



Volume LXII Number 3
September 2008

Iowa Seed News

ISO 9001:2000 Certified
A publication of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association

ROUSE NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jim Rouse has been named the Executive Director of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

Rouse previously served a year as interim director of the association. A native of Ayrshire, he has been project leader for the association's Iowa Crop Performance Tests since 2005. Each year the performance tests measure yields and other agronomic characteristics of hundreds of varieties of corn, soybeans, alfalfa and small grain crops throughout Iowa to help growers identify high-performance lines.

Rouse was a graduate research assistant in Iowa State's corn breeding program from 2001 to 2004. Prior to that he worked in the commercial seed industry. He has a doctorate degree in plant breeding and a master's degree in entomology from Iowa State.



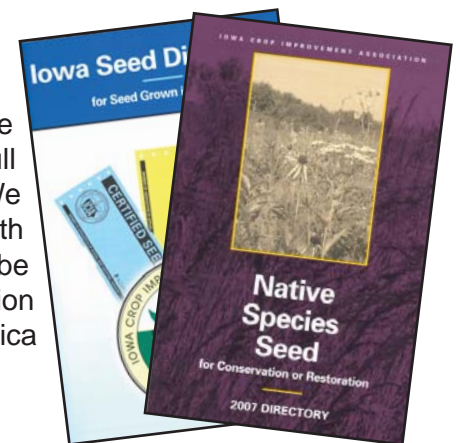
OECD FEE INCREASE

The Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch of the USDA has announced a fee increase for the OECD Seed Schemes. The fee will increase to \$0.20 per cwt for corn and \$0.11 per cwt for all other crops. This represents a one cent increase for corn and a 5 cent increase for soybean. This fee increase will be implemented on October 1, 2008.

The USDA explained that with the yearly international OECD fees approaching \$100,000, an increase was necessary. The increase was established after consulting with the seed industry and other interested parties. Any questions regarding the increase can be addressed to our office or to Perry Bohn, the OECD Seed Schemes Program Manager, at 704-810-7262.

AD SPACE STILL AVAILABLE

Advertising space for the 2008 Iowa Seed Directory and the 2008 Native Species Directory is still available! Space is offered in quarter, half, and full page sizes and all ads are randomly spaced throughout the publication. We also offer a special discounted rate to those interested in advertising in both directories. Production on both directories has begun and they should be available to the public by late fall. To advertise with ICIA or for more information on the Iowa Seed Directory and Native Species Directory, please contact Jessica at (515)294-6921 or jlvoegel@iastate.edu.



FFA AGRONOMY EVENT CHAMPION NAMED

On June 5th, the ISU Agronomy Department hosted the annual Agronomy Crops FFA Career Development Event. Over 100 high school students from 28 different FFA chapters participated, making this the largest FFA event in recent memory. More than 30 faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduate students in the Agronomy Department supported the event by volunteering to grade, leading the FFA students to their events, organizing and proctoring events and lunch, and speaking to the FFA students in the Awards ceremony.

The individual winner of the Agronomy Crops contest was Kevin Wiggins of the Diamond Trail Chapter in Monroe. The winning team was the Little Switzerland Chapter from Waukon: Joey Dee, Josh Dee, Levi Donahue and Jeffery Sweeney. Event winners will be heading on to Nationals later this year.

ICIA supports the FFA Agronomy Event by providing lunch for the participants.

WHO WILL TELL THE REST OF THE STORY?

Chet Boruff

Things are changing so rapidly in agriculture that this column may be outdated by the time it is printed. Growers in many parts of the US faced a delayed start to planting the 2008 crop while the media inundates us with stories centered on the “fuel versus food” debate. Admittedly, increased commodity prices contribute to a portion of higher food prices, but most people unfortunately want an easy answer that simply does not exist to the question of why they are paying more for food at the check-out counter. Congress held hearings and politicians are facing pressure to rescind the commitment it made toward the development of renewable fuels as part of a long-term energy policy.

So what does any of this have to do with the seed industry? The motto used by our friends at the American Seed Trade Association sums it up perfectly.....“First, the seed.” Not just in the US, but around the globe, agriculture could be well-positioned to play a significant role in decreasing the world’s dependence on oil. We won’t solve the entire problem, but the potential exists to be part of a balanced solution. New seed varieties and technologies will be needed to meet the growing demand for all sorts of farm-grown food, feed, fiber, and especially, fuel. We won’t meet the output demands of the future by using old and existing technologies. The seed industry could be center stage in solving the challenges we’ll face.

But here is where I fear the wheels might fall off of the wagon. Even here in the heart of the Cornbelt, our industry cannot get a fair and balanced story when the news covers the “fuel versus food” debate. I keep hoping that someone, in Paul Harvey-like fashion, will step up and tell “the rest of the story”. I would like them to be able to clearly explain that food prices are determined not only by the price of basic commodities, that all of us live in a global economy where we are sharing the table with consumers from China and India who now have the money to bid against us for the world’s limited resources, that the lower value of the US dollar drives up the export demand for US grain, and that the impact of high oil prices on processing and transportation costs has a lot more to do with the cost of milk and eggs than does the cost of corn.

Commodity organizations and a few economists are trying to educate consumers, who happen to also be voters, but understanding what drives food prices and what is at stake in the long run requires effort. In the end, it is up to each one of us with a vested interest in the seed industry, and agriculture as a whole, to tell our own story. The facts are there for us to use and make our case, but if we depend upon someone else to protect our interests we could very easily see our opportunities slip away. If that happens, when will they ever come again?

Chet Boruff is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of the Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). He is based in Moline, Illinois and can be reached at 309-736-0120 or at cboruff@aosca.org.

ISU SEED LABORATORY UPDATE

Michael Stahr

What a summer! A wet spring and wetter early summer evolved into favorable growing conditions which I hope will result in a large harvest of seed and grain. As I traveled around Iowa, crops looked good except for the drowned out spots and some yellowed plants. There are indications of problems from flooding and abundant moisture (from rain, heavy dews, and fog). Fusarium species and Black Point (a fungal complex) have been noticed on wheat seed, and are likely due to the wet weather (along with increases in fungi on other crops). Some fungi can cause a reduction in germination; others can cause dockage at the elevator. We are keeping our fingers crossed for less fog and heavy dews in August and September as moisture can encourage Phomopsis to spread (if present) from pods to soybean seed. If you would like more information on seed health, we have help available from our Seed Science Center pathologists – Lisa Shepherd and Dr. Gary Munkvold.

I hope you had an opportunity to visit the Farm Progress Show in late August. It is a great event and I look forward to having it held in central Iowa every other year. The Seed Science Center had a booth at the FPS and we will also be attending several other events this fall and early winter. Look for us at the Iowa Seed Association annual meeting and in Chicago at the December ASTA meeting. We would like the opportunity to talk to you about what we have to offer – a complete line of testing to go along with personal service. We have moved forward in our genetic purity and unintended presence testing, especially in our DNA lab. For more information, please go to our web site (www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest) or contact us at 515-294-6826.

The addition to the Seed Science Center was completed in mid-August. Stop by and we will gladly give you a tour of the new facilities. We have a new conference room and the Center's library has been updated to have the latest technology for workshops and meetings. Also with the addition, the Seed Science Center gained multiple offices, two labs, and a beautiful courtyard.

Best wishes for a bountiful harvest!

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

AG CHEMICAL DEALER UPDATES

The Ag Chemical Dealer Updates deliver the latest crop production recommendations, news and information directly from Iowa State University Extension. Each location features updates on weed, insect, crop disease and soil nutrient management brought to you by ISU experts. Meetings will review the positives and negatives of the past growing season and prepare seed, chemical, and fertilizer dealers, crop consultants, farm managers and agronomists for the challenges of the upcoming crop production year.

Each meeting is also a convenient way to obtain continuing education units for Certified Crop Advisers, as well as recertification for commercial ag pesticide applicators.

Each meeting includes continuing instructional credits for Commercial Pesticide Applicator recertification in categories 1A (weeds), 1B (insects), 1C (diseases), and 10 (research and demonstration) for 2008. Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) continuing education units (CEUs) are also offered at each meeting.

Schedule for 2008 meetings

December 1 - Iowa City

December 2 - Calmar, Waterloo

December 3 - Mason City

December 15 - Lewis

December 16 - Storm Lake

December 17 - Ames

December 18 - Osceola



For more information call 515-294-6429 or email: aep@iastate.edu

Alfalfa - Mark Smith 515-294-7887

The 2008 growing season has been very challenging. We encountered winterkill that caused us to abandon the 2005 and 2006 alfalfa plots at Ames. The potato leafhopper populations have been high this summer and we had hail on the 2007 and 2008 plots at our Ames location on July 22nd. Excessive rains have made timely cuttings difficult, but we did not lose any plots due to flooding or ponding. In contrast, the alfalfa plots at the Nashua location have looked good all season with no significant problems.

The late spring has delayed all harvests by two weeks and our last alfalfa harvest will be during the week of September 8th.

The new alfalfa plots have established well and yields have been average.

All data will be analyzed and distributed to entrants by the end of September. The data will also be posted on the crop testing web page at www.croptesting.iastate.edu. The extension bulletin should be out in October.

Corn & Soybeans - Jim Rouse 515-294-5604

What a season! Too wet, too cold, too wet, too hot, just about right. Seasons like this cause us all to age a bit prematurely. Even so, most of our plots are in pretty good shape. At this time we anticipate good data from all sites but one. Our soybean plot at Melrose has had a rough go of it this year, and we're not sure it's going to provide useful harvest information. Approximately half of our soybean plots have been treated for soybean aphids.

Please remember to continue visiting our website, www.croptesting.iastate.edu, for all your variety trial information. This is where you'll be able to get your first look at the harvest information. Similar to last year, Iowa Farmer Today will be publishing 'Top 10' and 'Top 20' results on a weekly basis throughout the harvest season. Complete location results will be posted online as soon as they become available. As before, the complete written version of our reports will be published sometime in December. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Jim Rouse at croptesting@iastate.edu.

Small Grains - Jim Rouse & George Patrick 515-294-7924

At the time of writing, the winter wheat and triticale data has all been collected and is being analyzed. Results will be available online at <http://www.croptesting.iastate.edu/smallgrains/reports/reports.html> by the time you receive this newsletter. The Ames location suffered a great deal of winter kill. The damage appears to be strictly topographical, not genetic. The site was hit with a heavy rain/slush/snowstorm in late November, which caused ponding in the low areas. This slush then froze and remained until March. Estimated stand loss in the affected plots ranged from 10 to 90%, making yield data difficult to interpret. The broken stands demonstrated a great deal of compensation, meaning a 50% stand produced more than 50% yield. The good news is that this trial is also conducted at Calumet.

George Patrick has finished harvesting the spring planted tests of barley, oat, triticale, and wheat. These tests were planted on April 7th and 16th. Those data will be analyzed as soon as possible and will be posted first online when complete, likely near the first of September.

The association is currently seeking input on how farmers, seed companies, millers, and other businesses utilize these test results each year. Please contact Eileen at 515-294-0546 to offer your thoughts.

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Eileen Wuebker

The association staff and inspectors have had a busy season trying to provide the best of service as everyone deals with the weather related issues of this year. We have tried our best to work with every grower whether it has been a delay in planting, pollination issues, strong winds, or other problems. Please contact us at 515-294-6921 if there are any other ways we can help you to bring home a quality crop this fall. In the mean time, we will continue to hope for an extended growing season!

The opportunity to participate in conferences and meetings is important way to stay current and learn more about our agriculture industry. Here are a few recent or upcoming opportunities:

OECD Seed Schemes Meeting – In early July I had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes for the first time. OECD is the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development which is one of the certification systems used by our member seed companies. The schemes are administered internationally by the OECD Secretariat in Paris, France with 55 participating countries. This year's meeting was held nearby in Chicago, Illinois. During the meeting applications from India and Moldova to join the schemes were accepted. With representatives from more than 30 countries in attendance, it was interesting to hear the issues and observe the dialogue amongst the national designated authorities from each country.



Prairie Harvest Field Day - On Saturday, October 18th a Prairie Harvest Field Day will be held from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the W-36 Prairie at the Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area north of Palo. Speakers will include Rob Roman with the Linn County Secondary Road Department, Steve Holland with the Iowa Department of Transportation, Greg Houseal with the Tallgrass Prairie Center at the University of Northern Iowa, Bill Johnson at the Prairie Resource Center with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and myself representing Iowa Crop Improvement Association. The W-36 Prairie at Pleasant Creek is a 50 species reconstruction planted by the Linn County Secondary Road Department in 1991, with funding from Iowa's Living Roadway Trust Fund. Plant identification by the seed pods, as well as seed collecting and cleaning will be the main focus of the field day. To register, or for more information, contact the Linn County Conservation Department at 319-892-6450.

Approved Conditioner Training Session – We will be holding our next training session for approved conditioner personnel on November 6th near Boone. We will begin the session at the ISU FEEL Lab with a classroom training. Following lunch there will be a tour of the Monsanto corn facility near Boone. This facility has been in operation since 1975 and is currently under expansion. The expansion includes the addition of two new high-capacity dryers, one new green corn receiving line, more than 150,000 square feet of new warehouse space, and more bulk storage. To register for this training please contact Rick Erickson at 515-294-6923.

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GUYER SERVES AS 2008 ICIA INTERN

Field inspections, tag counting, training preparation, computer data entry, and more field inspections. That's just a glimpse of what Kyle Guyer's summer has been like as an intern with the Iowa Crop Improvement Association. Whether he's been out on the road or in the office, Kyle has been a great help to the ICIA staff from May through August.

During his three month internship with ICIA, Kyle learned how to: work well with others; be flexible; manage time; and solve problems. He enjoyed his time at ICIA, especially working with the inspectors and being outside looking at the fields. "The staff here does great things; I would recommend anyone to apply for the ICIA internship."

Originally from the Poweshiek County town Grinnell. Kyle grew up on a small family farm helping his mother and grandparents. He is a graduating senior in Agronomy at Iowa State University.



Dates to Remember

September

- 1 University Holiday, ICIA Offices Closed
- 25-26 IRVM Roadside Conference, Sac City & Carroll, Iowa

October

- 15-17 National Roadside Vegetation Management Association's Conference, Chateau On The Lake Resort & Spa, Branson, Missouri
- 18 Prairie Harvest Field Day, W-36 Prairie, Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area North of Palo

November

- 6 Approved Conditioner Training, ISU Extension FEEL Lab, Boone, Iowa
- 18-19 Iowa Seed Association Annual Meeting, The Holiday Inn, Ames, Iowa
- 27-28 University Holiday, ICIA Offices Closed

December

- 10-11 Integrated Crop Management Conference, Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa