



Volume LXII Number 1
March 2008

Iowa Seed News

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A publication of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association



Iowa Crop is doing their part to fuel growth in the seed industry. That was the theme for this year's annual meeting held Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at the Scheman Building in Ames, Iowa.

The afternoon began with a welcome from Dean Wendy Wintersteen and President Lee Huey calling the business meeting to order. During the business meeting President Huey announced that Chad Allen of Allendan Seed and Scott Saienga of MBS Genetics, LLC were elected to serve a three year term on the board of directors via mail ballot. Following a brief business meeting the attendees enjoyed several very informative presentations.

Mr. Chet Boruff started off the presentations with "Quality Yields Success" and was followed by Dr. Walter Fehr discussing "Commercialization of Soybeans with Unique Seed Composition". Dr. Kendall Lamkey discussed "Agronomy and the Bio-Economy" and Dr. Lance Gibson finished up the speaker sessions by giving a presentation on "Alternative Crops for Biofuels".

During the meal, the association recognized the efforts of the Iowa State University Crops Team as well as the 2008 ICIA Scholarship recipients and the 2008 ICIA Honorary Members were named.

Additional information on the ICIA Scholarship recipients and the ISU Crops Team can be found on page 7.

Certification Update

Eileen Wuebker

The recent snows have made it seem like inspection season is far away, but anyone involved in the seed industry knows better. Seed will soon be coming back from winter production locations and with a very short turnaround planted for further production. As an association, we strive to keep current and innovative on new methods or technology to use in our business.

Since last fall the staff has worked with the committees and Board of Directors to implement the following changes in procedures:

Field Inspection Procedures

- Hybrid corn inspection – The association will no longer allow for the averaging of border rows or use of a wraparound of border rows on a diagonal exposure.
- Small grain inspection – Isolation cuts will be recommended by inspectors, but will no longer need to be witnessed by inspectors.
- Soybean inspection – Plants which are 5-6" different in height or different in maturity will be considered off-types. The association will also begin phasing in a requirement for flower inspections of foundation class seed production. Flower inspection will not be a requirement until the 2009 inspection season.

Seed Inspection Procedures

- Treated soybean seed inspection – The association will begin requiring a bin sample on all treated soybean lots with the conditioning of the 2008 crop. In addition to the bin sample, we will require pre- and post-treating lot samples to assure that the varietal identity and purity meet standards.

This season we will also experiment with moving the seed parent purity inspection for hybrid and foundation corn to the beginning of the season. We have been doing a 1000 plant purity count on the seed parent as part of our final inspection—approximately 5-7 days after our last pollen inspection. We are proposing to move this inspection to the beginning of the season, or approximately 3 days before 5% silk in the field. We think this will allow ICIA to better manage our inspector resources, and may even provide more

useful information to the seed companies if it is just prior to pollination. Our current plan is to test this procedure in the 2008 season which will provide us with useful information to bring to the corn committee in the fall to decide whether or not to fully implement this procedure.

Please contact me at 515-294-0546 or Doan Schmitz at 515-294-6268 if you would like additional information on these changes or to discuss any other questions. We look forward to working with you this season.

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

Watch your mailbox for your survey from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The NASS, Iowa field office began sending out surveys February 1st and will continue to send them through March 31st. Be sure to complete your survey to ensure that the USDA's policies and programs are based on accurate, real-world data that comes straight from the producers.

Sengphirom joins ICIA Staff



Phetsavanh Sengphirom became part of the ICIA team in December 2007 and will fill the role of Accountant. Phetsavanh maintains accounting and financial records of the association and assists in the operation and implementation of audit-based programs. Prior to coming on board at ICIA, she was employed with Merit Resources in Urbandale, Iowa. You may contact Phetsavanh directly at (515) 294-6925 or pseng@iastate.edu.

ISU Seed Lab Update

Michael Stahr

According to state climatologist Harry Hillaker, we were 60% through winter as of February 11th. Besides giving hope for warmer weather relatively soon, it gets us thinking seriously about getting into the field. Some soybean varieties may be in short supply this spring much the same as certain varieties of corn sold out quickly last winter. Quality and vigor have been good overall for this year's corn seed. Some soybean samples have had problems with Phomopsis seed decay and/or mechanical damage, which has dropped the average warm germ for soybeans to 89%. Seed treatments have proven effective in increasing germination and vigor levels for soybeans with Phomopsis. The key is the extent of infection – a dead seed is a dead seed, but seeds with lighter infestations can be handled. Samples of soybeans with lighter infestations can have higher accelerated aging results than warm germs because the hot and humid conditions of the AA test can kill Phomopsis.

Seed sold in the U.S. is tested under the Association of Official Seed Analysts' Rules for Testing Seeds. AOSA Rules are recognized by OECD and IFS Arbitration Rules. Much of the rest of the world tests under the International Rules for Seed Testing of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). Only ISTA- accredited labs can issue green and orange certificates, while any lab can test using ISTA Rules. Only a few countries require these official certificates for movement of seed, but when problems arise, seed companies may "pay the price". ISTA, AOSA, ASTA, USDA, and other groups have met twice this winter to see if movement of seed from the U.S. can be improved, possibly by recognition of the AOSA Rules as equivalent to ISTA's. There are very few significant differences between the rules, and there has been a long-term effort to harmonize testing methods. When AOSA and SCST (Society of Commercial Seed Technologists) consider making changes to the AOSA Rules, potential disagreement with ISTA Rules is researched. AOSA and SCST are increasing efforts to get input from others in the seed industry that may be affected by Rule changes (farmers, state DNR & DOT units, others).

The Seed Science Center has scheduled a full slate of workshops for this spring and summer. Seed conditioning workshop topics range from selecting and setting color sorters, gravity tables, and other

conditioning equipment, to properly treating seed with seed-applied insecticides and other seed treatments, to conditioning certain species. Seed testing workshops will cover viability, vigor, seed health, genetic testing, and other topics. All workshops have hands-on training, lectures, and materials to take home. Please visit www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest/training for more information and to register for these workshops. As always, we thank you for your business and are here to meet your testing, training, and informational needs. Call the Lab at 515-294-6826.

Inspectors Wanted

Doan Schmitz

Iowa Crop Improvement has been able to retain a large percentage of experienced inspectors from year to year. As with any business through normal attrition of retirements and pursuing other interests, we always have the need for new inspectors. This year we currently have positions open in the following areas: Ames, Iowa City/Cedar Rapids, Grundy Center, Hampton and Humboldt. As the season progresses we may have openings in other areas of the state.

Iowa Crop Improvement Association is now accepting employment applications for the summer and fall inspection season. The summer season runs from about June 15th through August 5th while the fall is from August 22nd through October 1st. We are looking for individuals who have an attention to detail, enjoy walking fields, and the willingness to work outside in all kinds of weather. Crop experience is not necessary. If you are an individual who can communicate, follow direction, and finish work in a timely manner, this job is for you. Inspectors are paid an hourly wage plus mileage. The inspection area is within a 50 mile or less radius of an inspector's home.

Please contact me at 515-294-6268 or e-mail me at doan@iastate.edu if you are interested in this opportunity. Applications can also be found at our web site at www.agron.iastate.edu/icia/ under "Employment Opportunities". Please contact me by May 1st for summer employment and August 1st for fall employment.



Help
Wanted

Iowa Crop Performance Test Update

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

2007 was a very successful season for the Iowa Crop Performance Tests, and we hope 2008 will be just as fine. Both corn and soybean testing programs will remain essentially unchanged from last year. Still unknown at this time is whether or not we will have a conventional-herbicide test again. Last year we had just enough entries for a 3-location test in each of the central and southern tiers of counties. With enough interest we will do so again.

All application information and testing procedures can be found online from the homepage of Crop Performance Testing at www.croptesting.iastate.edu. Click on the menu item for your crop of interest, then on 'applications' in the submenu. You can view the files online or download a copy for your use. To view data from the 2007 testing season, click on the menu links for 'reports' under each crop.

Entry deadlines are March 1 for both tests. Seed deadlines are March 17 for corn, and April 1 for soybeans. ALL corn and soybean seed for testing should be sent to ICPT, 2219 State Ave., Ames, IA 50010.

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 PLH (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.

The first call for entries was emailed to perspective entrants in early January. There will be no mailing of paper entry forms this year. Entrants will find entry forms at the following web site: www.croptesting.iastate.edu/alfalfa/. Under Alfalfa, click on entry form and print out one form for each entry. Then, mail them with payment to the address on the form. The deadline for receiving entries and payment is March 1st. Anyone needing a paper entry form may contact me at 515-294-7887 or smithma@iastate.edu. At the crop testing web site, you will also 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.

Small Grains **Ron Skrdla** **515-294-2732** **Lance Gibson** **515-294-2143**

The 2008 winter wheat variety and winter triticale tests were planted during the last week in September in Ames (September 27) and Sutherland (September 28). Nineteen hard red varieties, three hard white varieties, and five soft red varieties are being

tested. Three winter triticale varieties are being tested. A cool fall with plenty of moisture allowed the wheat and triticale tests to germinate and develop a good root system before the cold weather. The snow cover and ice this winter may cause some winterkill. Fields need to be checked when spring growth begins in order to determine the amount of winterkill.

The oat variety test will consist of approximately 29 varieties and 13 experimental lines from Iowa and surrounding states and will be planted at Ames, Nashua, and Sutherland. The barley variety test will have 20 entries and will be grown at Ames, Nashua, and Sutherland.

New this year will be a spring wheat variety test to be grown at Ames and Sutherland. Twelve varieties from Canada, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota will be tested.

The 2007 variety reports can be found at the following web address: <http://www.croptesting.iastate.edu/smallgrains/>

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.



ICIA Awards Scholarships



Front row: Katherine Frels, Leah Ruff
Back row: Jess Cavin, Andrew Phillips, Dr. Mary Wiedenhoef

Iowa Crop Improvement Association recognized five Iowa State University students as scholarship recipients at their annual meeting on February 13, 2008. Leah Ruff (Farmersburg), Katherine Frels (Guthrie Center), Joshua Billerbeck (Reinbeck) and Andrew Phillips (Lake View) each received a \$1000 scholarship from the association. Jess Cavin (Sigourney) was awarded the \$1000 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!

ICIA Recognizes ISU Crops Team

Iowa Crop Improvement Association recently recognized the members of the 2008 Iowa State University Crops Team at the Association's annual meeting on February 13, 2008. Coach Lance Gibson introduced each team member and ICIA President Lee Huey presented them with a certificate. The crops contest consists of a series of written, problem-solving and identification exams. The team is sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association.



Front row: Emma Flemmig, Matthew Dop, Brent Lytle, Will Cornelious
Back row: Tom Schultes, Chuck Hrubes, Coach Dr. Lance Gibson

A Farewell to Jan Perkovich



It was with sadness that ICIA said farewell to one of their own in late November. Janice Perkovich passed away after being employed with the association for over 30 years. She had served as the Account Clerk for many years but also had served the association in other positions over the years. You may remember working with her on your invoicing, with foundation corn records, or with other services.

Within our office Jan was known for her positive attitude, attention to detail, and ability to organize. When asked to take on a different task she was known to respond that "It all pays the same!" She loved to collect corn memorabilia and to tell stories about the olden days at ICIA. When Jan first worked at ICIA all records were kept on paper and reports were typewritten.

Jan is survived by her husband, Frank; a daughter, Jenny Corbin-Wilson; a stepson, Steven Perkovich; three grandsons, Jacob and Cory Howell and Kenneth Perkovich; her mother, Betty Pepper; a brother, Jimmy Pepper; and two sisters, Sandra Henninger and Cindy Cooper.

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Perkovich Awarded ICIA Honorary Member

Janice Perkovich “officially” began her career with Iowa Crop Improvement Association on March 1, 1977. She really started work a day early on February 29th and was paid by check from ICIA for her first day ... a check for \$15. Over the next 30 years she held several positions with the association. In 1994 she assumed the accounting functions of the organization as well as working with various certification programs. Jan passed away after a brief illness on November 21st.

There to receive the award on her behalf was her husband Frank pictured to the right with Del Koch, Executive Director of the Committee for Agricultural Development. Frank, accepted a donation to the Scleroderma Foundation in the honor of Janice Perkovich.



Koch Awarded ICIA Honorary Member

Del Koch was recognized as one of the 2008 ICIA Honorary Members at the association’s annual meeting on Wednesday, February 13th.

When Del Koch became the Director of ICIA he had already provided over 25 years of service with the College of Agriculture at ISU. In July of 2003, Del was named the Director of ICIA and also retained his position as Executive Director of the Committee for Agricultural Development (CAD). Del led the association until July 1 of 2007 when he retired from this position and began a phased retirement program.

During his term as Director of the association, Del relocated the association offices from the ISU campus to their current office location in West Ames. This provided an improved business environment for the employees and members alike. Del’s leadership resulted in the association attaining ISO9001 certification and an update of the association bylaws and articles of incorporation. The association also experienced continued growth through expansion of service programs through AOSCA and a new Weed Seed Free Forage and Mulch certification program.

Del was raised on a crop and livestock farm in western Iowa near Schleswig. Following his graduation he attended the University of Iowa and received a degree in Bachelor of Business Administration. He then moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma for a short time. Del’s first position at ISU was in the Department of Chemistry, but he soon accepted a position within the College of Agriculture where he was the Director of Budget and Finance. In 1994 he assumed the leadership role for CAD.



Pictured above President Huey presents Del Koch with his honorary membership award.

Annual Report to Members 2007

To our Members:

It is my pleasure to report that 2007 was a very good year for the Iowa Crop Improvement Association. One of the most important achievements was the completion of ISO 9001 certification in June. There are very strict guidelines for receiving and maintaining this certification. We chose ISO certification to provide our members with assurance of our commitment to quality management and services.

ICIA continues to explore business opportunities through multi-state projects via the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. 2007 saw the continuation of cooperative quality assurance and auditing projects initiated in 2006. Each of these projects will likely continue in 2008, and we maintain our search for new ways to provide valuable service to the seed industry in these areas.

ICIA expanded into additional office and warehouse space over the summer. This allowed us a little more breathing room for several of our office procedures, and relocated our off-site storage to a much more convenient and accessible location. Our conference room is available for our members to use, please give us a call to reserve it.

ICIA has provided 5 scholarships to students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the amount of \$750 each for many years. The Board of Directors recently approved increasing the scholarship amount to \$1,000 each, showing a commitment to education and investment in our future seed industry personnel.

Phetsavanh Sengphirom joined the ICIA staff in December as an accountant, and she's been hard at work since then. In November, the ICIA staff said goodbye to longtime Account Clerk and friend, Jan Perkovich. Jan had worked for Iowa Crop Improvement Association for over 30 years and contributed greatly to the mission of the association.

Del Koch has served as the ICIA Director since 2003. Del recently stepped down from this position to begin a phased retirement. He continues to serve as the Director of the Committee for Agricultural Development. In his stead, Jim Rouse has been named Interim Director. Rouse has been the Project Leader of the corn and soybean portions of the Iowa Crop Performance Tests since 2004, and continues to serve in that role as well.

No doubt you are aware that none of this is possible without a great deal of support and participation from our membership and staff. I want to thank the Board of Directors for support and guidance for our organization. I want to thank our members, who put their trust in us each time they request one of our services or enter one of our testing programs. And I want to thank the entire staff at Iowa Crop Improvement Association, for whom this work is more than just a job, but something they believe in.

Sincerely,
Lee Huey

ICIA to Sponsor Donation to Campaign Iowa State

The Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) board of directors voted to sponsor a donation to the Campaign Iowa State: With Pride and Purpose at their board meeting held on February 13, 2008. The donation sponsored by ICIA will help increase scholarship opportunities for students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and also assist with much needed renovations to Curtiss Hall.

Campaign Iowa State: With Pride and Purpose is a historic \$800 million comprehensive fundraising endeavor to advance Iowa State University's role in creating a sustainable and prosperous future for people everywhere.

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Newsletter available via e-mail

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail? ICIA has developed a database to distribute the newsletter electronically. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please e-mail iowacrop@iastate.edu.



Dates to Remember

March	
12-13	Illinois - Indiana Seed Conditioning Workshop, Champaign, IL
April	
15	Early Application Date for reapplication of native species fields AND for native species fields planted by March 31
May	
15	Early Application Date for field inspection of small grains
June	
1	Early Application Date for field inspection of corn
1	Early Application Date for field inspection of herbicide tolerant soybean
15	Early Application Date for certification of native species fields established between April 1 and May 31