Snyder’s Segment (2)
Mitch Snyder, President, ICIA

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Open House Event, August 12-14

Seed Testing and Labeling (5)
Featuring Larry Nees, Seed Administrator, OISC
June is a great month to be in the seed business. It is full of promise. The hard work of meticulous seed care, management, and planting is proving its promise as we see those beautiful stands of young corn and soybean in the fields. Meantime, the wheat crop is advancing toward harvest. It’s always exciting to see what Mother Nature has cooked up for us. But don’t forget, in Mother Nature’s kitchen is a whole team of scientists, seed professionals and farmers who make sure that despite her mood, we have a good meal on the table!

It takes a team, and ICIA is proud to work with each of you who make this organization strong. We are very excited to welcome you to our August Member Appreciation and Open House event, August 12-14. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. There will be activities of fun and fellowship and some top-notch technical and educational sessions. The goal is to show members appreciation for their business and for the outstanding relationships that have helped ICIA grow for more than 100 years. It is also a great opportunity for you to bring along friends or colleagues who may also benefit from ICIA’s many services and world class staff. Come join in the fun; from Fair Oaks Dairy, to the golf scramble, to our ICIA Fall Trait Testing Seminar and Seed Labeling and Sampling presentation. Check the ICIA website www.indianacrop.org for more information.

For most of us, ICIA is a very important part of the team – making us as seed companies work better, more reliable, more proficient. We all benefit from ICIA’s high standards of quality, accuracy and consistency that come from attention to detail, knowledge and experience. I hope you’ll take the time to join us at the Open House to learn more – about ICIA, and about your teammates in the seed industry.

Indiana Crop Improvement Association is proud to announce that Alan Galbreth, CEO was awarded Honorary Membership by the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists during the recent annual AOSA/SCST meeting held in Tampa, Florida. The recipient of this award must be voted on by the entire membership of SCST to be selected for the honor. Neal Foster, president of SCST presented Galbreth with the award.

Alan has been active in SCST for many years, including efforts in vigor testing, harmonization of international rules and uniformity. Galbreth was one of the first auditors for the National Seed Health System.

Congratulations Alan!

Upcoming events

June 15, 16 & 26, 2015
ICIA Inspector Training
ICIA Conference Center
Lafayette, IN

June 17-20, 2015
ASTA 132nd Annual Convention
Marriott Marquis
Washington, DC

June 21-24, 2015
AOSCA Annual Meeting
Westin Bayshore
Vancouver, British Columbia

July 12-16, 2015
AASCO Annual Meeting
DoubleTree by Hilton
St. Louis, MO

July 3, 2015
ICIA Office Closed
Independence Day
Generational Leadership Advantageous for ICIA board.

featuring Ryan Campbell, ICIA Board Member

Like most young boys who grow up observing their fathers, they have a desire to do as they do. Ryan Campbell, Vice President of Total Seed Production is no exception. At 10 years old he started working at what was then Campbell Seed, a fourth generation seed production operation. “The working relationship of my parents had a profound influence on my desire to work in the seed industry,” stated Ryan. Many facets of the industry change each year, “there are challenges with different rewards, and that is the aspect of working in agriculture that drives me each day,” said Campbell. Adding, “the opportunity to network with competitors is unique and rewarding.”

In 2006, the Campbell Seed brand sold, however the tradition in contract production continues as Total Seed Production. Ryan recently completed an expansion for the 5th consecutive year that doubled their plant capacity. “It’s extremely important to constantly evolve for the needs of your customers. Our increase in production demonstrates our ability to adapt and deliver the best product and services to our customers.”

Ryan divides his time between the farming operations during planting, detasseling, harvest and also managing plant construction/ expansion projects. When production moves inside, Ryan focuses his attention on the office and conditioning/packaging soybeans. “There is never a year that repeats itself,” says Campbell.

Farmer’s have seen a steady growth in production within the past several years, however now that landscape is changing and Ryan views serving on the ICIA board as an opportunity to contribute and support this ever-changing industry. “I’m honored to be a part of the ICIA board, said Campbell.” “I hope to bring a unique and vertical viewpoint of the challenges experienced by farmers, growers, production facilities and retailers.”

“IEDIA can continue to position itself to expand services and meet the needs of multi-level customers, stated Ryan.”

Ryan always looks for continued improvement. “Whether it’s using the latest technology or utilizing the newest and most reliable equipment, I strive to increase efficiencies in our business and for our customers,” said Campbell.

It’s evident the passion that is poured into Campbell’s work each day. However, Ryan is just as passionate about his family. He and his wife, Andrea and their two sons, Charlie (4) and Dawson (2), enjoy vacations away from the farm. Ryan also enjoys taking Charlie and Dawson to look at fields or for a ride in the tractor. He hopes at least one of his sons will follow in his footsteps and have the same passion for farming and agriculture.

We appreciate Ryan’s support and involvement on the ICIA board!
As part of ICIA’s ISO 9001:2008 quality policy, ICIA staff works diligently to provide customers with superior lab services. Dan Edwards has served ICIA customers in the cold test department for the past 40 years with remarkable leadership. ICIA management has announced Karen Laffoon will be directing the ICIA cold test department beginning June 1. “Karen has worked closely with Dan, this will provide a seamless transition of leadership in the cold test department,” said Alan Galbreth, CEO, ICIA.

After many years of working with her family in business, Karen began working at ICIA in 2004. Laffoon has a strong background in agriculture and has applied her experience throughout many areas of ICIA’s testing laboratories as a part-time technician, as well as completing field inspections. “Indiana Crop has a solid history of reliable testing methods, it’s our role to utilize and implement those methods with careful attention in all areas of the ICIA labs and field inspections,” said Karen.

Laffoon looks forward to her new leadership responsibilities. “I value the staff in our department. We work as a team and I plan to continue those efforts, said Karen.” In addition, she plans to gain a greater understanding of the members and their individual testing needs - and to begin putting a name with a face of those she has completed testing for over the years. Karen will have the opportunity to meet with many ICIA members and customers during the ICIA Member Appreciation & Open House Event scheduled for August 12-14.

As Dan Edwards finishes his last day at ICIA and bids farewell to his long time co-workers, Karen states her appreciation for his leadership and guidance that he has imparted during this time of transition. Laffoon is confident and ready to hit the ground running within ICIA. She is focused on delivering the exceptional service ICIA customers have come to expect. “Our members can be assured in the quality and integrity of all our testing services. We want to deliver the most accurate results - in the most timely manner, using the most efficient equipment,” said Laffoon.

It’s evident Karen knows the value of working hard - she has the integrity to see a job to completion - and will do so with a great attitude. She enjoys spending time on her family farm with her husband Bob of 30 years. “Working in the garden, enjoying a campfire, or taking a bike ride, life is at its best when you can enjoy the simple things with family,” said Karen. She and her husband have three grown children and recently welcomed their first grandchild, Allison.
Seed testing and labeling are two mainstays mandated by law and a part of being in the seed business in this country. Our state and federal laws establish minimum labeling requirements to express seed quality and place responsibilities on the seedsman to have appropriate tests performed on each seed lot to determine the quality of seed products destined for distribution to customers.

Sampling is a very important factor in determining the quality of individual seed lots. Obtaining a representative sample of a seed lot, regardless of lot size, is always a challenge. And sample size has an impact on representative testing. If an entire seed lot could be tested its true value would definitely be ascertained. However, this is neither feasible nor ordinarily possible! Thus, in seed testing the quality of the lot must be determined from a sample that represents the entire lot but yet is small enough to allow for efficient testing by trained staff. Established sampling protocols take this into consideration to minimize variation.

Testing that’s required by seed laws should be done by skilled analysts trained to evaluate seed quality using uniform procedures and guidelines. Testing protocols utilized should be those established by national and/or international organizations that promote testing uniformity. Using uniform and accepted procedures helps to minimize testing variation between laboratories and analysts.

Labeling requirements established by law set the minimum labeling factors representing the basic seed quality of each lot of seed sold. The labeler has the freedom to set label claims for the required quality factors. Claims should be truthful and accurate based on tests conducted on the seed. Since claims for purity and germination are considered “minimum” claims, the labeler should avoid using an exact test result as a claim. It’s almost impossible to duplicate test results through repeated testing of the same sample or by testing additional samples of the same lot. Consequently, it’s wise for a labeler to allow himself a bit of a cushion to account for variability in sampling and testing.

Tolerances – what are they, why do we have them, and how should they be utilized? These are utilized to account for the expected variation that occurs in sampling and testing. Perhaps we should call them “permitted analytical variation” when used to compare test results from different laboratories, or results from different subsamples of the same sample, or comparing one analyst to another. A guarantee for a particular component of seed quality should never be made based on an assumed “tolerance”.

VISIT ICIA at the EXPO in DC!
ICIA’s Emily Dierking, PhD appointed to the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Board

Indiana Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) is proud to announce that Emily Dierking, PhD, the organization’s Genetics Program Director has been appointed to the USDA’s Plant Variety Protection Board.

The purpose of the Board is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Under Secretary for the Marketing and Regulatory Programs, in the administration of the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA). The Act provides that “The Board shall consist of individuals who are experts in various areas of varietal development covered by this Act.”

Alan Galbreth, CEO, ICIA comments, “ICIA is very proud to have Dr. Dierking selected to serve on the PVP Board. Emily will be a good representative for the seed industry and its stakeholders. She is a trained plant breeder who has experience working as a breeder for a seed company and has applied for variety protection through the PVP office. In addition, she understands the seed certification system and has a great molecular testing background as director of the ICIA genetics laboratory. The PVP office is crucial to the protection of intellectual property in the seed industry and ICIA is honored to have a representative involved in the process.”

Emily was one of 6 newly appointed members to the Plant Variety Protection Board. Members of this Board are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and serve on the Board for two years. Emily’s term will begin this summer.

Warm sun, mushrooms, lawn mowing, longer days, lightning bugs, and cook outs; it must be planting time on the farm. For ICIA, it means time to gear up for inspection season.

The inspection scene is an ever-changing vista of acreage amounts and field locations. This year brings fewer acres to the mix, but the need is still great for highly trained, quality inspectors and inspections delivering valuable information to seed companies.

To accomplish our goals of accurate, timely information for our customers, veteran and new inspectors will be trained by ICIA staff during our annual training sessions held in June. Skills covered include: uniform inspection procedures, count protocols, report writing, and timeliness guidelines. Special sessions are provided for specific crops and inspection types for ICIA inspectors, as well as, individual supervisor training.

Gail Ruhl from Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab will again provide training for our veteran inspectors who perform phytosanitary inspections. Several corn and soybean diseases will be covered, as well as procedures for sending in samples for lab confirmation.

Many of our inspections are necessary for international shipment of seed around the world; however field inspections are also an excellent investment. Inspection season will soon be upon us. If you are interested in a tailored program for your business, give ICIA a call at 866-899-2518 or email Wes Delks delks@indianacrop.org.
ISTA DIAGNOSTIC DAY

ISTA will host its 2015 Diagnostic Day Wednesday, July 15th and will take place at the Beck Agriculture Center, 4540 U.S. 52 W., West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Plan now to attend this full day of informative and educational sessions regarding current issues in the agriculture industry.

Topics & Speakers include:

- Maximizing Weed Control While Minimizing Herbicide Drift
  Bryan Young/Travis Legleiter

- P & K & S Recommendations
  Jim Camberato

- Bt Corn Rootworm Resistance Update
  Christian Krupke/John Obermeyer

- Effective Nutrient Placement in Strip Tillage and No-till for Corn and Soybean
  Tony Vyn

- Weed Management Issues for 2015
  Bill Johnson/Travis Legleiter

- Update on Plant Disease Issues for 2015
  Kiersten Wise

Registering for the field day offers attendees the opportunity to earn CEU and CCH credits. Registration is $125.00 and is open to members and non-members of ISTA. Lunch is included and registration is limited.

If you would like to register, please contact Quincy Cunningham at 317-423-0307 or email at qcunningham@frickassoc.com. Further information is available on the ISTA website at www.indianaseed.org

ICIA to host Member Appreciation and Open House Event
AUGUST 12-14

While seed production is underway all over the Corn Belt, ICIA is busy making plans for its members later this summer. The ICIA Member Appreciation and Open House will be a three day event on August 12, 13 and 14. Liz Pestow, Marketing Director at ICIA shares, “This event is a chance for us to show our members that we appreciate their business and the relationships we have built with them and also to offer current and potential members the opportunity to get to know us and our operation better.”

The schedule will incorporate some fun and relaxing activities and some technical and educational sessions. The itinerary below will be posted on the ICIA website. As more details emerge they will also be reflected on the website.

Wednesday, August 12:
  Golf scramble 1-6p
  Fair Oaks Dairy & Pig Farm Tours 11-6p
  Reception 6-7 Followed by Dinner 7p - ?

Thursday, August 13:
  ICIA Open House & Interactive Tours 9-4p

Friday, August 14:
  ICIA Fall Trait Testing Seminar & Seed Labeling and sampling presentation 9-12n

Those interested in attending can RSVP or with questions please call the ICIA office at 866.899.2518. Learn more at www.indianacrop.org

Indiana Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) is an independent, non-profit organization. Since 1900, ICIA has been a resource for unbiased, third party agriculture quality assurance. In addition to being the official seed certifying agency for the state of Indiana, we provide full-service seed testing including: germination, purity, vigor, bioassay herbicide and other biotech trait testing. Our Genetics Lab offers DNA and Protein based testing for AP-LLP, hybrid purity and NonGMO confirmation. ICIA Field inspection services offer year-round certification, custom quality programs and QA and IP programs.
Seed Quality Update

Test results through May 15, 2015

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<tr>
<td>Warm Germ</td>
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<td>97.1%</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Test</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
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</table>

2014 Corn quality was excellent. Vigor scores were also strong. Soybean quality was good for most lots this past season. A few lots showed a lower germ with some mechanical damage and some other lots with pod and stem. The table above shows the germination and vigor scores to date for the 2015 testing season and the previous two years. (note: no changes in text from last year....is this accurate information?)