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From the ICIA Seed Lab
Dialogue with Davis
by Mike Davis, President ICIA

Indiana Crop Improvement put the finishing touches on a banner year. March was a record month in the lab. While early harvest and concerns over seed quality contributed to increased activity in the lab, initiatives put in place over the last couple of years positioned ICIA for growth.

Increased marketing efforts; supported by scientists who truly understand technology; have driven the growth of the Indiana Crop Improvement. ICIA has two Ph.D.’s with expertise in molecular genetics, a Registered Genetic Seed Technologist (RGT) to handle trait testing, and a Registered Seed Technologist (RST) to evaluate physical seed quality through an array of germination and purity tests.

Larry Svajgr will introduce Emily Dierking as director of the genetics laboratory. This concludes an exhaustive search for an individual with the right blend of scientific and customer centric skills. We welcome Emily to the ICIA team.

This close knit group of competent scientists provides the underpinning for the services marketed by the organization. Moreover, Indiana Crop Improvement is composed of people who constantly strive to meet customer needs. This is reflected through product offerings that fill real needs in a way that gives customers a true feeling of collaboration between Vendor and Customer.

We look forward to a productive growing season.

Mike Davis, President
AgVenture D&M
Kentland IN

Upcoming events

June 7-10 2011
AOSA/SCST Annual Meeting
Williamsburg, VA

June 18-22, 2011
ASTA Annual Meeting
Huntington Beach, CA

July 24-27, 2011
AOSCA Annual Meeting, St. Louis

August 11, 2011
ICIA Board of Director’s Meeting
ICIA Conference Center
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Having ownership in a business at a young age is one of the many paths that taught Wade Wiley the value of working hard. His alliance in Precision Partners, a GPS Soil Sampling and Yield Mapping Company encouraged his sense of ownership in a company. “It taught me very quickly it is hard to find employees that will put forth as much effort as an owner.” This philosophy motivates him in his day to day work as Soybean & Wheat Product Development Manager at Beck’s Hybrids. When asked what he strives for in a working environment, Wade stated “to be valued as someone who can be counted on.”

Wade has always had a passion for agriculture. He learned the foundations of farming, along with many other values, growing up on a small grain farm in Decatur Co. “This was during a time when we were allowed excused work days from school – to run the planter and combine. From start to finish, dad made certain I was exposed to all aspects of farm management.”

Wade began a corporate career with KOVA in retail fertilizer before his entrepreneurship with Precision Partners. He then worked as Brokerage Manager & Licensing Executive with JGL, Inc. in Plymouth, IN.

EXPANSIVE GROWTH

More recently, Wade was inspired by the 20% annual growth at Beck’s Hybrids and “had a desire for personal growth within a company and my career path.” His days are busy overseeing the testing and advancement of Beck’s line-up of products. During a tour of the expansive Beck’s facility – we learned Wade will soon see additional growth come to fruition. Beck’s Hybrids recently broke ground on a nearly $25 million vast research center project. The research center, which is expected to be completed by January, will triple the company’s research and breeding capacity. As we continued our tour at Beck’s with Wade and discussed economic challenges, it was agreed that in today’s business, companies must have constant and ongoing changes. “If your company doesn’t make the changes to adapt – you will most likely be irrelevant.”

As an ICIA director, Wade would like to place ICIA in a relevant position by adapting, innovating and overcoming as the industry changes.

SIMPLE LESSONS

Doing things right or doing the right things? Wade believes it comes down to a few simple lessons he has learned. “I am a person that believes in taking a task with the goal of doing things the right way as opposed to others that feel it is just the right thing to do.” The secular view is to do the “right thing” more times than not, even when it is not “doing things right”. For me as a person, it is hard to give yourself to a situation if you are not “doing things right”.

AT THE END OF THE DAY

Wade spends his day working at a self-motivated pace and enjoying the challenges that come in the agricultural industry. However, at the end of the day you will find him on the sidelines coaching his oldest daughter Logan 13, in AAU basketball. When he isn’t coaching; he and his wife Trisha attend daughter Lauryn’s AAU basketball and soccer and their son Lane’s sporting events of Cross Country, Track and Swimming. Wade’s advice on and off the playing field?

“Effort and passion is determined from within and your competitor can’t take that away.” And……he values those who are honest and up front.
Emily Dierking Joins ICIA as New Genetics Program Director.

We are pleased and excited to announce Dr. Emily Dierking officially began as our new Genetics Program Director on June 1. Emily earned a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Plant Genetics in May of 2009 with a 4.0 grade point average. She received her Bachelor’s Degree from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO in 2005, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Emily’s Ph.D. dissertation involved the characterization of raffinose synthase genes in soybeans. Her genetics work incorporated conventional plant breeding skills along with the use of molecular marker applications providing her with the specific education and training needed for the ICIA Genetics Program Director position.

Most recently, after receiving her Ph.D., Emily was employed by Schillinger Genetics at their Vandalia, Illinois Research Station. There she was responsible for creating and maintaining research collaborations with public sector researchers; filing and maintaining utility & technology patents; guiding the nursery organization for soybean crosses for product development; and analyzing data and making product advancement decisions. She also prepared information seminars for colleagues and customers regarding new technologies, and developed and authored several funded grant applications for joint venture research projects. One of her recent responsibilities was a major leadership role in establishing quality testing laboratories to evaluate soybean products.

Emily also brings to ICIA significant experience in marketing and customer service. This asset has much value for us as we continue to maintain and develop projects with our customers in the seed, grain, food, and related industries.

Emily grew up on a farm in Missouri so she understands production agriculture in addition to having a broad-based knowledge of plant breeding and genetics. She told us she still likes to ask her Dad for input and advice regarding projects and issues.

Emily’s husband Ryan earned a Ph.D. in Plant Genetics just this past December, also from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Emily & Ryan moved to the Lafayette area in late May settling in and beginning their new lives.

We believe Emily understands the “culture” of ICIA enabling her to hit the ground running as our new Genetics Program Director. We invite our members and customers to stop by to meet her and say hello.

Welcome to the ICIA team, Emily!
Classroom, cornfields and coaching keep ICIA Inspector at busy pace.

Steve Sherck, ICIA Field Inspector

What do students ears, seed corn ears and volleyball coaches ears all have in common? The answer: Steve Sherck. During the school year Mr. Sherck is the Construction Trades teacher at Lakeland High School. During the fall he referee’s 6th grade through high school volleyball matches. In the summer he inspects seed corn for ICIA. Steve is a very busy man.

Mr. Sherck has been a Construction Trades teacher for the past 20 years. Prior to taking the teaching assignment at Lakeland, he operated his own construction business for 12 years. Steve spends a great deal of time near the volleyball court, and he just recently officiated a tournament in Anderson, Indiana. The volleyball season doesn’t end in November anymore. He has been a seed corn inspector for ICIA since 2006. He says he chose to inspect for Indiana Crop because he enjoys walking through the fields and seeing the animals in their natural habitat. He also likes interacting with the seedsmen and the people at Indiana Crop.

Steve and his wife of 35 years, Laurie, have four children and five grandchildren. Their oldest son, Christopher is a children’s pastor in Muncie, Indiana. He and his wife, Rachel, have three little ones. Tara, the Shercks’ only daughter is a nurse and is married to Michael Watts. They have two young boys who live right next door to Grandpa. This makes a total of five grandchildren for Grandpa and Grandma to spoil! Their son, Matthew is married to Lindsey and is Assistant Manager at Enterprise in Fishers, Indiana. The youngest of the four, Brian, just graduated, May 7th from Anderson University and will also work for Indiana Crop this summer. While that is big news, the biggest news in his life is probably that Brian will be getting married to Jessica Berlin of New Haven, Indiana on June 18th- two days after inspector training.

As if Steve’s life doesn’t sound busy enough, he is currently working on a water garden, complete with a waterfall for his yard. He and Laurie own nine acres of land which includes three wooded acres. In addition to his yard work, the entire family receive the fruits of his other hobby each December. Steve spends his free time working with wood and makes Christmas presents for all of his kids and grandkids. He is also actively involved at the LaGrange First Church of God.

In Memoriam

Jerry J. Myers
February 13, 2011

Jerry Myers & Sons Seeds
Crawfordsville, IN
ICIA certifies two ISO 9001:2008 auditors.

Two ICIA employees recently attended ISO Lead Auditor training. The training was sponsored by Bayer CropScience and hosted by AOSCA in Moline, Illinois.

Liz Pestow, ICIA customer service manager and Rachael Sondeno, RGT in the genetics lab at ICIA, participated in the training session.

ISO Lead Auditor training is an intensive, week long session which is designed to give the participants a detailed understanding of the ISO 9001: 2008 quality management system standard. Individuals who have successfully completed ISO Lead Auditor training are positioned to audit quality management systems.

ICIA is ISO 9001: 2008 certified and this training will allow Liz and Rachael to perform internal audits on our quality management system. In addition, ICIA has a number of customers for whom we provide third party, external auditing. This training will position ICIA to have two more qualified auditors to assist with our growing number of audited programs. We currently provide auditing for customers in the seed and food industries as well as some USDA programs.

SAVE THE DATE

ICIA’s executive director, Larry Svajgr, will be retiring later this fall. Larry has led the organization for the past 37 years, since August 1974. Larry’s last intended day in the office will be September 2nd.

ICIA and the board of directors will be hosting an open house/reception in Larry’s honor on Thursday, August 11, 2011. The reception will take place from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to come to the offices that afternoon to congratulate Larry on a very successful career as ICIA executive director.

We will have a comprehensive article on Larry’s time with ICIA in a future Seed News publication. We look forward to seeing many of you here in August.

Attention LabLink Users!!!

On June 1st ICIA executed our annual system purge. Now, when you log in to LabLink after June 1st selections in the Production drop down box will be:

- Current year - 2011 = any samples entered in the system from June 1, 2011 forward
- Previous Year - 2010 = the data from June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011 and
- 3rd Year - 2009 = the test result data from June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this system update or if you need information from a season prior to 2009, please contact our office for assistance.

866.899.2518 ~ icia@indianacrop.org
We are excited to announce Aaron Whalen will be joining ICIA as a full-time staff member on July 1. He will be filling a new position created to support our service program areas. At the outset, Aaron will be assisting Joe Deford with field programs administration, including inspector hiring & training and customer communications. He will also have responsibilities in the testing laboratory with a leadership role in the Bioassay Herbicide Department. Our long-term goal is to involve Aaron in all of our program areas including audited services, our ISO Certification system, and general management activities.

Aaron has significant experience in the seed industry. He spent five years managing popcorn seed production; seven years managing popcorn hybrid agronomic and quality testing programs while assisting with a popcorn breeding nursery; and three years coordinating and implementing dent corn hybrid testing. He has experience with production schedules, budgeting, seed conditioning, and contracting. Aaron has also designed field trials and used statistical software to analyze data.

Aaron received a B.S. in Agronomy from Illinois State University in 1995. He moved to Lafayette, Indiana in 1998, where he, his wife LeeAnne and 7 year old son Rylan will continue to live. LeeAnne is the 3rd generation in her family to manage McKinney’s Flowers. Her family’s flower shop has been in business since 1947.

Adding a full-time staff member is a significant event for ICIA, and we are pleased we were able to find Aaron who will fit into our culture and positively impact our programs. Welcome aboard, Aaron!

We are pleased to announce Kristen Ellingwood is our new Finance Director & Bookkeeper. She officially began her career with ICIA on June 1. She replaces Konnie Laws who resigned earlier this year. We are grateful to Geri Merrell, our long-time Bookkeeper who retired last fall, who has agreed to work with us to help with training.

Kristen has many years of experience with office accounting procedures and business finance. She has experience with non-profit organizations which will serve ICIA well.

She received a Bachelor’s Degree from St. Mary’s of the Woods College in Terre Haute, IN in 2003 with a dual major in Business Administration & Not-for-Profit Financial Administration. She earned a Master’s Degree in Organizational Leadership Development in 2008, also from St. Mary’s of the Woods College. Her previous work experience has included handling payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, tax reporting, financial statements, audits, budgeting and related financial tasks. She has proficiency in grant writing, event planning and has taught classes at Ivy Tech Community College in business management, marketing, accounting, and business law.

Kristen will continue to live in Crawfordsville, Indiana where she has been a long-time resident. Welcome to the ICIA team, Kristen!
Seed Quality Update

**Soybeans** 2010/11 2009/10 2008/09

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<td>92.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
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<td>Accel. Aging</td>
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**Corn**

<table>
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<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm Germ</td>
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<td>92.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Test</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010 Corn quality was excellent. Vigor scores were also strong. Soybean quality was good for most lots this past season. A few lots did show a lower germ with some mechanical damage noted. The table above shows the germination and vigor scores to date for the 2010 testing season and the previous two years.

If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance, contact Kevin Seward or Susan Dadacz in our lab at 765-523-2535 or email seward@indianacrop.org or dadacz@indianacrop.org