

Seed Certification-Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board Meeting
February 8, 2005
Oregon State University, LaSell-Stewart Center
Agriculture Production Room

Members Present: Trevor Abbot, Anita Azarenko, Reed Barker, Charles Boyer, Tom Chastain, Ron Cook*, Carl Haugerud, Dan Hemshorn, Keith Jayawickrama, Russ Karow, Rob Lane, Al Mosley, Jack Peters, Barry Schrupf, Jake Stockfleth, Lee Schweitzer, John Winder, William Young, (*indicates ex-officio member)

Members Absent: Adriel Garay, Jim Cramer, Greg Bingaman, Thayne Dutson, Phil Hamm, James Peterson, David Reerslev.

Guests Present: Lee von Borstel, Don Christensen, Bob Henderson, Julie Hendrix, Dennis Lundeen, Jeff McMorran, Iraj Motazedian, Sandy Smith, Solomon Yilma, John Zielinski.

Call to Order- Lee Schweitzer called the meeting to Order at 1:05pm.

Opening Comments and Introductions

During the meeting, please refer to your notebooks which have information from each committee and contain all of the materials needed for this meeting.

Approval of the 2004 Minutes

Please note the list of current membership in the back of the minutes. Any questions/comments on last years meeting should be brought forth at this time. Motion to accept the minutes as presented-Al Mosley. 2nd to the motion-Carl Haugerud. The motion passed unanimously in favor.

OSU Crop and Soil Science Department Report— Russ Karow, Crop and Soil Science Department Head

I want to thank each Board member for their part in these sessions. It is very helpful to have people like you in the industry, informing us of what is happening throughout the state. This makes our job easier and keeps us in tune with industry concerns.

The following are highlights of activities over the past months at OSU and in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Crop and Soil Science (CSS) as they affect the clientele groups with which CSS works.

1. Budgets for the coming biennium are still an unknown. On Tuesday, January 18 the three OSU natural resource deans - Thayne Dutson, Kelvin Koong, and Hal Salwasser - spent the day in Salem meeting with a series of legislators regarding the status of the "statewide public service program" budgets. While legislators voiced concerns regarding the 8 percent reduction called for in the Governor's Recommended Budget, possible alternative sources of funding have not been identified. As things now stand, the Statewide Public Service Program budgets

will be dealt with as part of the Oregon University System budget as a whole. Sometimes in the past, the Service Program budgets have been handled as a separate budget item. The approach to use in a given session is up to legislative leadership.

2. In the July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2003 period, more than 80 faculty resigned or retired from the College of Agricultural Sciences, many as a result of budget reductions. With stabilized budgets in the current year, the College has gone through two priority staffing processes and is in the process of hiring more than 30 new faculty in teaching, research and extension (some positions are less than full time so the FTE total is about 20). These new positions are predicated in part on receiving a 2005-07 budget near the essential services level. New positions include both on-campus, experiment station and county faculty positions.

CSS is currently advertising the following positions:

- a. Potato breeding and genetics – closed Jan 15
 - b. Malheur County field crops – closed Jan 21, interviews scheduled Feb 21-22
 - c. Marion County field crops extension – closes Feb 11
 - d. Extension cereals specialist – March 11 closing date
 - e. Eastern Oregon entomology specialist – March 4 closing date
 - f. Small farms instructor position (half time) for Linn-Benton-Lane counties – paperwork yet to be filed
 - g. Crop Physiologist/agronomist – Central OR Ag Extension and Research Center - paperwork yet to be filed – may be Horticulture or Botany and Plant Path or CSS academic home
3. CSS will hold a CSREES (Cooperative States Research, Education and Extension Service) review April 10-14 on-campus. This is a federal agency program review that is to be conducted every 5-10 years. Clientele group representatives will be invited to meet with the review team the evening of April 11. Invitations will be sent as soon as final details are determined. All programs in CSS – research, teaching and extension – will be reviewed with the team.
 4. OSU has non-exclusively licensed two herbicide tolerant wheat's over the past two years and six potato varieties. Such licensing is new in the OSU system and the PNW for, public institutions.
 5. CSS is considering the exclusive or semi-exclusive release of a niche quality (super soft) white winter wheat. If done, this will be the first limited license release by CSS. The variety has traits considered indicative of superior quality for SW wheat grain and may be of economic value to millers and bakers if the variety is identity preserved through the supply chain. However, without commitment of private industry to develop markets and produce, segregate, and deliver identity preserved (IP) grain, it is our belief that potential economic value of this variety will not be fully realized. Limited release could provide needed incentives to explore development of such markets. A final decision on release mechanism will be made following a meeting with the Oregon Wheat Growers League Board on Feb. 13.

OSU College of Agriculture Report—Charles Boyer, Associate Dean

Thayne was unable to attend, due to other duties today. I want to recognize the Board members today for their commitment to this process. Also, I want to thank Lee and Russ for their leadership over the years. And I want to thank Al Mosley for his many years of service to the College and to OSU.

Stella Coakely is now a full-time associate Dean, and Erik Fritzell will retire in September of this year, and his position will be replaced. The significant state budget cuts over the last few years have leveled off. This will allow some hiring to take place. The College of Agriculture Faculty has been responsive to our budget cuts, which has allowed us to continue in difficult times with the least loss of programs. Currently, the state budget shows us with a flat budget in terms of dollars. However, this does not recognize the increased costs of personnel and supplies, nor does it adjust for inflation. Thus, even though the budget dollars are the same, it translates into a budget shortfall of 8%. Extension and Forestry have been working together in the legislative process. Overall the University's state budget will have a 5% cut. The current federal budget just released show significant changes for the College. Basic funds have been cut by 50%, but they have increased sources of competitive funding. Projected Hatch funds will be eliminated next year, meaning about a \$3 million Annual loss to OSU. This is a significant amount. The impact of \$3 million translates to 25 or more positions. This further reduces the type of services that can be offered.

OSU Extension Report—John Winder, Regional Director

Agriculture is an extremely important part of the Extension program, and we want to keep that going forward in our offices. After 3 years, we are still in difficult times, but with slightly better news. The Extension program in Oregon is one of the top in the country and we reach a significant portion of the population (1 million people annually). Our goal is to be able to be among one of the top 10 programs in the country. Internally, significant changes have occurred: August 2004, Lyla Hoaglum stepped down and Kelvin Koong stepped in on an interim basis until August 2005. There is a search for new Dean and Director. There should be someone in place by mid-summer or fall. Development of a small farms program continues. Funding: federal funds have been level a long time which is about 8% of our budget. We lost 13 FTE's state wide with the governor's current budget. County funding is still near 20%. And there are \$8 million in grants. Kelvin brought some ideas—to get back into Multnomah county with Extension programs. Final stages of the strategic plan with an outcome based program to the various colleges. We are investigating the structure of faculty appointments. Things should improve after 2 more years.

Grass and Legume Advisory Committee—Dan Hemshorn

The following items were brought forth by the Grass and Legume which met on December 7, 2004.

1. Revise the field history requirements applicable to Meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba*) for the Registered and Certified classes.

The Oregon Meadowfoam Growers Association requested acceptance of prior certified production of Meadowfoam for the Registered and Certified classes to allow more flexibility in meeting the field history eligibility.

2. Revise the field history requirements applicable to Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) concerning prior production of Intermediate ryegrass.

Dan- Recommend to Add intermediate ryegrass to land history standards like other ryegrasses, since intermediate ryegrass is certified, it is not covered and we would like to add it.

3. Revise the isolation requirements applicable to Oil Rape (*Brassica napus*, *B. rapa*, *B. campestris*) by removing the reference to wild mustard in the isolation requirements for cross-pollinated varieties.

Iraj- We have in the standard to reject when there is wild mustard in the field. But, Canadian standard and statement that there is no cross pollination between wild mustard and oil rape, so we would like to remove wild mustard as a source of cross pollination.

4. Revise the seed standards applicable to Arrowleaf clover (*Trifolium vesiculosum*) by removing the reference to Brassica species as a prohibited weed seed.

Iraj-Currently there are 7 standards for clover, had brassica in a lot which made it ineligible. We reviewed other clover standards, And they didn't have that requirement. This will put arrowleaf in line with other standards of clover.

A Motion was made to accept all 4 motions by Al Mosely. There was a second by Jake Stockfleth. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Cereal Advisory Committee—Carl Haugerud

The following change in the cereal standards was brought forward by the Cereal advisory committee on December 8, 2004.

Proposed standards change pertaining to the test for Ergot:

Proposed: that the test for Ergot shall be based on the bulk exam, rather than on the purity exam.

Comments from the OSU Seed Lab perspective from Sherry Hanning, Purity Unit Supervisor:

"I see no problem in reporting ergot found in 500 grams. It is relatively easy to identify and we rarely find it in cereal samples. It is my understanding there would be no report of ergot issued

if we do not find it and if we do find ergot, the amount by number or percentage would be reported on the purity report. This should not be a problem for our office or for us. I do not see any need to charge extra for this service at this point.”

Carl Haugerud moved to accept the changes as written. Second by Rob Lane. Passed by Unanimous vote in favor

Mint Advisory Committee—Bob Henderson for Greg Bingaman

There are no recommendations to bring before the Board at this time.

Tree Seed Advisory Committee— Barry Schrumpf

The Organization’s title is as follows The Northwest Forest Tree Seed Certifiers Association. There were no recommendations from last meeting. However, there are two items of information:

1. Dues payments for OECD are about 7 years behind.
2. Certified seed from an orchard. Supposed to apply to said agency. Owner applies to have orchard establishment reviewed. Then each year of collection each collection would need to be certified. Request was made but there was no support, so the idea did not go forward.

GENERAL—Since 1990 collections of cones were going down. There used to be 10,000-13,000 bu. of cones certified. Lately we have had years of 0 bushels or 100-200 bu.

Potato Advisory Committee— Rob Lane

The following came from the Potato Advisory Committee which met on January 27th, 2005

1. **PVY testing of G1 lots for “latent varieties” – clarification of policy:** add the following footnote to the title (referenced directly after “TESTING”): *“Latent Virus testing beyond Nuclear Class is only used to assign a sub-class and not to downgrade a lot with the exception of PVX at G1 & G2 as explained in footnote b & d.”*
2. **Variety mix tolerance at G5 - decrease to 0.5%:** to make the tolerance for OV (off-types & other varieties) at the G5-second inspection equal to 0.5% and make appropriate changes to tables in the Standards to reflect this change.
3. **PVX sampling of Nuclear class seed – options to reduce cost:** to include the statement *“Nuclear Class seed for “own use only” is exempt from the requirement for latent virus testing provided a winter grow-out sample of at least 220 tubers is submitted”* in the appropriate place(s) in the Seed Potato Standards and make any needed alteration to the tables to reflect this change.
4. **BRR inspection of lots withdrawn prior to final (2nd) inspection:** To include the statement *“Fields withdrawn after a 1st inspection but prior to 2nd inspection (and not destroyed) must be inspected for BRR where conditions allow (even if grower’s own seed)”* in the appropriate place(s) in the Seed Potato Standards.
5. **Testing of Entry Level & Pre-Nuclear material:**
 - (1) to change the sentence found in Part VII – Section C – Item 7. (Page 11), to read as follows *“7. PSTVd will be tested every 3 years only once on new Entry Level material.”*;

(2) to replace the wording “or radio immunoassay (RIA), or dsRNA Hybridization” with “or *other approved test*” found in . Part VII. Micro propagation (Lab/Greenhouse) parts B3, C3, and D.

6. **Change in June Sign-up date** to “June 1 or 15 days after planting for lots planted after May 25”
7. **“Symptom Expression” Statement in Standards:** to include the statement “*Descriptions of symptoms expressed by diseases noted in these Standards, and recent information about such diseases, can be found in the current on line edition of the Oregon State University Plant Disease Handbook – Potato Section (<http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/>)*” the Potato Standards in an appropriate location.
8. **Addition of TRV, PMTV, PVYntn tolerance to Field Tolerance Table:** to add the sentence “*Tolerance for disease symptoms caused by Tobacco Rattle Virus, Potato Mop Top Virus, and Potato Virus Y-ntn strains in foliage or tubers is not to exceed 0.5% for seed eligible for recertification, nor 2.0% for certified seed ineligible for recertification*” to the footnote “a” of the “Tolerances – Field Inspections” (page 14 of the current Standards), as well as changing the title of this table to “Tolerances – Field/Harvest Inspections”.
9. **Update of language related to the Shipping Point Inspection requirement:** to adopt the wording modifications “Shipping-point inspections are optional on lots of Oregon certified seed potatoes. The seed grower must check the shipping point inspection requirements of the receiving states before moving seed out of Oregon. The quality of graded potatoes is the full responsibility of the seed grower. When the buyer or importing state requests a shipping point inspection, the U.S. No. 1 seed potato or Contract Grade tolerance will be followed.” to XVII. GRADE INSPECTIONS, Pg 17).

Al Mosley moved to accept all changes as written. Second by Dan Hemshorn.
Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee— Jake Stockfleth

The following is from the Seed Conditioners Advisory committee, which met on December 5, 2004.

Update to the statement in Page 7, Item VI, A. 2. “When seed that is eligible for certification, but not in condition for sale, is moved from one county to another, the Oregon Seed Certification Service office must be notified and give the shipper prior approval.” Requirement for notification should be the same whether between or within a county. Therefore, the statement should read: “*When seed that is eligible for certification, but not in condition for sale, is moved from one **warehouse** to another, the Oregon Seed Certification Service office must be notified.*”

A clarification to the statement in the Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS) handbook Page 9, Item VI.D.4 and “Guide for Certification Samplers and Taggers” regarding tag attachment: “Tags assigned to a given Lot must not be attached to a different Lot. Certification tags removed from seed containers during blending must be returned to the county Extension agent before new tags will be issued.” Should change to: “*Tags assigned to a given Lot must not be attached to a different Lot. When a seed lot is re-conditioned, certification tags removed from seed containers shall not be re-attached and shall be returned to the OSCS office.*”

Motion to accept all changes by Bill Young. Second by Dan Hemshorn. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Foundation Seed Program Reports

Cereals—Russ Karow

One major change is that Greg Vollmer, the head of the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, Foundation Seed Services, has retired. We are now working with Jerry Robinson to get materials in the ground. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, work cooperatively on the foundation seed program. Oregon varieties are doing well. Clearfield wheat is a significant part of the program in the region, and is having a lot of success. About 250,000 acres of Clearfield varieties have been planted for 2005. We are looking at an exclusive release of a variety named ORSS- 1757, with some in the ground this year.

Potatoes—Al Mosley

The Foundation Seed Project produces asexually propagated materials. Viruses infect potatoes over time. Disease spreads by aphids and other methods. Thus, we must break the disease cycle to have clean seed. This is why we have a limited generation program. Seed can only be replanted as seed over a limited time. Disease-free seed always starts in a test tube, the Foundation Seed Project is the only source of this seed in Oregon, and every breeding program needs a good seed program to work. We have given up to 10,000 mini-tubers to growers per year. This helps support the entire program, and because we need to push the new varieties to get them into production. We took over the project in 1995. Currently we produce 1000 lbs of minitubers and sell them for \$20 per lb. In 1995 there were 250 lbs of minitubers, and the cost was \$50 per lb. Every breeding program needs a seed program to be successful. Oregon growers get first choice of all minitubers, with about 1/3 of them being sold in Washington. Testing of disease is an important part of the program.

Grass and Legumes— Lee Schweitzer

A summary report is in the notebook provided today. Public varieties of seedstock maintained by Foundation Seed include the following: Fawn Tall Fescue, Cascade Chewings Fescue, Potomac Orchardgrass, and Gulf Annual Ryegrass. New activities have arrived in the native species by way of BLM, Forest Service and the Great Basin Restoration Initiative. Federal Money to BLM has been provided to increase certified seedstock of native forbs. We are involved through AOSCA and other programs to increase native forbs species. This is a new, but not a big program for Oregon.

Other Reports

USDA-National Clonal Germplasm Repository—Jack Peters

This year was the 1st international hops symposium, which occurred the 1st week in August. About 100 guests from 13 countries. Discussing challenges and advances in hops. Concluded with an industry tour. Tour was well attended, and it gave people a chance to meet with Oregon and Washington hop growers. We published a book for

the symposium. Also, there was a good public relations article in Agriculture Research magazine on p.12. There is a discussion about what happens at the repository. Currently there are 11,000 accessions, which include the following: Small fruits, nuts, hops. Seed, in vitro, and DNA . We continue to add accessions to our program.

USDA-ARS National Forage Seed Production and Research Center--Dr. Reed Barker

There is a movement to get a repository for vegetatively propagating grasses. Including Zoysia and Bermuda grass. Our unit has 2-3 units working with certification: George Mueller-Warrant is graphing weed seed presence in grasses. We are still moving fwd on fluorescence ID in ryegrasses. There is not one particular gene to date that has been found. We have found the vernalization gene and cloned it. We have compared gene sequences from 3-4 ryegrass species—all seem about the same. We can determine annual from perennial 75% of the time right now. We can now verify DNA sequences but need more funding to get the sequences finalized, and to get a test that can be applied to industry. This year we hired Ruth Martin (Biorisk assessment management and biofuels projects). Every unit in ARS will have some cuts.

Oregon Department of Agriculture-No Report

Lee discussed RUSSL, and indicated Jim Cramer is putting together a group to review these recommendations.

Oregon Seed Trade—Trevor Abbot

During the last winter meeting, and, over the last year, there has been discussion on tightening sod standards, but so far this has been declined by the growers associations.

Oregon Seed Services— Dr. Lee Schweitzer

This year was a successful seed testing season. Sample numbers are up 15% from 1 year ago. There was an increase in certified acreage. We are on a stronger footing this year, after a deficit from last year— the budget will be within balance. Also, grant money is coming in for the seed lab to make testing more efficient. Especially perennial ryegrass and tall fescue blowing point procedures.

Program Highlights:

1. **eCertification** – The integrated Seed Cert / Seed Lab computer database and web sites continue to improve internal efficiency and provide better service to our clients:
 - 220 clients are using online services
 - 16 clients print tags at their location
 - 22 clients apply online for mixture approvals
 - 7 companies / warehouses receive electronic PDF test reports rather than paper

Determining certification eligibility of seed lots electronically reduces manual evaluation and personnel time. Lab test reports are now generated in PDF format, available for online printout for customers who choose to apply for this service.

Efforts are continually underway to maintain data safety, update the web site, enhance user access, and develop / improve other electronic services.

2. **Seed Certification** – Total acreage of Oregon certified seed increased 7.3% in 2003-04 to a total of 243,087 acres. Oregon remains one of the top two states for total certified seed acreage. OSCS continues to work with OECD and other certifying agencies.

AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) recently announced hiring of Chet Boruff as full-time CEO. AOSCA represents official certifying agencies in 44 US states and 7 other countries including Canada.

OECD management of day-to-day program activities moved from AOSCA to USDA-AMS in Gastonia NC in October. Perry Bohn is the new US-OECD manager. Oregon poundage of OECD certified seed declined 17.4% in 2003-04 to 13,700,331 lbs.

3. **Seed Lab** – The OSU Seed Lab is completing another successful testing season in 2004. Sample receipts through December 2004 were up nearly 14% from last year due to increased certification acreage as well as more native seed, research and special testing services. Even with the additional sample volume, testing backlogs exceeded 10 days only very few times. Two additional analysts are being trained for next year.

The Seed Lab conducted three highly successful workshops for seed industry personnel in Mar-May 2004. The hands-on course covered identification of crop seed, weed seed and inert material as well as basics of seed quality, conditioning and testing. Plans are to offer this service again in 2005, and to offer the option of one hour OSU class credit for taking the course.

Research grant funds have been obtained to improve purity testing methods and save analyst time. Primary emphasis will focus on developing blowing procedures for ryegrass and tall fescue to assist in separating inert matter as already used for several other grass species. Research will also continue development of a DNA test for differentiating annual from perennial ryegrass (cooperation with USDA-ARS).

The Seed Lab has been qualified by BASF for bioassay testing of Clearfield wheat, and has conducted a few tests in the past season.

4. **Oregon Foundation Seed** – OFS maintains and sells Foundation or Registered seed stock of public varieties including Fawn tall fescue, Cascade chewings fescue, Potomac orchardgrass, Gulf annual ryegrass, and Kenland red clover. A new crop of Fawn tall fescue was produced in 2004. Kenland red clover seed stock is under production by Kentucky Foundation Seed program and should be available in the fall of 2005.

A new endeavor underway by OFS is cooperation with BLM and Forest Service agencies to produce seed stock of native forbs for fire restoration projects in the Great Basin. BLM/FS provide wild-land collected seed stock for Foundation Seed programs to contract seed stock increase with commercial growers.

Ongoing Projects & Plans:

1. eCertification Developments – Continue improving current operations and cooperate with the Oregon seed industry to enhance services.
2. Purity Testing Development -- Cooperate with the seed industry, private seed analysts and AOSA in adopting purity testing procedures for ryegrass and tall fescue to improve test consistency, efficiency, and harmonization with ISTA procedures.
3. Seed Cleaning Workshops (Feb-May, 2005) – Hands-on training for seed growers, cleaners and dealers to help identify weeds / contaminants, and discuss preventive or removal techniques.
4. Upcoming Meetings:
 - Feb 17-18, 2005 – National Grass Variety Review Board – Corvallis
 - Mar 14-15, 2005 – Western AOSCA – Las Cruces, NM
 - Apr 11-14, 2005 – CSREES review of OSU Crop & Soil Science Dept
 - Jun 26-30, 2005 – AOSCA National meeting – Big Sky, MT

Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS)

Ron Cook

This time of year brings pleasure and pride which is a culmination of a year's activity. The people on the board help set the direction for the next year, and I really thank each person who takes part in this. There is a long history of Seed Certification and we all take great pride and responsibility in that. The seed dealers and seed trade, also take into account the integrity of the program worldwide. Unique to this is that our product is not consumed locally. We want to maintain this tradition of quality and service, and we thank all of you for your help in making that possible. We hope to contribute to the county offices statewide in our part. We have been using new technologies, by supplying information valuable to the industry on the quality and quantity of certified production. This information allows opportunities to determine impacts within the industry. A large number of seed crops are being certified and, overall, one-half of the seed production in Oregon goes through the seed certification program. We are still one of the largest certification programs in the country. For the past 4 yrs. we have seen a drop in acres, however, this year there is a 7% increase. Some crop types go down while others up. This diversity of crops is helpful in maintaining certification from year to year. We have a good staff which wants to work with you, and we thank the growers and industry which support and benefit from the program.

Sandy Smith

A fair amount of the information we provide to the industry, both general and specific, is regarding seed/field quality and the people who produce this seed. Most species in certification are proprietary varieties. Because of state seed law protecting proprietary information, we have set-up a program to determine what we can and cannot provide. These types of requests become more of the program as people who own varieties want more information on what is happening with their varieties. As the University develops specific releases we may be able to provide information as per these guidelines.

OSU Seed Lab

Lee Schweitzer

Please refer to Adriel's December 2004 update in the notebook. Also, please note the upcoming seed classes which have been very popular last year, and will be repeated this March with 3 more sessions.

Old/Other Business

Old/Other Business--none

Adjournment—

Adjourned 3:20 pm

Minutes submitted by Dennis Lundeen, OSCS