

**Wyoming Crop Improvement Association
Southeast District Meeting
December 3, 2009
Commerce Building, Pine Bluffs, WY**

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

In attendance: Albert Kranz, Theron Anderson, Leonard Anderson, Lance Theobald, Keith Kennedy, Thomas Ragsdale, Ty Anderson, Jeff Edwards, Hank Uhden, Polly Cross, Jack Cecil, Tim Anderson, and Mike Moore.

Motion to approve the agenda by Theron Anderson, Albert Kranz second, carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2008 SE District meeting as published by Leonard Anderson, Lance Theobald second, carried.

Mike Moore provided a report on the 2009 inspection season, starting with the fact that the program set a record for acres, with 30,181. The increase was due mainly to a significant jump in dry bean acres and a 1,000 acre increase in alfalfa seed. The remainder of the crops were basically static compared to the 2008 season. The increase in bean acres came as a surprise to Mike, and thus staffing was not able to be increased to meet the change. Combined with the cool, wet growing season in the north end of the state, it made for a challenging inspection season. Mike reported that 26% of the bean acres failed due to bacterial bean disease, and added that a total of 35% of the bean acres were not eligible for certification. Many of the additional acres were not eligible due to a failure to get a final inspection, with frost damage and cost of nightshade removal causing growers to forgo a final inspection and harvest the acres as commercial beans. Needless to say, it was a difficult year for the bean industry. Mike noted that the reason the program was able to cover the acres was due to a great crew of inspectors and a lot of long days, including his seven-day work weeks in September and October. Mike also noted that 14,000+ acres of beans is in reality 28,000 acres, as they receive two inspections. Seedling inspections on perennial crops and withdrawn crops mean that close to 50,000 acres were inspected this year. Jack Cecil indicated that it was a hot summer in the SE, and that he was really pushed to complete the inspections in a timeframe that didn't hamper harvest. Based on that, he intends to start inspections a bit earlier, but is somewhat concerned that earlier inspections may negatively impact his ability to identify off-type plants. It was noted that he is seeing more rye and jointed goatgrass, with the latter prevalent on roadsides. Custom harvesters, trucks that aren't tarped, and even people transporting baled straw are potential sources of movement of these problem weeds, as well as wildlife. Mike Moore shared the discussion item from the NW District meeting on quackgrass in fields, and asked how a grower would consider a field that had areas flagged off, i.e. would they send a crew through to make sure there weren't offending plants outside the flagged areas? The answer was that they would not, but would assume the inspector had found it all. Mike pointed out that inspectors do not necessarily walk a field in a manner that would make that assumption a valid one, and that additional rogueing efforts would be

in order. Jack's retirement was recognized, but it was also noted that he would be continuing to provide field inspections as well as work on some projects with Dr. Gary Franc and Dr. Jim Krall. It was suggested that it would be appropriate to start training a protégé. Mike encouraged people to help identify potential victims/candidates, and that there were numerous positives to having someone work with Jack, including vehicle movement, the ability to share thoughts and ideas on problem fields, and maybe keep ahead of the combines better in addition to the training it would provide.

While on the topic of staffing, Mike shared that the ¾ time position that was discussed last year was not filled. Two people were interviewed, with one being deemed unacceptable and the second declining the position. The position will be advertised as a full-time position, with the additional time being shared with the Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture lab, the Powell R&E Center and/or the Wyoming State Seed Lab to keep the person busy and engaged. The WSCS will pay for the entire salary/benefit package. Mike is convinced that a full-time position will generate a better pool of applicants, and that the position will be filled in time for next year's inspection season.

Mike shared that Tim Anderson had questioned him about how to deal with seed he had sold in bulk to a seed dealer that was then intended for sale in bulk to end users. WSCS standards state that seed may only be sold in bulk one time, and that certification is void if it is sold more than once, which creates a significant issue with PVP varieties. Significant discussion followed, and indicated that multiple sales of bulk seed were occurring for numerous reasons, and that in a lot of cases, the seedsmen were only somewhat aware, and were seldom in control. Some of the circumstances cited included; one person picking up 500 bu., with 50 bushel destined for his neighbor, a person who had seed left-over after planting and sold the remaining seed to someone else, and as Tim Anderson shared, seed sold to a seed dealer that in turn sells it to end users. Mike noted that the concern from a certification standpoint is that each time bulk seed is moved or handled, there is an opportunity for contamination. That statement was followed by several examples of people who came to purchase bulk seed with dirty trucks, and the people in attendance indicated that they always check the truck before loading bulk seed. Bagged seed simply is not something people will deal with in that area, nor are most able to deal with tote bags, so those were not seen as viable options. Ty Anderson suggested allowing bulk sales to recognized seed dealers for resale as an option to deal with at least that situation, and Mike Moore indicated that it would be possible to communicate/educate those entities as to the correct way to handle seed to prevent unintended mixtures. It was also suggested that additional lines on a bulk sales certificate would allow a record of the chain of custody/sale, and thus a way to sort out a problem if it occurred. It was also noted that seedsmen are aware of the importance of archive samples, both dirt and clean, when questions regarding seed contaminants come up. Mike Moore will check on neighboring state's policies (SD, MT, KS, NE, CO) as well as AOSCA policy and get back to Tim, with the idea that Tim will bring a suggestion for policy change to the WCIA Annual Meeting.

Keith Kennedy presented the possibility of a Wyoming Crop Research Foundation (WCRF). Colorado and Nebraska, Kansas, and other states have developed these

entities to market new varieties and, through the collection of royalties, fund plant breeding programs and related research. Keith has discussed the possibility of Wyoming testing breeding lines from NE and CO, with the ability to join those states in the release of varieties as well as have the option to release varieties that work in the Wyoming environment but would not otherwise be released. Keith cited a situation in Arizona, whereby the state took money generated from royalties and held by the AZ Wheat Commission when state funding became critical, as incentive to set up a WCRF, who's monies would not reside in a state account but rather in a private account. Keith did note that the AZ Wheat Commission was successful in litigation to get the money returned, but that at this time it had not been returned due to a lack of funds on the part of the state government. Aside from the AZ situation, the other prompt for this effort is the purchase or attempted purchase of public breeding lines by Monsanto and another company. This attempt to control germplasm has Keith feeling that now is the time to develop this entity rather than later. The WCRF could provide funding for variety testing, pay for PVP applications, and support other research. It would be governed by a Board of Directors, and would include technical input from the Manager of the Wyoming Seed Certification Service. As long as varietal testing continues at the University of Wyoming as it has under Dr. Jim Krall, the agreement with NE and CO would effectively give Wyoming a breeding program that would test and release varieties adapted to our environment. Keith was asked about royalty charges, and he indicated that NE and CO are working on a couple of joint releases, and the total royalty comes to \$.90 a bushel, with the breeding program taking \$.60 and the cooperating program taking \$.30. He thought that on a release by one program was resulting in a \$.90 royalty fee. Mike Moore asked if there were any up-front costs to setting up the WCRF. Keith indicated that he estimated about \$400. Mike indicated that the WCIA, the Wyoming Wheat Growers Association, or the Wyoming Wheat Commission would be logical sources of that funding, and encouraged Keith to decide which one(s) to approach. Mike then asked about the long-term vision for Dr. Krall's position, as Jim could retire in the relatively near future. Discussion followed that indicated it would be appropriate for the WCIA, Wheat Growers, and Wheat Commission to write letters to Dean Galey, Steve Miller/Brett Hess (Ag Experiment Station), and Steve Herbert (Plant Sciences Dept. Head) regarding the importance of the wheat testing program, especially in light of efforts to develop a WCRF. Keith also pointed out that initially it was called the Wyoming Wheat Research Foundation, but changed to Wyoming Crop Research Foundation so that other crops could have the same opportunities without having to form their own foundation. Mike Moore noted that Keith had been the chief cook and bottle washer on the project, and expressed his appreciation for his vision and efforts.

Theron Anderson moved, Albert Kranz second, that the SE District is in support of the development of a Wyoming Crop Research Foundation. Motion carried.

Keith gave a brief report on potential legislative issues, one being the NPDS. More in-depth discussion on this topic is found later in these minutes. He also noted that there is an opportunity to comment on spray drift regulations if people are interested or concerned. Mike Moore indicated the balance for the WCIA Lobbyist fund, which is the source of funding for the lobbyist position, is sufficient to cover costs this coming year at

the current rate of compensation, which is \$550 per month, 12 months of the year. Mike noted that Keith travels a fair amount as part of his lobbyist efforts, and that while costs of travel have gone up, the compensation for Keith has not. As per actions of the NW District, this will be a topic on the WCIA Annual Meeting agenda.

It was noted that Mike's poor use of cut and paste had resulted in incorrect dates for the Annual Meeting, which is in actuality on February 4th and 5th, 2010, as well as an agenda item related to the need for an election from this district for the WCIA Board of Directors. Mike shared that Ron Micheli may run for Governor of Wyoming, and that he has been invited to speak at the WCIA Annual Meeting. It was suggested that it would be good to also contact Matt Mead and Colin Simpson and offer the same opportunity to them. Mike's suggestion to change from the current Pure Seed and Seed Standards Committees to commodity-based committees such as bean, alfalfa, and other, was seen as a reasonable change.

Hank Uhden, Wyoming Dept. of Ag Director of Technical Services shared the following:

- Mark Ferrell, UW Pesticide Training Coordinator, has indicated he might retire in the relatively near future, and encouraged the WCIA to write a letter of support for filling and continuing the position.
- He indicated that the WDA biennium budget had been cut by 8% in Governor Freudenthal's budget recommendation. Those cuts included a \$10,000 cut for the Seed Lab biennium budget, and a \$6,500 cut in the pesticide container disposal program, which essentially eliminates that program.
- NPDS – an EPA issue that relates to pesticide applications on or near water, is a significant concern. Defining water is the first issue, and right now it looks like any water, including puddles, ditches, streams, lakes, etc. would be covered, and thus would require a permit in order to apply pesticides. Other questions, such as the entity that could file for the permit, i.e. the state, a county, or an irrigation district, are adding to the concern and confusion. It may impact efforts to control grasshoppers this coming year. It also appears to require permits based on the chemical applied and or the pest to be controlled.
- Grasshopper levels are expected to be extreme this coming year, and with the loss of Thimet, control will be difficult. The WDA is working on the issue, but the NPDS is a concern, as well as funding and staffing for control efforts if they are possible. It was noted that Dimlyn (sp?) was an option on range bordering cropland, but that it had to be applied early because it only controls the first 2 or three instars. The comment was that if you are seeing grasshoppers, you are too late to use Dimlyn.
- Hank recommended that any efforts to set up a bean law, especially specific to phytosanitary inspections, reference statute/rule 119, which states that the WSCS inspections are recognized/accepted for phytosanitary purposes.
- It was noted that the WDA Cooperative Ag Pest Coordinator Position is open, and he encouraged people to direct interested parties to the WDA website.
- On-line pesticide licensing was lost when UW budget cuts were implemented this year. The program had been run through UW, as they could accept credit card payment (WDA cannot), but it will be reinstated with another entity.

Polly Cross noted that there was a Section 3 label on Rosal (a rodent bait for prairie dogs). It was originally labeled for pocket gophers, but prairie dogs were added under the Bush administration, an act that is being challenged and may result in the loss of that label provision.

The meeting was adjourned by mass exodus to the Rock Creek Grill for lunch at 12:20.