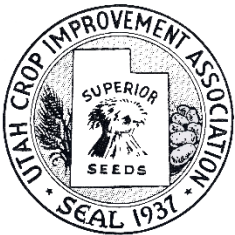


CERTIFIED SEED CLEANINGS

Utah Crop Improvement Association Room 344, Agric Sciences Bldg., Utah State University (435) 797-2082
Vol. 39, #1 January 2020 Logan, UT

2020 SEED PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS and ANNUAL UCIA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

www.utahcrop.org



CERTIFIED SEED WORKSHOP – January 30, 2020, 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 alfalfa hay 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 a display on alfalfa seed purity with certified and non-certified seed standards comparisons. 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

Financial report

Directors and Membership

2:30 pm -- Adjourn

WILDLAND SEED COLLECTORS WORKSHOP – March 24, 2020, Rasmussen Room, Greenwood Center, Snow College, Ephraim, UT. This meeting will focus on sagebrush seed zones, tagging info, and seed collection. 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 – Utah Crop Improvement needs to hire a field representative to help with seed certification field inspections and foundation seed production. If you have interest in this, please contact Michael Bouck at Utah Crop Improvement Association. We will have a job description listed soon.



EXPANDED ACRES - UCIA saw a significant increase in acres and wildland seed collections this year. Again, we saw a jump in certified seed acres this year. We inspected almost 10,000 acres. Along with those acres we had a few trials that demonstrated the importance of watching your fields closely and making sure the field history requirements are met and are conducive to producing a clean and quality seed crop.

WILDLAND COLLECTED AND SOURCE ID SEED – 2019, like 2018 was a busy year for wildland collected seed. Degraded rangelands and fire continue to be a problem and the wildland seed industry is combating that. Several in the seed industry, along with state and federal agencies, have been working to figure out the complexities of sagebrush ID and other related subjects. Among these are seed ID of subspecies, seed zones, seed coating, timing, storage, and several other subjects. Their work is much appreciated.

Just a few notes about seed collection -

- PRE-COLLECTION applications are due 14 days BEFORE collection starts. Post-harvest applications may be denied.
- Each species collection site should be properly identified and not exceed one township.
- Seed collected from multiple sites should NOT be combined in the same lot. This also applies to the collectors in the field.
- A late fee of \$100 will be applied for late applications.

- SID Log Part 1 reports need to be correct and submitted in a timely manner.
- If two or more companies are going to share the same seed collector or lot, a pre-collection application should have both names and use the same site name.

CERTIFIED SEED FIELD APPLICATIONS DUE SOON – Certified seed field applications for annual crops are due **May 15**. Applications for seed certification are found on the UCIA website at

<http://www.utahcrop.org/forms-and-applications/>

This is a simple .pdf fillable form that can be filled out on a computer or printed and filled out by hand. Field maps can be attached in any form. Google maps are useful and there are many options in Google to help with attaching maps to the application. If you have any questions please contact anyone at UCIA for help. We love to get these in on time and are happy to help.

For small grains and other similar annual crops, field applications are due May 15. Late applications may be submitted up to 2 weeks prior to preharvest inspection or 1st required inspection. A late fee of \$100 will be assessed on applications that are postmarked or received after May 15 for annual crops and after June 15 for perennial crops. Applications received more than 15 days after the due date will be assessed a \$100 late fee and will be assessed an inspection fee of twice the normal inspection fee. For crops that are planted after the due date, applications are due 2 weeks after planting. This includes perennial crops because a seedling inspection is required for perennial crops.

Late fees can usually be avoided. 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.** UCIA realizes that there may be extenuating circumstances to when these applications can be completed and is willing to accommodate these circumstances. Please contact UCIA if you have any questions.

CROP ROTATION, CROP DIVERSITY, COVER CROPS, NO-TILL, AND MORE... AND HOW

THEY'RE RELATED

There are multiple sources for information and workshops on crop rotation, crop diversity, cover crops, reduced tillage, pest management, and many other management practices. These workshops are aimed at several things but one principle that rises to the top is soil health and the regeneration of the soil ecosystem. When your soil is healthy, your crops will be healthy (more nutrients in the plants) which means a healthy or balanced population of insects and a several other fertility, pest, and plant health factors that follow. Incorporating these principles into your practices takes a leap of faith and some trial and error into making them work for you. As you learn more about soil health principles you will realize they are really the principles of nature. Having a healthy soil that is not only sustainable, but, where the health is improving, is key to making a farm that will last for your future generations. Balancing the benefits of each of these practices is what farmers and other agriculturalists must weigh out and decide on, on a yearly, monthly, if not weekly basis. For example, tillage may increase fertility short term at the expense of rapid mineralization but after the nutrient cycle has been broken with tillage there are many other things that happen in the soil as a living organism. Soil structure will decline quickly and other things like water infiltration and aggregate stability will be negatively affected. Other reasons for tillage might include weed control and compaction, however, you are only treating a symptom, not solving the problem. Tillage changes soil temperature. Initially, tilled soils will warm up more quickly in the spring, thus causing plant growth to react more quickly. This is a short-term benefit but a tilled soil will also get too hot during the summer. These temperature variations cause the soil to have more extreme temperatures whether it be heat in the summer or cold in the winter. A soil that is protected by some sort of cover or mulch helps to even out these temperatures and protect the soil from problems that come from a soil that is not protected. The principle of nature is that soil should always have a protective armor on the surface. All of the other principles listed in the preceding title also become factors that help to

improve the health of the soil that we need to be protecting. Many farmers know about and practice these principles but may not realize the overall long-term benefits. Learning about soil health is key to learning how soils function. Crop rotation helps to prevent weed problems, improve fertility, increase diversity of soil microbes, and has many other benefits. Once a crop is taken off, replacing it with a cover crop helps to continue the life of the soil. The only way carbon enters the soil ecosystem is through photosynthesis. Were the soil to sit fallow, the very life that you are trying to preserve is lost by starvation. The concept of letting the soil rest is like asking a person to stop eating to let their body rest. There are so many interactions that happen in the soil and everything around it, that it would take a lifetime to discover and figure out all that is happening. When incorporating (or continuing) a farming practice, you must look at the whole picture of what is happening and do what is best for your investment in the farm... the long-term investment of your soil ecosystem.

SEED PIRACY IS DAMAGING — Throughout 2018 and 2019 the USDA, several state departments of agriculture, and seed associations have been involved in an investigation of mislabeled seed. Maintaining a reputation of quality seed is the goal of the whole seed industry, including Utah. Doing so benefits farmers, ranchers, and many others. In this instance the seed company was fined \$248,000 for mislabeling numerous lots of seed. The impacts of one company's actions can lead to a financial loss for several in the seed marketing chain. As an example: farmers buy a specific variety of seed to meet a specific objective such as increased yield, characteristics for a specialized market, adaptability to certain growing conditions and several others. When a variety is misrepresented, harvest value may be less than anticipated or market value may be lost. In the above case, this was a perennial crop, so it impacted harvest from multiple years.

The seed industry has developed some great innovations and are continually working to develop new varieties and innovations that benefit the farm. These innovations come at a large cost and 7-10 or more years of work. When seed is pirated, the seed industry loses a large amount of money that could

be reinvested into more innovations. This lag in innovations costs the farmer. A reputation of quality and honesty is more important than supplying seed to a potential buyer. *Adapted from several seed magazine articles.*

FREE + 11¢ = A LOSS I can often be found perusing the local KSL classifieds for a good deal. Especially if I am in the middle of a project and need something for that project. Recently I have been working on making customized furnishings for a room in my shed that have a truck, tractor, farm, or rustic theme. I had this idea that I'd make an ottoman out of the covers and padding from an old couch and the base from an old galvanized watering trough. I already had a galvanized tub so I went to KSL in search for a free couch and went for the most local one I could find. I found one that almost looked like what I was looking for. I called on it and went and picked it up. When I made the call I forgot to ask if it came from a smoke and pet free home. Upon picking it up it was apparent that it smelled badly and was kind of disgusting. Before I arrived home, I realized that I would either have to take it to the dump and pay the dump fee or just burn it. By this time, I was feeling pretty dumb about my decision to go cheap and how it was costing me. I unloaded the couch and, as most couches do, this one had lots of treasures inside its crevice's. Among all the stuff was a penny and a dime. Suddenly I was 11¢ further ahead! I think I need to glue this penny and dime to the wall of the shed, just above the workbench as a reminder that even though something may be free, it may end up being costly. FREE STUFF is good but be sure to look at the true value or cost of something before spending lots of time on it. It may end up costing more than you would spend for a quality product. Even if it's FREE!

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FARM- A recent article in a seed magazine addressed some insights from individuals in the seed industry on how to move from "DOING" to "LEADING" The points they made can be used in any aspect and are closely related to success on the farm. Here are some points from the article:

- Become a more effective leader.
- Put new concepts and thoughts into practice.

- Invest in good employees who can provide thoughts and leadership.
- People who make more sacrifices to commit become better and stronger leaders.
- Good leaders help the farm be more profitable and efficient.
- Managers should make a commitment to help and mentor others.
- Allow others to fulfill their responsibilities.
- Helping others become successful makes you successful.
- Seek advice from your peers.
- Don't be afraid to make decisions.
- Remember that you know more about your business than anyone else.

LATE SPRING PLANTING Every year farmers are faced with the possibility of a late spring planting. It is often easy to look at the cold temperatures and snow on the ground and think that spring planting time is several weeks away, and thus why worry about planting now? It is well known that high yields are correlated to earlier planting. It is very important to be proactive on getting the equipment ready and the supplies you need. Preparing equipment and supplies beforehand will help with better decisions and make the planting season go smoothly. You will be more thorough and more accurate with your needs if you plan for them early. Seed, fertilizer, and equipment dealers do a good job of helping you be prepared with your needs with preseason specials. Don't think of the winter season as a time for meetings but think of it as a time for preparation. Also, use the winter meetings to help you prepare, not just as a place for a free lunch or breakfast.

AOSCA NEWS – LOOKING TO THE NEXT 50, 100 YEARS.

In 2019 seed certification in the US turned 100 years old. The International Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) was formed in a meeting of seed certification programs in Chicago in 1919. The goal of the meeting was to prevent outcrossing of newly improved varieties during a time of a crop breeding renaissance. ICIA later changed their name to the Association of Official Seed



Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). The seed certification agencies and Certified seed you know now are a result of this meeting and association. Each state certification agency is a member of AOSCA to help standardize certification standards across state and country borders. AOSCA continues to meet the needs of farmers by keeping up with seed standards that are relative and important to making genetically pure seed available to farmers in the US and throughout the world. There are currently seed certification agencies in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, and throughout the U.S.

Over the years AOSCA has adapted to the needs of the seed industry and added programs to include more than seed certification. Some of these programs are known as the Identity Preserved and Quality Assurance programs. They have also offered additional services to ensure that seed certification of varieties with special traits are verified. AOSCA is now poised to meeting the needs of the seed industry for the next 100 years.

UDAF SEED LAB - The UDAF Seed lab continues to test according to the standardized "AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds", as required by state law. At the AOSA/SCST 2019 annual meeting, testing methods were added for an additional 15 species. As Mike Stahr, AOSA president, said in his "It Takes A Seed Village" article in *Seed Today*, "Working together, we can increase the uniformity of test results and help ensure that end users uniformly receive quality seed." Between growing/locating, harvesting, conditioning, sampling and testing, we all play a big part in this.



Twenty seven weed seeds have been declared noxious by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Food and have been added to the Utah noxious weed seed list. These can be found on the UDAF website under *Noxious Weeds Program, State of Utah Noxious Weed list* (all classes). The former noxious weed seed list can be found on the website under *Plant Industry Seed Program, Utah Seed Law*, and the *State Noxious Weed Seed Requirements Recognized in the Administration of*

the Federal Seed Act; the additional weed seeds will soon be added to this list.

The UDAF Seed Lab is scheduled to move to Taylorsville in fall of 2020 (4315 S. 2700 W.), just north of Unified State Laboratories. In addition to Terry, Duane and Stan, there is a new analyst in training, Sarah Schulthies. Seed Lab, Phyto, and other testing fees increased in 2019, these fees can be found on the UDAF website. In 2018, language addressing "hard seed" changed in the Utah Seed Act, so that if there is no hard seed in the lot, hard seed does not have to be listed. Utah retest intervals also changed so that vegetable, flower and shrub seeds need to be retested every 12 months (instead of 9). Agricultural seed retests remained the same at 18 months. The Federal Seed Act continues to require testing within 5 months, exclusive of calendar month tested, prior to transportation in interstate commerce. The UDAF Lab can be reached at 801-538-7182 for any questions on seed testing, sampling, sample mailing address etc.

FOUNDATION SEED - Utah Crop Improvement Association maintains a supply of Foundation Class 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 2020 for two vacancies in District 1 (Utah north of I-80) and two vacancies in District 2 (Utah south of I-80). **BE SURE TO SEND IN YOUR BALLOTS.** Member input and involvement is important and greatly appreciated.

Directors elected by mail ballot in 2019 were:

District 1: Cody Hart, Corinne, UT and Chris Allen, Cove, UT

District 2: Justin Dean Lehi, UT.

Officers elected at the Board of Directors Meeting Dec. 17, 2019 in Kaysville, Utah were: President: Justin Dean, Lehi, UT; Vice President: Chris Allen Cove, UT; and Executive Committee Member: Jason Stevenson, Ephraim, UT.