

Seed Notes

California Crop Improvement Association
Parsons Seed Certification Center
University of California
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-8541



April 2009

Phone: 530-752-0544
Fax: 530-752-4735
Email: ccia@ucdavis.edu
Website: ccia.ucdavis.edu

Scholarship Program

CCIA provides scholarships to students attending the major agricultural universities in California. These students must indicate an active interest and participation in the seed industry, crop improvement, crop science clubs, seed packaging, seed and plant judging contests and/or activities related to seed production. Each university sets their own due dates and application specifics. For more information please contact the College or Department at each school or Robert Stewart at CCIA, 530-752-9826 (rfstewart@ucdavis.edu).

This past year \$1500 scholarships were awarded to:

Jeff Slaven

Cal Poly, Pomona - Plant Science Department

Amanda Hollows

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo - Horticulture & Crop Science Department

Garrett Driver

California State University, Chico - College of Agriculture

Kevin Wayne

California State University, Fresno - Department of Plant Science

Zachary Bower

University of California, Davis - Department of Plant Sciences



Amanda Hollows - Bob Stewart



Bob Stewart - Jeff Slaven

District Director Elections

There are 8 elected district directors represented on the CCIA board of directors. Every other year, elections are held for four districts. This year elections were held for districts 2, 4, 6, and 8. The incumbents were re-elected in all four districts. We appreciate their dedication and willingness to serve. The following directors will be seated at the May meeting:

District 2 - Glenn Powell

District 4 - Tom Hearne

District 6 - Jack De Wit

District 8 - Glenn Hawes

A district map is available on the CCIA website at:

http://www.ccia.ucdavis.edu/html/district_map.html

CCIA Mission: California Crop Improvement Association will provide services and support research projects that promote the improvement, production, distribution and use of superior quality seeds and other agricultural products.

Annual Member's Meeting

All members are invited to attend the annual member's meeting on May 28, 2009 at 9:00 am in the Prato Room of the Parsons Seed Certification Center building on the UC Davis campus. If you plan to attend, please contact Kitty Schlosser at 530-752-6979

or meschlosser@ucdavis.edu. We need to make sure there are seats available for all attending. There is no registration fee; travel and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the member.

Technical Notes

- Variety Amendment Acceptance

Amendments to variety descriptions, including variant tolerance, have in the past been approved without formal review or consideration by the original certification authority. Effective January 2009, CCIA will require the certification agency or review board that originally approved the variety accept the amendment before CCIA will recognize the amendment. If the variety was approved through CCIA's Certification Technical Committee (CTC), the amendment and supporting experimental data must be submitted to CCIA/CTC for review. The CTC will determine if the changes are substantiated and make a recommendation to the CCIA Board of Directors that the amendment be accepted. For example, variant tolerance amendments must provide credible data to support the request changing the frequency of variants from what was reported in the original variety described. The entire notice is available as a pdf on the CCIA website. See the news item under January 2009 at:

<http://www.ccia.ucdavis.edu/html/news.htm>

- Certification Technical Committee

The next meeting of the Certification Technical Committee (CTC) is scheduled for April 24, 2009; "Application for Variety Certification" of new varieties to be reviewed by CTC are due in the CCIA office by April 11, 2009. Additional information and applications are available on the CCIA web site.

The CTC is advisory to the CCIA regarding eligibility of varieties for certification. The committee is made up of members from the CCIA, Department of Plant Sciences, Plant Pathology Department, Foundation Seed Program, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture. This committee will review varieties for distinctiveness and genetic stability according to the guidelines established by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. The CTC meets three times a year during the months of January, April, and August to review pending varieties.

Director update

- Seed Lab Recognition Program - Several years ago CCIA closed its seed lab and permitted conditioners to submit seed samples to a seed testing laboratory of their choice. This procedural change was to be accompanied by an auditing system to insure that there was no deterioration in the quality or reputation of certified seed. We are moving forward with a formalization of the auditing. Our new RST, Mary Voorhees, will be visiting seed labs and conditioners to collect seed samples, run tests, and compare the results with the submitted information. We would like to remind those of you who are conditioning the seed lots and drawing the samples to please maintain a reserve sample of sufficient size for auditing purposes. We are in the process of updating our standards with respect to the minimum size of the submitted sample required for seed labs in order to insure that labs have adequate samples. Seed labs following AOSA/CCIA analytical procedures will be audited annually and designated as CCIA Recognized. By 2010, CCIA will accept seed analysis results only from labs which have been recognized.

- Spotlight on Sampling - The importance of using best practices in acquiring seed samples for seed analysis can not be understated. No matter how accurately an analysis is made, it can only show the quality of the sample submitted. We have posted the proper seed sampling procedures on the CCIA web site at: http://www.ccia.ucdavis.edu/seed_cert/sampling.htm If you have any questions about sampling methods please call Timothy Blank at 530-754-4854.

- New crop standards are now available for berseem clover, teff, and turfgrass. They are available at the CCIA web site (<http://ccia.ucdavis.edu>) on the "Seed Certification" page.

- Organic Certification - CCIA was authorized in 2002 to become an Accredited Certifying Agent (ACA) for the purpose of granting Organic Certification status to qualified producers and handlers. The USDA-National Organic Program (NOP) has elected not to renew CCIA as an ACA. Last November CCIA's status as an ACA was revoked by the USDA-NOP, after over six years working with nearly 100 qualified organic producers and handlers both domestic and international. The official notification by the NOP is in a letter dated November 24, 2008. CCIA is continuing the process of appealing this decision. CCIA was audited by USDA in June 2007. CCIA responded to minor issues of noncompliance and requested additional time to respond to 2 of the issues. Without receiving any response from NOP, CCIA received a letter of intent to revoke our accreditation in July 2008. Our accreditation was then revoked in October 2008 due to a late response to this letter. CCIA intends to work with NOP to regain our ability to act as an Organic Certifying Agent.

If you were organically certified by CCIA your organic certification is still intact. If you want to continue to be organically certified you must obtain the services of another ACA. A quote from the USDA-NOP Web Site from December 19, 2008:

"Operations certified by CCIA must make arrangements with another certifying agent to provide their certification as soon as possible. CCIA clients may make arrangements to transfer their certification by contacting any NOP accredited certifying agent. Operations certified by CCIA remain certified until certification is surrendered, suspended, or revoked. Properly certified and labeled products from CCIA certified operations are still eligible for sale as organic during this transition."

CCIA Staff

Larry R. Teuber, Executive Director	530-752-9824
Kitty Schlosser, Administrative Manager	530-752-6979
Bob Stewart, Field Services	530-722-9826
Bob Simas, Field Services	530-752-9823
Pablo Guzman-Vargas, Field Services	530-754-9649
Timothy Blank, Field Services	530-754-4854
Alex Mkandawire, Field Services	530-752-6868
Claudine Clark, Seed Lab & Tags	530-752-9828
Mary Voorhees, Seed Lab Audit Program	530-754-2249
Barbara Bassett, Bookkeeper	530-752-0544

Staff Focus

We are pleased to welcome Mary Voorhees to CCIA as the Seed Lab Audit Program manager. Mary brings years of experience in agriculture, seed testing and quality control. She was raised on a homestead in Tulelake, California and she farmed for two years raising onions for dehydration. She got her start in the seed industry when she married into the Jenks family in Tangent, Oregon. She first worked in seed testing for Helen Townsend at Townsend Seed Testing, where it was a tradition for the staff, after work on hot summer days, to have a drink and a dip in Helen's pool. Further seed-related work experience includes; Cal/West Seeds and Vista Research in Woodland, CA, Oregon State University Seed Laboratory, Corvallis, OR, and International Seeds in Halsey, Oregon. Mary is a graduate of Oregon State University with a degree in Business, an AOSA Certified Seed Analyst in Purity and Germination and a SCST Registered Seed Technologist. In addition to her background in agriculture, she has nine years of experience with Hewlett-Packard Company and Agilent Technologies in quality management. At HP she was a process technician for the Advanced Research Lab. At Agilent she had engineering responsibility for a microwave thin film separation area. Her son Brad Jenks lives in Portland, Oregon. Mary says, "I am grateful for this opportunity to use my experience and training in quality management and seed analysis and I look forward to serving CCIA members and the labs that provide seed testing services."



Seed Related "Antiques" Wanted

We are in the process of refurbishing and updating the Prato Room and are looking for antique seed paraphernalia to use as decorative accents in the conference room and other areas of the Parsons Seed Certification Center. We have a beautiful brass seed sampler and would like to include other items as well. Please contact any of the CCIA staff if you have something you would like to donate for our use.

Mark your Calendars

May 21 - Small Grains-Alfalfa Field Day, Agronomy field headquarters, UC Davis campus

May 28 - CCIA Member meeting, Prato Room, Parsons Seed Certification Center, UC Davis campus

Your Board of Directors

District I	Ray Johnson
District II	Glenn Powell
District III	Frank Saviez
District IV	Tom Hearne
District V	Bob Baglietto
District VI	Jack De Wit
District VII	Charles Schonauer
District VIII	Glenn Hawes
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Seed Biotechnology Center	Kent Bradford
UCD College of Ag & Env Science	Michael Parrella
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