



Iowa Seed News

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A publication of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association

ICIA Interns

Holly Ryan



Rebecca Kingland

Field inspections, tag counting, training preparation, computer data entry, and more field inspections. This is just a glimpse of what Rebecca Kingland is looking forward to this summer as an intern with the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA).

The skills that she has learned already are time management skills, flexibility in the different intern duties, and organization. She really enjoys working at the ICIA and the people that she gets to work with daily. Rebecca states, "It will be a good experience for a future job."

Rebecca is from Forest City, Iowa and is a senior in Agriculture Business. Rebecca is not sure what she would like to do in the future but it has to involve agriculture.



Holly Ryan

Another Iowa Crop Improvement Association intern this summer is Holly Ryan. Holly will be more focused on writing newsletter articles, helping with trainings, and doing office work. Holly hopes that this internship will help her prepare for a future job.

Holly is from Kingsley, Iowa. She is a senior in Agriculture Education Communication and will graduate in August 2009. Holly would like to work for an agriculture company in communications or work with youth.

ICIA Sponsors Proficiency Award

Holly Ryan

The 81st Iowa FFA Leadership Conference was held at Veteran's Auditorium, in Des Moines April 16 and 17, 2009. Jessica Vogel of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association presented proficiency awards to Walter Kummerfeld from the South O'Brien FFA Chapter and Micah Rensink from the Sioux Center FFA Chapter during the conference. Walter Kummerfeld was the overall winner while Micah Rensink was the runner-up.

ICIA sponsored the Iowa FFA's agricultural proficiency awards in the area of Grain Production and Entrepreneurship. FFA members first complete applications on a district level. The top two contestants in each of the six districts advanced to state for judging. The first place applicant is awarded \$100 with a special agricultural proficiency plaque; the second applicant is awarded \$50 and the proficiency plaque. Congratulations to Walter and Micah!

Certification Update

Eileen Wuebker

Field Inspections Underway - The summer field inspection season is well underway at Iowa Crop Improvement Association. Our team of inspectors are trained and ready to inspect seed fields of:

- Small grains - including oats, barley, triticale, and wheat
- Soybeans - including bloom, post herbicide application, and pre-harvest inspections
- Corn - including foundation corn, hybrid corn, and hybrid popcorn
- Native species - including grasses, forbs, shrubs, and wildflowers

In addition, we also have inspectors ready to inspect fields of grasses, hay, small grains, and prairies that can be certified as free of weed seed from a specified list of 54 noxious or undesirable weeds.

Regardless of the inspection service you may be requesting we will provide you with an unbiased, 3rd party evaluation of your production. Our inspectors document the information collected and promptly share an inspection report with you. Depending on the program requirements your product is usually eligible to bear a certification label or certificate.

Please contact our office at 515-294-6921 if you would like to visit about the services we could provide for you.

Grow Iowa Native – In May the association paired up with the Tallgrass Prairie Center at the University of Northern Iowa to provide a discussion forum on the possibility of developing a Grow Iowa Native Initiative. Seed growers, private companies, and state agencies met to discuss their common interest in promoting native Iowa plants and seeds. The participants agreed to launch this campaign with the following initial goals:

- Image – improve education and awareness of native species
- Sales – improve the linkages between buyers and sellers of native species
- Environment – improve water quality and wildlife habitat in Iowa



A leadership committee was established with the goal to develop a vision statement and begin developing this campaign. In a second meeting in early June a mission statement was adopted. Plans are also underway to conduct a market research survey, begin development of a website, and adopt a brand/logo for marketing.

If you would like more information on this initiative please contact me at 515-294-0546.

Farewell to Jessica Vogel – A special thanks to Jessica Vogel who has promoted the activities of the association for over 2 years. Jessica's responsibilities included creating this newsletter, writing news releases, organizing the annual meeting, creating brochures, creating training materials, and many other administrative duties. We wish Jessica the best as she moves onto new opportunities.

ISU Seed Lab Update

Mike Stahr

I am going to depart from the theme of my last three newsletter articles and not refer to weather conditions in the opening line of this article. This is the second line and what other topic is on the minds and on the tongues of farmers and seed producers in late spring/early summer more than we could use less rain (but still some timely rains)? I farm on the side and was able to see corn seed vigor in action as nights in the 40's, 50's and the occasional 30's stressed my eight acres. I am happy to report that I have a good field stand. But this emphasizes the need for testing beyond using the warm germination test. It doesn't take an exceptional sample of corn, etc. to do well in the ideal conditions of the germination test, but some lots have a problem doing well in a cold or accelerated aging test. There are a number of options for measuring vigor ranging from direct tests (like cold tests) to indirect vigor tests (such as the tetrazolium test). Please contact us for information on your vigor testing options.

We've made the seasonal shift from concentrating on corn and soybeans to testing more flowers, grasses, and vegetables. Testing cereals is on the horizon. I took the plunge and planted a hay field of alfalfa and brome with an oat cover crop. When harvest time comes I will probably check the germination of the oats by running a prechill on the sample before the seeds are moved to the germination chamber. Seeds are planted on paper towels and placed in 5C for five days before being moved to 20C. This usually does a great job of out-maneuvering Mother Nature and breaking dormancy. Any seed that doesn't germinate by the end of the test are checked by TZ to see if they are dead or dormant.

As usual, the Seed Science Center has a full slate of workshops available this summer. Alan Gaul's conditioning workshops (color sorter, gravity, seed treatment, etc.) are filling up fast. The Seed Lab will be offering the annual Corn & Soybean Seed Quality workshop in August where participants will get hands-on experience evaluating commonly used tests on corn and soybeans.

Have a safe and productive summer!

ISU Research and Demonstration 2009 Farm Field Days

www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/fielddays.php

Location	Date
Nashua	6/18 @ 1:30 pm
Crawfordsville	6/24 @ 12:00 pm
Sutherland	6/30 @ 9:00 am
Lewis	7/6 @ 9:30 am
Kanawha	7/25 @ 9:30 am
Ames	8/6 @ 8:00 am
Greenfield	8/25 @ 4:00 pm
Ames	8/27 @ 8:30am
Haywarden	8/27 @ 6:00 pm
Nashua	9/2 @ 1:30 pm
Crawfordsville	Date TBA @1:00 pm
Castana	TBA
Chariton	TBA

Demonstration Home Garden Field Days

Location	Date
Rock Rapids	7/14 @ 6:00 pm
Fruitland	8/4 @ 6:30 pm
Kanawha	8/5 @ 6:30 am
Ames	8/6 @ 6:30 pm
Nashua	8/8 @ 4:00 pm
Chariton	8/10 @ 6:30 pm
Lewis	8/11 @ 6:30 pm
Sutherland	8/12 @ 6:00 pm

ISU Seed Science Center Upcoming Workshops

Workshop	Date
Soybean & Small Grain Conditioning	July 7-9
Soybean & Small Grain Conditioning	July 28-30
Gravity Separation	August 4
Gravity Separation	August 6
Research Corn Seed Conditioning	August 11-13
Seed Corn/Soybean Quality	August 19-20

For more information on registering or attending these workshops, contact Alan Gaul at the ISU Seed Science Center at (515) 294-4011 or agaul@iastate.edu.

Iowa Crop Performance Test Update

Corn & Soybean Update

Jim Rouse

The corn and soybean crop performance tests are well under way. Planting was kickstarted in the third week of April when we completed half of our corn trials in a 3-day span. Of course it was a full week before we could plant again. After that great start the remaining planting dates were much more scattered. Only twice were we able to plant on consecutive days, and we didn't have another 3-day stretch where we could plant each day.

Participation this year is similar to recent years. We have 30 brands and over 300 different hybrids in the corn tests, and about 30 brand names and nearly 350 unique entries in the soybean variety trials as well. There are several companies entering the trials this year for the first time and we're excited to add these brands to our tests.

In the soybean trials, 80% of the entries are listed as having some level of SCN resistance. This continues a trend, the ratio increased from 75/25 in 2008, 70/30 in 2007, and 55/45 in 2006. The result is there are no longer enough non-SCN entries to justify separate experiments for SCN-susceptible lines. Our primary trials in each district are now simply divided into early-season and full-season varieties for each region.

New to the trials this year are LibertyLink® and Roundup Ready 2 Yield™ soybean entries. This year the LibertyLink® lines have been placed in the conventional herbicide tests. The Roundup Ready 2 Yield™ lines are in the primary Roundup Ready® experiments. The conventional tests have also been expanded this year to 3 northern locations. In the recent past they've been only in central and southern Iowa. As before, these tests include several types of soybeans, including conventional, LibertyLink®, Roundup Ready®, Roundup Ready 2 Yield™, and modified fatty acid composition.

In the corn trials we continue to see a prevalence of GM traits, with a tendency toward stacks of various insect-resistance and herbicide-tolerance combinations. Only 6% of the entries are conventional (non-GMO) hybrids. In addition, insecticidal seed treatments are more common than ever, present on 85% of the corn entries.



Pictured here Chad Arnold and Jim Rouse work on planting a plot near Ames.

Judging Teams Finish Second and Third

Holly Ryan

The Iowa State University Crops and Agribusiness Management teams sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association placed highly at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) judging contests held April 16-18 in Wooster, Ohio. In the four-year college division of the contest the Crops team placed second out of fourteen colleges and the Agribusiness team placed third out of five colleges.

The Crops team coached by Dr. Russ Mullen and Dr. Gina McAndrews acquired top-three finishes in each of the four components of the Crop Judging contest. Senior Ryan VanRoekel of Pella placed fifth individually overall, earning top-ten finishes in three contest categories. Senior Correy Rahn of Mount Carroll, IL placed first individually in the Lab Practical Exam portion and tenth in the Plant/Seed Identification portion. Will Cornelius of Andrew placed in the top ten overall. Chuck Hrubes of Garner and Emma Flemmig of Glidden also contributed to the team's second place finish.

The third-place Agribusiness Management team also earned top-three finishes in both components of their contest. Correy Rahn was the top individual finisher overall. Rahn placed first in the Knowledge Exam and first in the Problem Solving portion of the contest. Ryan Oltmans of Sherburn, MN placed eighth overall, and the team was also helped by high scores from Megan Seys of Coal Valley, IL and Grace Lockard of Oelwein.

The NACTA attracted teams from 35 colleges and featured the following contests: the Agriculture Quiz Bowl, Computer Applications, Crops, Dairy Judging, Horticulture Judging, Soils Judging, Livestock Judging, and Agribusiness Management.

NACTA is a professional society that promotes the recognition of excellence in teaching agriculture and related areas at the post secondary level.



Coach Dr. Russ Mullen, Chuck Hrubes, Ryan VanRoekel, Correy Rahn, Will Cornelius, Emma Flemmig Not pictured: Coach Dr. Gina McAndrews

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FFA Agronomy Event

Holly Ryan

The Iowa State University Agronomy Department hosted the Iowa FFA Agronomy Management Career Development Event on June 4, 2009. Diamond Trail FFA Chapter from Monroe was named the Champion Team and the Washington FFA Chapter from Washington was named the reserve Champion Team. The High Individual Overall in the competition was Kevin Wiggan from Diamond Trail FFA Chapter at Monroe. Ray Kruse from West Dubuque FFA Chapter at Epworth was runner up.

The event involved:

- Crops judging
- Seed, plant, and insect identification
- Written examination
- Team event

In the crops section individuals judged:

- Hay
- Silage
- Seeds
- Corn for livestock feed
- Soybeans for marketing



In the plant, seed, insect identification portion students were given 50 crop and weed seeds, plants, and insects to identify. A 50-question multiple-choice examination covering agronomic practices and information was given. The exam focused on problem solving, decision making, marketing concepts, grain grading, biological principles and sustainable agriculture concepts of major crops which are grown in Iowa. The team event was made up of problem solving activities that are designed so that teams must carefully and effectively work together as a team to accurately complete the tasks/solutions on time.

Faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduate students in the Agronomy Department supported the event by volunteering to grade, guiding the FFA students to their events, organizing and proctoring events. Iowa Crop Improvement Association sponsored the student's lunch.



Iowa Seed Promotion Association Scholarship

Holly Ryan

The Iowa Seed Promotion Association (ISPA) was started in 1987 to promote the use of public seed and crop varieties that were developed at Iowa State University, and other agriculture experiment stations. The seeds that were sold and distributed under the “Iowa Pride Certified Seed” brand name were primarily oat and soybean. Reuben Sansgaard (1987-1992) was the Association’s first president, followed by John Kurtz and Richard Blackford. At the peak of the membership there were approximately 125 members, but over the years the membership began to dwindle. And in 1999 at the annual meeting the ISPA members decided to suspend indefinitely the statewide promotion of public seed.

This scholarship was set up just last year and the ISPA hopes to provide an annual scholarship for the next five to six years. The ISPA awards \$1,180 to a student admitted and enrolled in Agronomy, with preference given to those with interest in seed science. “We hope to provide a scholarship for an agronomy student who hopes to promote the seed industry,” Orland Fara, the treasurer of the ISPA states. The first receiver of the ISPA scholarship is Chris J. Meyer of Creston, Iowa.

Chris spent countless hours during his senior year of high school sorting through scholarship lists, filling out the applications, and maintaining a part time job. Chris has a goal to pay for the cost of college attendance on his own, without any debt. “Scholarships are invaluable to the recruitment and retention of undergraduate students. The gratitude expressed by our scholarship recipients is a reflection of the importance of these scholarships in the lives of undergraduates and their families,” Dr. Kendall R. Lamkey Chair, of the Department of Agronomy.

Agribusiness Education Program Changes

www.aep.iastate.edu/feel

For 2009 the Agribusiness Education Program will be offering two different mid-season clinics at the Field Extension Education Laboratory (FEEL) - the Field Diagnostic Clinic and the Crop Management Clinic. While the names might sound familiar, each one has a specific focus and purpose. A comparison of the clinics and explanation behind the changes can be found by visiting the Clinic Q&A page. Registration is now open for all FEEL events.

Mark your calendars

July 13-14 – Field Diagnostic Clinic

July 15-16 – Crop Management Clinic

Aug 7 – Summer CCA examination

Aug 25-27 – Iowa Drainage School

Sept 2 – Alfalfa Production Clinic

Sept 3 – Corn Disease Diagnostic and Management Clinic

Sept 15 – Soil Management Clinic

Dec 2-3 - Integrated Crop Management Conference



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Dates to Remember

July

- 3 University Holiday, ICIA Offices Closed
- 10 Early Application Date for field inspection of soybean

August

- 1 Deadline for Declaration of Carry-Over Seed
- 1 Early Application Date for certification of native species fields established between June 1 & July 15

September

- 7 University Holiday, ICIA Offices Closed

November

- 10-11 Iowa Seed Association Convention & Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Ames, Iowa
- 26-27 University Holiday, ICIA Offices Closed

December

- 2-3 Integrated Crop Management Conference, Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa
- 8-11 American Seed Trade Association Seed Corn, Sorghum, and Soybean Research Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chicago, Illinois