



# Iowa Seed News

*A publication of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Tallgrass Prairie

CENTER  
*Restoring a National Treasure*

What do Panthers and native seed development have to do with each other? The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) is the home of the Tallgrass Prairie Center, which strives to develop research, techniques, education, and Source Identified seed for the restoration and preservation of prairie vegetation in rights-of-way and other lands. Being a strong advocate of progressive, ecological approaches utilizing native vegetation to provide environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits for the public good, the Center has developed several programs to support this mission. Many of these programs are in partnership with organizations and associations, such as the Iowa Crop Improvement Association.



Established in 1999 as the Native Roadside Vegetation Center, the Center utilizes 65 acres of UNI campus and leased land for native seed production plots. In January 2006, the name was changed to the Tallgrass Prairie Center to more accurately reflect its programs, activities, and mission. Programs developed and maintained by the Center include the Prairie Institute, the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program, and the

Iowa Ecotype Project. Iowa Crop Improvement Association works closely with the Center on the Iowa Ecotype Project by providing unbiased, third-party inspection of the seed so it may be licensed to growers to produce Source Identified seed.

The Iowa Ecotype Project develops high quality, genetically diverse native seed that has been regionally adapted for use in prairie restorations in Iowa. In cooperation with UNI, Iowa DOT Living Roadway Trust Fund, USDA Natural Resources Conservation, Iowa Native Seed Growers Association, and ICIA, the project collects, increases, certifies, and markets seed derived from remnant populations of native prairie species. Commercial quantities are produced and marketed under the trade name "Natural Selections TM." The Project has been increasing seed of 50 species from 3,000 populations from three zones in Iowa, including 81 'ecotypes' of 33 species released for commercial production. Licensees from this project produce over 60,000 pounds of Source Identified seed annually.

For more information about the Tallgrass Prairie Center and its projects, visit their website ([www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org](http://www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org)). For specific information pertaining to the Iowa Ecotype Project can be found at [www.iowaecotypeproject.org](http://www.iowaecotypeproject.org). You may also contact the Tallgrass Prairie Center at (319) 273-2238.

*This is the second in a series to showcase ICIA members at what they do best.*

## Certification Update

*Eileen Wuebker*

As harvest season quickly approaches, we have finished training our fall soybean and foundation corn ear inspectors. Each season seems to have its own story and again this season we saw portions of the state where the rainfall didn't time right for the needs of the crop. Hopefully the combine will find better yields than expected in these areas.

To complete our field inspections each season we depend on a team of individuals from around the state. Through classroom and field trainings each season we focus on providing inspections that offer timely and valuable data to our members. We need feedback from you, our member growers, on how well we met your needs this past season. Please contact Doan Schmitz, Kelly Dunlay, or myself at 515-294-6921 with any comments or ideas you may have.

In 2006 we initiated new inspection programs in sunflowers, specialty trait soybeans, and weed seed free forage and mulch. To date we have over 20 fields in the forage and mulch program. We continue to receive interest in the program and hope the market opportunity plays out well for these growers.

This fall we will be making plans for the 2007 season and plan to call on several of our committees for assistance. In particular, the corn committee will be meeting to discuss amending the hybrid corn isolation standards from 410 to 660 feet. After several years of discussion, the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies has adopted the 660 foot standard and it will be important for our association to be in compliance with this new standard. If you have suggestions for changes or improvements in our programs please contact us at 515-294-6921. We welcome your input.

## ISU Seed Lab Update

Dan Curry

The Iowa State Seed Laboratory is starting to ramp up for the fall season. Traditionally, the lab receives fewer samples from June through September. During this time, we do receive seed samples from growers and companies that are not into corn and soybean seed production. In fact, the ISU laboratory tests up to 300 different species each year, many of which are performed during the summer months and come from companies outside of Iowa. Besides cereals, the other seed types that we test are vegetable, flower and grass seeds.

Many times we have questions concerning how to sample a seedlot of bagged seed. There are many different techniques on sampling seed. A couple of things to remember are 1) sampling must be random, 2) the Association of Official Seed Analysts suggests that the number of bags probed should be at least 5 bags plus 10% of the total amount of the seed lot, up to a total of 30 bags probed, 3) the composite sample must be combined and mixed thoroughly, and 4) make certain the label is marked correctly. Other factors that ensure a proper sampling technique includes 1) probes must be long enough to be able to reach diagonally across to the opposite corner of the bag, 2) short probes are not advised, since they can only take from a small part of the bag, and 3) store the seed in a cool dry environment.

Let's say, for example, there was a 150 bag seed lot stored in a warehouse that needed to be sampled. If the seed was in 50 lb. bags and there were 50 bags per pallet, then there would be three pallets of seed to probe. The proper number of probes to take of the seed lot would be twenty (5 plus 10% times 150 = 20). On the other hand, if a 1200 bag seed lot was to be sampled, the total number of bags to sample would be thirty (5 plus 10% times 1200 = 125, but not to exceed 30 bags total).

If one is diligent in proper sampling techniques, there is a high probability that the sample taken will represent the entire population of seed. For a seed man, this is a very good thing.

## Directory Advertising Space Still Available



Advertising space for the 2006 Iowa Seed Directory and the 2006 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 Crystal at (515) 294-6921 or [costrem@iastate.edu](mailto:costrem@iastate.edu).



## Weed Seed Free Forage & Mulch Sources Listed Online

Are you looking for sources of clean hay or mulch? ICIA has a listing of current weed seed free forage and mulch applicants on their website at [www.agron.iastate.edu/icia](http://www.agron.iastate.edu/icia) listed under "Weed Seed Free Forage & Mulch" and "Where to Find Certified Hay." These individuals have fields that have or will undergo inspection to assure seeds of a specified list of noxious or undesirable weeds are not present.

A Hay and Straw Directory is also available on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Agricultural Marketing Bureau website at <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/hay&straw.asp>.

## CHAMPION NAMED IN FFA AGRONOMY EVENT

The Diamond Trail FFA Chapter from Monroe was named the Champion Team in the annual Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development Event held at Iowa State University in Ames on Thursday, June 8, 2006. The Wall Lake View Auburn FFA Chapter from Lake View was named the Reserve Champion Team. Kyle Van Der Har, from the Diamond Trail FFA Chapter at Monroe, was named the High Individual Overall in the competition.

FFA teams including seventy-one individuals from twenty chapters participated in this year's Career Development Event designed to provide the student an opportunity to display their agricultural knowledge and skills in the area of Agronomy. Activities included demonstration of skills and problem solving in hay, silage, corn, soybean, and market grain evaluation; as well as seed, plant and insect identification. A written examination was included along with a team problem solving competition.

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



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## Iowa Crop Performance Test Update

### Alfalfa--Mark Smith

The 2006 growing season is rapidly coming to an end. The new legume plots have established well and have had good growth. In addition to the commercial and experimental entries, we are evaluating varieties for resistance to Potato Leaf Hopper (PLH). The PLH trial is in cooperation with Ohio State University and is the second trial at Ames of this type. These varieties are being evaluated under spray and no-spray conditions. PLH counts and visual damage ratings have been taken and a yield tolerance to PLH index will be computed at the end of the season. The leafhopper numbers and damage have been low this year here at Ames, but Ohio State reports high numbers of leafhoppers present on their plots. The results of these trials 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. These new varieties are being evaluated for yield under two different protocols, when sprayed with Roundup and when sprayed with conventional herbicides, to control weeds. The difference in the weed control of the two protocols has been striking. Hopefully, we can include a picture in the extension bulletin this year. All plots were sprayed at the 4<sup>th</sup> trifoliate leaf stage. The plots sprayed with Roundup, had 100% weed control and have remained that way all season, while the plots sprayed with conventional herbicides had numerous weed problems.

Yields have been average for the alfalfa plots. We should be finished with the 4<sup>th</sup> and final cutting by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The weather has been quite variable this year. We had good temperatures and moisture at planting time, but it soon turned hot and dry in May and June. Due to this the grass plots have not performed well this season. I have been very surprised at the yield of the alfalfa plots under these conditions. We have had ample rains in late July and August and the yield potential for the last cutting looks very good.

All data will be analyzed and distributed to entrants by the end of September.

The extension bulletin should be out in late October. For more information, contact Mark at (515) 294-7887 or smithma@iastate.edu.

### Corn and Soybeans--Jim Rouse

I'd like to begin this section with some numbers. We have 391 corn hybrids being tested under 42 different brand names. A hybrid can be entered in more than one district, and these 391 hybrids comprise a total of 854 entries, or hybrid-by-district combinations. There are some entries-in-common between tests, and a few filler entries to round out our experiments, giving us a grand total of 14,352 corn yield trial plots!

In soybeans we are testing 365 varieties under 25 different brand names, in 843 variety-by-district combinations. Again, there are some entries-in-common and a few filler entries, giving us a grand total of 15,728 soybean yield trial plots! In addition to the yield trials, we've got 2,220 plots for iron deficiency chlorosis and 1,320 experimental units for soybean cyst nematode resistance evaluation. We're anticipating a busy harvest season.

Nearly all of the corn and soybean tests look very good at this time. We're worried about two of our soybean locations that were extremely dry for nearly 4 weeks immediately after planting. This dryness led to poor germination and uneven stands. At this time it's uncertain if we'll be able to get usable data from these sites. Also, we've treated one soybean field for aphids, and three for bean leaf beetles. We aren't anticipating any further problems, but we're ready for them if they arise.

The corn sites all look pretty good. So far we've been lucky enough to dodge the heavy rains and high winds that have caused locally isolated regions of severe lodging.

Our new website is finally live, and I hope you'll enjoy visiting the site for all your variety trial information. The address is [www.croptesting.iastate.edu](http://www.croptesting.iastate.edu), and this is where you'll be able to get your first look at the harvest information. In addition, we will be publishing limited amounts of the data in Iowa Farmer Today on a weekly basis throughout the harvest season. We

anticipate getting started with harvest in the last week of September. As before, the complete written version of our reports will be published sometime in December. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Jim Rouse at [croptesting@iastate.edu](mailto:croptesting@iastate.edu) or at (515) 294-5604.

### Small Grains--Ron Skrdla

The winter tests experienced very dry conditions during the fall with the exception of Crawfordsville which had wet conditions during the fall. Rain in late March and early April helped boost the yields.

The 2006 winter wheat variety was harvested in early July with the yields ranging from 116 bu/A at Crawfordsville to 81 bu/A at Lewis. The statewide average of 95 bu/A was much above our long term average of 73 bu/A. The test weights were also better than the long term average at 60.0 lbs/bu. Winter triticale yields were better than the long term averages. The yields ranged from 95 bu/A at Crawfordsville to 81 bu/A at Sutherland. The statewide test weight average was 53.4 lbs/bu.

The barley and oat variety tests yields varied but were generally lower than last year because of dry conditions at some sites during the season. Even though the tests were planted slightly later than usual, warm conditions during May and June allowed heading dates to be about normal. Oat yields ranged from 146 bu/A at Ames to 74 bu/A at Sutherland with a statewide average of 118 bu/A. This was nearly 17 bu/A less than our long term average. Test weights were average at 33.7 bu/A.

Ames had the highest barley yield at 95 bu/A with Sutherland and Nashua the lowest at about 60 bu/A. The statewide average of 71 bu/A was 10 bu/A below the long term average. Test weights were slightly lower than the long term average.

The preliminary data in the form of excel files can be found on the web at <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~jjannink/VarietyTrials.htm>. For more information, contact (515) 294-4153 or [jjannink@iastate.edu](mailto:jjannink@iastate.edu).

## **2006 ICIA INTERN: DARCY ADAMS**

Iowa Crop Improvement Association had the opportunity to help shape a career during the summer of 2006. Darcy Adams came to intern with the association with no previous agronomy experience and by the end of the summer you would have thought she had grown up in the field.

Darcy spent her summer completing field inspections, office work, entering data into the computer, and filing paperwork. During her three month stint with ICIA, Darcy said she learned to be very flexible. She adds, "Some days were in the office and other days I was out in the blistering heat counting tassels and silk. Since I've never been around corn, I never knew it could shoot up like it did. One day its not even close to being ready to be counted and then you blink and you're out in the field."

The heat is one thing Darcy said that she did not enjoy about being out in the field, but she learned to adjust her schedule to complete her inspections in the morning to beat the prominent sun. She said that she liked everything else about the internship and felt that it was a great opportunity for her and helped her to open up her mind.

Darcy hails from Lytton, Iowa, a small town in northwest, Iowa. She is now in her second year at Iowa State University and just recently switched her major to Agronomy.



## **Dates to Remember**

### **September**

4 Labor Day, ICIA Office Closed

### **October**

10-13 National Roadside Vegetation Management Association's Annual Conference, Des Moines, Iowa

### **November**

2 ICIA Approved Conditioner Training, Ames, Iowa

13-14 Iowa Seed Association Annual Meeting, The Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames, Iowa

23-24 ICIA Office Closed, Happy Thanksgiving!

29 Agri-Business Association Expo, Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa

29-30 Integrated Crop Management Conference, Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa

### **December**

6-8 ASTA Corn & Sorghum and Soybean Seed Research Seed Expo, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, Illinois