

CERTIFIED SEED CLEANINGS

Utah Crop Improvement Association Room 320, AgSci Bldg., Utah State University
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(435) 797-2082
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2012

ANNUAL SEED SCHOOL AND SEED INDUSTRY MEETINGS

The Utah Crop Improvement Association and Utah Seed Council will host the Utah Seed Industry on Friday, Feb. 24, 2012 in Brigham City, UT. We will meet at the Bridgerland Applied Technology College on 1100 South (main access road from I-15 to Hwy 89/91 and Logan) in conference room 103, starting at 8:30 a.m., with light refreshments. *See next page for complete program.* **PLEASE RSVP USING THE COUPON ON THIS PAGE.**

USU DRILL BOX SURVEY

(Report from 2011 Seed School)

Earl Creech, USU Extension Agronomist, explained that over the last 50 years USU researchers have been tracking the quality of small grain seed that farmers have been planting. Unlike corn and alfalfa and other crops where almost all seed is purchased, it is possible to save seed of small grains for replanting, leading to the possibility of planting seed with poor viability, purity, and lots of weed seeds. The initial survey was done in 1958 and the most recent in 2001. Seed samples were collected from drills, trucks, or bags by USU Extension personnel, and analyzed by the Utah State Seed Laboratory.

In 1958, 23% of the samples were Certified, which increased to 45% Certified in 2001. The number of samples containing weed seed decreased from about 50% (40% containing noxious weed seed) in 1958 to about 25% (less than 5% noxious) in 2001.

Wild oats were in 35% of the samples in 1958, dropping to about 10% in 2001. Jointed goatgrass was not present in samples until 1988, but farmers became aware of it and it decreased by 2001. In all these surveys, Certified seed had almost no weed seed and had better quality (purity, germination) as compared with non-certified seed.

Some samples over the years have had a tremendous amount of weed seeds, and it seems ironic that some farmers go to great lengths to prepare their fields and put the crops seeds at just the right depth and moisture conditions, but place lots of weed seeds into those same conditions.

The drill box survey is going to be conducted again in 2012, so you may see your county agent or others out collecting samples as you plant this spring or fall. Hopefully this effort will direct more farmers to buying

Certified seed, which of course is good for the Certified seed industry.

COMPOST EFFECTS ON DRYLAND WHEAT

PRODUCTION (Report from 2011 Seed School).

According to Earl Creech, this research was started by David Hole (USU wheat breeder) and others in 1994 at a dryland farm site near Snowville. About 22 tons/acre of dairy compost (manure and bedding) was applied, and showed a wheat growth and yield response, but it was not even close to being economically feasible. However, it was noted in 2010 that positive effects on yield due to residual soil organic matter were still evident 16 years later. This has implication for both conventional and organic wheat growing, and whatever is good for increased wheat production is also good in general for the seed industry. **Note:** The complete field research project report has been recently published as "Residual Effects of Compost on Soil Quality and Dryland Wheat Yield Sixteen Years after Compost Application", Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 76:278-285, J.R. Reeve, J.B. Endeiman, B.E. Miller and D.J. Hole.

RSVP PLEASE

Please complete this coupon and send in an envelope or call (435) 797-2233, or fax (435) 797-0642, or email (keren.williams@usu.edu) if you plan to attend the Seed School so we can make arrangements for the luncheon.

I (we) will be attending the UCIA/USC Seed School meeting at Brigham City, UT on Friday, Feb. 24, 2012.

Number of people attending luncheon _____

Name(s): _____

Company/Farm/Agency: _____

SEED SCHOOL AND ANNUAL MEETING

Sponsored by Utah Seed Council and Utah Crop Improvement Association

Bridgerland Applied Technology College, Conference Room 103

325 West 1100 South, Brigham City, UT

Friday, Feb. 24, 2012, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

- 8:30 a.m. Pre-Meeting Social – Light Refreshments
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome – Curtis Marble, President, UCIA
Meeting Chairman: Bruce Hubbard, Director, UCIA
- 9:05 a.m. Latest News on Aquila and Baldwin Barleys, and Curlew, Garland, Greenville, and Lucin CL Wheats – Michael Bouck, UCIA, USU, Logan, UT
- 9:20 a.m. Seed Industry Panel: Seed Market Opportunities from Alfalfa to Zamia.
1) Paul Beus (Wheatland Seed, Brigham City, UT): Safflower, Beans, Sugar Beets, Forage Mixes
2) Orson Boyce (Utah Seed, Clearfield, UT): Grasses, Forbs, Kochia
3) Klint Atkinson (Oasis Seed, Delta, UT): Alfalfa
4) Mike McDermott (Western Seeds, Tremonton, UT): Wheat, Barley, Oats, Triticale
- 10:10 a.m. Seed Matters from Circleville to Washington, DC – Stanford Young, UCIA, USU, Logan, UT.
- 10:45 a.m. Break – Light Refreshments
- 11:00 a.m. Seed Growers Panel: How Do you Grow Seed of Alfalfa to Zamia?
1) Bruce Hubbard (Corinne, UT): Alfalfa, Mint
2) Jay Capener (Tremonton, UT): Safflower, Wheat
3) Dennis Poulsen (Snowville, UT): Barley, Oats, Triticale
4) Ron Reed (Logan, UT): Grass, Forbs, Kochia
- 11:50 a.m. General Reports
1) Utah Department of Agriculture and Food – Rob Hougaard
2) Utah Agricultural Experiment Station – Teryl Roper
3) USU Extension – Earl Creech
4) Utah Seed Council – Orson Boyce
- 12:15 p.m. UCIA Business Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON – Hosted by UCIA at Maddox Ranch House Restaurant, Perry UT (RSVP Please)

NEW FORAGE KOCHIA RELEASES:

Opportunities and Implications for the Seed Industry (Report from 2011 Seed School).

Blair Waldron, ARS/FRRRL in Logan, said that he has been studying forage kochia for several years. The only cultivar of forage kochia (*Bassia prostrata*) currently available is Immigrant, which is a low-growing plant with woody lower stems and roots (semi-shrub). It was released in the early 1980's by the UDWR Great Basin Experiment Station in Ephraim. Though sometimes difficult to get established (planting on the snow surface seems to have best results), it improves cattle carrying capacity for winter ranges due to higher protein and digestibility than dry grasses have. Wildlife such as mule deer, smaller mammals, and even birds such as sage grouse also have been shown to benefit from Immigrant. It does not tend to be invasive, and in fact several studies show that native plants coexist and even increase into kochia established areas. Kochia has been shown to establish and improve conditions in cheatgrass infested areas where native plants are being out-competed. It also serves as green strips for slowing wild fires.

Dr. Waldron has been evaluating kochia germplasm collections he made in Kazikstan and Uzbekistan as compared with Immigrant. The goal has been to develop a taller kochia type that enables improved forage yield, and also accessibility of animals to the plants above the snow. Two selections being studied for release have seed yield about the same as Immigrant, but the seeds are larger and plant establishment is better. They have a gray-green color, thicker stems, and produce more forage of better protein than Immigrant. Other selections being studied are greener and denser than Immigrant for improved firebreak possibilities, and some have substantially greater salt tolerance so they can compete against the weed halogeton.

Once other kochia varieties besides Immigrant are growing on the rangelands, the wild collection of seed of Immigrant may be curtailed as mixed stands will become more common. Thus, more certified field production of seed will probably result. However, Immigrant is a diploid and the taller types are tetraploid and hexaploid, so any interbreeding is likely to produce sterile hybrids.

Note: In early January, 2012, the UAES Variety Review Committee recommended approval of "Snowstorm" cultivar forage kochia. This is one of the selections referred to above, tested as OTVSEL or Otavny-select. It traces its parentage to germplasm collected from Uzbekistan. Snowstorm is a pubescent, upright growing plant averaging about 30" tall (*Bassia*

prostrata spp. *grisea*) with a ploidy level of 4x (tetraploid). This is in contrast to the more smooth-stemmed and low-growing (about 12-15") Immigrant (*Bassia prostrata* ssp. *vivescens*).

Snowstorm sets seed about two weeks earlier than Immigrant, reaching full seed maturity in early to mid-November; seed yield was similar to Immigrant, but 100 seed weight is significantly greater (0.140 g vs. 0.086 g). Snowstorm has about 40% higher forage yield than Immigrant with higher protein and digestibility.

There is some stock seed available for planting this winter and spring (2012), but a Material Transfer Agreement with the ARS will have to be signed since it has not been officially released yet by the ARS. Contact Dr. Waldron at 435-797-3073 or blair.waldron@ars.usda.gov for more information.

NEW USU WHEAT AND BARLEY MATERIALS (Report from 2011 Seed School)

Michael Bouck filled in for David Hole and Justin Clawson. He said that Aquila barley (released from USU several years ago for irrigated production) is a couple of weeks earlier than most other barleys. That makes it very competitive for dryland production since it also has excellent test weight and yields about the same or better than other barleys (including two-row) used for dryland conditions.

The USU Cereals Program is also working on some fall barley lines that show promise. Also a new hard red irrigated wheat will likely be released this fall. It is a bit taller than Garland, but shows better yield, milling quality, and has stripe rust resistance. Lucin CL (herbicide tolerant) has been officially released. It is similar to Deloris wheat in yield and quality performance. For more details, go to wheat.usu.edu.

UTAH SEED COUNCIL

(Summary of Minutes from 2011 Seed School)

Terry Freeman (Utah Seed Lab), as newly appointed secretary of the Utah Seed Council, provided minutes for the meeting held at the 2011 Seed School. Following is a summary:

The meeting was chaired by Bruce Hubbard, President.

UDAF Report – Rob Hougaard reported that seed lab analyst Liza Hippolito had moved to California and Duane Smith had been hired to replace her. He will undergo training to be a certified seed analyst. Stan Akagi said that about 1800 samples had been tested by the seed lab (1200 service, 600 official regulatory), and about 7% of the regulatory samples were found to be in violation, which is about average. The Seed Lab is

now able to provide PDF seed reports by email upon request.

USU Extension Service and UAES Report – Ralph Whitesides reported that budgets are about the same at the university (not good), but that the new College of Agriculture building should be finished in January 2012. He said that the enrollment at the distance and regional campuses has increased and is nearing the enrollment on campus.

NRCS Report – Niels Hansen (NRCS Agronomist) said that CRP acres are increasing in Utah (512 signups in 2010). Signups in the western states have increased levels due to corn acres in the midwest staying in corn with ethanol profits. Farmers in poor wheat growing areas (10" or less precip) should consider CRP, which helps stimulate the reclamation seed market.

BLM Report – Aaron Wilkerson (SLC Office) said that good progress is being made in Utah and surrounding states to stabilize seed collecting permit prices at around 10% of the wholesale price per pound. Work on local resource management plans and better enforcement should also improve things for seed collectors. He said that there will be a seed industry panel discussion at the Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program in Moab on March 8-10, 2011. Wayne Padgett is the coordinator of the CPNPP and hopes to encourage wildland collection to increase seed supply for projects on the Colorado Plateau.

Reclamation Seed Industry Report – Ron Stevenson handed out a survey asking for opinions and experiences for collection issues that still need to be addressed regarding policy and pricing. He also distributed a survey addressing the "boom or bust" nature of the seed industry (tied to wildfires). He pointed out that there are millions of acres of rangelands that need improvement and that the BLM could level out seed demand by getting funding to treat these acres and adjust their seed buys accordingly. He included in the survey a proposal from Scott Lambert to the Utah Seed Council on how Scott could lobby at state and national levels for regular funding for proactive reseeding work. The survey is meant to determine attitude towards the support and funding venture. Orson Boyce pointed out Scott Lambert's unique qualifications (botanist, former BLM

National Seed Coordinator, etc.). Both of these surveys are to be distributed to dealers and collectors not in attendance at these meetings. Ron stated that he would schedule a Utah Seed Council Meeting in Ephraim later this year to discuss results of these surveys and other issues relating to the Reclamation Seed portion of the seed council.

Agronomic Seed Industry Report – Bruce Hubbard said that a lot of the agronomy issues had been covered in the Seed School, but concern with proper analysis tagging of seed lots in accordance with the Utah Seed Law needs to be clarified. In general, it was agreed that full labeling is not required if seed is stored at a seed conditioner or warehouse, or when being transported from one wholesaler to another. The issues of who is a wholesaler or retailer, and when the seed is actually offered for sale may need further clarification. However, it was agreed that seed being exposed for sale to the end user or transported for sowing is subject to proper labeling.

A related discussion regarding seed dealer licensing ensued. Ron Stevenson said that he and several others feel strongly that licensing would bring credibility and order to the seed industry, and that most of the states around Utah had such a program. Clair Allen and Rob Hougaard responded that this would have to be approached as a bill in the legislature as an "Act", not just listed in the "Rules". It would have to show potential for self-funding as far as state regulation, perhaps based on dealer size in a similar manner to nursery licensing. A legislative sponsor would have to be found by September of the year before it would be considered by the legislature. Orson Boyce suggested that building a seed dealer consensus would be necessary to move forward.

The minutes from the last meeting and the treasury report were accepted as presented by Orson Boyce. Motions were approved to elect Ron Stevenson as Utah Seed Council President, Orson Boyce as President Elect (vacating his Secretary-Treasurer position), and Terry Freeman as Secretary-Treasurer. **Note:** The complete Seed Council Minutes are available from Terry Freeman, Utah Seed Lab, terryfreeman@utah.gov.

UCIA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Directors elected by mail nomination and ballot in 2011 were: **District 1: Curtis Marble, Corinne; Bruce Hubbard, Corinne; Dennis Poulsen, Snowville. District 2: Ron Stevenson, Ephraim.**

UCIA members have received nomination ballots for two vacancies in District 1 (Utah north of I-80) and two vacancies in District 2 (Utah south of I-80).

Officers elected at the Board of Directors Meeting Dec. 6, 2011 in SLC were:

President: Curtis Marble, Corinne; Vice-President: Alan Mitchell, Vernon; Exec. Committee Member: Jason Rhodes, Ephraim.