

WCIA Bean Committee Agenda

10:00 a.m., February 4, 2010

Powell R&E Center

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Committee membership and actions
 - a. All WCIA members in attendance are considered voting members of the committee, and may make motions and vote.
3. All people in attendance are encouraged to participate in discussions.
4. Brief recap of the 2009 bean growing season.
5. Recommendations from the Dry Bean Disease Committee.

The Dry Bean Disease Committee, consisting of Brent Brewer, Melodi Allen, Todd Curtiss, Fred Hopkin, Cindy Fulton, Mike Forman, and Mike Moore, met for approximately 6 hours on January 5, 2010. The recommendations from the committee are as follows:

1. **The committee recommends the following standard regarding sublotting: Fields shall be considered as sublotted if blight is found in the field. Sublot divisions will be marked by the inspector with flags on the field edge. Fields of 40 to 59 acres will be split into two sublots. Fields of 60 to 79 acres will be split in to three sublots. Fields of 80 to 99 acres will be split into 4 sublots, etc.**
 - a. Discussion that some contractors may be in favor of sublots either all the time or in specific circumstances, such as a new variety that is in extremely short supply, resulted in the group recommending this standard. It was noted that contractors could state in contracts that they did not recognize the practice.
 - b. This standard is a change from past standards that required flagging or other actions on the part of the grower or the contractor in order for sublots to be recognized. Those requirements have not really served any purpose other than to create a difficult interaction between seed certification and the growers in the relatively rare event of bacterial bean blight conditions.
2. **Additional field inspections that would be triggered by high risk fields, such as those under overhead irrigation or at the request of the contractor, are not recommended by the committee.**

- a. Contractors are ready and willing to contact seed certification staff to assist in assessment of potential field problems during the growing season, as evidenced by the actions of this past summer. Combined with the fact that seed contracts specify that the contractor or their agent, of which the WSCS would be considered an agent through the payment of seed certification fees, can enter a seed field at any time, provided assurance that it would be appropriate for WSCS staff to enter a field and collect official samples at any time, at no charge.
 - b. This would encourage contractors to monitor fields rather than utilize WSCS staff as field scouts.
- 3. The committee recommends the following standards change to allow for inspection of standing beans: Seed fields shall be inspected two times during the harvest year, one of which shall be performed in the windrow except in situations deemed by the inspector to have sufficient visibility to allow for an adequate assessment of mature pods.**
 - a. Growers exploring different production methods and varieties developed for direct harvest dictate that an allowance for standing bean inspections be developed. It will also help improve inspection efficiency and provide more timely service to growers. Inspector discretion as to the ability to accurately inspect the field or decline to inspect the standing crop will be key to the success of this standard change.
- 4. The development of a Wyoming Bean Law is not recommended by the committee.**
 - a. Strong grower sentiment against being required to plow down a field was noted.
 - b. Strong grower sentiment against either a lack of compensation for destroyed fields or the need to fund an indemnity fund was noted.
 - c. The need to open at least two existing Wyoming statutes, including the Weed and Pest Law, in addition to developing a bean law and indemnity fund, were significant disincentives when combined with the relatively infrequent occurrence of bacterial bean disease in Wyoming.
 - d. The committee understands that following the implementation of the Idaho Bean Law, that the incidence of bacterial bean disease is extremely rare and very limited when it does occur. The potential that the Idaho climate does not support disease and that there may well be other hosts for the disease do not provide sufficient confidence that a Wyoming bean law would be effective, or even effective enough to off-set the negatives associated with one.

5. **The committee recommends the following standards change regarding field history requirements for fields with confirmed bacterial bean disease: A field on which Bacterial Blight has been found will not be eligible to grow a class of certified bean seed until it has been cropped two years to crops other than beans (*Phaseolus* sp.), Soybeans, Lupines, or Cowpeas, or cropped one year to crops other than beans with the bean seed crop being inspected twice during the growing season and once at crop maturity.**
 - a. It was estimated that there may be up to 20% of the growers in the Powell area that are in a two-crop rotation such as beans and barley. The current standard would allow a grower to grow a barley crop, a commercial bean crop, and then a barley crop and be eligible to grow seed beans in the fourth year. This does not serve the purpose of breaking the disease cycle, and with the production of commercial beans, there is no oversight of that crop. This standards change was seen as an improvement over the current standard regarding disease assessment, as well as allowing growers with limited cropping opportunities the ability to produce seed.
 - b. It was also noted that contractors could set more stringent field history standards.