



President's Newsletter

Oregon Seed Association

7/9/2015

Edition 1

Welcome

I am excited and honored to be your 2015-16 OSA President. I would like to say thank you to Bryan Muntz for seven years of service, not to mention a willingness to continue to participate in committee work. I would also like to extend a thank you to Todd Bond for his year of service as President. I will remember him for his diplomacy with members, directors and growers. I will always appreciate his humility as a leader.

-Greg Loberg

"The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways."

- John F. Kennedy

Highlights & Key Issues

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you, the members, informed on what is happening with the organization, in the industry and in the legislature. First, I want to touch base on a few takeaways from the 2015 Summer Convention that many of us attended a few weeks ago.

- OSA agreed to reconvene the Stewardship Committee following the legislative session and to consider adding new requirements to products of unconventional plant breeding in our Stewardship Policy.
- OSA also wants to pursue improved reporting of grass seed supply data across the entire industry and to work toward a legislative proposal for the 2017 session.
- Bob Harriman of The Scotts Company gave an informative presentation on his company's approach to introducing biotech grass. He spent time explaining the precautions the company plans for both production and marketing, and the commitment to working with OSA.

2015-2016 Board

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OSA Presidential Goals

- Invite member input
- Create coexistence strategy for products of unconventional plant breeding before next legislative session
- Grow more political muscle
- Protection of intellectual property
- Better industry data reporting
- Continue to build on timely communication to members
- Address seed lab uniformity issues
- Execute, update and report on OSA 5-year strategic plan
- Address transportation for exports
- Create OSA video and ad
- Continue to develop associate member participation
- Build scholarship opportunities and student involvement with OSA
- Unify purposes with WVSSA
- Incorporate younger members into committee involvement participation
- Meet periodically with past presidents

**Note: These goals will be updated throughout the year depending on industry issues and committee meetings.

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I'm always happy to talk with OSA members. Give me a call or send me an email with any questions, ideas or concerns you might have.

In the News...

Recently, I participated in the 27th Annual Conference of the North American Agricultural Biotechnology Council (NABC). I spoke on the “Coexistence in the Oregon Seed Industry,” wrote a paper and was part of a three-person panel taking questions from the audience. Most participants came from leading U.S. and Canadian universities, with a few others from the federal government. A final report is issued by NABC and it is circulated among policy makers in Washington D.C.

Engaging in this conference furthers the strategic plan of OSA, particularly related to Domestic Policy goals. This was an opportunity to “Be a respected, leading voice on domestic policy issues impacting the seed industry.” In particular, OSA enhanced its partnership with a key technology organization, increased its visibility with government officials and regulators, and advanced stewardship policy concepts. Some of my comments can be found in the magazine, “International Innovation” [here](#).