling applications must be submitted within 15 days of spring planting or within 60 days of fall planting. Seed crop application in the first year must be submitted within 30 days of spring planting or by April 15<sup>th</sup> for each successive year in which the seed crop is to be inspected.
    - Field Standards.

- ✓ Footnote 1: Length of stand is specified by variety, providing 75% of the initial stand persists and is producing seed.
  - ✓ Footnote 2: Volunteer plants may be cause for rejection or reclassification of a seed field. For example, volunteer plants constituting 50% or more of the seed producing stand.
- Germination data comes from a seed lab in Wyoming that has done most of the testing of this species so far.
- General discussion regarding germination standards.
- Phil moved to accept the standards, seconded by Dan Walters, all in favor.
- #2 - Barry gave background for amending Kentucky bluegrass standards.
  - Changes are being proposed to allow for apomixis in KBG. Different isolation requirements are being proposed for various apomictic levels and certification classes.
  - Should Paragraph 1 - Certification Standards for Bluegrass be amended to read `...constitute the certified standards for Canada, Supina, and Wood bluegrass`?
  - Shall the Kentucky Bluegrass standards, as proposed, be copied and amended to apply to Big Bluegrass?
  - Shall the page that spells out general isolation standards be reorganized more logically, including removing the bluegrass-specific isolation standards to the bluegrass page?
  - Dan moved to accept all the bluegrass changes, seconded by Phil.
    - ✓ Discussion regarding mechanical separation, specifically isolation.
    - ✓ Jim would like to see a more specific definition of mechanical separation in the manual. Dennis suggested that the definition could be added in the definitions section of the manual.
    - ✓ Definition of mechanical separation - "Adequate distance between seed crops must be maintained to prevent overlapping seed heads of lodged plants. This distance is a mechanical separation."
  - All in favor of accepting all the bluegrass changes.
  - Phil moves to amend the General Standards, section IV Production of Certified Seed, part D. Isolation, paragraph 1. Isolation, with the definition of mechanical separation listed above. Seconded by Warren. All in favor.
- #3 - Rachel gave background about amending the Linn PRG isolation requirement to remove the reference to Oregon Annual ryegrass.

- Warren moved to remove the reference, Dan Walters seconded, all in favor.
- #4 – Terry gave background about using plant growth regulators on seedstock fields.
  - Plant growth regulators affect the plants for about two weeks, and then they seem to grow out of it.
  - The crop stands up better, helping with weed control and identification of off-types.
  - The Turfgrass Plant Breeders Association notified the committee that they have no problem with plant growth regulators being used on seedstock fields. The TPBA recommended that plant growth regulators could be used on seedstock fields with breeder approval, and that strips could be left untreated to allow for comparison purposes.
  - The committee recommended removing all restrictions on using plant growth regulators on all classes of grass seed.
  - Dan Walters moved to accept the committee's recommendation, seconded by Warren, all in favor.
- #5 – Dennis gave background on amending crop standards for tetraploid ryegrass.
  - The current standard is 98% tetraploid. US rules indicate that anything over 5% diploid would be a mixture. The committee suggested changing the Oregon standard to match the US standard of 95% tetraploid for the certified class. Registered class would remain at 99%, and foundation would stay at 100%.
  - Warren moved to accept the committee's recommendation, seconded by Dan Walters, all in favor.
- #6 – Jeff gave background on amending crop history for festulolium.
  - Crop standards for festulolium don't address intermediate ryegrass in the field history, while annual and perennial ryegrasses do. This appears to be a simple omission.
  - The committee agreed that festulolium should have the same field history requirement as annual ryegrass when it comes to intermediate ryegrass.
  - Ryegrass crop standards don't address festulolium in field history, but festulolium addresses ryegrass in its field history. If there's a problem one way, it seems like there would be a problem the other way, too.

- The committee agreed that when the field history includes festulolium, the field history requirement should be the same as those currently required when annual ryegrass is in the field history.
- Dan Walters moved to accept both changes for festulolium field history standards, seconded by Phil, all in favor.
- #7 – Jeff gave background on adding to the seed standards tables ploidy testing requirements for tetraploid ryegrass.
  - The committee recommended changing the definition of the ploidy test on page 12, section IX Definitions, part D Seed Tests, paragraph 5 Ploidy Test, and adding a line to the footnotes to explain the test and when it's required.
  - Phil moved to add a footnote on all ryegrass pages to explain the test and when it's required, seconded by Warren, all in favor.
  - Definition of ploidy test:
    - ✓ "Ploidy test is a test used to establish ploidy level in varieties and assist in determining certification eligibility. A ploidy test should be requested at the time of sampling."
  - Warren moved to accept the definition of ploidy test as written above, Dan Walters seconded, all in favor.
- #8 – Randy gave background on adding bromus riparius to the brome certification standards.
  - Lee moved to add bromus riparius to the brome certification standards, seconded by Dan Hemshorn, all in favor.
- #9 – Dan Hemshorn gave background on changing the purity, germ, and inert levels required for Oregon-grown bermudagrass.
  - The growing season in Oregon is such that bermudagrass becomes an indeterminate crop, leading to a mixture of ripe and unripe seeds. That leads to lower purity / higher inert levels, and lower germination rates.
  - The committee recommended changing the purity level to 96%, raising the inert level to 4%, and lowering the germination to 80%.
  - Warren moved to accept the revised standards, seconded by Dan Walters, all in favor.
- Lee – Cereals Advisory Committee
  - Lee read the motion to adopt the Additional Certification Requirement program based on the AOSCA model being developed, and move Small Grains Special Requirement K into that program.
    - Seconded by Warren, all in favor.

- Lee read motion 2:
  - “Add new footnote 1 to Small Grains Certification Standards, Field Standards, Seedling and Seed Crop Inspection, Other varieties total to read ‘Phenotypic variants may be specified in a variety description by the variety originator / maintainer, and would not be counted as part of the tolerance for other varieties.’ (Existing footnotes 1 and 2 pertaining to Other Small Grains would become footnotes 2 and 3.)
  - Addition to footnote 1 in Small Grains Certification Standards, Seed Standards, Off-type and/or other cereal, etc., to read ‘Seed variants may be specified in a variety description by the variety originator / maintainer and would not be counted as part of the tolerance for off-type. If a seed count is required, then the fee will be charged to the client submitting the sample.’”
  - Dan Walters seconded, all in favor.
- Lee read motion 3:
  - “Small Grain Certification Standards, Special Requirements paragraph H shall read: No re-inspection is allowed if Jointed Goatgrass, and/or its hybrids, or Rush Skeletonweed is found in the seedling, seed crop, or seed test inspection.”
  - Dan Walters seconded, all in favor.
- Lee read motion 4:
  - “Add Dog Fennel to Small Grains Certification Standards, Seed Standards, footnote 1, not to be allowed in any class of certified seed.”
  - Phil seconded, all in favor.
- Lee said the committee asked if it would be possible to get the Fairfield BioAssay onto the front page of the test reports.
- Randy – Mint Advisory Committee
  - No action items.
  - The committee had a lively discussion regarding land history requirements. The minutes from the meeting outline the discussion.
    - Verticillium wilt in strawberries can carry over in roots for a number of years and infect mint rootstock, even after fumigation. How much risk is the industry willing to take to get sufficient amounts of mint rootstock?
    - Would Seed Certification provide ‘courtesy’ inspections or would they be fee-based?
    - Jeff indicated that such courtesies could become very expensive.

- Jeff – Potato Advisory Committee
  - o No action items.
- Warren – Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee
  - o No action items.
  - o They discussed OECD tags – printing and attaching.
    - Do samplers / Seed Cert representatives have to attach the tags, or can it be done by authorized warehouse personnel?

Other Reports –

- Kim - USDA
  - o Going through reorganization and changes also.
    - 10 ARS locations were closed or proposed to be closed, including the Palmer Station in Alaska. Included 233 positions that were reassigned to other locations.
    - ARS has located / co-located with land grant universities throughout the country, and the laboratories of the closed offices are being donated to the host land grant universities.
  - o The 2013 federal budget calls for additional closures of facilities to be named later. None in the Pacific Northwest are slated to close.
  - o Food security and human nutrition are areas of emphasis for research in the next five years.
  - o The repository's budget has remained fairly steady for the past few years, with increases in fixed costs.
    - The gene bank has 10,000 accessions, and record numbers of items have been distributed from the repository.
    - They've collaborated with the seed lab in certifying materials for Australia. That may become a more common practice in the future.
  - o An open house is scheduled in conjunction with DaVinci Days. The blueberry collection will be featured, as it will be mid-bloom.
  - o To deal with reduced funding, open positions have been frozen and two positions were transferred to other locations.
  - o Material (collections) from facilities that have been closed get redistributed amongst other locations.
- Jim - ODA
  - o Experiencing the same budget problems as everybody else, including hiring freezes, etc.
  - o Still looking for federal funding to continue PCN testing on research farms.

- Slow pay / no pay legislation – working on draft rules to send to the seed council and OSA. Working to get it done before harvest starts.
- Have detected *anguina finesta* in ARG seed lots. It's a vector for *Rathayibacter toxicus*, which is an animal toxin, so it's shown up on federal radar. They're watching the outcome of the testing very closely.
  - Depending upon the outcome of the testing, there could be quarantines, control areas, and losses in outside trading partners.
  - It probably came from outside the US in imported seed.
  - Barry asked if other crops can host the disease and be transported outside of Oregon? Jim recommended he ask Nancy.
- In 2010, over 110M pounds were exported. In 2011, over 136M pounds were exported. That increase helped to stimulate the Oregon economy, but there's not much press about it.
- There are some mergers happening. They're trying to do it through attrition, and with cooperation of stakeholders.
  - The Pesticide and Natural Resources divisions were merged under a common administrator.
  - Animal Health and Livestock Identification division may be split between Food Safety and Commodity Inspections.
- 51% of the state's budget comes from other sources, 49% comes from general fund, lottery, and federal sources.
  - Services at ODA, Seed Cert, and the Seed Lab are funded by fees, not taxes.
  - The legislature and governor need to be educated to these facts, especially when it comes to putting restrictions on general fund money.
- Dan Curry – Foundation Seed
  - Provided handouts outlining activity for the past year.
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- Dennis – Seed Certification
  - There's a FAQ sheet for Additional Certification requirements.
  - There's a page outlining new plantings for 2011.
    - Acreage is up overall.
    - April sign-ups will show the real numbers, but it looks like acreage is up in general.

- Christine Wallace was hired as a computer programmer.
- Adriel – Seed Lab
  - Preparing for the ISTA audit that occurs every three years.
  - Prepared a pamphlet for Annual Ryegrass.
    - The germination test, with prechill, can end at 14 days now.
    - OECD early tagging uses the TZ instead of having to wait for germination and fluorescence.
    - Ploidy is only required on tetraploids.
    - Ploidy should be tested on lots coming from overseas.
- Dan Walters - OSTA
  - Inventory levels are back to reasonable levels.
    - New fields are going in.
    - Acres are difficult to place because more commodity and wheat acres are going in.
    - Prices are up. So are costs.
  - Oregon Seed Council and OSTA hired a PR firm out of Portland to start a nationwide campaign to promote natural turf and turf grasses.

Old Business –

- None

Thank you to Julie Hendrix and her staff for compiling the notebooks for the meeting.

Thank you to Terry Burr for organizing the meeting, the food, and the attendees.