



# Oregon Seed Association

March 2016 Mid-Winter Meeting

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## 47th Annual Mid-Winter Meeting a Success

In January, the Oregon Seed Association held its 47th annual Mid-Winter Meeting, hosting more than 150 member representatives, speakers and staff at the Salem Conference Center.

Guests included keynote speaker Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, deputy director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture; John Vanderkin, president of Employers Overload; Dr. Jack Qiu, plant pathologist at USDA APHIS PPQ; and Scott Dahlman, policy director of Oregonians for Food and Shelter.

Members discussed issues relating to minimum wage increase, sick pay benefits and international export concerns, and addressed upcoming legislation that would greatly impact the seed industry.

For more information, meeting minutes are available [here](#).



*Dr. Jack Qiu speaks to OSA members at the January meeting.*

## Scholarship Awards

One of the highlights of the meeting was awarding more than \$6,000 in scholarships to eight Oregon State University students. Each year, three types of scholarships are awarded to students seeking higher education in agriculture with aspirations for a future in the seed industry.

Committee Chair Nancy Aerni, Turf Merchants, Inc., presented this year's scholarships.

Recipients of the OSA/OSU scholarship awards included Elizabeth

Hayes, Corvallis, Ore.; Tanner Holland, Corvallis, Ore.; Cesar Juarez, Hood River, Ore.; Levi Graffenberger, Albany, Ore.; Simon Fraher, Olympia, Wash.; and Samantha Roof, Hillsboro, Ore. Elizabeth Hayes also received the American Seed Trade Association scholarship. In addition, Pete Berry and Blake Kerbs, both from Corvallis, Ore., were awarded the William Kent Wiley Jr. Fellowship award.

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients!

## Legislative Activities

The Oregon legislature concluded its short session this month in Salem. Bills such as HB 4041 and HB 4122, which aimed to remove the preemption on local control of GE products, were stopped with a strong lobbying effort in partnership with the Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association. However, GE crops have been a constant legislative target, and we expect to see similar bills in the future. Read more on the February legislative session [here](#).

## OSA Welcomes New Members

OSA is pleased to welcome five new companies into membership.

Betaseed, Thomas Ag Services, Ag 1 Source, West Coast Seed Mill Supply Company, and Expeditors International of Washington were approved by membership at the January meeting.

We welcome these new members and look forward to getting to know them better.



## 2016 Summer Convention



The 2016 OSA Summer Convention will be held jointly with the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) in Portland, Oregon. The convention will be held June 18-22 at The Nines hotel.

Convention highlights will include legislative issues, intellectual property rights, plant breeding, sustainability and the local food movement, plus much more. The convention will feature several excursions for delegates and guests, including a golf tournament, Multnomah Falls tour, Portland Rose Garden/foodie tour, and Fun Run.

The opening reception will be held at McMenamin's Edgefield on

June 19. Transportation from The Nines will be provided.

Tuesday's Gala Banquet will be preceded by a silent auction, with proceeds benefiting the OSA scholarship program.

Entertainment during the convention will include performances by [Soul Vaccination](#), [Zack Poelwijk](#), as well as music by the Seed Industry Jam Band. If you are interested in joining the band, please contact [Michael DeMasi](#). It is sure to be a great time!

To register for the convention, make hotel reservations or get more information, visit [ASTA's website](#).

Click [here](#) to learn more about The Nines venue.

## THANK YOU TO THE MID-WINTER MEETING SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!



WEST COAST  
BEET SEED  
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**From the Executive Director:** *I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual ASTA Vegetable and Flower Seed conference as the state and regional association representative on the Board of Directors. I appreciate the opportunity to serve OSA's membership in this capacity, and look forward to working with ASTA over the next two years on policies and initiatives that will improve the seed industry.*

## Questions or Comments:

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