



Volume LXII Number 4
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Iowa Seed News

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

Directories Now Available

Are you looking for quality seed to plant in 2009? The Iowa Crop Improvement Association recently published the Iowa Seed Directory and Native Species Directory as a resource for finding sources of quality seeds of oat, soybean, triticale, wheat and native prairie species. The directories are free and available by contacting the ICIA office at (515) 294-6921 or iowacrop@iastate.edu.

The Iowa Seed Directory provides seed production information for over 100 producers and conditioners and lists fields that were inspected for genetic identity and purity during the 2008 season. The Native Species Directory contains seed production information for more than 150 species originating in Iowa that have been certified by ICIA.



ISU Seed Laboratory Update - Mike Stahr

It is mid-November and it is reported that only about 60% of the corn crop is in (and there are even a few soybean fields left to harvest!). Thank goodness that seed corn is harvested at high moisture levels and therefore has been out of the field for a while. How much did the wet fall weather affect corn and soybeans harvested for seed? The good news is that we dodged frosts and freezes for the most part. Frost or freezes would have necessitated tough decisions on which fields to harvest first and doing tetrazolium tests to quickly check the quality of the hurriedly harvested seed. The bad news is that seed quality and vigor may have been lowered by conditions during maturation and dry down. Corn quality has been excellent so far this season, but soybeans have tended to be good or pretty bad (with not much in between). Phomopsis and Fusarium have been seen fairly often in soybeans.

What should be done to check for quality and vigor? Warm germination tests can provide information beyond just a percentage for the label. We report the type of abnormalities seen on tests as well as fungi. We recommend seed health testing for samples that are known to have problems with fungi. Tests most frequently requested to estimate vigor are the Iowa (tray) cold test for corn and the accelerated aging (AA) test for soybeans. For corn, other vigor testing alternatives are the AA test, saturated cold test and an extended Iowa cold test. We recommend the AA test for soybeans instead of the cold test because it is compatible with dry seed and is more stressful than the cold test (for soybeans only). We also recommend the AA test for flowers, vegetables, and other crops.

Many companies know what test or combination of tests provide the best information for their needs, but we are happy to work with anyone needing help in deciding on a testing regimen.

Please stop by our booth (# 338) if you are planning to attend the ASTA meeting in Chicago December 9-12. Otherwise feel free to contact us by phone (515-294-6826) or e-mail (seedlab@iastate.edu) whenever we can be of service to you!

Iowa Crop Performance Test Update

Results of the Iowa Crop Performance Tests can be found on the ICIA website at www.agron.iastate.edu/icia/ and will be published separately in the Iowa Farmer Today in December. Contact the ICIA office or your county extension office to request a printed copy.

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, 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 looked good all season with no significant problems.

The late spring delayed all harvests by about two weeks and our last alfalfa harvest was on Sept. 9th. The highest yield at Ames was 6.31 tons/acre and 5.36 tons/acre at our Nashua location. The new alfalfa plots have established well and yields have been average.

All data has been analyzed and distributed to the entrants. The data and the extension bulletin are posted on the crop testing web page at www.croptesting.iastate.edu. Also, look there for the 2009 entry forms.

Corn & Soybeans - Jim Rouse 515-294-5604

This has been a most unusual harvest season. The soybean harvest was completed by November 1, approximately the same date as the past few years. This was particularly enjoyable since we started about a week later than previous years. As of November 15, we have about two-thirds of our corn plots out. Another five days or so of decent weather and we'll have those all wrapped up.

Soybean district yield averages were a little more variable than recent years. Even so, seven locations had an average yield greater than 50 bushels per acre. The highest yield on our plots was at Missouri Valley, where the average of all tests was 60.9 bushels per acre. The lowest average yield, 33.6 bushels per acre, was recorded at our Ames site. Two locations, Lidderdale and Melrose, were discarded. The Lidderdale field suffered severe hail damage, while Melrose had a combination of flooding and hail problems. Considering the growing season, we feel quite lucky these were the only two sites where data was not collected.

Similar to last year, we conducted two additional trials, one each in the central and southern regions. These tests included conventional-herbicide lines and lines with modified grain quality traits. Plans for a specialty trial in 2009 will depend upon interest. If there is enough commitment to participation, we will perform these tests again.

The ratio of SCN-resistant to SCN-susceptible lines has been increasing over the past several years. This season the entries were comprised of over 75% SCN-resistant lines. Since we expect this trend to continue, it is likely that we will discontinue separate experiments for non-SCN lines.

The corn harvest is not yet complete; the district data are not yet compiled and analyzed, so this section will be brief. Of the harvested corn sites, average yields are mostly a pleasant surprise. Again, considering the complications with the weather during this growing season, we were hoping for the best but expecting the worst. But our Sheldon location has the highest average yield we've seen in any field of ours for at least the past five years!

Once again we feel this testing program is the best source available for comparative variety performance information. View or download data, peruse our procedures, or just monitor our progress at www.croptesting.iastate.edu.

Certification Update - Eileen Wuebker

As I look back on the 2008 season, I continue to think "Wow, what a year!" This year has been an excellent one from an overall perspective, but seemed to be a continual hurry up and wait event. In the spring the staff worked with the members to notify them of changes for the year and provide field application materials in a paper or electronic format. Then delays in seed availability and weather led to a prolonged planting and inspection season. Our staff worked with our members to accept delayed applications and adjust for fields that were partially or completely lost to drown outs or other weather events. Our last seed field was inspected on October 28th - I can't remember when we last did a field inspection that late!

As the staff wraps up the last details of the field inspection season, seed testing and conditioning are well underway. The staff are also busy making plans for the coming production year and have many ideas in the works, but no firm details to share at this time. We would welcome your input as we go through this planning process. Please tell us where you were pleased with our service and where you think we should make changes. Your input is important to helping us to maintain a strong focus on meeting your needs. Please contact any of our staff with your thoughts or ideas.

As a staff we provide an important role in providing certification and other services to the Iowa agricultural industry. We are proud of these contributions and offer you these highlights:

- Hybrid corn seed acres rose to over 140,000 acres in 2008, this is a 15% increase over 2007 and is a highest acreage in the last 20 years.
- The association successfully completed a registrar audit in October which marked a successful first year as an ISO9001 certified agency.
- The Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage and Mulch program noted increased interest, with the Iowa DOT and other construction projects requesting this product for revegetation or erosion-control projects.
- The association has played an important role in the development and increase of LibertyLink soybean seed production. The staff has provided certification and coordination services in this expanding market.
- Small grain seed acres have remained steady over the last 4 years and actually increased by 4% this year to just over 1700 acres.
- The U.S. shipped over 150 million pounds of OECD certified seed in the 2007-2008 season. Nine percent of this production was certified in Iowa.
- The association has had increased participation in audit-related services to the industry. These involve verifying compliance to practices related to insect refuge management and good stewardship practices during the field production and packaging of regulated products.



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Integrated Crop Management Conference

The Integrated Crop Management Conference will be held December 10-11 at the Iowa State Center in Ames and has something to offer everyone involved in crop production and protection in Iowa and the surrounding states.

Choose from over 40 different workshops featuring the latest crop production information from experts around the midwest.

A large number of exhibitors representing all aspects of crop production and protection.

Receive commercial pesticide applicator recertification credits in categories 1A, 1B, 1C (weed, insect, disease) and 10 (research and demonstration.)

Receive up to 13 CCA continuing education credits.

Attendees can choose from as many as 6 topics each hour. This format allows you to customize your conference experience to meet your interests and CCA credit needs. It is your conference - get the most from it!

For more information and to register visit <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm/homepage.html>

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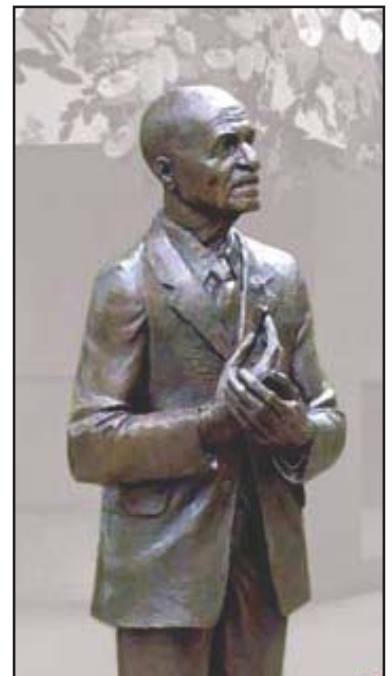
Seed Science Center Dedicates Statue

The installation of the George Washington Carver sculpture at the South entrance to the Seed Science Building marks the culmination of a \$2 million, 5,000-square-foot expansion project. The work of art is the only life-sized sculpture of Carver in the world from the maquette sculpted by Christian Petersen in 1949. It was pointed-up and cast in bronze by Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry, Rock Tavern, New York. Funding for the sculpture was provided by the Committee for Agricultural Development (CAD).

The expansion provides additional space for the growing needs of the Seed Science Center and the Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products (BIGMAP). Iowa State University's Seed Science Center is the largest public seed laboratory in the world. The center is a global leader in the introduction of science into policy to benefit world seed trade.

BIGMAP conducts research nationally and internationally to harness the potential of agricultural biotechnology while safeguarding the consumer and the environment. Together, the Seed Science Center and BIGMAP set high standards of excellence in education to produce the next generation of industry leaders.

The dedication of the George Washington Carver sculpture took place November 18, 2008. The dedication of the expansion took place October 14, 2008.



2009 Crop Advantage Schedule

The Crop Advantage Series has something to offer everyone involved in crop production and protection in Iowa. These meetings feature workshops presented by over 40 different experts.

January 5	Sheldon	January 20	Cherokee
January 6	Mason City	January 21	Ottumwa
January 7	Cedar Rapids	January 22	Fort Dodge
January 8	Ames	January 27	Carroll
January 9	Burlington	January 28	Waterloo
January 14	Spirit Lake	January 29	Atlantic
January 15	Osceola		

Practical

Crop Advantage meetings provide usable information that you can apply to your operation. Corn and soybean management, soil fertility, conservation tillage, grain marketing decisions, insects and weeds are just a few of the many topics presented at these meetings.

Current

Crop Advantage meetings provide the latest information available from research conducted at Iowa State University and other research institutions. Discuss the findings with the individuals that conducted the research instead of reading about it later.

Local

Crop Advantage meetings provide topics selected for your growing area. Growing conditions and management decisions are not the same across Iowa. Attend a nearby meeting that offers information applicable to your farming practices.

For more information visit <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/>

Approved Conditioner Training & Tour

The last Approved Conditioner Training for 2008 was held on November 6th at the ISU FEEL Lab. The association had a great turnout with conditioners attending from different facilities across the state. In addition to the regular training the conditioners heard a presentation given by Alan Gaul of the ISU Seed Science Center on seed sampling procedures and equipment. The training concluded with lunch and a tour of the Monsanto Boone conditioning facility. Below are a few pictures from the tour. Thanks to Monsanto Boone for letting us tour your facility.



Monsanto Boone Facility



Divider



Gravity Table

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Happy Holidays from the ICIA Staff

The ICIA office will be closed for the holidays December 24 through January 2. We will re-open January 5. If this closing will affect your business, please contact the office and we will make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

Dates to Remember

December

- 9-12 ASTA Corn & Sorghum and Soybean Research Conference, Seed Expo, Chicago, IL
- 24-31 ICIA Offices Closed, Happy Holidays!

January

- 1-2 ICIA Offices Closed, Happy New Year!
- 19 ICIA Offices Closed, Martin Luther King Day
- 20-22 IPSA Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana

February

- 11 ICIA Annual Meeting, Ames, Iowa