Utah Crop Improvement AssociationRoom 344, Agric Sciences Bldg., Utah State UniversityVol. 38, #1January 2019Logan, UT

(435) 797-2082

# 2019 SEED PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS and ANNUAL UCIA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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## CERTIFIED SEED WORKSHOP - January 31, 2019, Tremonton, UT, Box Elder

County Fairgrounds. UCIA will hold their Seed Certification and Membership meeting in



conjunction with the Box Elder County Crops Management School. The Crops Management School begins at 9:00 am and has an extensive agenda focused on corn production. The Certified Seed producers meeting will be held after the Crops School at about 1:30 pm. We will host a joint luncheon at 12:30 pm prior to the meeting and have info on seeding rates available during the Crops School. The agenda for the Certified Seed producer meeting includes:

1:30 pm – Welcome

1:45 pm -- Reports - UDAF Seed Lab report, Utah Seed Industry report and other Information

2:00 pm -- UCIA Membership Business Meeting -

UCIA Acreage Reports
Foundation Seed Report

**Directors and Membership** 

2:30 pm -- Adjourn

## WILDLAND SEED COLLECTORS WORKSHOP – March 21, 2019, Rasmussen

**Room, Greenwood Center, Snow College, Ephraim, UT.** This meeting will focus on sagebrush seed zones, tagging info, and seed collection. We will also discuss the NRCS Plant Materials system and seed production related to released cultivars and local source materials. Look for follow-up info about this meeting.

UCIA DIRECTOR ELECTIONS - Voting ballots for UCIA directors will be available at the meetings. UCIA Members will receive a ballot and meeting minutes from last year's meeting. If you cannot make it to either meeting and would like to vote, please return the ballot by mail by the date specified on the ballot.

**UCIA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE** — Seth Taylor

was hired last fall to assist with seed certification in the northern half of the state. Seth has a good understanding of growing crops and will be completing his Bachelor's degree in Plant Science in May 2019. Seth has experience in seed production and ag research experience in university and private industry. He comes from Caldwell, Idaho.



**EXPANDED ACRES - UCIA saw a significant** increase in acres and wildland seed collections this Despite poor wheat, barley, and other commodity prices, UCIA saw an overall increase in certified seed application acres and wildland collected seed. This was due to an increase in all crops with a few new crops that haven't been in the program recently. The use of chickpeas has increased recently, and chickpea standards were recently submitted and approved for AOSCA certified chickpea seed. UCIA has adopted these standards for certified chickpea standards in Utah. The increase in wildland seed collections is normally due to an active fire year. Seed buyers are seeing the value of Certified seed and seeing the benefits of it.

WILDLAND COLLECTED AND SOURCE ID SEED – 2018 was a big fire year and, as expected, the wildland seed industry was very busy last fall.

the wildland seed industry was very busy last fall. Wildland seed companies and collectors put in a lot of work to supply the seed market with reclamation seeds for burned and degraded rangelands. Over 8.5 million acres burned in 2018 and 2017 saw 9.5 million acres burned. Both years are well above the 10-year average of 6.5 million. Rangelands that become degraded by fire and misuse soon become overrun with noxious and invasive weeds that create a habitat that brings more frequent and intense fires. Reclaiming these lands improve their use and many other aspects of the community around them.

CERTIFIED SEED FIELD APPLICATIONS DUE SOON — Certified seed field applications for

annual crops are due May 15. Perennial crop applications are due June 15. Now is a good time to do those applications before you get busy with fieldwork. SAVE YOUR CERTIFICATION TAGS AND KEEP A RECORD OF WHAT WAS PLANTED AND WHERE! The applications are available on the Utah Crop website at http://www.utahcrop.org/formsand-applications/ or contact any UCIA Staff and we will gladly get one to you. These forms are easy to fill out and can be done electronically or hand written. It is very important to get these applications submitted on time to allow UCIA to process these before field inspections begin. Late applications make it hard for UCIA personnel to get these processed and attend to other duties that demand their time during the growing season. UCIA realizes that there may be exceptions to when these applications be completed and is willing to accommodate these circumstances. applications due to procrastination will be costly. Please contact UCIA if you have any questions.

### UCIA OFFERS OECD SEED CERTIFICATION.

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is a seed certification program for seed that is being sold internationally. UCIA has worked with seed companies in Utah to help them with certified seed that is being shipped overseas. This program is similar to the Certified seed program and has 61 countries that participate in this program to move seeds internationally.

**COAXIUM WHEAT** – A new wheat production system. Colorado Wheat Research Foundation in conjunction with Limagrain and Albaugh have released a new wheat production system called CoAXium™ Wheat. This is a wheat production system for controlling grassy weeds such as feral rye, jointed goatgrass, and downy brome in wheat. CoAXium™ combines Aggressor™ herbicide, a highly effective, broad-spectrum Group 1 herbicide with an ACCase herbicide-tolerance trait. The AXigen™ trait present in CoAXium™ wheat protects wheat varieties that carry this trait, from this same grass herbicide. The AXigen™ trait is a patented non-GMO herbicide tolerance trait. In the end, this wheat production system allows growers to produce more, high quality wheat with less dockage and foreign matter. CoAXium™ Wheat Production System

allows growers greater crop rotation flexibility because of its limited soil residual. Aggressor™ Herbicide can be more effective in controlling grassy weeds, and with the added broadleaf herbicides, herbicide costs are similar to producing wheat in the Clearfield™ system. Broadleaf weed herbicides will need to be added to control broadleaf weeds. Currently, there are two varieties available for use with CoAXium™ Wheat Production System: Incline AX and LCS Fusion AX. These two varieties will perform well while taking action to control a grassy weed problem, but other varieties of wheat will yield better once the weed problems have been solved. As with the Clearfield™ system, one must be careful to manage their weeds and prevent herbicide resistance in their weeds and thus losing the advantages of the CoAxium™ system.

CRISPR - A tool for better crop varieties. CRISPR/Cas 9 technology is a new tool for gene CRISPR is an acronym for: editing in plants. Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats. CRISPR is a way to make precise and targeted changes to genomes to improve traits in crops. CRISPR identifies DNA sequences that are associated to a specific trait. Currently it is being used to increase starch content in corn. CRISPR is not considered a GMO because it uses current plant genetics to insert a desired trait in a crop. While traditional crop breeding methods take years to add a desired trait, by using CRISPR, a plant scientist can add or remove targeted traits faster, more precisely, and cheaper than with traditional breeding methods. The potential of gene editing allows for rapid improvements in crop varieties such as increased yield, better drought and disease tolerance, and improved nutrition. We will likely see more info and crop improvements related to this CRISPR/Cas9 technology in the near future.

**TRYING TO SAVE A BUCK - Sometimes our efforts to save a dollar or two ends up being very costly.** A few of you may know that I enjoy snowmobiling. About 6 years ago, I bought a used snowmobile hoping to upgrade my previous snowmobile that had some engine problems. I searched for a sled that would be a good deal and it appeared that I could get a fairly new sled for a

decent price. While looking into this I learned that this particular model of snowmobile had a reputation of being troublesome, but many companies offered fix kits that improved the reliability of this sled. After much deliberation I thought I had found a good enough deal on a sled that it was worth taking the chance, and if I had to do the fix kit that would be OK because it was a good After buying this snowmobile I soon discovered that it had some hidden problems that I was unaware of. Nevertheless, I pushed forward in making the most of this recent purchase. After a few years, this sled had cost me more than if I had bought a new one. Sometimes it seemed that the snowmobile had a curse on it! This sled purchase can be compared to buying cut-rate seed that is a "good deal." It's often easy to find seed that is "only one year out of certification" or "as good as certified" only to find out too late that this seed has hidden problems such as poor yield, weed seed, or diseases. A farmer can spend the next decade or more trying to correct the problems that came with a "good deal on seed." Correcting these problems will be more costly than buying good quality certified seed (and a new sled) so save yourself the trouble, buy good seed from a reputable company. Remember: there's a time and a place to save money, good quality seed is vital to the success of your farm and your crop. AND if you enjoy snowmobiling, go buy yourself a new sled with the money you save! I finally got rid of the problem sled last week and am hoping for a new era in my sledding hobbies. -written by Michael Bouck-

AOSCA NEWS — The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, (AOSCA) is celebrating 100 years of seed certification. Established in 1919 as the International Crop Improvement Association, AOSCA's membership includes Seed Certifying Agencies across the US, and Global membership including Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

AOSCA assists the seed certification programs in each state with the promotion, production,



identification and distribution and use of Certified seed. In honor of their 100 year anniversary they are having additional activities at their annual

meeting and will be holding it in Chicago near AOSCA's birthplace. The annual meeting will be held June 23-26, 2019. All seedsmen are invited. Please see <a href="http://www.aosca.org">http://www.aosca.org</a> for info.

### **UDAF SEED LAB**

The UDAF Seed Lab is an AOSA (Association of Official Seed Analysts) Official Laboratory. UDAF's three Seed Analysts (Terry Freeman, Stan Akagi, and Duane Smith) are all "Certified



Seed Analysts" (CSA) in both purity and germination testing, all having passed the AOSA certification tests. The lab performs seed testing according to the "AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds" which are most often used to determine seed quality in the United States and Canada. South America, China and others have requested that the "Rules" be translated into their languages so they can be used there also and progress is being made in that The purpose of the "Rules" is to direction. standardize the methods used, so test results from various laboratories can be uniform. Proficiency Tests are sent out each year to help assess knowledge and continued analyst uniformity; also continuing education points are required. Unfortunately, because of the variation in seed types and structure, cleaning procedures etc., it is difficult to completely erase variation in testing but we all continue to work on the problems involved. Sampling instructions and other useful information is available at www.analyzeseeds.com.

Terry, Stan, and Duane have a multitude of information available to them from the professional organizations they work with and are always willing to help with seed testing questions. Feel free to contact them with any seed testing needs 801 538-7182.

**FOUNDATION SEED -** Utah Crop Improvement Association maintains a supply of Foundation and other stock seed for certified seed production. We work with several agencies in producing and distributing this seed. These seed varieties include alfalfa, small grains, reclamation grasses, forbs, and

several other types of seeds. For a list of what is available, contact Utah Crop Improvement for availability or visit

http://www.utahcrop.org/foundation-seed/ for more information.

**DIRECTOR ELECTIONS --** UCIA members have received election ballots for 2019 for two vacancies in District 1 (Utah north of I-80) and one vacancy in District 2 (Utah south of I-80). **BE SURE TO SEND IN YOUR BALLOTS**. Member input and involvement is important.

Directors elected by mail ballot in 2018 were:

**District 1:** Chris Reeder, Corinne, UT and Brian Ward, Tremonton, UT

**District 2:** Zeke Stevens, Ephraim, UT and Jason Stevenson, Ephraim, UT.

Officers elected at the Board of Directors Meeting Dec. 18, 2018 in Kaysville, Utah were: President: Chris Reeder, Corinne, UT; Vice President: Justin Dean, Lehi, UT; and Executive Committee Member: Jason Stevenson, Ephraim, UT.