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Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that we are already more than half way through March; grass is growing and lawns are getting mowed. Now, if only the weather would cooperate everywhere else, we can get down to doing what we do so well—marketing seed. Thus far, 2013 has been a busy year. I know many have been racking up the air miles and making sure everything is in place to fill the needs of the customer, so let spring begin already.

On a local front, OSA has been busy; one such item is the forming of an advisory committee with ODA to help streamline the working relationship between OSA and ODA. We want to thank ODA for bringing this forward, and those who met last month to start this process moving, I think it will be a great benefit for our international business. Other items that have been on our minds this last winter, canola, fluorescence, and of course stewardship continue to be mentioned. We have been discussing these topics for a while now, and had the volume turned up in the last session in Salem. Please note the updates from Pac/West in this newsletter. Again, the board of OSA cannot say it enough—if you as a member are not engaged in the business that affects all of us, than someone else will make the decision for you, and you will have to figure out how to deal with it after the fact.

At our winter meeting, we asked for volunteers to be on the following committees: 1) Stewardship, 2) Fluorescence, and 3) Crop Improvement investigation. Some have stepped up but more are needed, so please let me know if you are willing to serve on any of these committees this spring so we can have some good discussions prior to our summer meeting.

Speaking of which, your registration packets should be going out soon with all the details for this year's "***Celebrate the Past – Look Towards the Future***" summer convention to be held June 26-28 at Salishan Resort. You will see that a nice program has been lined up for everyone in your company, so we encourage as many of you that can to please attend. With the new date and location, we are expecting great participation so we can continue to guide our path for the future, and not just react to what is thrown at us. Please look over the material closely when you receive it, and plan to use this program to enhance your abilities and better our association.



As in the past we will still have our golf tournament, and silent auction that support scholarships, and this year instead of the fun run we will have a scavenger hunt which should be fun and interesting for all ages who wish to participate. Our Thursday night program will feature an ensemble of photos of the past, present, and maybe even some future members, so please get [Risa DeMasi](#) the best pictures you can find. If you have any stories you would like to share from the past, please write them down or record them and send them in as well. Let's have some fun with this.

The highlight will be the Friday night banquet with some great entertainment, which you will really enjoy, as well as great food and company. The weekend will be left free to do what you want on your way home.

Convention sponsorships are available now. Please see the [attached flier](#) and contact [Angie Blacker](#) immediately if you wish to contribute to the convention. Sponsors get first priority of the 8 available exhibit tables, so act fast!

Remember time flies regardless if we are having fun or not, so plan now to be a part of something great—the Oregon Seed

Association—we need you.

President,
Duane Klundt

ODA/OSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

In February, representatives from OSA met with representatives from ODA to discuss ways that ODA and seed companies can work more efficiently together. Jim Cramer from ODA proposed this meeting after hearing that several companies were having trouble with the reporting process.

As a result of the meeting, ODA has agreed to begin moving to an electronic form of test and certificate reporting, eliminating faxing and mailing of certificates. To participate in electronic reporting, we need each seed company to provide an email address for the certificates to be sent to. For ODA's system to work best, they are asking for a maximum of two email addresses per company. The best solution long term would be for your IT department to set up a generic email address for your company, such as reports@ABCseed.com and attach any/all email addresses to it that you may need.

Please submit your email addresses to [Mandi Mack](#) by Monday, March 25. At that time, we will submit the list to ODA, and report back to you with a date that they will begin electronic reporting and instructions for viewing and receiving those reports. Also as a result of the meeting, we now have a list of "FAQs" that will help to streamline the paperwork going in to ODA, and will hopefully result in faster, more accurate reporting with less follow-up required between ODA and the testing company. Click [HERE](#) for the FAQ list, and please let us know if there are additional questions you would like addressed in this process.

We are moving forward with an ODA/OSA advisory committee that will hopefully provide an outlet for questions and concerns that come up throughout the year. In the meantime, you can direct your comments, questions and concerns to [Duane Klundt](#), and the issues will be addressed with ODA.

OECD SEED SCHEMES - PROPOSAL ON HERBAGE SEED LOT SIZES

[Attached](#) is the re-written proposal regarding extending lot sizes for grass seed. Please review and contact Gene Wilson **by Wednesday, March 20**, if you have comments.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT—MARCH 15, 2013:

Local Governments Take Spotlight

It was another busy week at the legislature. There was a lot of attention on local government issues, including local pre-emption on the regulation of agricultural products, abolishing the local pre-emption on cigarette taxes, and a bill to extend the sunset on the Gain Share program.

We are approaching the point in the session where the bills that are going to move need to be scheduled. This has resulted in a number of bills receiving public hearings even though they are not ready to be voted on.

SB 633: Local Government Ag Preemption

On Tuesday afternoon, March 11, the halls of the Capitol were filled with farmers, local governments and the agriculture industry to debate the merits of SB 633, legislation preempting local governments from regulating agricultural seed and other seed products. Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena) opened the public comment period supporting the bill. Hansell based his remarks upon his 30 years as a County Commissioner in an extremely Ag dependent region of the state. Hansell noted his strong belief of local control, but preemption, in this instance, is important. The highly technical nature of the agricultural seed industry requires very specific personal and research capabilities from which to properly evaluate and base decisions.

Regulation on these issues belongs at the federal and state level and not fractured through 36 counties.

Oregonians for Food and Shelter attorney John DiLorenzo spoke in favor of the bill, reemphasizing the need to have a consistent statewide policy and not a patchwork of varying county ordinance. Senator Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg), a farmer in his day job, supported the bill as well. Kruse stated that standards are set at the federal level with USDA, and any issues left to the state should be considered at the Department of Agriculture and not individually at the county level. In a similar fashion as Hansel, Kruse believes in local control, but this is an exception.

Two southern Oregon legislators, Senator Alan Bates (D-Medford) and Representative Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) opposed the bill. Bates suggested that the Jackson county area is not like the other regions of the state in that geography plays a role in isolating the region by mountains and rivers. The region does host a large number of organic farmers who are crying foul from GMO products contaminating their product that they cannot sell as a result. Bates suggested that businesses such as Amy's Kitchen rely on firm anti GMO policies.

Buckley claimed in his statement that 92 local farmers have asked for a local ban on GMO crops, and that major corporations such as McDonald's, Heinz and others have stopped accepting GMO products. Buckley also notes that similar local bans in California have proven that these types of local restrictions do not kill farming opportunities.

The Association of Oregon Counties supported the bill for the same reasons as Sens. Hansell and Kruse. Mike McArthur spoke on behalf of the Association, saying that this is a state and/or federal issue; counties simply don't have the resources to effectively manage local programs.

Proponents of the measure have indicated that they have the votes lined up to move the bill out of committee to the Senate floor for further consideration. As this issue percolates, we will keep you apprised of the status of SB 633.

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Set

to Address Canola and Genetically Modified Organisms

This week is shaping up to be a major week in terms of agriculture issues at the Oregon State Capitol. On Tuesday, March 19, the House and Senate will hold hearings regarding canola and where its place should be in the theater of Oregon agriculture. On Tuesday, the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a public hearing on HB 2427, a bill that would restrict the growth of canola in the Willamette Valley.

Also on Tuesday afternoon, the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development will hold an informational hearing on the canola issue (this will be the second informational hearing on canola in this committee). Committee Chair Roblan (D-Coos Bay) invited Katy Coba, director of the Department of Agriculture, to present to the committee regarding her decision to reverse an administrative rule that had previously restricted canola growth in areas of the Willamette Valley. For Tuesday's hearing, Roblan has Carol Mallory Smith and Russ Karow, faculty at Oregon State University, to discuss the scientific issues related to canola.

On Thursday, March 21, the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee is set to hear a series of bills related to genetically modified organisms, including HB 2175, which requires foods that contain or are produced using genetically engineered material subject to labeling requirements, and HB 2532, which requires foods that contain or are produced using genetically engineered material subject to labeling requirements.

If you have any questions about this legislative update **or would like to attend one of the above hearings**, please email [Greg Miller](mailto:greg.miller@oregon.gov), Executive Director, or call 503-858-4416.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oregon Department of Agriculture Ag Progress Dinner: March 20

The Oregon Department of Agriculture Ag Progress dinner is Wednesday evening, March 20, at the Mission Mill in Salem.

OSA has 6 tickets already purchased for this dinner. If you are interested in representing OSA at this event, please RSVP to [Angie Blacker](#).

OSA Board Meeting: April 9

The next OSA board meeting will be held on April 9. If you have any discussion topics or industry concerns you would like addressed by the board members, please submit those to [Duane Klundt](#).

Gateway to the Globe, The Port of Portland's Annual Luncheon: April 9

OSA members are invited to the annual Port of Portland luncheon on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, with keynote speaker Lorrie Vogel, General Manager of Sustainable Product Research and Development at NIKE. The State of the Port address will be given by Bill Wyatt, Executive Director, Port of Portland. The event will be held from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Hilton Portland, Grand Ballroom, 921 SW 6th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Please RSVP by April 3 to [Kelly Tannock](#) or 503-415-6005.

AOSA/SCST 2013 Convention: May 17-24

The AOSA/SCST annual convention is being held in Boise, Idaho, May 17-24, 2013. This is the largest gathering of seed testing professionals and they come from all over the United States, Canada and Europe. For more information, please see the [attached](#).

Oregon Seed Association Summer Convention: June 26-28

The 44th annual OSA Summer Convention is scheduled for June 26-28 at Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach,



Oregon. Registration forms will be mailed in mid-April, and registrations made prior to May 31 will receive special early bird pricing. In the meantime, make your reservations with Salishan before May 26 to guarantee space/rate availability. Contact 1-800-452-2300 or online at www.salishan.com. Don't forget to mention Oregon Seed Association for convention rates.

If you have any questions, please contact [Angie Blacker](#) or call

503-685-7578. We look forward to seeing you in June!



ASTA 2013 Agribusiness Association

Conference: September 15-18

We're making progress on setting up the 2013 Agribusiness Association Conference, a.k.a. "Out-of-Focus". Mark your calendars – we've set Sunday, September 15 through Wednesday, September 18 in Puerto Rico (hotel to be determined) for the meeting.

Please respond to [Pat Miller](#) with your attendance intentions. Registration materials will follow later, and you can certainly change your mind, So, that we can plan accordingly, would you please respond to this message with your attendance intentions? We'll follow-up later with registration information, and you can certainly change your mind, but a "straw-poll" vote will help us with planning. Thanks.

Ab Basu, Jeff Case, Pam Guffain, and I (along with consultation by Mary Hartney) have agreed to produce the conference. We welcome all ideas and suggestions to help make the event a success for you. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

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UPCOMING MEETING DATES: Summer Convention - June 26-29, 2013

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