

Alfalfa Committee Minutes - Draft
February 2, 2023
10:35 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

In attendance: Brian Duyck, Dale Heggem, Slade Franklin, Cassidy Mueller, Ryan Nelson, Mike Moore, Mike Forman, Kyle Webber, Melanie Bennett, Morgan Grover, Peter Spiering, Cort Jones, Anthony Spiering, Gary White, Rodney McNiven, Brent Horton, Austen Samet-Brown, Crystal May, Kim Decker, Pam Bridgeman, Cheri North, Jonathan Smith, Dave Johnson, Jake Jarrett, Ryan Johnson, Andrew Kniss, Jim Heitholt, Cody Hurford, Chloe Winkler, Keith Schaefer, Sam George, Jeremiah Vardiman, Mary Block, Chad Block, Steve Paisley

Minutes

Morgan Grover moved, Peter Spiering second, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried

Proposed wording to use AOSCA standards when a request is made for a crop without WSCS standards.

Mike shared that the proposal would simply put wording in the handbook that is reflective of past practice. Since the previous committee had moved this item forward, no action was needed from this committee.

Palmer amaranth

Anthony Spiering shared with the group his concern that unless Palmer is on the Wyoming prohibited noxious weed seed list, it will be legal to sell seed in the state that is contaminated with the weed. A question was asked about the Park County Weed and Pest quarantine. Mike Forman noted that Park County has the best quarantine in the state, but also said that in reality, it was a bit of a bluff. That did not mean it wasn't effective, because county weed and pest staff are very good at working with people to address issues rather than having to quarantine a farm. Mike did note that property can have issues, and so long as the crop material stays on farm, there isn't much they can do. It was noted that the Weed and Pest Council has funds to inform the public about weed issues, and discussions about putting posters up to educate about Palmer or to even place a bounty on the weed to encourage people to inform Weed and Pest when the weed is found were seen as good options. If people will report the weed, it will allow initial infestations to be addressed by the rapid response team. There was a lot of encouragement to explore those options, and to that end, it sounded like Jeremiah, Jake/Josh, and Mike Moore would collaborate on efforts. It was also noted that there are phone applications that help with weed identification, and that pictures are a great way to share or get identification of weeds found in the wild. **Peter Spiering moved, Brian Duyck second, to encourage listing Palmer on both the Weed and Pest prohibited noxious weed list and on the Wyoming prohibited noxious weed seed list. Motion carried.** Mike Moore noted that he had been asked about the impact of Palmer on forage hay producers. Andrew Kniss encouraged Mike to talk to Nevin Lawrence at the University of Nebraska, as he has done work on that topic. As a final note, Dave Johnson shared that he has been told it is in Carbon and Yellowstone counties in Montana, so it is not far from us.

On a related topic, Mike Moore shared that a concern that was raised in previous Palmer listing discussions was a lack the lack of seed certification standards. Mike said that while today's discussion would not be able to generate those standards, we could start the discussion now so we are ready for the next meeting cycle. Mike said that, assuming Palmer is listed as a prohibited noxious weed, the seed tolerance would be zero. The only standard that would need to be set would be a field tolerance. As a starting point, he offered 2 plants per acre, citing the proven ability of the industry to clean other

amaranth species out of alfalfa seed. The consensus was that it was a reasonable standard, and discussion was minimal.

Weeds missing from the prohibited noxious weed seed list

Four weeds were inadvertently dropped from the Wyoming prohibited noxious weed seed list, as reported at the WCIA district meetings. Those weeds will be recommended by SLAG to be reinstated at the next Board of Ag meeting, which is scheduled for February 23rd.

Bean Committee Minutes - Draft
February 2nd, 2023
8:10 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

In attendance: Morgan Grover, Peter Spiering, Anthony Spiering, Cort Jones, Gary White, Rodney McNiven, Austen Samet-Brown, Crystal May, Kim Decker, Pam Bridgeman, Cheri North, Jonathan Smith, Cortney Allen, Ray Cauffman, Slade Franklin, Cassidy Mueller, Ryan Nelson, Beau Fulton, Wayne Hort, Dale Heggem, Corey Forman, Jeff Chapman, Dave Johnson, Jake Jarrett, Ryan Johnson, Andrew Kniss, Jim Heitholt, Steve Paisley, Cody Hurford, Sam George, Keith Schaefer, Chloe Winkler, Jeremiah Vardiman, Melanie Bennett, Kyle Webber, Mike Moore

Minutes

Anthony Spiering moved, Cortney Allen second, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Proposed wording to address species for which Wyoming does not have published standards

After a brief explanation that the WSCS has already been using AOSCA standards when a request for inspection services is made for a crop without Wyoming standards, **Morgan Grover moved, Peter Spiering second, to approve the proposed wording and location in the handbook. Motion carried.**

New dry bean variety acceptance for certification

Mike Moore said that while most growers are unaware of the process by which varieties are approved for certification, he felt it was good that they had a basic understanding. Most crops have a national variety review board, which is made up of industry and government staff that are breeders for that crop, and beans are no exception. Review is not based on merit, meaning the decision is not based on whether the variety be allowed in the market for some advantage such as yield or disease resistance. The review is to make sure that information pertinent to seed certification inspections is present as well as any claims such as disease resistance are supported with data. The bean review board is new, and the industry has indicated a reluctance to submit applications because they don't want competitors who are on the board to have access to breeding information. This is a common concern for all crops, but Mike said that his experience is that the communication that comes from the review or service on the review board is healthy and beneficial. While releases from Ag Experiment Stations have a pass because of internal review processes, private breeding programs will need to use the variety review board in order for their varieties to be eligible. He reminded the group that years ago, about half of the dry bean seed acres were a quality assurance inspection, and expressed concern that might increase again due to company reluctance to use the review board.

Palmer amaranth

Mike Forman reported that the Weed and Pest Council will be asking the Board of Ag to place Palmer on the Weed and Pest state noxious weed list, noting that 18 of 23 counties voted in favor of the action. It was noted that as per procedure, an individual can request that a weed be considered for listing on the prohibited noxious weed seed list. That request has been made, so there is no need for a motion from this body to get it on the SLAG agenda. **Anthony Spiering moved, Dave Johnson second, that the WCIA provide support for listing Palmer amaranth on the prohibited noxious weed seed list. Motion carried.** As part of discussions on the topic, Jeff Chapman, Kelly Bean, shared that 10 pivots of beans in Nebraska were a total loss due to the weed. Andrew Kniss reminded the group that Palmer is much more competitive with dry beans than redroot pigweed, with yield losses of around 70% when infestations reach one Palmer plant per meter. He said that intermittent tillage was helpful in reducing infestations, as burying the seed reduced the number of plants in the field. He did share some good news, in that

Palmer's soil seed life is only 4 to 6 years. Outlook is currently a chemical control option, and high rates of Prowl and Sonalan might also be effective, but it was noted that resistance to Outlook has been identified in other states. **Corey Forman moved, Peter Spiering second, for the WCIA to support the efforts of Weed and Pest to list Palmer on the state noxious weed list. Motion carried.**

Bean Commission report

Beau Fulton and Dale Heggem tag teamed the report, starting with a review of last year's minutes from this committee that stated that insurance for seed beans was done. It turns out that was not the case, and in fact, when the RMA in Kansas City worked on the issue, the wheels came off. That office wants the commission to re-submit the information that was already provided to the Billings office, which has been very supportive and great to work with. At the earliest, Dale guessed that coverage would be available in 2024, but more likely to be after that. The other concern is that Kansas City wants seed beans to be considered a new crop, which means that initial applicants would have to use the county average for beans until they generated 5 years of data. Given crop rotations, that could take 10 to 15 years, and the increased premiums for insuring seed would not be worth the price and low county yield average recognized by RMA. On a brighter note, the commission is seeking requests for research, and encouraged people to reach out to them with needs/ideas.

Bean industry report

Ray Cauffman noted that the 2022 growing season was very good as far as bean quality and germination, and that there were no frost damaged beans. The yields were down 5 to 6 bags from past years. He said there are quite a few new varieties, and encouraged growers to be confident in planting them, as the genetics are good so they should do well for producers. He was asked about the current and future situation with slow darkening beans. He said his perspective has changed from feeling they would be gone in the next few years to a belief that they will have a place in the market. The initial slow darkening (SD) releases had thin seed coats and less than stellar color, resulting in germination issues as well as poor market acceptance. The 3rd and 4th generation SD varieties are better. He also noted that 30 to 40% of the Canadian crop is SD, so that will keep them in the market. He also noted that there is a focus on developing short season SD varieties. His perspective for ADM is that sales are slow, and to select markets. The other bean industry representatives said that Ray had done a great job with the industry report, and had nothing to add.

WDA bean grader in Powell

Dale Heggem took a moment to inform the group that the WDA no longer has a bean grader in Powell, so anyone needing that service will be given information on where to send samples. He said there wasn't enough demand for the service for them to offer it, and that it was hard for WDA staff maintain bean grading proficiency when samples were rarely submitted. Sending samples to bean graders who do it much more frequently will give the sampler better results.

**Other Crop Minutes - Draft
February 2nd, 2023
1:05 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.**

In attendance: Morgan Grover, Cort Jones, Peter Spiering, Gary White, Brent Horton, Corey Forman, Crystal May, Kim Decker, Pam Bridgeman, Bill Goolsbey, Lee Craig, Brian Duyck, Slade Franklin, Mary Block, Chad Block, Ryan Nelson, Dave Johnson, Jake Jarrett, Ryan Johnson, Keith Schaefer, Jim Heitholt, Melanie Bennett, Kyle Webber, Jeremiah Vardiman, Mike Moore, Mike Forman

Minutes

Brian Duyck moved, Morgan Grover second, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Grassy weed control – Jeremiah Vardiman

Jeremiah Vardiman shared his work with Brian Duyck to apply contact herbicides to several grass species in an effort to determine tolerance to those products that can be used to control grassy weeds. He provided a handout that detailed what chemicals worked with the grass species tested, and what did not work. Crop injury was the measurable factor, as yield and viability were not taken. Fall applications showed less crop injury than spring applications. Pubescent wheatgrass showed the least injury with Olympus in the fall, and while there was some stunting in the spring, Olympus or Powerflex had less crop injury. Intermediate wheatgrass was similar to pubescent wheatgrass in its reaction. Crested wheatgrass showed less injury with Powerflex in the fall, although Olympus damage was such that it was still considered an option. Siberian wheatgrass did best with Powerflex in the fall, and Canada wildrye did not like any of the products, regardless of the timing. Application rates were label rates for winter wheat for each product.

Proposal to recommend adding Palmer amaranth to the Wyoming Seed Law prohibited noxious weed list

The majority of the people present at this committee meeting were present for the discussion on this topic in the Bean and Alfalfa Committee meetings earlier in the day. No action was taken.

Palmer amaranth standards discussion

Mike Moore stated that one of the issues raised in opposition to listing Palmer was the lack of seed certification standards, and that having them would help support listing. Mike said that those standards would be crop-specific, and for dry beans, he saw the real issue being visibility in the field rather than the ability to clean Palmer out of crop seed. The group consensus was that 2 plants per acre, which is similar to nightshade, would be appropriate. That suggestion will be forwarded to the district meetings this December.

Proposed bulk sales certificate

Mike noted that most seed sold in northern Wyoming is not sold via bulk sale, although Briess does use that option. The SE growers have had instances the last two years where seed produced in another state was brought to Wyoming, and subsequently sold in bulk. The certificates we are currently using state the seed was grown in Wyoming, and there isn't a way to change it. The growers had no option but to use that certificate, even though that statement wasn't true. The proposed certificate allows for a statement of seed origin, but in other respects, it is the same as the original. **Peter Spiering moved, Dave Johnson second, to approve the new bulk sales certificate. Motion carried.**

Proposed wording for species/kinds that do not have published standards

This proposal had been discussed and approved in previous committees, so no action was taken.

Jim Heitholt grass seed research grant

Jim described his proposal, which is to do on-farm scouting of grass seed fields for both terrestrial and subterranean insect pest, make insecticide applications when insects are found, and compare seed yield and viability on treated and untreated plots. The current effort is to submit a NIFA grant proposal, which Jim said had about a 10% chance of being funded. If it is not funded, he can submit the same proposal for a Western SARE grant. He noted that matching funds would help show local support for the proposal, and after discussion, **Brian Duyck moved, Lee Craig second, to give the WCIA Board of Directors the discretion to provide funding for the proposal from the NRCS Grass Seed Research account. Motion carried.**

BPMC funding request for an AmeriCorp volunteer for 2023

Mike reported that recent communication with BPMC staff resulted in them withdrawing the request.

Recommendation to no longer publish acres for grass seed production

Mike shared that his reasoning was based on other crops, where contractors are very sensitive to proprietary information, which would include acreage figures. With greater recognition of contractors in grass seed production, they will be listed in the seed directory rather than the growers. It was reported that one contractor was in favor of the change, but there were statements that indicated that the acreage information was appreciated. **Peter Spiering moved to strike grass seed acres from the seed directory, Lee Craig second. Motion passed with one dissenting vote.**

BLM Accreditation of the WSAL

Pam reported that the SOP's are all done, and that they have purchased the required monitoring equipment. While there is an opportunity this spring to finish the accreditation, and save money, by having the site audit at the same time as Montana, she was not sure that should be done with the change in staff that will occur when she retires on September 1, 2023. It is hoped that they can post the position on March 1st to begin the application process for her replacement.

Regulatory Sampling and Testing

Pam reported that 51 regulatory samples were tested this year. 18 samples were out of compliance, but none were for noxious weeds. Looking to the coming year, Cort Jones said that each WDA district is supposed to pull 25 samples, but that he pulls more than 25.

Report on varieties and germplasms maintained by the WSCS

Mike shared that two releases from the Bismarck PMC will be added to the list of releases maintained by the WSCS. They are Nordan crested wheatgrass and Mandan Canada wildrye.

Membership Meeting Minutes - Draft

February 3rd, 2023

8:00 – 11:30 a.m.

In attendance: Ray Cauffman, Corey Forman, Gary White, Cheri North, Jonathan Smith, Bill Goolsbey, Lee Craig, Brian Duyck, Jeremiah Vardiman, Dave Johnson, Steve Paisley, Sam George, Kyle Webber, Melanie Bennett, Peter Spiering, Anthony Spiering, Chad Block, Mary Block, Lyle Evelo, Samantha Fulton, Pam Bridgeman, Ryan Nelson, Brent Horton, Andrew Kniss, Donna Harris, Keith Kennedy (phone), Mike Forman, Mike Moore

Approval of the 2022 Minutes

Brian Duyck moved, Dave Johnson second, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

WCIA Lobbyist Report – Keith Kennedy

Keith Kennedy provided a pre-recorded report, followed by a question and answer session by phone later in the morning. On the state level, he said that there are a lot of proposed bills, but with cross over day fast approaching, many of them will not make it. He noted the following bills of interest. There are several bills related to state trust lands, a bill that would the speeds allowed for slow moving vehicle signage due to modern equipment road speeds, several related to property tax relief, and bills limiting foreign ownership of land. He said that it is likely that the foreign land ownership issue will likely be an interim topic because the current bills may not pass constitutional muster. At the federal level, he noted that the EPA is doing re-registration of rodenticides, including changes to PPE.

Financial Review Committee

Samantha Fulton reviewed the WCIA account reports, and found them to agree with the bank statements. Mike Moore shared the NRCS Grass Seed Research account report, noting that the account was healthy, due in part to the WSCS billing for seed distributed by the BPMC that was not produced by the WSCS. For BPMC releases maintained by the WSCS, all of the funds from those sales goes to back to the WSCS to cover costs. WSCS account information was given for the period of July 1, 2022 through January 10, 2023. A report on the WSCS account has not been given for several years because the account balance was “unsettled.” Mike said that the confidence in the beginning balance on July 1 allowed them to provide a reasonable report. He noted that accounting procedures in WyoCloud make these figures close rather than to the penny, so the group should keep that in mind. Mike added that there were outstanding invoices in the amount of \$36,949.98 as well as \$59,995.52 in funds that have not been returned from an account sweep during President Nichols’ administration. He said that he has reasonable confidence that the swept funds will be returned this year, and hopes to have that by April.

Excellence in Service Award

Mike Forman said the Board of Directors received several nominations this year, and that Ray Cauffman was the recipient of this year’s award. Ray was recognized by people for his depth of knowledge that he was very free in sharing, and that he was just a phone call away from coming out to help sort out a problem. Ray told the group that he has been in the bean industry for 35 years.

Board of Directors Report

Mike Forman shared the actions of the Board from the previous day. The Board approved \$20,000 in funding toward Jim Heitholt’s NIFA grant proposal pending appropriate approvals, the continuation of the WCIA reimbursing WSCS staff for cell phone charges, a \$500 donation to the FFA Foundation, continuation of the WSCS scholarship, and adding Melanie Bennett to the WCIA and WCIA LF accounts.

There was a question as to the amount of the scholarships, which is \$300 per person. There was a suggestion to increase the amount to \$500 per person, as \$300 doesn't do much today. Mike then shared that the Board discussed potential fee increases for the WSCS. The last increase was 14 years ago, and while the program is solvent, it is to the point of living hand-to-mouth. Mike Moore will develop a proposal for discussion in the next meeting cycle, and support the proposed increases with information. He noted that margins for the small grain producers in southeast Wyoming are pretty thin, so the proposal will need to take that into account.

Committee Action Items

Bean Committee

There were several action items from the committee. There was a proposed addition to the handbook that would state that AOSCA standards are used if a request for certification of a crop that does not have published standards. Another motion was made to request listing of Palmer amaranth as a prohibited noxious weed on the noxious weed seed list, and a related motion directing the WCIA to support the Weed and Pest Council in their request to list Palmer amaranth on the Weed and Pest prohibited noxious weed list. **Anthony Spiering moved, Brian Duyck second, to approve the motions from the Bean Committee. Motion carried.**

Alfalfa Committee

The sole motion was to encourage and support listing Palmer amaranth on both the Weed and Pest Prohibited noxious weed list and the Wyoming Prohibited noxious weed seed list. **Brian Duyck moved, Peter Spiering second, to approve the motion from the Alfalfa Committee. Motion carried.**

Other Crop Committee

There was a motion from this committee to approve the proposed bulk sales certificate, and a motion to give the WCIA Board of Directors discretion to provide financial support from the NRCS Grass Seed Research Fund as appropriate in support of Jim Heitholt's NIFA grant proposal. Finally, there was a motion to strike (no longer publish) grass seed acres in the WSCS seed directory. **Peter Spiering moved, Lee Craig second, to approve the motions. Motion carried.**

State Seed Analyst position

There was a discussion of the need to encourage timely filling of the state seed analyst position that will be vacant on September 1, 2023. The group was encouraged to contact UW President Seidel, College of Ag Dean Barbara Rasco, and Eric Webster regarding that position.

Reports

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Slade Franklin, the new Director of Technical Services, said that Palmer amaranth and the 4 "lost" weeds from the prohibited noxious weed seed list will be on the agenda for the February 23rd meeting of the Wyoming Board of Ag. He shared that the pesticide compliance officer position, previously held by Cindy Fulton, was going to be listed for a third time. The department is also down a scale truck position. They are currently updating training standards for pesticides, including changes to CEU categories. The EPA was sued, and one of the outcomes of that suit was a review of pesticide labeling and pesticide re-registrations. He said people should expect significant label changes.

SAREC director **Steve Paisley provided the College of Ag report**, as Dean Rasco, Kelly Crane, and Eric Webster were unable to attend. He said that Eric Webster has been great, providing funding for updated

equipment, including precision tractors and planters. SAREC is down a Plant Science Dept. faculty position with the departure of Carrie Eberle as well as a technician position. He said that the College of Ag positions are down 28%, but said they were lucky to have Dean Rasco and Eric Webster.

Extension – Park County Extension Educator Jeremiah Vardiman

Jeremiah said that Extension has been trying to fill positions, but the job market is tough. He added that salary ranges have not been updated, and are often not competitive.

Andrew Kniss

Andrew said that his perspective is much more positive compared to last year's report, as UW is in a better place. He said that Clint Beirermann has been hired for the forage/crop weed management position, and Kelsey Brock is the new invasive weed scientist. They are currently searching for a horticulture/crop physiologist position. There is also an opening for an Ag technology specialist, and the duty location can be chosen by the candidate. He talked about a recent announcement regarding a CEA (controlled environment agriculture) Center. The center has been announced, but no money is tied to it. He is working to make sure that UW does not lose sight of traditional ag, and shared how some positions could serve both the new center and support traditional crop production. In conclusion, he said his highest goal at this time is to build depth in entomology, as they are only able to teach a 1000 level introductory course at the current staffing level.

Sheridan R&E Center – Donna Harris

The center has a post-doc, 3 PhD students, an MS student who is also a Weed and Pest supervisor, and they hope to hire up to 15 interns this summer. The center has been producing seed of native species, researching remote sensing, and conducting plant breeding on dry beans, grasses native to northeastern Wyoming, sunn hemp, and field peas.

PREC – Jim Heitholt and Sam George

Jim said that Wendy Files is the new office associate, but that they have not had a research assistant for 2 years. The station is currently working on deficit irrigation, soil fertility, with more on-farm trials and grass seed research. Equipment upgrades including a large Case combine, a new 130 Hp tractor that will be a big help with precision planting, a new MaxEmerge planter, upgrades to the linear sprinkler, and new grain bins. There was a lot of interest in grain storage, especially the ability of fans/heated air to dry grain.

Lee Craig shared with the group that he serves on the Water Development Commission, and that there will be a tour in August. He will send information when he has it.

Elections

Mike Moore asked for nominations for WCIA President. **Dave Johnson nominated Mike Forman. Brian Duyck moved, Peter Spiering second, that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion carried.** Mike Forman asked for nominations for Vice President. **Anthony Spiering nominated Dave Johnson. Brian Duyck moved, Lee Craig second, that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion carried.**

2024 WCIA meeting

The suggested dates of February 1st and 2nd had no opposition, nor did the suggested location.