

Seed Certification-Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board Meeting
February 14, 2006
Oregon State University, LaSell-Stewart Center
Agriculture Production Room

Members Present: Trevor Abbot, Reed Barker, Charles Boyer, Ron Cook*, Adriel Garay*, Keith Jayawickrama, Russ Karow*, Rob Lane, Jack Peters, Barry Schrupf, Jake Stockfleth, Lee Schweitzer*, Lee Von Borstel, Isabel Vales, John Winder, William Young, (*indicates ex-officio member)

Members Absent:, Jim Cramer*, Greg Bingaman, Tom Chastain, Thayne Dutson, Phil Hamm, Dan Hemshorn ,James Peterson

Guests Present: Daleer Badei, Terry Burr, Bob Henderson, Julie Hendrix, Dennis Lundeen, Jeff McMorran, Farhad Shafa, Sandy Smith, John Zielinski

Call to Order- Lee Schweitzer called the meeting to Order at 12:45pm

Opening Comments, Introductions and Agenda

Lee Schweitzer began with a review of committee structures and responsibilities. Introductions of members and guests followed. One change to the agenda—Move the potato advisory to the beginning of the committee reports due to Rob Lane being available via phone conference at that time.

Approval of the 2005 Minutes

Reed Barker moved to accept the minutes of the Seed Certification-Foundation Seed & Plant Materials Board Meeting February 8, 2005 as presented in the meeting folder. The motion received a 2nd from Lee Von Borstel. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

The following are highlights of activities over the past months in Crop and Soil Science (CSS) as they affect clientele groups affiliated with CSS.

1. Budgets for OSU colleges that are funded just by University general funds (state dollars provided to universities for teaching and general operations) are grim. Facility operational cost increases, insurance increases and under-funded but mandated salary increases have eaten away budgets. The Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service have faired better due to the additional dollars that were provided by the legislature (Thanks to all our AES and Extension supporters for their work with the legislature!) but budgets are still extremely tight. The College of Ag wanted to fill a number of critical positions, but the actual number that can be filled is lower then hoped and a new position funding model has been implemented by CAS. Hence forth, all new tenure-track positions will be funded at 0.75 FTE tenure-track and 0.25 FTE fixed term. In

some instances, recurring dollars for the fixed-term portion of a position may be available. In others, the faculty member or department will need to identify other sources of funding for this 0.25 FTE. This type of funding model is being used by a number of universities across the nation.

2. Crop and Soil Science has received permission from the College to hire faculty at three locations in the coming year – extension weeds specialist and soil biologist positions on campus (both announced with March 17 and April 1 closing dates, respectively), a weed scientist at the Malheur Expt. Station and several scientist positions at the Klamath Station. Position announcement details are still being worked out on the latter positions. It is our hope to have all positions close in April and to have new faculty in place by mid-to-late 2006.
3. The last of the new hires from last summer/fall will begin soon. Dr. Brian Duggan, who is currently in Australia, has accepted the Central Oregon Ag Research Center agronomist/crop physiologist position with a starting date in March 27, 2006. He is expected to work with mint, grass seed, specialty seed crop and new crops in Central Oregon.
4. Marvin Bulter is the new staff chair in Jefferson County and superintendent of the Central Oregon Experiment Station. Rich Affeldt, currently a faculty research assistant with Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith, has accepted a temporary position to backfill some of the work done by Marvin. He will begin March 1. Bill Brewster is on board to assist with backfill on the position vacated by Jed Colquhoun (to be filled in the coming year) and now some of the work done by Rich Affeldt. Bill is the point of contact for general weeds questions (541-737-5884).
5. A MOU with the Oregon Potato Commission has been finalized. It grants the Commission first right to license any new potato varieties developed by OSU. Similar agreements have been signed in WA and ID. The tristate potato commissions have established a non-profit group (PVMI – Potato Variety Management Institute) for licensing and marketing of varieties developed in all three PNW states. PVMI is operational and is beginning the process of licensing growers this spring. Exclusive license agreements are also under discussion for meadowfoam. A routine procedure for deciding and announcing the release mechanism for cereals was discussed the morning of Feb. 14 at the OSU Cereal Variety Advisory Committee meeting.
6. Dr. Lee Schweitzer, CSS Director of Seed Services (OSU Seed Certification and OSU Seed Lab) has announced his intent to retire at the end of March 2006. Current plans are for him to continue on a part-time appointment at least through June 30, 2006. Discussions about refilling his position have begun with OSU scientists and industry representatives.
7. The OSU Departments of Crop and Soil Science and Fish and Wildlife are sponsoring a winter seminar series on “Agricultural and Animal Interfaces.” Seminars are at 4 pm Wednesday afternoons on campus in Kidder Hall room 278. The public is invited to attend. The following web site has information about the seminars and also has links to archived presentations. Those with high speed internet access can view the presentations at home -

<http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/classes/CSS199/index.htm>. OPAN plans to broadcast the seminars in the near future as well.

OSU College of Agriculture Report—Charles Boyer, Associate Dean

Thayne Dutson is currently traveling with other commitments and is unable to attend today. I want to thank everyone on the board for their service. And, I want to recognize Lee's involvement over the years with Seed Services. The College of Agriculture staff changes this year include the following: Bill Bogges is the new Assistant Dean ½ time, and ½ time faculty senate president. Roy Arnold, Executive Associate Dean will retire in September. This position is being reviewed, and may not be replaced. Budgets are still our biggest constraint. In part due to additional employee benefits and salary increases, without a corresponding equivalent increase in state funding. This all has impact on the number of positions that can be filled each year. The current challenge is to balance the investment of resources. We review every 6 months to determine most current needs. We are trying to create a balanced portfolio for the College of Agriculture with grants and contracts driven by quality of faculty to the needs of commodity groups. We are currently funding faculty positions at 75%. The faculty then need to produce 25% of their own funds. We are in the first year of a silent capital campaign and we continue to struggle to optimize resources.

OSU Extension Report—John Winder, Regional Director

Extension staffing is accomplished at the departmental level. The funding for Extension comes through multiple sources. In prior years the funding base was equal between State, County and Federal funding--providing roughly equal amounts. Now most of the funds come from the State level, with much smaller County and Federal contributions. Program costs continue to outstrip increases in public funding. Federal dollar contributions have been flat for several years. Counties have 2 types of funding structures: 1. They are part of the County discretionary budget, and 2. They can form taxing districts which direct money from the taxing district. There could be belt tightening at the county level this year. Kelvin Koong was interim director for the past year. Now Scott Reed has been appointed the new Dean/Director of Extension. Scott Reed was the Former Executive Associate Dean in the College Of Forestry. He is supportive of many new things and is currently looking at alternative delivery systems to bring Extension programs to more people. One of these is the Extended campus. Also, there is a National initiative called E-extension. And, we are currently involved with new opportunities through community colleges for non-credit activities. We are making new efforts to understand the learning styles of our Oregon customers. I will be leaving to go to a position at WSU in mid-March, and there will be an interim backfill of my position. There are currently discussions of a possible restructuring of my position for the future.

Potato Advisory Committee— Rob Lane/Jeff McMorran.

The following items are brought forward from the Potato Advisory Committee meeting.

1. **Eye Indexing: Removal of Reference in Standards:** All of Part G in “Fees” (page 9) would be removed. Part H would become Part G.
2. **Latent Virus testing:** Remove PVX testing requirements for Nuclear and G1 Class seed **Specific change:** Part XIII Part A (page 16) – fourth sentence: remove PVX reference as follows....

~~“Nuclear and Generation 1 must be tested for PVX. Nuclear and Generation 1 lots of PVY symptomless varieties (see B) must also be tested for PVY. Testing for PVX and/or PVY is optional for all other generations.”~~*

Also (1) Part E – all reference to PVX would be removed; (2) Table “Tolerances – Latent Virus Testing” would be modified to reflect the fact that PVX testing was optional at all classes, and footnotes “c” and “e” would be removed from the “PVX” line.

3. **Winter Growout lots lot size:**

(a) Minimum not to change (Part XIV. C-2, page 17), however exception to the tuber size requirement to be made for nuclear class lots to allow for growers (upon consent) to submit pre-cut samples following approved techniques. Specific change: Part XIV. D (page 17), the following verbiage to be added to the final sentence: “Tuber size should be four to six ounces, **exceptions to this rule for small lots will be considered. Contact the OSCS office for acceptable alternatives.**”

(b) Sample Size Adjustments will be made to rectify inconsistencies in current system. Specific change: Part XIV. C #3 (page 17), table to be removed and replaced with the following sentence “*The minimum tuber requirements for the WGO for lots over 0.5 acres are **220 tubers + 20 tubers per acre**, with fractions of acres rounded to the nearest whole number.*”

(c) WGO requirements, Oregon Option: OSCS to amend the Standards to allow for the recertification of lots from states or provinces not requiring a WGO for recertification, based on a 400 tuber sample growout in the OSCS greenhouses. These growouts would be conducted simply to establish eligibility for recertification in Oregon (with no formal report issued). The eligibility for recertification would be based on the same minimum standards used for Oregon lots, and would not be used to reclassify the lots. **Specific change:** Part XIV A (page 17) no change to actual Standards needed, however the “policy statement” referred to at the end of section A will be modified to reflect this WGO option for lots from such sources. In addition, verbiage to be added to the beginning of Part IX “Seed Stock Eligible for Certification” to the affect that WGO are required for a lot to be considered eligible for recertification in Oregon (this is currently omitted) and that exceptions to this requirement are included on the policy statement referred to above.

4. **Potato Tuber Moth:** Reference to Potato Tuber Moth (a.k.a. Potato Tuber Worm) to be stricken from the Standards. **Specific change:** Part XVII section A #1 (page 18), the first sentence to read as follows ... “*No bacterial ring rot, root-knot nematode, or black wart or tuber moth larvae (based on external symptoms) are allowed in Certified seed*”.
5. **Electron Microscopy** will no longer be a requirement for Entry Level testing. **Specific change:** Part VII B (page 12) 1st paragraph, end of second sentence, removal of the words “...and for flexuous rod-like viruses with electron microscope”.

Lee Von Borstel Moved to accept all items as written. Jake Stockfleth 2nd the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Grass and Legume Advisory Committee—Sandy Smith for Dan Hemshorn

The following 3 items are brought before the committee today. Here is a summary of the effect of each: Item 1 allows to find 1 seed in a test, and the sample will still pass. Item 2 amends the current footnote in the standards, which refers to coarse grasses. And, item 3 addresses problems with viability, germination and dormancy in Seashore paspalum. The TZ has been ok, but germination was not. Currently we allow 75% germination in Kentucky bluegrass.

1. Amend the allowance for Group A weeds in the seed standards applicable to White clover (*Trifolium repens*) from 22 to 23 per pound singly and from 67 to 69 per pound combined, for the Registered and Certified classes.
2. Amend the allowance for other crops in the seed standards applicable to Velvet bentgrass (*Agrostis canina*) (footnote #3) to state “Not more than 0.25% of Kentucky and/or Rough bluegrass”.
3. Amend the minimum germination requirement from 85% to 75% in the seed standards applicable to Seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum* Sw.)

Reed Barker moved to pass all three items as presented. The motion received a 2nd from Bill Young. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Cereal Advisory Committee—Lee Von Borstel

Ron Cook noted the cooperation within seed industry that was helpful to Seed Certification this passed year. Mid Columbia Producers worked with Seed Certification on a trial basis, to tie directly into our website for final certification of cereal grains. We can now issue final certificates 24/7 via the web. John Zielinski reported that currently 1138 certificates have been issued with this program.

Mint Advisory Committee—Bob Henderson for Greg Bingaman

Mint rootstock is currently a small, but important part of the Oregon Seed Certification program. Acreage has reduced over the years due to expansion of other areas of oil production. There were 2 greenhouse operators and 5 growers for a total of 78 acres of mint rootstock production in 2005. The Mint Advisory Committee Meeting on Jan. 12th, included a discussion on sampling inspections for soil borne insects. The focus for rootstock certification has been on verticillium wilt detection from its inception. However, there has currently been some interest for inspections to include detection of insect pests. Discussions at the Mint Advisory Committee determined this would be a significant cost to the grower and buyer and may provide a disincentive to use certified rootstock. Thus, there was a compromise that a voluntary statement could be provided by the grower regarding insects if desired. No changes are requested from the Mint Advisory meeting, thus, there are no action items to bring to this committee today.

Tree Seed Advisory Committee— Barry Schrupf

. Some items of information discussed at the last Tree Seed Advisory meeting:

1. Dues to the OECD program have been paid in full from surcharges and poundage fees for tree seed that moved under the OECD program, and from the US Forest service budget. The fees were about 6 years delinquent.
2. The future administration of the tree seed program is currently under consideration by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Oregon Seed Certification and the Washington State Crop Improvement Association (WSCIA), whereby, WSCIA would be the agency handling tree seed certification for Oregon and Washington. The MOU has been reviewed at OSU and the Oregon's Attorney Generals office, and the document has passed to WSCIA for approval at this time.
3. Due to more reliance on seed from seed orchards owned by private industry, and cooperative efforts with several companies there have been 3 years of no activity in this area.
4. Fees are usually based on the number of bushels collected. However, currently the amount of certified tree seed is so low there will likely be a charge per inspection.
5. There are no action items to bring before this committee.

Seed Conditioners Advisory Committee— Jake Stockfleth

There was no meeting of the Seed Conditioners Advisory committee in 2005 due to no issues to report or vote on. Thus, there are no action items for this committee to review today.

Foundation Seed Program Reports

Cereals—Russ Karow

The Tristate cereals group is made up of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Washington has the lead role in production of Foundation Cereal seedstock in the region. Jerry Robinson in Washington, and Kathy Stewart-Williams in Idaho are the cooperators. Several thousand pounds of seed is moving out of the program each year.

Potatoes—Isabel Vales

In Oregon all of the seed potatoes are produced from a limited generation model. OSU is the provider of this material in Oregon. Material is being provided to seed growers. We are currently going through advanced lines and will provide them as requested, but we still need a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) for those varieties. We have provided 22,000 transplants and 8,000 pounds of tubers last year for growers/producers. The Material transfer agreements allow for study and research, but tubers cannot to used for increase for commercial purposes.

Grass and Legumes— Lee Schweitzer

Maintenance of the Oregon Foundation Seed program (OFS) for public varieties of grass and clover was assigned to the OSU Director of Seed Services position in 1999. The program handles moderate amounts of seed annually, but provides an important service to the Oregon seed industry by maintaining seed stock for the few public varieties used in the seed trade.

The following table summarizes stock seed sold during the past six crop years and lists the current inventory for each crop:

Oregon Foundation Seed Program - Grass & Legume

| | <u>Seed Stock sold to Growers (lbs)</u> | | | | | | <u>Inventory</u> |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>00-01</u> | <u>01-02</u> | <u>02-03</u> | <u>03-04</u> | <u>04-05</u> | <u>05-06</u> (YTD) | <u>Jan 30, 06</u> |
| Fawn Tall Fescue | 6200 | 7350 | 1350 | 5200 | 350 | 1200 | 12,650 |
| Cascade Chewings Fescue | 950 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 350 | 0 | 1,600 |
| Potomac Orchardgrass | 2800 | 150 | 1900 | 1325 | 75 | 375 | 5,230 |
| Gulf Annual Ryegrass | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 150 |
| Kenland Red Clover | 1100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Discussions are underway with the Oregon Clover Commission and Kentucky Foundation Seed program to determine whether the Clover Commission desires OFS to procure and maintain Kenland red clover seed stock in 2006 and beyond. Similar inquiries are before the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission to determine their interest in partially funding future production and maintenance of K31 tall fescue seed stock.

Another function of the Foundation Seed program is to manage breeder seed blocks for Fawn Tall Fescue and Highland Colonial Bentgrass. These blocks are maintained and kept mown to prevent seed production until a new lot of breeder seed is needed.

Cooperation with the Forest Service and BLM to contract native forb seed stock production for the Great Basin Restoration Initiative project is underway. BLM has federal grants to produce native forb seed stock for fire restoration. They are working through the Forest Service and Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (encompassing state Foundation Seed Programs) to fund seed stock increase with private growers.

Other Reports

USDA-National Clonal Germplasm Repository—Jack Peters

Seed Program 2005 Inventory Database/Viability data is in the second year of operation. Over 3,900 seed accessions are stored at the NCGR (over ¼ of all the various germplasm accessions). New seed entries and collected or extracted seed increases resulted in approximately an increase of 50 new accessions.

General NCGR seed accession inventory at the end of 2005 is as follows:

| Genera | Seed Inventory | Tested of Viability in 2005 |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Actinidia | 22 | 22 + 15* |
| Corylus | 0 | 4 * |
| Fragaria | 376 | 122 |
| Humulus | 260 | 3 |
| Mentha | 53 | 0 |
| Pyrus | 318 | 216 |
| Ribes | 475 | 328 |
| Rubus | 1121 | 804 |
| Vaccinium | 748 | 420 |
| Other | <u>530</u> | <u>84</u> |
| | 3903 | 2018 |

* samples tested but not in the seed collection

Seed accessions germinated for research projects: 30 (of major and minor genera)
 Seed accessions germinated for plants to field: 6 (Pyrus and Rubus)
 Collecting trip germinations: > 40 (major genera)
 Ongoing experimentation on – [germination/dormancy issues]
 with scarification, stratification, growth regulators and media type (Rubus)
 seed size and viability (Vaccinium) germination for seed increase (Fragaria) Sambucus
 germination; Mespilus germination collecting trip germinations (many genera)

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

We continue our search for molecular markers for annual and perennial ryegrass. We have found an excellent marker on one chromosome. There seem to be 2 markers for perennial expression in ryegrass, but no true “annual” marker. It is more of an Italian ryegrass marker, than an “annual” marker. Things are looking good for right now with a multiplexed based DNA test for annuality/perenniality. Currently we are looking for 1 more marker. Also, we are examining 30 individuals for essential derivation. We are looking at the influence of years/generations on individual varieties.

Oregon Department of Agriculture-Jim Cramer

No report.

Oregon Seed Trade Association—Trevor Abbot

The current hot issue in the industry is annuality in perennial ryegrass that has received a grow-out test. Discussions at OSTA include a possible grower discount between grow-out test and the fluorescence test. The question in the industry is how to address this for pricing of ryegrass in the market. An issue this summer is there will be the lowest inventory of cool season grasses that we have seen for several years. This will put additional pressure on seed cleaners and seed labs early in the season.

Oregon Seed Services— Dr. Lee Schweitzer

It has been gratifying to be part of this program for the past 7 years. Some of the accomplishments over this time include the following: Coordination of database and on-line programs/services brought to the seed industry. Bulk transfer certificates. On-line users continue to increase each year. Certified acreage increased 4% in the past year. Chet Boruff is now the new AOSCA CEO, and his experience has given nationwide benefits to the program. Perry Bohn (USDA) has taken over the US OECD Designated Authority position. The Seed lab now has seed workshops which have been very useful to the industry---both current workshops are full. There is current research at the seedlab regarding purity testing methods. Also, the lab is qualified for testing Clearfield wheat. The AOSCA/NGVRB meeting will be in Corvallis again tomorrow, Feb. 15th. Specific details regarding the seed services program are listed in the *Program Highlights*.

Program Highlights:

1. *eCertification* – This is the 10-year anniversary of OSCS online services integrating Seed Cert / Seed Lab computer database and web sites, and initiating online services to our clients. Greater internal efficiency as well as better client services have evolved:
 - 238 clients are using online services
 - 31% of seed test sample certificates are entered online
 - 16 clients print tags at their location (plus printing at OSU and 4 county locations)
 - 25 clients apply online for mixture approvals
 - 12 companies / warehouses receive electronic PDF test reports rather than paperDetermining 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 4% in 2004-05 to a total of 252,549 acres. Oregon remains second largest state for total certified seed acreage. And Oregon is third in the USA for OECD Certification poundage shipped (17,563,459 lbs). OSCS continues to work with OECD and other certifying agencies.

Two new Certification Specialists were hired in 2005. We welcome Terry Burr and Randy Knight to our expert staff.

OSCS coordinated a visit and industry meeting with Chet Boruff, new CEO of AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies). AOSCA represents official certifying agencies in 44 US states and 7 other countries including Canada. OSCS also coordinated a visit and industry meeting with Perry Bohn, the new US-OECD Designated Authority.

3. Seed Lab – The OSU Seed Lab is completing another successful testing season in 2005. Sample receipts through November 2005 were nearly equal to last year. Test completion was generally completed within 4-6 days during the peak season. Maximum backlog of 8 days occurred only 4 days.

The Seed Lab conducted two highly successful workshops for seed industry personnel in March 2005. 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 2006.

Research grant funds have been obtained to improve purity testing methods and save analyst time. Primary emphasis focused on developing blowing procedures for bluegrass, orchardgrass, ryegrass and tall fescue to assist in separating inert matter as already used for several other grass species. Research also continues for 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 routine tests this 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 and Gulf annual ryegrass. Kenland red clover seed stock has been produced by Kentucky Foundation Seed program and should be available.

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 for Seed Services:

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-Mar, 2006) – Hands-on training for seed growers, cleaners and dealers to help identify weeds / contaminants, and discuss preventive or removal techniques.
4. Upcoming Meetings:
 - Feb 15-16, 2006 – National Grass Variety Review Board – Corvallis
 - Apr 24-26 – Assoc. Official Seed Certifying Agencies, Western Region

Old/Other Business

None

Adjournment—

Adjourned 3:15pm

Minutes submitted by Dennis Lundeen, OSCS
