



Iowa Seed News

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A publication of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association

Brochures Get New Look

Iowa Crop Improvement Association is pleased to announce the release of new brochures to promote services offered by the association.

The five brochures that have been created are:

- Careers in the Seed Industry
- Identity Preserved Grain and Plant Products
- Iowa Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage and Mulch Certification
- Quality Assurance Seed
- Source Identified Seed for Native Prairie Species



There are three additional brochures that will be released later this summer. If members would like to order free brochures they can call 515-294-6921 or email iowacrop@iastate.edu.

ICIA Sponsors Proficiency Award



The 80th Iowa FFA Leadership Conference was held at Hilton Colesium in Ames April 14-15th. Iowa Crop Improvement Association presented Andy Schiltz (left) from the Cascade FFA Chapter and Micah Rensink (right) from the Sioux Center FFA Chapter proficiency awards during the conference. Schiltz was the overall winner while Rensink was the runner-up.

ICIA sponsored the Iowa FFA's agricultural proficiency awards in the area of Grain Production Entrepreneurship.

Grain production involves the use of the best management practices available to efficiently produce and market grain crops.

FFA members first complete applications on a district level. The top two contestants in each district are advanced to state for judging. The first place applicant is awarded \$100 with a special agricultural proficiency plaque; the second place applicant is awarded \$50 and the proficiency plaque.

Determining Demand for Weed Seed Free Mulch or Hay?

Eileen Wuebker

In 2006, Iowa Crop Improvement Association began offering a weed seed free forage and mulch certification program with the permission of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The certification involves verifying that the forage or mulch field and storage site are free of any seed bearing plants of a list of 54 noxious or undesirable weeds. This certification program has its roots in the western states where the need to prevent the spread of noxious weeds is important both in the national parks and in reforestation and vegetation programs.

As this program spread to the Midwest, the potential demand was anticipated to also be with horse owners looking for quality hay, from individuals involved in roadside and erosion-control projects, and with customers seeking clean animal bedding. What we have learned in the last two years is that Iowa farmers can produce a quality, weed seed free product. The association has certified beautiful fields of alfalfa, grass, oat, wheat, and native prairie. However, determining the demand and connecting the willing buyer and seller has proved to be more challenging.

In March, I attended a meeting sponsored by the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN). The purpose of the meeting was to pull together certification agencies, buyers, and sellers of weed seed free forage and mulch from the eight Midwestern states. It was interesting to hear about the MIPN goals to limit the spread of invasive plants to natural areas, to

the extent that they are hoping to expand the list of noxious or undesirable weeds used in the Midwest. Current demand in other Midwestern states included: state department of transportation (DOT), pipeline re-vegetation projects, horse owners traveling to western states, and a straw blanket supplier. The potential for demand from the Department of Natural Resource (DNR), the National Park Service, and the U. S. Forest Service was discussed. Key questions throughout the discussion were whether there was enough supply to meet the demand, would bids be specific for "certified" product, and what is the market price for these products?

Taking all this discussion into account, the association will again be promoting this program to potential buyers and sellers of the product. Promotional mailings, news articles, and personal contacts will be made to try to help connect willing buyers and sellers. In addition, the ICIA website will be expanded to include 3 lists:

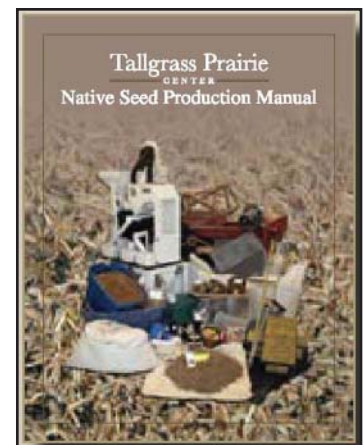
- Potential purchasers
- Potential suppliers
- Current sources of certified forage or mulch

If you would like to be added to any one of these lists, please contact me at 515-294-0546 or at eileen@iastate.edu. To be included on one of the lists we will need your name, address, phone, and e-mail address.

Native Seed Production Manual

The Tallgrass Prairie Center's Native Seed Production Manual provides in-depth information for native seed production of 32 species of the tallgrass prairie flora of the upper Mid-west. Tables summarize propagation, harvesting, and seed cleaning protocols for 50 species. Critical to this effort were publications from the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program, published research articles and technical notes, and Internet resources. Botanical nomenclature follows USDA PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov/>).

Copies are available for \$15 each (\$10 + shipping). For more information contact ICIA at 515-294-6921 or iowacorp@iastate.edu.



ISU Seed Lab Update

Michael Stahr

Slow seasons are a thing of the past in seed testing! I am old-timer enough to remember that 25 years ago, summer was a time to test cereals and to catch up on research and repairing equipment. Then with the increased testing of flowers and other small-seeded species, just May and September were slower months. Now there is no such thing as a slow month – just what is submitted for testing changes. The ISU Seed Lab continues to be busy in several labs – seed health, germination, and trait testing. Thank you for keeping us so busy! We certainly enjoy the variety of species we test and the variety of testing we offer. It sounds like there is a huge demand for corn and soybeans for planting again this year. The wet conditions didn't help get seed into the ground, but it bought some time for finding all the seed suitable for sale. Hopefully the rain will continue once all the crops are planted.

If you are involved (or have an interest) in any aspect of conditioning seed, it isn't too late to attend one or more of Alan Gaul's workshops this summer. A complete listing and a link to the registration process is on our website – www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest. Workshops in order are: Color Sorting (two sessions – one is full), Commercial Seed Corn, Seed Treatment, Soybean and Small Grain Seed, Gravity Separation and Research Corn. Also offered this summer is a two-day workshop on the tests commonly performed on corn and soybeans (Corn and Soybean Quality Workshop – August 20 & 21). Workshop participants will learn about testing methods and then run these methods on two lots of corn and soybeans. All workshops have lecture, hands-on, and materials to take with you.

Have a great summer and don't hesitate to contact us for your testing needs or if we can help you with any questions you might have. Call 515-294-6826 or e-mail seedlab@iastate.edu.

**Quality Seed
Doesn't Cost
...It Pays**

ISU Research and Demonstration 2008 Farm Field Days

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

Location	Date
Nashua	6/19 @ 1:30 pm
Sutherland	6/25 @ 9:00 am
Crawfordsville	6/26 @ 12:00 pm
Lewis	6/27 @ 9:30 am
Kanawha	7/1 @ 9:30 am
Doon	8/4 @ 6:00 pm
Lewis	8/6 @ 5:00 pm
Greenfield	8/20 @ 4:00 pm
Sutherland	9/2 @ 6:00 pm
Kanawha	9/3 @ 9:30 am
Nashua	9/4 @ 1:30 pm
Crawfordsville	9/10 @ 1:00pm
Castana	TBA
Chariton	TBA
Newell	9/16 @ 9:30 am
Fruitland	September

Demonstration Home Garden Field Days

Location	Date
Rock Rapids	7/15 @ 6:00 pm
Chariton	7/17 @ 6:00 pm
Sutherland	7/26 @ 9:00 am
Nashua	8/2 @ 4:00 pm
Fruitland	8/4 @ 6:30 pm
Ames	8/5 @ 6:30 pm
Lewis	8/6 @ 6:30 pm
Kanawha	8/7 @ 6:30 pm

ISU Seed Science Center Upcoming Workshops

Workshop	Date
Color Sorting-Sortex	June 2-3
Color Sorting-Satake	June 4-5
Commercial Seed Corn Conditioning	June 16-19
Seed Treatment	June 25-26
Soybean & Small Grain Conditioning	July 7-9
Soybean & Small Grain Conditioning	July 28-30
Gravity Separation	August 5
Gravity Separation	August 7
Research Corn Seed Conditioning	August 11-14

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.

Alfalfa

Mark Smith
515-294-7887

The 2008 Forage Variety Testing Program is offering the following alfalfa yield tests this year: Ames Commercial and Experimental Combined, Ames Potato Leaf Hopper (unsprayed) and the Nashua Commercial and Experimental Combined. We will also plant hay yield tests of other forages at the Ames Location, if sufficient entries are received.

Visit the crop testing web site to find guidelines for the 2008 tests and results of the 2007 and previous years forage variety performance tests.

I look forward to another successful season and providing quality data in a timely fashion. Please contact me if you have any questions about forage variety testing at Iowa State University.

Corn & Soybeans

Jim Rouse
515-294-5604

In preparation for this article I reviewed the article from the June 2007 issue. Aside from changing the dates, the wording could be nearly identical! The 2008 planting season has been difficult to work through due to cold, wet weather. Planting delays have been common in nearly every area of the state. As I write this on May 20, we have all of our corn trials planted, and 13 of 18 soybean trials. If the forecast holds, we'll finish up the beans in the next few days. Overall our planting progress this year has been very similar to the 2007 season.

Participation this year is very similar to last year. We have around 30 brand names and over 300 different hybrids in the corn tests. There are 25 brand names and over 300 unique entries in the soybean variety trials as well.

Continuing a recent trend, the percentage of SCN-resistant entries increased again this year. The ratio of SCN-resistant to susceptible varieties is now 75/25, up from 70/30 in 2007 and 55/45 in 2006. This trend is expected to continue. The result is that there are no longer enough entries to justify separate experiments for SCN-susceptible lines.

Also this season we have two experiments comparing conventional herbicide soybean varieties, one in our central locations and one in our southern locations. These tests include 'standard' soybean lines, as well as varieties with modified fatty acid composition. We will continue with these types of experiments as long as there is enough participation to justify a test.

Small Grains
Ron Skrdla and
Lance Gibson
515-294-2732

The 2008 winter wheat variety and winter triticale tests show considerable winterkill damage at Ames due to a long period with ice cover on the field. The tests at Sutherland survived with very little winterkill due to lack of ice.

The oat variety test consists of twenty-nine varieties that were planted at Ames (April 16), Nashua (April 16), and Sutherland (April 7). There are 19 varieties in the 2008 barley variety test and was planted on the same date and at the same locations as the oat variety test.

New this year is the spring wheat and spring triticale variety tests. There are 14 varieties in the spring wheat variety test and 12 varieties in the spring triticale variety test. These two tests were planted at Ames (April 16) and Sutherland (April 7).

All plots have emerged and will grow tillers with the continued cool weather.

ICIA would like to extend best wishes to Ron for a happy retirement and Lance as he moves forward to new opportunities. They have certainly had a tremendous career with Iowa State University and will be greatly missed.



Iowa State University Agronomy Students Win at National Competition

Iowa State University agronomy students recently won first and second place titles from a national agriculture competition in Texas.

The students competed in three North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) contests held April 16-18. The Iowa State team placed first in the Ag Computers Contest and second in the Crops Contest and Ag Knowledge Quiz Bowl. The team's combined efforts in the three contests resulted in a second place sweepstakes award.

Will Cornelius of Andrew was the first-place individual overall in the Ag Computers Contest. He was first in both the applications and web page design portions of the contest. Brent Lytle, Alta, placed third overall in Ag Computers capturing first place in the written exam and second place in applications. Lytle also placed third overall in the Crops Contest with a second-place score in the lab practical and fifth-place finish in the agronomy and math exams. Scott Pierce, Ogden, was fifth overall in the Crops Contest where he also won fifth place in the agronomy exam. Other team members included Matthew Dop, Monroe; Tom Schulte, Norway; Emma Flemmig, Glidden; Chuck Hrubes, Garner; and Correy Rahn, Mount Carroll, Ill.

Professors Lance Gibson and Russ Mullen coached the students. The team is sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

The Ag Knowledge Quiz bowl is a round-robin tournament of four-member teams answering questions on Crops/Soils, Agbusiness/Farm Management, Horticulture/Natural Resources, Ag Mechanics, Current Agricultural Events and Food Science/Nutrition.

The Ag Computers Contest evaluates knowledge of the fundamentals of computer hardware and software and consists of a written knowledge exam and applications requiring the use of spreadsheets, electronic communication, word processing and the World Wide Web.

The Crops Contest consists of a series of written, problem-solving and identification exams. The team of agronomy undergraduates placed second in the lab practical, math, plant and seed identification and agronomic knowledge portions of the crops contest.

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



2008 ISU Crops Team Members
Emma Flemmig, Matthew Dop, Tom Schulte, Brent Lytle, Chuck Hrubes, Will Cornelius, Coach Dr. Lance Gibson

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United States to Host OECD Annual Meeting

The United States will host the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes Annual Meeting on June 30 to July 2nd in Chicago, Illinois. An attendance of over 100 people is expected from as many as 55 participating countries. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is coordinating the events and assisting with registration. For more information contact Perry Bohn, the USDA OECD Seed Schemes Program Manager, at perry.bohn@usda.gov or 704-810-7262.

The OECD Seed Schemes are rules used by participating countries to certify and label seed for varietal purity for international movement. In the United States, varietal certification for the OECD Seed Schemes is carried out by ICIA and other state seed certifying agencies under Cooperative Agreements with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. The schemes are administered internationally by the OECD Secretariat in Paris, France.

Dates to Remember

June

- 15 Early Application Date for certification of native species fields established between April 1 & May 31
- 21-25 ASTA 125th Annual Convention, Kissimmee, Florida
- 26 Iowa Seed Association Golf Tournament, Ames, Iowa

July

- 4 ICIA Offices Closed
- 10 Early Application Date for field inspection of soybean
- 14-18 AOSCA Annual Meeting, Quebec City, Canada

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