

Oregon Seed Association Newsletter  
November 1, 2016 - Edition 5

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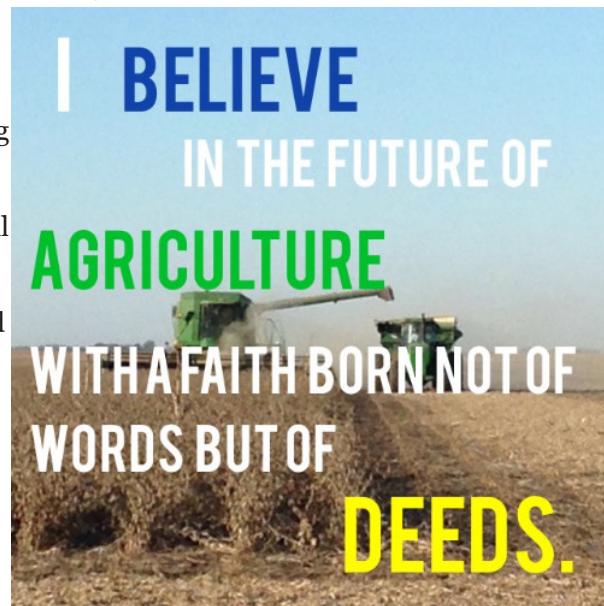
## A Message from your President

It is hard to believe we are already in November. The Board has been working on a number of items and attending meetings to further our industry. The Executive Committee met with the Oregon Seed Council, Oregon Seed Certification and OSU Seed Lab. For years, the Board has been conducting these meetings in an effort to engage with and develop open lines of communication with others in the industry.

The data subcommittee received its first draft of the compiled data and is reviewing it prior to sending to members, which will occur in the next couple of weeks. The goal is to develop the ability to update the data as new information becomes available and project scenarios that could affect the market.

Don't forget that we also have the educational seminar on November 16. I am looking forward to the time management seminar presented by OSU and the update on Canadian seed regulations.

~Scott Harer, OSA President



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The Board has been following many issues, including USDA violations and IP rights

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Get information on event agendas, and make lodging reservations for the summer convention.

# Committee Activities

## **Science & Technology**

Chair: Rick Myers, DLF Pickseed USA

The committee has been following the efforts of the OSU Seed Lab to establish a more accurate reporting method of annual ryegrass in a perennial ryegrass sample. Current research has shown that most fluorescing seedlings are not annual, but rather hybrid, for which there is no current reporting method. The goal is to have the new rule in place by July 2017. Several members of the Board and OSU's seed certification staff visited The Scotts Company for a tour of their research facility where they are using growout testing to determine annual versus perennial.



*Scotts Company growout research*

apart.

### **International Committee**

Chair: Phill Lindgren, Grassland Oregon

Effective November 1, Canadian test reporting rules will change. All OSA members can attend the winter workshop on November 16 to get an overview of how that will affect your current practices.

The committee has been following all efforts to limit export of seed by other countries, including the recent ban by China of all imports from the U.S. unless the container was fumigated for mosquitos. This was in response to the Zika virus listed as a known infection in the U.S. OSA President Scott Harer was [interviewed by KGW](#) on the Chinese import ban. After a short time, the Chinese government amended this rule to only containers originating in Florida.

In late September, OSA was notified that ODA/USDA/APHIS required soil tested for any seed lots shipped to the EU if applying for a phytosanitary certificate. After our inquiry to ODA, they retracted that requirement informing us that it was a misinterpretation of the rules.

The committee is also following transportation issues, such as the announcement that Hanjin filed for bankruptcy. This caused a few delays in getting equipment, and changed what vessels companies are using affecting rates and quality of service. And in some cases, cargo was stuck on ships and/or had to be shipped via air.

Finally, Phill Lindgren attended a meeting with the Port of Portland on October 25 where a brief update was given on Terminal 6. The labor dispute is now in federal court. Once this is resolved, the Port feels they will be able to attract new steamship lines to Portland. But this could take anywhere from 18 months to 3 years, depending on how soon the court cases are resolved.

### **Legislative Committee**

Chair: Jake Stockfleth, Oregon Seed Cleaning

Legislative is closely following Measure 97, which will tax sales over \$25 million for certain types of corporations. The latest polling shows the measure will likely fail. However, our insiders report that, regardless of the outcome of the election, Oregonians could see an identical or similar measure passed by the legislature in the 2017 session to address a \$1.35 billion budget shortfall.

members. This includes monitoring House and Senate hearings held during September and December legislative committee days.

### **Production Survey Subcommittee**

Chair: James Schneider, Barenbrug USA

The subcommittee is working to provide an industry data report that will compile information from several sources. The goal is to give members the tools needed to forecast, as well as to use in price negotiation meetings. The subcommittee also wants to remind members of the importance of participating in OSA's production surveys and reporting data timely and accurately. **The current Winter 2016 data is due by Friday, November 4.**

### **Scholarship Committee**

Chair: Nancy Aerni, Turf Merchants

The committee has met to begin interview preparations for the OSA/OSU scholarship awards, which will be presented at the Mid-Winter Meeting in January. The OSU Crop & Soil Science scholarship committee nominates qualified applicants. Interviews will take place November 15.

Once again this year, OSA attended the career and networking day hosted by the OSU College of Ag. Sciences on October 26. Several members of the Scholarship and Emerging Professionals committees attended the expo, designed to match students with intern opportunities. This is OSA's second year at this event, and interest in our internship program was equally as strong as last year. A total of 21 students signed up to get more information about internships and/or employment after they graduate. **If you are interested in hiring an intern or employee for your company, please contact Angie Blacker or Jake Stockfleth for the list of the students and their areas of interest.**

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*OSU Ag Sciences career and networking day*

We want to thank everyone for helping to make this a successful event for OSA again this year—Nancy Aerni, Jake Stockfleth and Angie Blacker for participating in the student networking event. And an even bigger thank you to the Emerging Professional members who assisted and made the OSA presentation to the students—Dustin Withee, Connor Lewis, Sean Jorgensen and Kirsten Pick.

### **Public Relations Committee**

Chair: Greg Loberg, West Coast Beet Seed Co.

The PR committee has attracted several valuable new members and is already discussing projects for next year. See OSA's ad running in the current fall edition of the *Oregon Seed Magazine*.

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

## Highlights & Key Issues

### **Past Presidents Lunch**

Current president Scott Harer recently invited past presidents and the OSA executive committee to a lunch meeting. Past presidents are invited each year to provide their perspective on the issues

### **Seed Lab Uniformity**

We first touched on this subject several years ago, and the discussion continues. The Board is working with ASTA to monitor lab testing uniformity issues from state to state. As well, OSA learned that the USDA lab is using IEF testing to verify

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included support for the organization's political activism, maintaining a good working relationship with Seed Council, being disciplined and proactive about production data in preparation for price negotiation meetings, and support for the interim director at ODA.

### **Intellectual Property Rights**

The Board is acting on attempts by others to infringe on the use of members' patented varieties and has asked ASTA for assistance with these efforts. Specifically, it came to our attention that several OSA members' fine fescue mixtures were listed in a patent of grass seed blends used to detract wildlife from airfield strips. We will continue to keep you posted on this issue.

### **Seed Regulatory Official**

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture recently began its search for a Regulatory Specialist for the seed industry. As you may recall, OSA supported a dealer's license fee increase to fund a part-time position to assist in upholding the integrity of the seed industry from production through sales focused on education rather than issuing violations. OSA has been invited to participate in the interviews that will take place the week of October 31.

proteins that are normally stored in the endosperm. IEF tests are comparable to other forms of protein electrophoresis, DNA analysis and growouts, but will detect slightly more variability than growouts.

In a recent case, however, USDA found that a shipment of KY-31 did not represent the germination rate as stated on the label, as well as determined by IEF testing not true to type. USDA was subsequently asked to submit evidence or explanation supporting the alleged violations, including detail on how the seed was handled from sampling to germination test, the protocol used for the electrophoresis test, and the history of the control seed. To date, nothing has been provided by USDA. The Board of Directors continues to monitor this issue, and an invitation has been issued to USDA to participate at a town hall on seed testing practices at the Annual Convention in June.

If you have received a fine you feel is unwarranted, talk with a Board member about those concerns as we are tracking these issues.

## **Legislative Update**

Oregonians recently received their ballots in the mail, marking the beginning of the end for a very odd and tumultuous election cycle. Oregon has voted for every Democratic

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national attention has been focused on the presidential and congressional campaigns, there remains a lot at stake for state and local interests this election cycle.

Democrats enjoy strong majorities in the legislature and control every statewide elected office. Recent polling suggests this trend will continue. However, there are opportunities for Republicans to pick up long-lost ground in Oregon. Dennis Richardson, a former Republican state representative and candidate for secretary of state, leads his Democratic opponent by six points in a recent poll. Republicans launched an aggressive attack on Brad Avakian, current labor commissioner and Democratic candidate for secretary of state, as seen in this *Forbes* article [shedding light on the co-mingling of state and campaign resources to advance the candidate's future.](#)

While many of these campaigns are hotly contested, they pale in comparison to the divisive campaign over a proposed corporate tax increase being advocated by the state's public employee unions. Measure 97, estimated to increase state general fund revenues by more than \$6 billion, comes at a time when the state is facing a \$1.4 billion shortfall and has already become the most expensive campaign in state history. Polling shows the public employee unions narrowly behind the broad business coalition opposing the measure. Notwithstanding a major digression in voter turnout, the measure will likely lack the support it needs to pass.

In the state legislature, the balance of power is expected to remain in Democratic control. But the issue impacting virtually every candidate seeking elected office this election cycle is Measure 97. Republicans have united against the measure and several moderate-minded Democrats have refused to support the measure, including two first-time candidates who have publicly denounced the measure.

Regardless of the outcome of the measure, tax reform will be the driving issue of our next legislative session. Lawmakers will be required to address the fundamental flaws in the measure if it is passed by the voters. However, if the measure fails, lawmakers will begin a very fragile negotiation of tax increases and spending cuts to balance the budget, complicating virtually every policy issue. In preparation for session, lawmakers are already discussing potential revenue solutions, none of which are ideal, including a possible tax on Medicaid providers or a broad-based, low-rate gross receipts tax.

*The above was excerpted from Pac/West's legislative update email dated October 25.*

## **Annual Sponsor Packages**

We have listened to your ideas and are pleased to announce the creation of a new, annual sponsorship package. Doug Pickles, Associates Committee Chair, and Executive Director Angie Blacker have been working to incorporate the elements from the Mid-Winter Meeting and Annual Convention sponsorship packages, as well as member directory ads and workshop sponsorship. This will help members to prepare their annual budgets and continue support of OSA. The annual package will run for each calendar year, and registration by the Mid-Winter Meeting date is encouraged to take full advantage of the sponsor benefits.

Individual event sponsorships (i.e., for the Mid-Winter Meeting only) are also available, and registration for those packages is due prior to that event.

We look forward to your feedback on ways we can continue to improve your OSA experience.

## **Board of Directors 2016-2017**

### **President**

Scott Harer  
Columbia Seeds

### **Vice President**

Jeff Martin  
The Scotts Co.

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Jake Stockfleth  
Oregon Seed Cleaning

### **Executive Director**

Angie Blacker  
Pac/West Communications

### **Immed. Past President**

Greg Loberg  
West Coast Beet Seed Co.

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Rick Myers  
DLF Pickseed USA

Paul Hedgpeth  
Columbia River Seed

Phill Lindgren  
Grassland Oregon

James Schneider  
Barenbrug USA

Mandi Mack  
Vista Seed Partners

Doug Pickles  
Lewis Seed Co.



## Upcoming Events

**November 16, 2016**

**Winter Workshop**

**LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, Ore.**

Registration is open until November 9, and sponsor packages are available. Breakfast and lunch is included. Workshop presentations include:

- **Success Habits: Time Management & Productivity Seminar:** Over the past few decades major advances have been made in understanding the brain and how it prefers to work. We will translate the science of productivity into usable practices for the office and home. You will leave the workshop with strategies for achieving more of your goals and doing so with greater life balance.
- **Canadian Seed Import Regulations:** An interactive webinar covering updates to Canada's noxious weed seed law; a refresher on reading grade tables for perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, and seed mixes; how to label coated seed; and differences in testing standards between AOSA and Canada.
- **Canadian Seed Import Documentation:** Learn about the proper paperwork needed to ship product to Canada.

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**December 12-13, 2016**

**Oregon Seed Growers League Annual Meeting**

**Salem Convention Center, Salem, Ore.**

OSA has supported OSGL with a sponsorship and exhibit booth at their annual meeting for the past several years. Stop by the booth and say hello on December 12-13.

**January 10, 2017**

**Mid-Winter Meeting**

**Salem Convention Center, Salem, Ore.**

Registration will open November 15. Join us for the latest news, committee issues and industry updates at this day-long event. Sponsorships and exhibit booths are available. Meals are included with paid registration. The day concludes with a reception to honor OSA past presidents.

**June 23-24, 2017**

**Annual Convention**

**Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend, Ore.**

Registration will open in April 2017.

Lodging reservations by May 29, 2017, at 1-800-547-3928



We are planning an exciting convention, which will begin Thursday evening, June 22, with an offsite, casual reception at a local brewery. Friday will begin with a town hall on seed testing practices and labeling procedures, and a focus on lab uniformity concerns across the U.S., with guests from USDA and state and private seed labs. After committee and general meetings conclude Friday, join us for an outdoor

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compete against others in several lawn games.

After a few more meetings on Saturday, attendees can go have fun with such activities as the annual golf tournament, arcade games and putt-putt golf, or one of Bend's outdoor excursions. The convention will close with a country hoedown, "Boots, Chaps & Cowboy Hats." Come dressed in your best western gear and your biggest belt buckle, and learn how to line dance.

Make your 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).

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