

Oregon Seed Association Newsletter
April 1, 2017 - Edition 6

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A Message from your President

In this edition of the newsletter, we have highlighted the goals or projects of each of the committees, and included updates on transportation, ODA regulations and the latest legislative news, as well as registration information for the summer convention.

I want to thank all the sponsors who are supporting OSA's events, and hope they are benefiting from the inclusive pricing of our new annual sponsor packages.. A complete list of these sponsors are listed at the end of this newsletter. We appreciate your support and we could not bring great events to our members without your help.

We are deep into planning a great summer convention for all, and I hope you will make plans to join us

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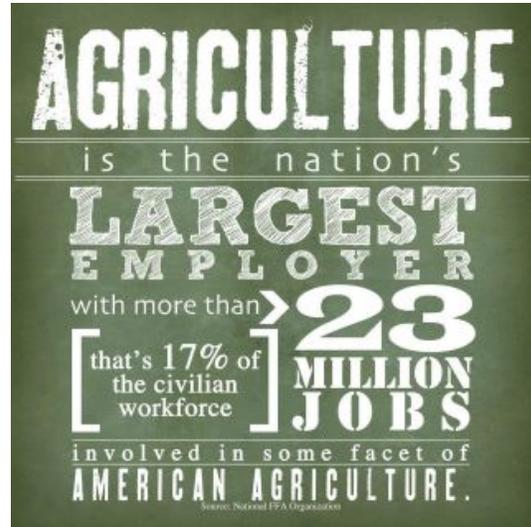
The latest on export issues

[What's New](#)

Annual sponsor packages are now available!

attend the pre-convention reception on June 22 at Deschutes Brewery, one of my favorite locations in Bend. We are planning a family-friendly event. If the indoor-outdoor pool and local family entertainment center is not enough for the kids, then maybe they will like hiking one of Bend's gorgeous trails, rafting down the Deschutes River, or exploring lava cave tours. There is a lot to do in Bend, so make plans to join us this summer.

~Scott Harer, OSA President



**If you are interested in joining a committee,
contact Angie Blacker at
blacker@pacwestcom.com or 503-685-7555**

Committee Activities

Committees and their members serve a vital purpose in forming the direction of the Oregon Seed Association and promoting the cause of the organization:

- Committees serve as a training ground for future association leaders
- Committees serve as a conduit through which the Board receives member input
- Committees enhance the effectiveness of the Board of Directors by providing research analysis and advice needed for policy decisions

In this edition, we will highlight each committee's current projects or goals.

International Committee

- Work with OSU on early OECD tagging
- Continue to work with ODA and USDA on rejections at foreign ports
- Continue to work with ODA and USDA on testing to make sure the proper procedures are used to be in compliance with destination requirements
- Monitor and report on the changes in international shipping
 - Port of Portland
 - Oregon Shipping Alliance
 - Port labor issues local and internationally

Domestic Committee

Chair: Mandi Mack, Vista Seed Partners

Projects:

- Production Data – the Production Data Subcommittee is hard at work compiling data for our ongoing surveys. Lots of effort this fall resulted in a new survey we are still working to improve. More new data to follow
- Transportation – continue to monitor ongoing efforts at Port of Portland, and those by groups such as Common Sense for Oregon that are exploring alternative transportation options in Lebanon, Astoria and Coos Bay
- Emerging Professionals – this group continues to meet regularly. We are exploring ways to integrate the group more within OSA

Emerging Professionals Subcommittee

Chair: Dustin Withee, Smith Seed Services

Goals:

- Continue our general mission of meeting new people, getting them involved and networking, and talking about industry concerns
- Get involved with promoting the industry to younger people through the internship program, scholarship committee and other areas where we can volunteer and be part of the face of OSA

Science & Technology

Chair: Rick Myers, DLF Pickseed USA

Current Projects:

- Korean rejections – there are now issues with the testing of several species. We are working with the ODA & USDA on this
- Rust issue with Japan

Legislative Committee

Chair: Jake Stockfleth, Oregon Seed Cleaning

Goals:

- Work with Pac/West to keep a close eye on legislation that could have an effect on our industry and members
- Strengthen coalitions to support/oppose legislation that effect our industry and testify when needed
- Implement the planned “Invade Salem” initiative with Pac/West’s assistance, to meet with legislators and educate them about the OSA and further increase our standing in the seed industry
- Work with the Emerging Professionals to get them involved with legislative issues, and give them the experience needed to represent the OSA

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Greg Loberg, West Coast Beet Seed Co.

Short Term Goals:

- New ad
- New brochure
- Rework logo (version to remove tag line, better identify Oregon Seed Association)

Long Term Goals:

- Website update
- Social media concept

Associates Committee

Chair: Doug Pickles, Lewis Seed Co.

Goals:

- Maintain the new sponsorship packages and get feedback from members
- Keep the associate members involved and provide feedback for the board

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Nancy Aerni, Turf Merchants

Scholarship Goals:

- Continue to help students meet their goals of a college education

- Work with the Emerging Professionals and Public Relations groups to arrange a career booth at the state FFA convention and other job fairs to show the opportunities within our industry
- Include information on the scholarship opportunities we provide to students interested in the seed industry

Internship Program Goals:

- Match up Emerging Professionals with member companies' needs
- Recruit college students and provide on the job experience
 - Helps future class selection/interests
 - Helps pay college tuition
 - Exposes students to different types of companies
- Retain new talent in the Oregon seed industry
- Create good will with the college

We want to share your company news! If you have something exciting happening, contact Angie Blacker with a press release or news article and it will be posted to the OSA website.



Event Updates

June 23-24, 2017

Registration: Opens mid-April 2017

Lodging Reservations: [Riverhouse on the Deschutes](#) (this is a new link) or call 541-389-3111, option 1

The Annual Summer Convention is not too far away, and we have some fun excursions and activities planned. There is a pre-convention reception at Deschutes Brewery on Thursday evening to get things kicked off. We are organizing a lava cave tour and a white water rafting trip for Saturday for those not participating in the annual golf tournament. For families wanting to stay within walking distance of the resort, we are offering discounted fun cards to the Sun Mountain Fun Center.

The convention will begin with a prayer breakfast led by former Olympian and local resident Dave Johnson. We have also invited federal and local seed certification specialists to participate in a town hall meeting on seed testing practices and labeling procedures.

Rumors are also circulating about a dunk tank at Friday's reception honoring OSA past presidents, with tickets sold for the opportunity to Sink a Seedsman. All proceeds will go to the OSA scholarship program. The reception will be a tailgate themed event, so show your spirit by wearing your favorite sports team's colors or gear.

Don't miss the fun we have in store, and plan on bringing your family to enjoy all that Bend has to offer. Registration will open in mid-April.

Make lodging reservations at 1-800-547-3928 by May 29, 2017, to take advantage of OSA block rates starting at \$189/night. Block rates are good from Thursday, June 22-Saturday, June 24 (departing Sunday).

November Workshop

The workshop in November was well attended with over 70 participants. The workshop focused on seed exports to Canada, with speakers from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on seed testing and noxious weed updates, and Laufer Group International on export paperwork. Attendees enjoyed an engaging and interactive presentation during the lunch hour on how the brain functions when trying to multi-task and how to use that to better manage your time and productivity.

If you have ideas for next year's workshop, please contact Angie Blacker at blacker@pacwestcom.com or 503-685-7555.

Mid-Winter Meeting

The OSA Mid-Winter Meeting was held in January and attended by over 140 participants. Key discussions focused on palmer amaranth, seed production data

Scholarships were presented to nine Oregon State University students seeking higher education within the College of Agricultural Sciences, including:

- Tara Bergland – a first year graduate student researching the efficacy of plant growth regulator mixtures on seed yield and yield components in tall fescue
- Lucas Bobadilla – a first year graduate student studying the frequency and distribution of Glyphosate resistant populations of annual ryegrass
- Samantha Brentano – a senior who would like to go into research and development, possibly as a research agronomist
- Nick Carleson - in the OSU Honors College and the BioResource Research program with a focus on plant-parasitic microbiomes including nematology
- Mitchell Evers – a student hoping to become an agronomist in forage production, domestically or internationally
- Tanner Holland – a senior Ag Sciences major hoping to work as an agronomist or in seed or agricultural sales
- Samantha Roof – a senior BioResource Research major
- Angel Torres – a junior who hopes to become a crop consultant with an agronomic services company
- Brenda Villanueva – a sophomore at OSU focusing on Bio Resource Research

If you have an intern or employment opportunity for any of these students, or would like more information about their focus of studies, please contact Jake Stockfleth at orseed@aol.com or 503-990-4772.

Highlights & Key Issues

ODA Certification Specialist

We asked Nate Miller, ODA Certification Specialist, to give us an update on his first few months on the job. Here is his response:

I have been invited to audit, and had meetings with two wholesale seed dealers and received documentation on 16 lots. These interactions have been very valuable in learning what to generally expect from different operations, and they gave the seed

OSA has received and posted statements from both ODA and WSDA confirming that palmer amaranth is not known to occur in these states. Copies of these statements and other information on testing for palmer amaranth can be downloaded [here](#).

To prevent palmer amaranth from entering the professional seed supply, the native seed industry has

general. I have also received information leading to two different, unrelated investigations. At this point, we have not issued any penalties and they are unlikely to be issued for invited audits. I view the invited audits as a learning experience for everyone to avoid future problems and I want seed dealers to feel comfortable being open and transparent. I would like to encourage seed dealers to contact me for invited audits and other outreach visits. I will also start to conduct random reviews soon.

Nate can be reached at (503)986-4577 or nmiller@oda.state.or.us.

Palmer Amaranth

Palmer amaranth has been the topic of many discussions lately since being classified as prohibited noxious weed by Ohio and Minnesota. Seed testing labs conducting a 25,000 seed noxious exam are now classifying Amaranthus species that cannot be differentiated from Amaranthus palmeri as noxious weed seeds.

development and validation of a rapid DNA test to identify palmer amaranth. This test can be conducted on any seed and takes about two weeks to complete. Alternative DNA methods are being evaluated including the development of pooled seed methods.

Seed Data Compilation Report

The Production Survey subcommittee has hired assistance to compile production data and prepare a statistical analysis of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue across North America. The report tries to capture data across all points, such as set price, exchange rates and commission data. OSA's survey data is included, along with data from NASS and the Grass Seed and Legume report. Regressions are included to graph relevance regarding plantings versus price. For more information, contact James Schneider at jschneider@barusa.com.

Legislative Update

Legal standing to sue patent owners of genetically engineered crops

On Thursday, March 16, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on HB 2739, a bill granting cause of action against the patent owner of a genetically engineered organism. The measure would allow farmers to sue patent owners

patent owner if there is evidence of crosspollination on publicly owned land and the governing body of the land does not sue the patent owner. The legislation creates a significant legal liability for owners of patented biotechnologies and would establish a statutory prejudice against patent owners and farmers growing crops using the technology.

Friends of Family Farmers and the Center for Food Safety introduced the measure to address concerns about the state's policy of coexistence, using the recent media over the escape of a creeping bentgrass trial in central and eastern Oregon to leverage a need for legislative action on the industry. Several advocates pointed to the inaction of the legislature following the governor's task force on the subject as a reason for the legal authority. Advocates of the measure argue that if the legislature will not regulate the industry, then they will self-regulate through litigation.

Debate over state preemption on GE crops

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources heard two hours of public testimony on Thursday, March 16, on HB 2469, which would eliminate the state preemption on genetically engineered (GE) agriculture. The bill would allow cities and counties to establish their own regulations—including anything from outright prohibitions and control areas to labeling requirements and a localized pin-and-mapping system—creating a patchwork of regulations across the state.

Advocates of the measure, primarily organic farmers, argued they need mandated coexistence to protect themselves from pollen drift that could potentially result in them being out-of-compliance with their customer contracts. Opponents of the group include a broad-based coalition of the agricultural industry, arguing it would be virtually impossible to comply with a patchwork of regulations, especially for farmers who own land in multiple cities or counties.

Neonicotinoid insecticides

The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee held public hearings on two bills relating to the use and labeling of neonicotinoid insecticides on Monday, March 27.

SB 928 requires labeling of pesticide products containing neonicotinoids be placed on the front label of shelf products and goes further to require labeling of

horticultural commodities treated with neonicotinoid during any part of its life cycle.

SB 929 would require Oregon's Department of Agriculture to classify neonicotinoids as a restricted-use pesticide. This was the second attempt at this classification since 2014.

Several industry farmers and seed growers testified that if these labeling laws were implemented, they would have an unfair disadvantage in the marketplace as this is not required in any other state.

Emotional testimony was given by backyard pollinators who came from all corners of the state. Dressed in costumes, they told stories and read poems. While this type of visual aide testimony is always interesting, it can detract from the seriousness of the testimony.

The most insightful and informative testimony was presented by Dr. Paul Jepson, the integrated pest management coordinator at Oregon State University who has been involved in national and international pesticide regulation. He lamented that because SB 928 and SB 929 seek to regulate an entire class of pesticide, instead of compounds within the class. Dr. Jepson said he has never seen this type regulatory process and he fears it will have the unintended consequence of "throwing the baby out with the bath water." Dr. Jepson told the committee that SB 928 and SB 929 both fail to weigh the risks versus the benefits and that effective regulations must be a balance that builds from a solid foundation of education to consumers.

The above was excerpted from Pac/West legislative updates dated 3/17/17 and 3/31/17. The full articles can be read [here](#).

[Transportation Update](#)

Port of Portland closes troubled ICTSI chapter involved in labor dispute at Terminal 6

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Port of Portland has officially regained control of its container terminal, but agricultural exporters can't expect shipping from the facility to resume quickly.

International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) Oregon, a terminal operator involved in a long-running labor dispute that brought container shipping at Terminal 6 to a halt.

"This gives us the opportunity to press reset," Keith Leavitt, Port of Portland's chief commercial officer, told the commission.

With ICTSI out of the picture, the port will now seek to repair relations with the International Longshore Workers Union, said Leavitt.

While that partnership is key to resuming service at Terminal 6, finding a new company to run the facility is more complicated, he said.

"How do you proposition when you have no cargo and no volume?" Leavitt said. "The value proposition to an operator is a complex equation."

Read the entire article [here](#).

International Shipping Update

We are closer now to April 1 and the new alliances taking shape. There is an expected increase in volume of roughly nine percent from Asia to the U.S East Coast and a five percent increase expected to the U.S West Coast in 2017. By the end of the year, the top seven carriers in the world will control 70 percent of the global capacity.

*Submitted by: Stephen Petriccione, Laufer Group International,
SteveP@Laufer.com*

Over the Road Trucking

Freight Volumes will Increase in 2017

American Trucking Association's Chief Economist Bob Costello cited a consumer goods consumption growth of 4 percent in 2016 with a prediction that growth will continue in 2017. While overall economic growth was only 2 percent for the year, the acceleration of consumer goods as well as the strong pace of the housing market will combine to help increase freight volumes for 2017.

Costello is projecting a 2.6 percent overall increase in tonnage in 2017 after a flat 2016. (Source: [CCJ, February 23, 2017](#))

Research's monthly freight index, for-hire truckload freight demand in January outpaced available capacity by the largest amount in three years. Truck capacity that was either sitting idle or being underutilized began to get absorbed near the end of 2016 and into January. (Source: [JOC, February 14, 2017](#))

Less Than Truckload (LTL)

LTL merger underscores shifting shipper needs. LTL trucking company, Central Freight Lines, recently announced its planned acquisition of Wilson Trucking, thus extending its LTL services across the country. The deal highlights how shipper demand is shifting, and even when shipping smaller shipments, they need one reliable, safe logistics source for LTL shipments. (Source: [JOC, February 23, 2017](#))

Government Regulations

For trucking regulation, it is a foggy road ahead. While we know that Electronic Logbooks will be required by December of this year, there are a handful of other regulations in development and the end result remains to be seen. Regulations that are still in the works include hours of service, sleep apnea, and automated trucks. (Source: [Supply Chain Brain, February 21, 2017](#))

As market demand increases from all sectors of the economy through 2017 in conjunction with a driver shortage, rates will likely increase. If government regulations increase as they have, we will likely see the full effect of the driver shortage as we get into 2018.

Submitted by: Casey Raybon, CH Robinson, Casey.Raybon@chrobinson.com

What's New!

In November 2016, we launched a new idea for sponsorships based on discussions with our associate members: annual packages that combine all the yearly events, as well as directory ads and other options, for one low price. We are pleased to announce that we have received an overwhelming response to the annual packages that far exceeded our expectations.

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