

Seed Notes

California Crop Improvement Association
Parsons Seed Certification Center
University of California
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Annual Member's Meeting

All members are invited to attend the annual CCIA member's meeting on May 26, 2011 at 9:00 am. The meeting will be held in the Prato Room of the Parsons Seed Certification Center on the UC Davis campus. [Directions](#) to the site are available on the CCIA website; parking permits must be purchased in the parking lot for \$6. Director elections for the odd-numbered districts are currently underway and the newly elected directors will be seated at this meeting. In order to be sure there are seats for all attending, if you plan to attend, please contact Kitty Schlosser by email at meschlosser@ucdavis.edu or phone 530-752-6979. There is no registration fee; travel and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the member.

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.

Seed Notes distributed electronically

This is the first issue of Seed Notes to be distributed by email. If you are reading this while online, please note that the blue text are hyperlinks and will connect you to the web if you click on them. If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter please direct them to the [CCIA web page](#); there is a link on the home page to add names to the email list.



New Director

The CCIA would like to thank John Palmer for his years of service representing the California Seed Association on the Board of Directors; we now welcome Ken Scarlett as the new representative. Ken, current president of CSA, is also president of Eureka Seeds which produces hybrid corn, hybrid sorghum, alfalfa, and hybrid sunflower seed.

CCIA Membership

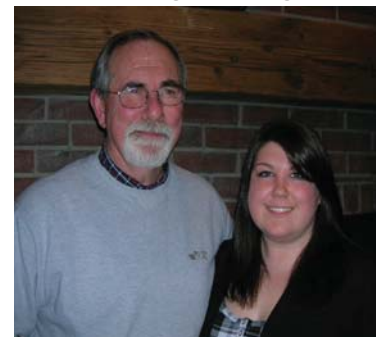
Any person who grows certified seed in California, or any person who has an interest in California seed certification may apply for regular membership in the Association. Regular members are allowed to vote for their district representative on the CCIA Board of Directors and to serve as district directors or directors-at-large on the Board. Regular members are also entitled to vote on any future changes to the articles of incorporation and on significant changes to the bylaws. The membership year runs concurrently with the seed application year from October 1 to September 30; membership is renewed annually. There is no fee for membership. You are not required to be a member of the CCIA in order to participate as an applicant and/or grower of certified seed. There is a [link to the membership form](#) on the CCIA home web page.

CORRECTION

The August 2010 issue of Seed Notes had an article on the first page titled "Application numbers required for online requests for seed certification". It should have stated: ***Beginning October 1, 2010 the application number(s) will be required.***

Scholarships

Jacquelyn Buffham received the 2010 CCIA scholarship awarded to a student at California State University, Chico. She is a sophomore majoring in agriculture with an option in crops, horticulture, and land resource management. The Susanville native is actively involved in the Crop Science and Horticulture Club, and also serves as a resident advisor in the CSU, Chico residence halls. She plans to pursue a career in the seed industry or soil conservation. When she is not in class or working, Jacquelyn enjoys outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, hiking, and biking.



Bob Stewart and
Jacquelyn Buffham

Harvester Inspections

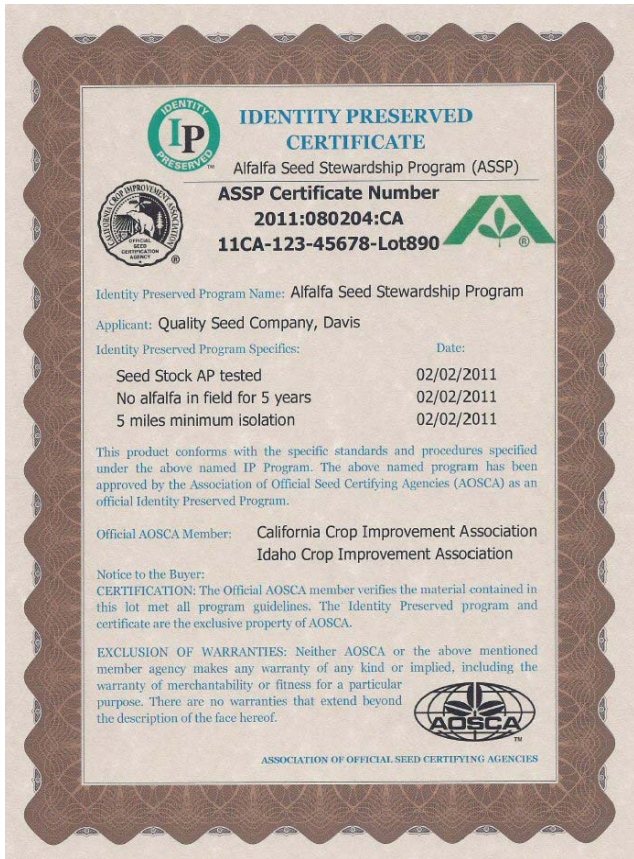
Harvesting of certified seed is subject to supervision of the local county Agricultural Commissioner, whose office **must** be notified prior to the harvest of certified seed (California Agricultural Code, Division 18, Chapter 2, California Seed Law, Article 7, Section 52421(b)). All harvesting equipment and any conveyances used to handle the certified seed must be cleaned and verified by the county Agricultural Commissioner prior to harvest or use. The cleaning of harvesting equipment is the joint responsibility of the applicant and grower.

Alfalfa Seed Stewardship Program (ASSP)

The AOSCA Alfalfa Seed Stewardship Program (ASSP) provides a mechanism whereby alfalfa seed producers doing business in markets that are sensitive to the presence of genetically engineered (GE) traits may request services beyond normal AOSCA seed certification. These fields are referred to as Adventitious Presence (AP) sensitive. The ASSP provides verification that seed produced in the program exceeded AOSCA standards in areas such as field history and isolation distance.

The ASSP is intended to be utilized in addition to seed certification. It is not intended to be used as a replacement for seed certification.

Seed successfully produced under the ASSP will be eligible for both certification and issuance of an internationally recognized AOSCA Identity Preserved (IP) certificate.



We anticipate providing IP tags and we strongly encourage using both the certification tag and the IP tag when labeling seed produced under the ASSP.

Detailed information about the program criteria may be found on the CCIA web site. Click on the link "Identity Preserved" in the green menu on the left side of the page.

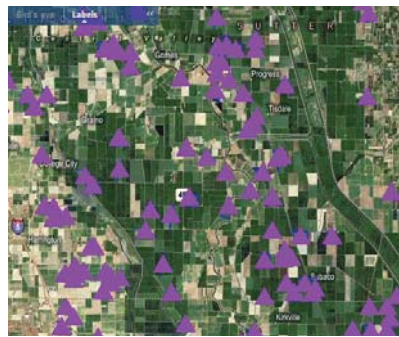
The newly developed online Alfalfa Isolation Management Map is a partner with the ASSP to mark the locations of the fields in the program. See the article on this page for more information about the isolation maps.

Isolation Map Update

The CCIA isolation maps have been improved substantially and continue to provide a useful production management tool to the seed industry. Seed is often grown in somewhat small regional production areas and it is desirable that seed producers work cooperatively and respect each other's need to produce genetically pure seed. The isolation maps are programmed to check for violations of isolation distances based on each specific crop. Producers wishing to plant fields that are potentially in conflict are notified by email and can contact each other to develop a solution.

Currently, the CCIA offers 3 different maps. The Crop Isolation Map offers mapping for sunflower and vegetables. The Alfalfa Isolation Management Map is used in conjunction with the ASSP to mark AP sensitive fields and GE fields. A Demonstration Map is available to allow users to see how the maps work.

Crops are identified by different shapes. Below is a sample of the sunflower map; each triangle represents a field location.



For more information please go to the CCIA home page. In the green menu on the left side of the page click on "Crop Isolation Mapping". Tutorials are available to help you understand the capabilities of the maps.

Historical Note

THEN: In 1955 there were 1,498 growers producing 178,044 acres of certified seed including virtually every field crop grown in California. 'Ranger' alfalfa, as an example, rapidly expanded from 44,000 acres in 1954 to 88,000 acres in 1955.

In 1957 the CCIA inspected 210,000 acres--an all time high for the state. That same year 66 million pounds of alfalfa was certified--an industry which accounts for over 4/5 of the certified alfalfa seed produced in the nation and more than 1/3 of the total alfalfa seed planted in the nation.

NOW: In 2010 the CCIA inspected 135,076 acres; 99% of the acreage is in six major crops; alfalfa was the largest crop with 37,800 acres and 21.1 million pounds certified. A total of almost 190 million pounds of seed was certified.

Seed Lab Recognition Program (SLRP)

The Seed Lab Recognition Program has been fully implemented. During the late fall and early winter Mary Voorhees completed all of the laboratory visits. The CCIA will now only accept seed laboratory Reports of Analysis from [CCIA Recognized Laboratories](#). A list of recognized laboratories, contact information, and the services they can provide to our customers is available on our web page.

Reminder: When sending samples to a seed laboratory for testing please send ample amounts of seed. The recommended amount of seed samples are listed on the [Seed Sample Sizes Table](#) at the CCIA website.

Also important...include with the sample the 'Certification Sample Form' from the CCIA web site so the lab will know that this sample is intended for California certification. Below is an example Sample Form printed from the web site which includes all the information a seed lab needs.

CALIFORNIA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	
Certification Sample Form	
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS, CA 95616	
Seeds ID:	SID 13966
Applicant:	Quality Seed Co.
Conditioner:	Quality Seed Co.
Variety:	Gigantic
Cert Number:	10CA-123-45678
Lot Number:	890
Weight in Lot:	1000.00
Class:	Certified
Cert Year:	2010
Crop:	Alfalfa
Remarks:	
Sample Drawn By:	Seed Conditioner - James

Please be sure to request all the proper tests. The CCIA requires a purity, noxious weed exam, and germination test for each certified seed lot. Say **YES** to the All States Noxious weed exam. Be aware that when you request your tests, the Purity Test often means the purity and noxious weed exam combined. However not always - some labs think of them as separate tests and may ask 'Would you like a noxious exam with that?' Please be sure and say **YES** to a Noxious Weed Exam - an All-States Noxious weed exam!

Reminder: the CCIA **does not** accept merged Reports of Analysis when lots are initially submitted for certification. Purity and germination tests need to be conducted on the same sample at the same time in order for the CCIA to certify the lot.

Staff Focus

Pablo Guzman received a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. He worked for the International Center of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali-Colombia as a plant pathologist in their bean program. Pablo moved to Brazil to obtain his M. Sc in Plant Pathology from the Sao Paulo University and worked as a sugarcane pathologist for COPERSUCAR in Brazil for two years. He returned to CIAT for 4 more years and later moved to the USA to pursue his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology at UC Davis. While working towards his Ph.D., he provided support to the CCIA bean certification program to test bean leaf samples by ELISA to determine the presence of necrotic and non-necrotic strains of BCMV. Pablo joined the CCIA in 1998 and became responsible for the Potato Seed Certification Program that was transferred from CDFA and the Disease Inspected Certification Program offered to vegetable seed companies. Currently, he is also responsible for managing the applications for certified seed production of asparagus, clover, bermudagrass, safflower, sudangrass and miscellaneous crops.

Pablo has a daughter (Marta Helena) who works as a commercial pilot with Compass airline based in Minneapolis and a son (Pablo Andres) in college pursuing a degree in marine biology. He enjoys outdoor activities such as traveling and coaching youth soccer teams. He is responsible for a used soccer uniform donation program in Davis that collects uniforms each season and delivers them to kids in the USA and around the world.



Wanted: Cloth Seed Bags

The CCIA has framed some cloth seed bags to decorate the Prato Room of the Parsons Seed Certification Center. We would like to augment our collection with bags from an array of seed marketers. If you are willing to donate a bag, please send it to us or contact one of the staff to pick it up when they are in your area.



Blend Numbers and Blend Forms

In the past few months the CCIA has implemented a new format for blend numbers that is consistent with the format of certification numbers. There are four types of blends:

1. **In-Dirt** - comingling of harvested seed of a single variety from fields that have been inspected and passed as a class of certified seed but were assigned different certification numbers.
2. **Lot** - made by blending different lots of the same variety.
3. **Varietal** - made by blending seed lots of different varieties of the same kind of seed and marketed as a "Named Varietal Blend" of certified seed.
4. **Mixtures** - a combination of seed lots from two or more kinds (species) of seed and marketed as a "Mixture of certified seed".

The new blend number includes the state (California), a letter to indicate the type of blend, and the number from the blend request form.

Examples:

In-Dirt blend	CA- D 34698
Varietal blend	CA- V 34712
Lot blend	CA- L 34854
Mixture	CA- M 34912

Blend forms are available at the CCIA web site. These forms are MS Excel spreadsheets with formulas incorporated so when the weight of each lot is entered, the weighted averages are calculated. This completed form should be emailed to Nicole Hostert (ndhostert@ucdavis.edu) for verification. After approval, she will send back the approved blend form with the blend number.

For more information about blends please see the [February 2010 edition of Seed Notes](#) which included an article titled "Labeling requirements for variety blends" or the CCIA web site:

http://ccia.ucdavis.edu/seed_cert/blends.htm



CCIA Staff

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Bob Stewart, Field Services	530-752-9826
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Timothy Blank, Field Services	530-754-4854
Alex Mkandawire, Field Services	530-752-6868
Nicole Hostert, Field Svcs & Seed Cert	530-752-9823
Claudine Clark, Seed Lab	530-752-9828
Mary Voorhees, Registered Seed Tech	530-754-2249
Barbara Bassett, Bookkeeper	530-752-0544

Ag Day at the Capitol

The CCIA shared a booth with the California Seed Association and the Seed Biotechnology Center at the annual California Agricultural Day at the Capitol. Over 35 organizations were represented to promote the importance of agriculture to our legislators. Several thousand attendees celebrated the day which included food samples and educational exhibits. We handed out small packets of basil seed provided by CSA. Larry R. Teuber, CCIA Executive Director, met with several legislators to inform them about seed certification.



Jeannette Martins (SBC), Betsy Peterson (CSA)
Kitty Schlosser, Katy Soden (CCIA)



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