



# President's Newsletter

Oregon Seed Association

4/13/2016

Edition 3

As I prepare my third newsletter as president of OSA, I realize that I have reached the fourth quarter! The first three quarters of the OSA year are behind us already. There is a saying, "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." I look forward to piloting the flurry of activity leading up to our summer convention with ASTA, and this newsletter is another chance to remind you of what we have been working on.

– Greg Loberg

## Member Communications

One of my goals for the year was to strengthen timely communication to members. From email blasts to the OSA website, we are doing more than ever to keep you informed. I hope you are taking time to review the many resources posted at the OSA website.

Along with my newsletters and those from *Angie Blacker*, we have added a Legislative Updates section. Relevant industry news is posted, and minutes

from membership meetings are available in a timely fashion. Also posted are OSA policies and the new position statement on grass seed products that are genetically modified or engineered.

You will find links throughout the website to help you move quickly from resource to resource. Let us know how we can be even better in communicating with you.

## Legislative & Agency Activities

Since our Mid-Winter Meeting, the Special Session of the Oregon Legislature has come and gone. We continue to find challenges with a legislature that does not consistently support our use of natural resources for food, feed, fiber and seed. OSA took positions against two bills intended to remove preemption of local control of GE products. With a first time ever partnership with the Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association, we successfully lobbied against that legislation.

Conversely, the minimum wage in Oregon was increased significantly and it is difficult to conclude that our opposition affected the strong political determination for the increase. OSA members recognized the disadvantage placed on the

Oregon seed industry with a higher minimum wage and asked us to take a position in opposition to the change. I suspect that this is the first time that OSA took a legislative position that was not directly seed related. Unfortunately, we will have plenty of work to do going forward in order to defend our industry.

*Angie Blacker* and I testified in support of funding for a part-time seed regulatory position at a public hearing held in January at the Oregon Department of Agriculture. *Bryan Muntz* also attended the hearing. No one testified in opposition. I believe that our transparency with this initiative was helpful, particularly in regular updates at Oregon Seed Council meetings.

## 2015-2016 Board



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## Highlights & Key Issues

### Production Surveys

OSA has entered a partnership with the Oregon Ryegrass Commission, the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission, and the Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association to generate a NASS grower survey. This has been done for a number of years and we have agreed this year to participate with one third of the required funding.

Furthermore, we continue to pursue an overall summary report utilizing all industry-wide available data.

### Oregon Seed Certification

We are tracking closely with the hiring process for a new manager of the OSU Seed Lab. *Jake Stockfleth* is on the selection committee. We met with the leadership at OSU in December to outline our wishes and continue to provide feedback as the hiring process unfolds.

### OSA Intern Program

In the area of human resource development, we continue to work

with OSA members to employ a third summer intern in 2016 for the second year of the program. We are working to include OSU Seed Services as a component as well. This is a small beginning, but one that can be enlarged over time and draw positive attention to expanding opportunities in our seed industry.

At our winter meeting, we awarded over \$6,000 to eight Oregon State University students. Let's keep it up!

*"The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops,  
but the cultivation and perfection of human beings."*

*- Masanobu Fukuoka*

## Upcoming Events



### Summer Convention

We continue with plans for the joint convention of OSA and ASTA. Most committee meetings will be conducted jointly with similar committees within ASTA. OSA committee chairs will coordinate with the ASTA staff that leads their committees. This will be a relatively expensive site with a few extra uncertainties. We want to encourage sponsorship not only from our steady associate members, but also from our active members. The registration is on-going and all indications point to a well-attended convention.

Let's make sure OSA truly helps make this a trailblazing convention with our colleagues at ASTA!

## 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.

**I look forward to your feedback, comments or concerns. Feel free to contact me at any time.**

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