



Iowa Seed News

A publication of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Dairyland Seed Company

Dairyland Seed Company, Inc. is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary. It is America's only family owned seed company with breeding programs in soybeans, hybrid corn, and alfalfa. The company is owned and managed by the third generation Strachota family. Currently the three brothers, Steve, Tom, and John serve as President, Chief Executive Officer and Vice President, respectively. Dairyland has eight major locations (Gilbert, IA; Homedale, ID; Sloughhouse, CA; Mt. Hope, WI; West Bend, WI; Clinton, WI; Otterbein, IN; and Gibson City, IL) that include production, distribution and plant breeding research and development.

ICIA board member Dr. Ronald E. Secrist is a soybean breeder and the station manager at the Gilbert, IA facility. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1989 with a Ph D in plant breeding. Ron started working for Dairyland Seed Company in 1989 at the Gibson City, IL facility, but he has been at the Gilbert Iowa Station since 1996. Along with his wife Cathy who is the Data and Research Manager for the Gilbert facility, they have five full-time, and 3 part-time employees who help with the research activities. Soybeans make up 95% of the work done at the Gilbert facility. They currently have 220 acres of soybean research.

Since the 1970's the Dairyland corn program has developed a number of landmark hybrids, a tradition that has continued and will reach its high point this year with the release of Stealth-1806. They have now developed a corn silage line-up which is a major step forward for their livestock producers.

Dairyland Seed's soybean program has a history of top yielding varieties such as DSR-141, DSR-207, DSR-317. These were followed by current industry leading varieties such as DSR-199/RRSTS, DSR-221/RR, and DSR-234/RR which were developed at the Gilbert research facility by Dr. Secrist.

Dairyland's alfalfa developments include the release of the Magnum Series alfalfas, followed by Sequential Maturity alfalfas, and currently HybriForce hybrid alfalfas in fall dormancies 4 and 6. HybriForce alfalfa is the world's first hybrid alfalfa.

Today Dairyland operates winter nurseries in five countries, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Feel free to contact Dairyland Seed at 800-236-0163 or check out their website at www.dairylandseed.com for more information.



Native Roadside Planting Outlast Just About Everything Longevity and Legacy

by Rob Roman Linn County Roadside Manager

I planted my first herbaceous mix native to the Continent of North America in 1981 at Abbe Creek School, believed to be oldest standing brick schoolhouse in Iowa, a historical site managed by the Linn County Conservation Board. The school is located on land claimed by William Abbe, the first European settler in Linn County. The planting consisted of cultivars of several grasses, purchased from our good friends and pioneers in the native seed industry to the South and West. In those days, I thought if it was native to this country, it had to have a Bison on the bag.

I planted my first herbaceous mix native to the State of Iowa in 1987. These were live plants purchased from a company in Muscatine, grown from seed collected from Iowa prairie remnants. This was an addition to the same planting at Abbe Creek School Museum.

After 25 years there have been a few changes. The building itself has had a bit of shoring, new shutters and roof I believe. The parking lot has been rebuilt. All the signing has been replaced at least once. The rest room has been replaced. And the prairie; still there, better than ever, not only the same planting - but also the same plants! The turf grass adjacent to the native planting also reached a milestone this year, the 500th mowing since 1981 (25 years X 20 times per year by my best estimate).

Our first native herbaceous planting here in Secondary Roads was in 1991; fifty species, funded by Iowa DOT's Living Roadway Trust Fund. Thanks to Howard Bright, Jim Truax and Jeff Hodges for helping us on that one. Guys, you will be smiling when you hear the planting has lasted longer than the tractor that planted it. Our W-51 85HP 4WD was new that year as well, however it no longer serves the taxpayers of Linn County. It finally developed too many problems and was replaced with a new unit a couple years back. And the planting; better than ever. Still a public hunting area for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Many a seed has been harvested from the area for IDNR or Linn County roadway plantings. Lately, we've been baling prairie hay from the site and using that to provide a percent cover for erosion control along roadway maintenance projects. In October of this year, the Iowa Crop Improvement Association certified the site to be included in the new Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage and Mulch Program. This program complies with the Weed Free Forage Standards developed by the North American Weed Management Association.

We have native herbaceous roadway plantings that have outlasted our road surfaces. Our 30 specie right of way planting near Buffalo Creek Park on D-62 (1993-LRTF) is better than ever. The traveled portion of the transportation corridor immediately adjacent to the roadside has been resurfaced twice since that time.

The second year we received seed from the Tallgrass Prairie Center, 1998 I believe, we planted 13 acres on Secrist Road in eastern Linn County. The Gazette even did a feature story of this planting on the front page of the "Iowa Today" section in July of 2003. This was a new grade in 1998. This year the traveled portion of the roadway was resurfaced. A wider surface required more fill on the foreslopes. Our native planting even outlasted the grade of the road. Don't worry State of Iowa LRTF Advisory Committee you didn't pay for the project twice. We bought the native seed to plant this year's disturbance.

With our experience of native plantings going back to the 1960's, we even included in our Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program in 1993 the wording "emphasize the establishment of adaptable and long-lived vegetation, primarily native species." Much has changed as far as the availability of material since House File 723 was introduced in the Iowa General Assembly in 1989. The 2006 Native Species Seed Directory from the Iowa Crop Improvement Association lists over 150 species in production with Iowa genetics.

Dr. Paul Christiansen and Dr. David Lyon seeded a new grade north of Lisbon with natives in 1971 as part of a research project for Linn County and the Iowa Department of Transportation. We toured the site and discussed the project in 1995 when Linn County hosted the annual Iowa Roadside Conference. After 35 years, the project is an excellent planting. In my experience, our native plantings are better 10, 20, even 35 years after they are installed. As a department, I'm not sure I can say that about anything else that we do. And cost? If you are seeding, fertilizing and mulching and your seed mix is brome-alfalfa or fescue-trefoil, you are spending more money on straw which provides a function for the taxpayer for a couple of weeks to a couple of months, than you are on seed, which will provide a function for the taxpayer for at least 35 years (our North Washington Street planting). Native plantings are cheap for the benefits they provide.

Reprinted from Roader's Digest, March 2007 Newsletter

Iowa State University Agronomy Students Win National Agricultural Competitions

A team of Iowa State University Agronomy students competed in three North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) contests held in Hutchinson, Kansas April 19-21 placing first in the Ag Knowledge Quiz Bowl and the Ag Computers Contest and second in the Crops Contest.

Raechel Baumgartner of Ponce, Puerto Rico was the first-place individual overall in the Ag Computers Contest. She was first in the Ag Computers knowledge exam and second in the Crops Contest lab practical. Michael Schrum of Grand Junction placed first in the applications portion of the Ag Computers Contest.

The team of agronomy undergraduates placed second in the lab practical, math, plant and seed identification and agronomic knowledge portions of the crops contest. Other team members included Kellie Tholen, Tipton, and Jesse Stayner, Prairie City. Participating as alternates were Matthew Dop, Monroe; Brent Lytle, Alta; and Scott Pierce, Ogden.

Lance Gibson, associate professor of agronomy, coaches the students. The team is sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

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



The Iowa State University Crops Team is shown with their awards. From left, team members are Scott Pierce, Michael Schrum, Raechel Baumgartner, Jesse Stayner, Kellie Tholen, Brent Lytle and Matthew Dop.

ISU Research and Demonstration 2007 Farm Field Days

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

Location	Date
Crawfordsville	6/21 @ 1:00pm
Sutherland	6/27 @ 9am
Rhodes	6/27 @ 5:30pm
Nashua	6/28 @ 1:30pm
Kanawha	7/13 @ 9:30am
Fruitland	Date TBD
Lewis	8/13 @ 5 pm
Greenfield	8/22 @ 4 pm
Ames	8/23 @ 10 am
Sutherland	8/28 @ 6:30 pm
Lewis	8/29 @ 9:30am
Crawfordville	9/6 @ 1 pm
Nashua	9/6 @ 1:30 pm
Castana	9/7 @ 10 am
Chariton	Date TBD

Demonstration Home Garden Field Days

Location	Date
Fruitland	6/12 @ 6:30 pm
Lewis	6/13 @ 6:30 pm
Chariton	6/14 @ 6:30 pm
Ames	6/18 @ 6:30 pm
Kanawha	6/25 @ 6:30 pm
Sutherland	6/27 @ 6:30 pm
Nashua	6/28 @ 6:30 pm
Rock Rapids	7/24 @ 6:00 pm



Updates Distributed

Updates for the Iowa Seed Certification Requirements Handbook and the Iowa Approved Conditioner Handbook have been mailed. If you have a blue or green book and did not receive an update please contact our office.

Iowa Crop Performance Test Update

Alfalfa - Mark Smith **515-294-7887**

The 2007 growing season got under way with planting at the Ames Agronomy Farm, on April 19th. We then planted the variety trial at Nashua on April 20th. We had 28 entries this year, which is down from previous years, partly due to the restriction on planting any Round-Up Ready varieties. The commercial and experimental alfalfa entries at both locations were combined into a single test. We also have an alfalfa leafhopper resistance test at the Ames location. We hope to seed a switchgrass variety test yet this spring at Ames and a southern Iowa location.

Most of the trials have emerged and are growing rapidly. The established trials have had a tough spring. We had a late snow event in April followed by 4 nights of 20-degree temperatures. The initial growth was frozen back but has recovered well. The orchardgrass was the hardest hit by this weather and we have lost a few plots. I look forward to another good season and reporting the data to you this fall.

Small Grains - Ron Skrdla **515-294-2732**

The 2007 winter wheat and triticale tests survived winter with very little winterkill. The test located at Ames has been slow to start spring growth due to the cold weather during April. Crawfordsville and Nashua look very good. Heading should start during the last week of May.

The oat variety test consists of twenty three varieties that were planted at Ames (April 9), Crawfordsville (March 20), Lewis (March 29), Nashua (April 10), and Sutherland (April 16). The plots at Crawfordsville may have to be abandoned due to water on some of the plots and freeze damage caused by the April cold spell. All other sites had good emergence and look good.

There are 14 barley varieties being tested in 2007. The barley variety test was planted at Ames (April 9), Nashua (April 10), and Sutherland (April 16). Emergence and early growth looks good at all three sites.

Corn & Soybean - Jim Rouse **515-294-5604**

The 2007 planting season has been difficult to work through. Excessive rainfall in most areas has caused unusual planting delays. As I write this on May 12, we have 13 of 18 corn trials planted, and only 2 of 18 soybean trials. If the forecast holds, we'll finish up the corn in the next few days, and make some real progress with the soybean locations, too.

Participation this year is nearly identical to last year. We have 35 brand names and 350 different hybrids in the corn tests. There are 25 brand names and 375 unique entries in the soybean variety trials.

Continuing a recent trend, the percentage of SCN-resistant entries increased again this year. The ratio of SCN-resistant to susceptible varieties is now 70/30, up from 55/45 in 2006. This trend is expected to continue, and will eventually result in dropping the separate experiments for SCN-susceptible lines.

After having no conventional soybean tests in 2006, this season we'll have two experiments comparing conventional herbicide soybean varieties. These tests include 'standard' soybean lines, as well as varieties with modified fatty acid composition. For the sake of comparison we've also included a few Vistive® lines in these trials.

For more information visit the ICIA website at www.agron.iastate.edu/icia/

ISU Seed Laboratory Update - Lisa Shepherd

Now that we're finally fairly certain that winter has melted away, we come into spring—one of the most enjoyable and most aggravating times of the year. Warm, sunny weather and fragrant lilacs coincide with cold drenching rains and the busyness of planting season.

This spring, on the Iowa State campus, we have celebrated some events that have made us reflect on our history. A few weeks ago, our annual VEISHEA celebration marked the beginning of Iowa State's 150's year-long anniversary celebration. As part of the festivities, each campus department and center put on a display on central campus, showing off its history and current successes. The Seed Science Center put together a booth designed to entertain and educate with seed identification quizzes, inform people about all aspects of seeds, and to take a look back into the past history of seeds at Iowa State—all of which were a great success with VEISHEA-goers! Most interesting to the staff here, while planning the display, was digging back into our archives to learn about our long, illustrious history here on campus.

Seeds, seed testing, and the Seed Laboratory have a deep historical presence on this campus. Seed testing first began here on campus in 1890 by Louis Pammel, a world-famous botanist, whose name is now borne by streets and buildings in Ames. A few years later, George Washington Carver would graduate from Iowa State, taking his degree in agriculture to go on to become a great agricultural chemist and botanist, discovering over 300 uses for peanut, and revolutionizing agriculture in the southern U.S.

In 1905, the Seed Laboratory was formally organized on campus, and by 1932 was housed on the top floor of Old Botany, now known as Catt Hall, for the next 50 years. The same year, the publication Iowa Farm Economist quotes ISC scientists as saying that alcohol gasoline will soon be the new fuel of the future, with its main source being Iowa grown corn. They were ahead of their time!



The early 1900's also saw numerous research projects related to seed testing and standardization being conducted at Iowa State's seed lab, putting it forward as a leader in seed research, and giving us methodology that is still being used today. We are proud to continue that tradition of research today, helping solve some of the modern problems in seed testing, and research. And, as we have been for over 100 years, we are also proud to carry on the tradition of testing seed for our customers to ensure them of the quality and vigor of their seeds. That quality is no better appreciated than now, in the spring, as planting continues on.

Come visit our tent at our next VEISHEA celebration, or visit our lab, or website, or send in a sample and see for yourself what our VEISHEA display banner proudly proclaimed: "We're passionate about seeds!"

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Certification Update - Eileen Wuebker

As you read this article I hope that the planting season is behind us and the 2007 crop has emerged well. Like much of Iowa agriculture we are planning for an inspection season that will be dominated by corn seed inspections. We have begun hiring inspectors and by early June will be busy checking in foundation and hybrid corn field applications. We look forward to providing these inspection services to the corn seed industry this summer.



In addition to our traditional certification programs the association continues to look for new opportunities to offer services to our members:

Weed Seed Free Certification – This program offers assurance that forage or mulch is free of weed seed of 54 noxious or undesirable weeds. The association began offering this program in 2006 in compliance with standards established by the North American Weed Management Association. Potential markets include customers seeking clean hay, people needing certified hay for their horses on visits to national parks, and contractors using straw for road construction erosion-control projects. An inspection of the field is required within 10 days of cutting and harvest. Check our website at <http://www.agron.iastate.edu/icia> or contact our office for more information.

Identity Preserved & Quality Assurance Certification – If you are in need of third-party inspections or audits, both our IP and QA programs offer you the opportunity to customize a certification program to your needs. These programs offer the 3rd party documentation and traceability that many purchasers desire. We continue to implement customized IP and QA programs for our members. For more information on developing these programs, contact Eileen Wuebker at 515-294-0546.

ICIA Awards Scholarships



L-R: Dr. Lance Gibson, Raechel Baumgartner, Heather Hall, John Gill, Joshua Henik

Iowa Crop Improvement Association recognized five Iowa State University students as scholarship recipients at their annual meeting on March 29, 2007. Joshua Henik (Mount Vernon), John Gill (Richmond, MO), Mindey Barker (Luther) and Raechel Baumgartner (Ponce, Puerto Rico) each received a \$750 scholarship from the association. Heather Hall (Mitchellville) was awarded the \$750 seed science scholarship.

To qualify for an ICIA scholarship, students must be an agronomy major and show an active interest in the seed industry. The seed science scholarship is awarded to a student that also has a secondary major in seed science. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients!

ISU Seed Science Center Upcoming Workshops

Workshop	Date
Color Sorting - Sortex	June 4-5
Color Sorting - Satake	June 6-7
Commercial Seed Corn	June 11-14
Seed Treatment	June 27-28
Soybean and Small Grain Seed	July 9-11
Soybean and Small Grain Seed	July 30-Aug. 1
Gravity Separation	Aug. 7
Gravity Separation	Aug. 9
Research Seed Corn	Aug. 13-16



For more information on registering or attending these workshops, contact Alan Gual at the Iowa State University Seed Science Center at (515) 294-4011 or agual@iastate.edu. Or check the Seed Science Center website at www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/seeds/

2007 ICIA ANNUAL MEETING IS A SUCCESS



Iowa Crop Improvement Association can put another informative and successful annual meeting under their belt. This year's meeting was held on Thursday, March 29 at the Scheman Building in Ames, Iowa.

The morning began with several informative speakers on various topics. Following the speakers, President Tom Thompson called the business meeting to order.

Updates on the organization were given by ICIA Director Del Koch, who also announced the results of the mail ballot for the two open seats on the Board of Directors. Newly elected to the board were Ronald Secrist and Tim Dillon. The members also voted to approve changes to the association Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.



ICIA, ISURF, ISU Seed Science Laboratory and Innovative Growers had displays and information available throughout the day.

A buffet lunch was provided to those attending and introduction of the ICIA staff, 2007 Iowa State University Crops Team, and 2007 ICIA Scholarship recipients were given. More about the scholarship recipients may be found on page 6 and more on the crops team may be found on page 3.

At a Board of Directors meeting held later in the day, Lee Huey was elected President and Jim Fevold as Vice President.

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Dates to Remember

June

- 15 Early Application Date for certification of native species fields established between April 1 & May 31
- 23-27 2007 ASTA Annual Convention, Bloomfield, Colorado

July

- 4 ICIA Offices Closed
- 10 Early Application Date for field inspection of soybean
- 17 Iowa Seed Association Golf Tournament, Ames, Iowa

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