

Wyoming Crop Improvement Association Southeast District Meeting Tentative Agenda

December 8, 2011
Community Center
708 Lawson, Pine Bluffs, WY
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

In attendance: Steve Knox, Lance Theobald, Albert Kranz, Theron Anderson, Hank Uhden, Bret Hess, Keith Kennedy, Mike Moore, and Tim Anderson

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

Theron Anderson moved, Albert Kranz second, to approve the 2010 minutes. Motion carried.

Inspection Season Report

Mike Moore gave a report on the 2011 field inspection season. The acres enrolled in the program dropped by about 8,000 acres from the previous year, with the majority of that drop the result of fewer dry beans, although alfalfa seed acres were also down. The decrease in acres did not cause financial problems, and given that it is likely that bean acres will increase in 2012, there is no concern for the financial solvency of the program. It was noted that the lighter inspection load, especially dry bean windrow inspections, was appreciated by the staff. Staffing levels are excellent, and allow the program to serve clients in a timely manner, and should for the foreseeable future.

The season went well, with no real surprises. The change in fees for small grain fields that allowed reduced fees if a field is withdrawn post-inspection due to hail worked well in the SE, taking pressure off of Jack Cecil. In the NW, the one issue that was shared was related to problem weeds that had set seed prior to labor working in the field. It was pointed out that unless the method of harvest is such that those weeds will not be picked up by the combine, they must be removed from the field. Examples of nightshade, knapweed, and whitetop were given. While it seems pretty straightforward that those plants with seed on them must be removed from the field, there were several situations this year that indicated more communication and education was necessary.

Jack Cecil, who was unable to attend due to birthday celebration plans, asked the group to discuss the seed treatment requirements related to seed that has a seed-borne disease, such as smut. This past season, some fields had blackened awns/chaff in low areas, which after sampling and testing proved to be an *Alternaria* complex, and there was concern that treating the seed might be necessary. While it was determined that this case did not warrant that requirement, there is wording in the standards that indicates that seed may be required to be treated if "...chemically controllable seed-borne diseases are noted upon field inspection or laboratory examination...". The group discussed the options related to seed testing, and there are significant issues with that requirement. First

of all, most people do not want treated seed. It does not flow well in drills, causing seeding rate issues. It is a hassle, and left-over seed cannot be sold as commercial grain once it has been treated, and most see it as an unnecessary expense. The fact that there are people that purchase Certified seed for organic production is a major problem, as the requirement to treat the seed would mean that it could not be sold for organic production. Tim Anderson indicated that he had treated quite a bit of seed, so there are at least some customers who see the need/value. The requirement to treat seed has not been invoked in the time Mike Moore has been here, so it is unlikely. **A motion was made by Theron Anderson, second by Albert Kranz, for Mike Moore to develop wording that would keep the current requirement for Foundation and Registered classes, and to require communication with customers of the Certified class, and present it at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.**

Trait Testing as Part of Seed Certification

Clearfield wheat varieties were developed using genetics from BASF. The lines with that trait were given to breeding programs, but as varieties were released, BASF imposed obligations, such as the use of the Clearfield Confirm test. BASF asked AOSCA, and individual seed certifying agencies, to use the Confirm test in the determination of seed lot eligibility. Vigorous discussions at the national and regional levels occurred regarding the need to test for critical traits, such as Clearfield (critical meaning that the crop will be dead if the trait is not present), in order to remain relevant as opposed to the basic seed certification premise that certification is based on a visual inspection, not genetic testing. In the end, AOSCA developed wording that would allow for trait testing if the owner/maintainer of the variety puts that additional requirement in the variety description or provided an amendment to the description to that affect. The wording was broadened beyond just trait testing, to allow for standards that exceed seed certification standards, such as increased isolation. In the event that a test or standard cannot be administered by a seed certifying agency, they will not be able to certify the variety. Recommended wording was provided in the General Standards portion of the Grower Handbook that would allow Wyoming to administer an additional certification requirement. A motion to approve that wording is found in the following section of these minutes.

Experimental Variety Program

It is fairly common practice in alfalfa seed production to have seed of a variety that is still undergoing testing produced so that seed will be available for sale at the time of variety release rather than waiting one or more years for seed production to get underway. The several states, including this program, have been using an Experimental Variety designation to provide certification services for this situation. Typically, the variety description is incomplete, but is sufficient for field inspection. All standards for the crop and class of seed are used during production, and seed that meets those standards is eligible for certification upon variety acceptance. This has been done informally, but this past summer, AOSCA approved the Experimental Variety program. Recommended wording for inclusion in the General Standard area of the Grower Handbook was provided. Use of this system will allow for seed movement across state lines without the need to question what was done in another state. **Theron Anderson moved, Albert**

Kranz second, to accept the recommended changes to the General Standards (related to this topic and the trait testing topic). Motion carried.

Small Grain Standards

A recent on-site evaluation by AOSCA found that the current Wyoming small grain isolation standard of “a strip of ground adequate to prevent mechanical mixtures” was not in compliance with the AOSCA minimum standard of “10 feet between different varieties”. Recommended wording was presented to change to the Wyoming standard to the AOSCA minimum. The change was made at AOSCA several years ago, but Mike evidently missed the memo. **Lance Theobald moved, Theron Anderson second, to accept the recommended changes. Motion carried.**

Crop Research Foundation of Wyoming

Keith Kennedy reported that it was decided to wait for an additional year of data before making a release decision on “322”, a winter wheat line from the CSU wheat breeding program. A Wyoming Wheat Commission meeting provided an opportunity for Dr. Scott Haley, CSU Wheat Breeder, to provide background in interpreting the data we have, and following that, a decision to go ahead with a Breeder seed increase in Arizona was made. Three acres were planted, and should provide sufficient seed to start Foundation seed production. 322 has average milling and baking quality, has done well in Wyoming yield trials, and there should be more than enough data to support a release decision following with this year’s crop. Another CSU line, 337-2, is also a co-release option. This line is of interest to the Kansas Wheat Alliance as well. Some discussion as to royalties and up-front prices occurred, with no clear guidance as to what they should be other than to cover the cost of PVP (\$5,000) and the Breeder seed increase (\$3,000). Keith did share that in the case of 322, a \$0.60 per bushel royalty will go to the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation. He also shared that several programs have royalties at \$0.90.

Keith then spoke to the study at the Powell R&E Center, which is a planting rate/planting date study. Winter wheat has been grown on a very limited basis in northern Wyoming, and there have been producer questions as to planting date options. The study has winter wheat planted every two weeks starting on September 1, with 20 and 100 lb. per acre planting rates. The later rate increases with later planting dates, with the expectation that increased planting rates will off-set reduced tillering. The 20 lb. seeding rate is commonly used when there is limited Breeder seed available, and should give an indication of the potential to produce Breeder seed in Powell. Theron Anderson said that a hoe drill and planting into stubble would help with winter survival. Mike pointed out that while that is an option under pivots or dryland, it was not an option for furrow irrigation.

Keith also spoke about on-farm small grain test strips/plots, where growers would be given enough seed to plant 40 ft. wide strips a half mile long of several varieties. At harvest, the grain would be weighed to get a yield, and while it is not a scientific study, it will be excellent for demonstration purposes. Discussion about engaging the area Extension Educator for field tours or assistance resulted in the fact that Jeff Edwards is already on board.

Bret Hess AES Report

The Natural Resources Department has changed its name to the Ecosystems Science and Management Department. A handout giving details and forms for submitting soil samples to the Colorado State Soil, Water and Plant Testing Laboratory was given to everyone. Bret explained that the current lab, with its antiquated equipment and soon-to-retire director, Kelly Belden, made more sense to cease processing public samples than to retool. Samples may still be submitted via area Extension Educators or UW Research Scientists, but public samples will not be processed. The Laramie R&E Center hired a new director in March, and the Sheridan R&E Center's new researcher will start January 1st. There has been an increase in students in the College of Ag since the Hathaway scholarship was instituted, with record student numbers last year. The Sheridan R&E Center is receiving a lot of attention at this time. The Wyarno location has water issues, as two of the three wells have been significantly impacted by CBM drilling in the area. It has provided an opportunity to research soil and water issues from CBM water releases, and will continue to be used for dryland research and long-term trials that are already in place. The Adams Farm, on the south side of Sheridan College, will provide opportunities for irrigated work, with a focus on horticulture.

Hank Uhden Department of Ag Report

Federal changes to the potato rules mean that there is a need for more potato inspectors, in fact, Polly Cross was not present due to an inspection request today. The Department prepared budgets with 2%, 5%, and 8% cuts at the direction of the Governor. While implementation of cuts is not imminent, the higher levels of cuts would have a major impact on the Department. Select members of the JAC may be driving this exercise rather than the entire JAC, and there may not be a need for any cuts. Seed Law revisions should be on the WCIA Annual Meeting agenda, so that the final request for changes can go to the interim committee in March. Finally, the EPA Region 8, 9, and 10 staff will be in Powell for a tour, and Hank asked that Powell R&E Center, Seed Lab, and Seed Certification staff be prepared to host them.

Election

Tim Anderson was re-elected to the SE District Board of Director position by unanimous ballot.

Closing Comments

Keith Kennedy noted that this legislative session is likely to be dominated by apportionment discussions, and that it may be painful. He also noted that Gerry Geis is expected to retire, which will leave a big hole.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.