Volume LX, Number 2
June 2006

Iowa Seed News

A publication of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association

ICIA OFFERS WEED SEED FREE FORAGE & MULCH CERTIFICATION

Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) is helping to facilitate a new marketing opportunity for hay and straw producers. ICIA now offers a certification program to assure that forage and mulch is free of noxious weed seed. The program that is offered complies with the Weed Free Forage Standards developed by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA).

In other Midwestern states, producers are using this program as an additional marketing opportunity. 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.

The key steps in the ICIA program include:

- Application of seed or commercial fields of forage, grasses and small grains.
- Inspection of fields and storage sites within 10 days of cutting and harvest.
- Labeling the bales or containers with certification labels.
- Issuance of a Transit Certificate for interstate shipments.

The inspection of fields and storage sites within ten days of harvest assures that a designated list of 54 noxious weeds and undesirable plants are not present in a manner to disseminate seed or allow propagation of a new plant. Any noxious weeds or undesirable plants near the field are isolated from the field by at least ten feet.

For more information regarding the Iowa noxious weed seed free forage and mulch certification program, check out the ICIA website at http://www.agron.iastate.edu/icia or contact Eileen Wuebker at ICIA at (515) 294-0546 or eileen@iastate.edu.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This is the first in a series to showcase ICIA members in what they do best.

In 2000, 32 southeastern Iowa farmers and agricultural entities pooled their knowledge and resources to form the Iowa Quality Agriculture Guild (IQAG) and seek new ways of generating more income for their crops. Since that time, they have taken the 1% low linolenic soybean oil market by storm by creating an organization called Asoyia, a limited liability company whose name was derived from 'a soybean for Iowa.'

IQAG is committed to providing quality-assured agricultural materials to food handlers, manufacturers, and processors around the globe. Each guild member is ISO 9001: 2000 certified to assure the quality and standards of their new agricultural model. The group is continuously evaluating various agricultural opportunities, such as the 1% low linolenic soybean oil, and plans to continue to add value to the local agricultural economy through quality farming and business practices.

When IQAG realized that consumers were demanding better and healthier food products, Asoyia was born. They recognized the fact that food grade oil users were looking for a healthier alternative to the oils they had used in the past as a result of the FDA's recent labeling requirements that began in January 2006. The group worked closely with Walt Fehr at Iowa State University (the developer of the 1% low linolenic soybean) and decided to run with the idea of a highly stable, non-hydrogenated, non-trans fat soybean oil derived from the 1% low linolenic soybeans.

Approximately 25,000 acres of soybeans were planted with the intention of being processed into ultra low linolenic oil in 2005 and Asoyia has not stopped there. In 2006 they are planning for 60,000 acres for production of non-GMO soybean varieties with a premium of 80 cents a bushel. The high premium is due in part to finding ways to market the by-products of the oil making process.

ASOYIA, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

From the Director's Desk
Del Koch

As I look out my office window and see the new leaves on the trees, it tells me another spring and growing season is upon us. This time of year always takes me back to my youth and the remembrance of sitting on my dad's Farmall M pulling a three bottom plow. There's no other smell like fresh tilled soil. Those days were truly good ones and ones that I will always cherish in my memory.

This time of year is also the beginning of another busy year for Iowa Crop Improvement Association. We look forward to working with all of you as we take on the task of another season of field inspections. Be assured that our ICIA staff is ready for the busy season. Our inspector training sessions will begin in a couple of weeks and it certainly looks like we have another excellent group of crop inspectors this year.

You will also find in this newsletter an announcement of a new forage and mulch certification program. I won't go into the program details, but please be sure to check it out if it's of interest to you. It's a program that we feel will certainly be of value to the forage and mulch producer.

We hope you have a safe and productive planting season an we look forward to working with you this season.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY CROPS TEAM PLACES THIRD AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Iowa State University Crops Team is shown with their awards. From left, team members are Landon Ries, Mike Schrum, Jesse Stayner, Raechel Baumgartner, Wade Kent, Jared Uhlman and Jeff Chalstrom. Not pictured, Kellie Tholen. The chair was awarded to Landon Ries for his first place finish in the overall individual competition.

The Iowa State University crops team has placed third at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) crops contest held in Macomb, Illinois on April 21.

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

Landon Ries of Ringstead placed first in the overall individual competition. He was first in agronomic knowledge and lab practical and third in agriculture math. Jeff Chalstrom of Webb placed sixth overall and was third in lab practical. Other team members were Jared Uhlman, Adair; Wade Kent, Algona; Raechel Baumgartner Ries, Ponce, Puerto Rico; Kellie Tholen, Tipton; Jesse Stayner, Prairie City; and Michael Schrum, Grand Junction. Lance Gibson, associate professor of agronomy, coaches the team.

Iowa Crop Improvement Association supports the team by contributing financially to their competition expenses.

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

Updates Distributed

Recently the 2006 updates for the blue Iowa Seed Certification Requirements Handbook and the green Approved Conditioner handbooks were distributed. If you did not receive one and would like to, please contact the office.

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Iowa Crop Performance Test Update

Alfalfa--Mark Smith

The 2006 growing season got under way with planting at the Ames Agronomy Farm on April 13th. We then planted the variety trial at Nashua on April 20th. We finished planting additional trials at Ames April 21-27. The commercial and experimental alfalfa entries at both locations were combined into a single test.

There were 43 paid entries this year. In addition to the usual commercial and experimental entries, we are evaluating varieties for resistance to alfalfa leaf hopper and performance of Roundup Ready varieties. The Potato Leaf Hopper (PLH) trial is in cooperation with Ohio State University and is the second trial at Ames of this type. These varieties will be evaluated under spray and no-spray conditions. PLH counts and visual damage ratings will be taken and a yield tolerance to PLH index will be computed at the end of the season. The results of this trial will be published in variety test reports of several Midwestern States.

The Roundup Ready Trial is the first of its kind at a public university and will have two locations, here at Iowa State University in Ames and at the University of Wisconsin. These new varieties will be evaluated for yield under two different protocols, when sprayed with Roundup and when sprayed with conventional herbicides, to control weeds. We also planted alfalfa and white clover grazing trials at the ISU Zumwalt Farm just South of Ames.

Most of these trials have emerged and are growing rapidly. The established trials are looking very good. The first harvest should be large and early this year. With the new PLH and Roundup Ready trials, we should have some very interesting data from this year's variety testing program. I look forward to another good year and reporting the data to you this fall.

For more information contact (515) 294-7887 or smithma@iastate.edu.

Corn and Soybeans--Jim Rouse

The 2006 testing season is off to a roaring start! There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the improvements we've made to the corn and soybean testing programs. As a reminder, some of those changes include new district lines and an increase in the number of plots within a district for both crops. Participation in both tests has increased significantly over last year, though specific numbers are yet to be compiled at the time of this writing.

Also new this year are show plots at the Iowa State University research farms at Ames, Calumet, Crawfordsville, Lewis, and Nashua. These plots contain most of the corn hybrids and soybean varieties being grown in the Iowa Crop Performance Tests in the districts where the research farms are located. All show plots were planted in a timely manner, and we're looking forward to feedback from attendees at the various research farm field days.

Planting season got off to a fast start in mid-April with about a week of excellent weather. After that the planting was a little more hit-and-miss. We sat through more than a week of wet weather, then dodged rainfall around the state as we finished our planting little by little.

Another new component this year are the Almaco precision cone type seeders (aka belt cones) that we used to replace our old air units. The belt cones performed as well as we'd hoped, nearly eliminating down time in the field due to planter problems.

Summer promises to be very busy as we monitor all our fields. We have over twice the number of data plots as compared to last year. In addition to the field work, we are continuing to work on improvements to our electronic access to information. We plan to roll out an entirely new website some time this summer. Stay tuned for more information!

For more information contact (515) 294-5604 or croptesting@iastate.edu.

Small Grains--Jean-Luc Jannink and Ron Skrdla

The small grains performance trials include winter triticale, winter wheat, oat, and barley. Winter triticale was planted at the Crawfordsville, Ames, and Sutherland experiment stations. We are evaluating thirteen triticale varieties for their ability to survive and thrive even when planted late. The first planting dates were 9/27, 10/4, and 10/3 for Crawfordsville, Ames, and Sutherland, respectively. The late planting dates were 10/17, 10/19, and 10/18 at those locations. The late planting was pushed back a little further than desired because of wet weather. In addition, the fields received very little rain thereafter for a couple weeks.

Our germination on the late planting date was therefore lower than ideal. What germinated appears to have survived the winter well. These observations illustrate the risks associated with late planting. Those risks might nevertheless be justified by the potential to increase yields of the preceding crop, which would presumably be soybean.

Winter wheat was planted at the Crawfordsville, Ames, and Lewis experiment stations. We are evaluating 19 varieties and seven experimental lines. Planting dates were 9/28, 10/4, and 9/21 at Crawfordsville, Ames, and Lewis, respectively.

Oat and barley are being evaluated at the Ames, Crawfordsville, Sutherland, Lewis, and Nashua experiment stations. Planting dates were 4/10, 4/13, 4/11, 4/5, and 3/29 at those locations, respectively. This year in oat, we are evaluating 20 current varieties, 13 experimental lines, and 5 two-variety blends. Our research indicates that blends increase year to year yield stability. We want to bring this information to farmers through the variety trial. In barley we are evaluating 14 current varieties and 2 experimental lines.

Spring rains delayed planting a bit past our usual target dates. The small grains are benefiting from the cool wet weather to tiller. At this point we are on track for good small-grain performance this year. For more information contact (515) 294-4159 or jjannink@iastate.edu.

ISU Seed Laboratory Update

Dan Curry

The Iowa State University Seed Laboratory is finishing up its fiscal year with corn samples that still are keeping us busy. By all accounts, our sample load is up over previous years partly due to the fact that many seed companies raise two crops of seed per year, one in the Midwest during the summer and one in our fall/winter season. This fall/winter seed is usually raised in Argentina, Chile, Puerto Rico or Hawaii. The seed will be shipped back to the Midwest in April after the harvest. This seed will be tested, just like seed produced during the growing season in the Midwest. As a result, we have two peak seasons for corn testing, spring and fall. Many of these corn customers ask for a germination test and a vigor test to help them determine the quality of the seed.

The Association of Official Seed Analysts (1983) states seed vigor as, "Those seed properties which determine the potential for rapid, uniform emergence and the development of normal seedlings under a wide range of field conditions." Two seed lots with identical germination percentage can have completely different vigor results. Why is this important? One seed lot may grow very well when stressed by cold wet soils, whereby the other seed lot would not perform as well. For example, if two seed lots both have 95% germination as stated by a laboratory germ test and the first lot could have a cold test of 85% and the second lot could have a cold test of 60%. If the first customer has seed planted in cold, wet soils, they may experience a stand count that will be close to expectations. If the second customer plants low vigor seed in cold wet soils, they may experience a thin stand of seed throughout the field and the final yield will most likely be reduced. So even though both customers bought seed with the same germination percent, the vigor of the seed can be the indicator of how well the seed can grow during times of stress.

Another vigor test is called the accelerated aging test. This is a laboratory test where seed are placed in a tray on a wire mesh screen about ½ an inch above some standing water. The trays of seed are placed in a heated chamber of 109 degree Fahrenheit for 72 hours. The seed is then taken out of the chamber and planted like a normal germination sample in a laboratory. The final germination of the seed lot after it has been stressed will be the indicator of the vigor of the seed. Seeds that germinate close to the original high germination percentage are considered high vigor seed. Seeds that germinate much lower that their high germination percentage is considered low vigor seed.

As seed is grown increasing in different locations around the world, the vigor test will continue to be an important tool for seed companies to manage their inventories. For more information on vigor tests, please go to our website at: http://www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest/ and then click on: "Test Methods." Have a great growing season!

You may contact Dan at (515) 294-0117 or curry@iastate.edu.

ISURF Update

Julie Minot

What is the pod color of my soybean variety? Where can I find field data on ISU corn inbreds? What varieties are available that are suitable for my area? What are the terms of your license agreement?

Look no further than the CAD website at www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/cad. There you will find the most up to date information available on our varieties, new and historic field data, and variety descriptions for all the germplasm developed at Iowa State University and released through the Iowa State University Research Foundation, Inc. (ISURF).

The corn lines are split into several categories: Licensed inbreds, non-licensed inbreds, inbreds for use as genetic stock, dent corn populations and LH38, LH39 and derivations. You can choose what type of corn you are interested in by clicking the corresponding link at the top of the corn homepage at http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/cad/corn.html.

Soybeans are divided into categories at the left side of the homepage. You can choose from specialty soybeans, general use soybeans, modified oil soybeans or high sulfur soybeans. If you choose specialty soybeans you can browse the varieties by maturity zone or by specialty type! Just click your choice on the links at the top of the specialty soybean homepage at http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/cad/MZI.html.

You can also keep current on ISU varieties being released by checking out the specific crop links such as amaranth, oats, popcorn. We hope to have alfalfa and orchardgrass soon as well.

Don't forget to check out the data links for current and historic field data or our sample agreement page for license templates.

Still have questions? For more information on variety descriptions, licensing information, or procedures contact Julie Minot, Germplasm Licensing Associate, by phone (515-294-9442) or e-mail (jjgus@iastate.edu). If you want to know how much of a certain variety is available for sale, please contact Lynn Henn, CAD Foundation Seed Manager, by phone (515-292-3497) or e-mail (lhenn@iastate.edu).

ICIA Newsletter Available Online

An online version of the Iowa Seed News can be found on the ICIA website at http://www.agron.iastate.edu/icia/Seed_News.htm.

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail? If so, please notify the ICIA office at iowacrop@iastate.edu.

ICIA Teams with Innovative Growers, Asoyia for FFA Display

Innovative Growers' Larry Lane at the Iowa FFA Convention.

Recently ICIA teamed up with Innovative Growers and Asoyia to feature ultra low linolenic soybean oil at the Iowa FFA Convention on April 10-11 in Ames. The display showcased information from all three organizations and ISU Extension regarding ultra low linolenic soybean oil.

Larry Lane from Innovative Growers was on hand part of one day to answer questions that attendees had about the oil and its benefits. Asoyia contributed bags of Qualisoy Kettle Chips as a giveaway for the FFA members. ICIA displayed their involvement with the Identity Preserved side of the ultra low linolenic soybean production.

More than 3,500 high school students, 200 agricultural education instructors and 500 parents, principals, superintendents, and industry sponsor representatives attended the Iowa FFA Convention. The convention provides leadership and networking activities for Iowa's youth preparing for careers in agriculture and Iowa's leaders in agricultural education.

ISU Research and Demonstration Farm Field Days Begin in June

Field days give farmers and the public a chance to see research projects in progress and talk with the researchers involved in the experiments. But they also provide the opportunity to view the latest in modern agriculture. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Two anniversary celebrations mark this year's Iowa State University Research and Demonstration Farms field days. The Northern Research Farm will host its 75th anniversary on September 8. The McNay Research Farm will hold its 50th anniversary celebration on September 14. This year's 17 field days begin June 19 at the Horticulture Station near Ames with a day devoted to fruit and vegetable topics. The Agricultural Engineering and Agronomy Farm west of Ames will have a field day on August 24. The farms will host eight Demonstration Home Garden Field Days beginning on July 24 at the Northwest Research Farm location near Sutherland, Iowa.

Topics of field days in June typically cover corn and soybean production, including insect and weed management, soil fertility, tillage systems, water quality, planting dates, crop population, manure management and value-added crops.

One of the featured themes for this year's Demonstration Home Garden Field Days is a Plethora of Peppers. More than 40 varieties of bell, banana, hot and ornamental peppers will be grown at each garden. Field day participants will be able to taste a wide selection of peppers, including the hottest of the hot peppers.

A complete list of all the ISU Research and Demonstration Farm field days and maps to the farms are listed on their website at http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/fielddays.html or by contacting the Research and Demonstration Farms office at (515) 294-5045.

IRM Refuge Requirements

Seed companies that have developed transgenic insect-resistant traits must register the products with the USEPA and meet certain conditions of the registration. Growers who use these products must meet Insect Resistance Management (IRM) refuge requirements.

As part of their Compliance Assurance Program (CAP), seed companies must conduct on-farm IRM assessments during the growing season to ensure that growers are following refuge requirements. These requirements currently apply only to corn and cotton varieties that contain transgenic traits.

The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) has reached an agreement this spring to provide on-farm assessments to verify grower compliance with IRM refuge requirements.

This summer ICIA will be conducting these assessments across Iowa. As an unbiased, third-party agency, ICIA is uniquely qualified to assist with this project.

ASOYIA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The growing demand for the oil can be credited to Asoyia's extensive marketing program. Since the characteristics of Asoyia Ultra Low Linolenic Soybean Oil are at the top of the market, its easy for consumers to see it's benefits. The oil is highly stable and trans-fat free, which creates a longer lasting, better tasting, and healthier product. However, for those that are not quite convinced, the group is almost always promoting Asoyia at trade shows, meeting with food processors and distributors, setting up test runs with restaurant owners, or distributing coupons or ads. And it's paying off as the 1% oil is quickly becoming a popular healthier alternative to the traditional 7% hydrogenated soybean oil.

Currently, Asoyia Ultra Low Linolenic Soybean Oil is shipped around the world to various food manufacturers and restaurants. Frying applications, baking ingredients, spray finishes, and general cooking applications are all processes in which the oil is being used. The soybean meal by-product is being used by Solae, a soy ingredient distributor, and is being marketed to non-GMO food grade buyers around the globe.

ICIA provides third-party monitoring of Asoyia's Identity Preservation program, processes and standards. Asoyia's standards and quality of their IP program are beneficial in creating their total product quality. From planting the first seed in the producer's field to processing the oil with Cargill, the quality assurance is unparalleled. The partnership between ICIA and Asoyia certifies that growers ensure non-GMO purity, protein content, fat, and carbohydrate levels in their beans, which is often requested by food manufacturers.

Asoyia is based out of Winfield, Iowa and is staffed by five employees. Together the office works to achieve the goals set internally and externally in a manner consistent with high ethical standards through cooperative teamwork. For more information on Asoyia LLC, visit http://www.asoyia.com or contact them at (319) 257-3400.

Asoyia™ Vivan Jennings, CEO of Asoyia™, examines crops of ultra low linolenic soybeans in Columbus Junction, Iowa that will produce the first trans fat free soybean oil for the marketplace.

Blast from the Past

The following are excerpts from Iowa Seed News of years past.

July 1956
Bill Slaughter, Newell vo-ag instructor, dropped in for a pleasant chat the other day. We'd like to extend the invitation to all vocational agriculture instructors to stop in when they're in Ames. We need to know what we can to do to help them tell the seed quality story to the farmers, not of tomorrow, but this *afternoon* you might say. Someday every farm or small-town boy should have a chance to study agriculture in high school.

June-July 1966
The entire corn yield test, except for two fields, was planted by May 16. This is most unusual. Those last two were planted May 20 and May 27.

Small grain certification applications indicate a slight increase in acreages as compared to 1965. The acreage may not be sufficient to meet the needs if demands are as strong in 1967 as they were in 1966.

Some places in the state need rain badly. Ames is one of those spots. Maybe we ought to hold a rain dance.

Nebraska reports some high yields of wheat. One is reported to be 94 bushels per acres. Can anyone top this?

July-August 1976
The first half of July was dry over most of the state. Welcome rains fell in many places the week of the 19th. Send us a little more we got only .15 of an inch.

Acres of small grain that seedsmen submitted for certification inspection were as follows: 17,404 acres of oats of 21 varieties; 2,200 varieties of winter wheat of nine varieties and 136 acres of spring wheat of one variety. The three most popular oat varieties were Multiline Blend E74, Chief and Stout.

July-August 1986
Striking differences among entries in winter survival were observed in alfalfa, orchardgrass, and fescue tests planted in previous years. Degree of winter injury was a major factor in first-harvest yield differences among entries.

There were 560 varieties/brands entered in the 1986 Iowa Soybean Yield Test by 77 private companies and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association. This number is larger than last year's 539.

May 1996
Five outstanding Iowa State University students were awarded with scholarships at the Annual Meeting on February 15. The 1996 recipients were: Michael Callon of Rolfe, Stacy Fistler of Ackley, Joseph Hoeck of Hazleton, Matthew Schuiteman of Sioux Center, and Matthew Smalley of Riceville.

ISU Seed Science Center Upcoming Workshops

Workshop	Date
Color Sorting (featuring Sortex)	June 5-6
Color Sorting (featuring Stake)	June 7-8
Fundamentals of Commercial Seed Corn Conditioning	June 19-21
Advanced Commercial Seed Corn Conditioning	June 22-23
Fundamentals of Soybean & Small Grain Seed Conditioning	July 10-12
Advanced Soybean & Small Grain Seed Conditioning	July 13
Fundamentals of Research Seed Corn Conditioning	July 31-August 1
Advanced Research Seed Corn Conditioning	August 3-4
Gravity Separation	August 10
Fundamentals of Soybean & Small Grain Seed Conditioning	August 14-16

For more information on registering or attending these workshops, contact Connie Sandve at the Iowa State University Seed Science Center at (515) 294-6821 or csandve@iastate.edu.

Field Extension Education Laboratory (FEEL) Events Agribusiness Education Program

Workshop	Date
Soybean Rust First Detector Training	June 20
Early-season Soybean Management	June 29
Crop Diagnostic Clinics	July 10-11 July 17-18 July 19-20
Soybean Cyst Nematode Clinic	July 26
Manure Management Clinic	August 22-23
Alfalfa Management Clinic	September 6
Late-season Crop Disease Clinic	September 7
Soils Clinic	September 14

Additional information is available online at www.aep.iastate.edu, by e-mailing aep@iastate.edu or calling 515-432-9548.

Certification Update

Eileen Wuebker

As the 2006 field inspection nears, the staff at ICIA are doing their best to assure that the upcoming season will be successful. In every season that I have worked for ICIA the overall goal has remained the same: To be of optimum service to our members.

Offering good service means many things to us:

- A thorough inspection of each field
- An unbiased collection and documentation of data
- An accurate varietal purity determination
- Timely inspections
- Delivering inspection results on a daily basis
- Immediate notification of Applicant if a concern should be found
- Complete confidentiality

In order to meet this goal we strive to hire well-qualified and dependable inspectors. Each inspector is required to attend a classroom style training which covers all the details regarding the inspection that he or she will be conducting. For new inspectors this is followed with a hands-on training in the field. Another key aspect of training is safety to make sure the inspectors understand how to remain safe on the job.

The question we fail to ask too often is whether we are meeting your current needs. Are we providing you with the best of service? Do our inspectors provide you with the data that you need? Are there ways that we could better meet your needs in 2006?

Over the last couple of months we have begun the transition to an ISO quality management system. As part of this we will be asking you, our customer, if we are meeting your needs. You may receive surveys, we may ask you questions over the phone, and we will do a better job of documenting your requests so that we can be proactive in making changes. We would welcome your input at any time on what we are doing right and what we could do better. Please give us a call or drop us an e-mail anytime.

Certified...

The Sign of Good Seed

Good Seed Doesn't Cost...It Pays!

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Dates to Remember

June	
15	Early Application Date for certification of native species fields established between April 1 and May 31
July	
4	ICIA Offices Closed
8-12	2006 ASTA/CSTA Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois
10	Early Application Date for field inspection of soybean
18	Iowa Seed Association Golf Tournament, Ames, Iowa
August	
1	Deadline for Declaration of Carry-Over Seed
1	Deadline for applications for certification of native species fields established between June 1 and July 15
November	
29-30	Integrated Crop Management Conference and Agribusiness Association of Iowa Expo, Ames, Iowa
December	
6-8	ASTA Corn and Sorghum & Soybean Research Conference and Seed Expo, Chicago, Illinois