



The North Dakota Seed Journal

MARCH 2006

Newsletter of the North Dakota State Seed Department

Inside

- 1 Personnel Changes at the Department
- 2 From the Commissioner's Desk
- 2 Plan Ahead for 2006 Field Inspections
- 3 North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association Names 2006 Award Winners
- 4 ND Potato Post-harvest Test Summary for 2005-2006
- 5 Reminder... FSA Maps Are Required
- 5 Legal Seed Potatoes in North Dakota
- 6 Calendar

Personnel Changes at the Department

Magnusson to Head Seed Regulatory Program

Joe Magnusson has been selected as the next manager of the Seed Regulatory Program for the North Dakota State Seed Department, succeeding Jim Swanson who retired the end of January 2006. Swanson led the program for 16 years.

Magnusson, a Roseau, MN native, has served the department as Seed Certification Manager since 1996. He also has previous regulatory experience with the department, serving as Seed Regulatory Supervisor on two separate occasions.

As program manager, Magnusson will be responsible for directing the seed regulatory inspection process, administration of labeling and fee permit systems, and investigation of potential violations of seed laws. He will also ensure that the ND regulatory program maintains state, national and international standards of quality. He will serve as the North Dakota representative to the Association of American Seed Control Officials, an organization dealing with seed law enforcement and administration and development of uniform seed laws between member states and federal agencies.

Joe has been an integral part of the NDSSD Field Seed Program for many years, and has experience with other state organizations and private industry. Magnusson assumed his new role February 1, 2006.

Briese to Lead Certification Program

Galen Briese was named Seed Certification Manager, replacing Joe Magnusson. Briese started at the department in 1998 as a seed analyst and since 2002 he has served as Field Seed Specialist, conducting seed purity analysis in the Seed Lab and performing field inspections during summer and fall. Galen's broad experience in field and seed lab activities will prove valuable for the certification program.

Briese, a graduate of Bismarck State College, will assume his new duties April 1. As Certification Manager, Briese will be responsible for maintaining the department's certification activities, which includes inspection of seed fields, inspection and approval of certified seed conditioning plants and bulk retail facilities and ensure that NDSSD programs meet the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) requirements. He will also be responsible for the development of educational programs promoting the certified seed industry in North Dakota.

Martinez Joins Seed Lab

Danilo Martinez has joined the Seed Lab as a Seed Analyst II. Danilo has worked at the department since 1998 as a lab technician, conducting plant tissue culture for the potato seedstock program. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Sciences from NDSU. He also has experience in field inspection, participating in small grain and soybean inspections.

Danilo's new responsibilities will include seed purity and germination testing in the seed lab and field inspection activities supporting the Field Seed Program.

North Dakota State

NDSSD

Seed Department

The North Dakota Seed Journal is published and edited by the Seed Department, State of North Dakota, under the provisions of Chap. 258, S.L. 1931, as administrative and instrumental matter required for effective transaction of the Department's business and for properly fostering the general welfare of the seed industry in the state.

Steve Sebesta, Editor
N.D. State Seed Department
(701) 231-5400 Fax (701) 231-5401
ndseed@state-seed.ndsu.nodak.edu
www.ndseed.com



From the Commissioner's Desk

Topics for my quarterly article in the Seed Journal have been tough to come by recently. I think I've finally figured out why and found a deep pool of subject matter for the next few issues.

Over the past two years, the Department has been embroiled in a legal conflict that evolved into litigation. I usually hesitate to discuss legal business, taking the view that such things are internal, organizational issues that are best left to administration and Seed Commissioners to deal with. Given the subject matter you may understand why other topics have been difficult to think of. This issue has been the overriding concern for some time.

In a nutshell, the Department was sued for misidentifying the variety on a potato seed lot. The original complaint charged negligent inspection and negligent publication because we accepted application and certified the seed lot as the variety stated on the application (supported by the appropriate documentation by the applicant), and listed it along with all eligible seed lots from 2003. It's not quite that simple and I obviously disagree with the plaintiffs. But the basics will do for now.

Ken Bertsch..... State Seed Commissioner
Steve Sebesta..... Deputy Seed Commissioner
Steve Marquardt..... Director, Potato Program
Joe Magnusson..... Seed Regulatory Manager
Galen Briese..... Seed Certification Manager
Mark Hafdahl..... Seed Laboratory Manager
Jeff Prischmann..... Diagnostic Laboratory Manager
Kris Nicklay..... Administrative Officer
Mike Oosterwijk..... Potato Program Supervisor

This case had a boatload of technicalities and differing views, which takes me full-circle back to an earlier statement: I now have topics.

I'll enjoy visiting here and in meetings with seed growers on the difference between true varieties and clones/strains/selections of varieties in regard to seed certification. I look forward to discussing how certification of seed depends on a snapshot look at pedigree, visual analysis, testing technology (or lack thereof), and how grower execution of the handling, planting, harvest, storage and delivery are only snapshots of the full-length film. It will be interesting to hear your view on responsibility, and how many times during the certification process that responsibility shifts from party to party. It will be instructive to point out how we, and every other certification agency in the country, certify seed and publish its availability. I welcome your feedback on the ramifications of this type of legal challenge to the seed industry.

Enough said. One of my resolutions this year is brevity, which reminds me of my new favorite joke: A teacher asked a student to sum up Socrates' life in four lines. Here's what he said: 1) Socrates lived long ago. 2) He was very intelligent. 3) He gave long speeches. 4) His friends killed him.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and profitable spring.

Plan Ahead for 2006 Field Inspections

It's not too early to plan on field inspections for 2006. Seed growers are encouraged to submit applications to the Seed Department by the published deadlines to avoid late fees. Review the requirements to ensure you prepare properly for the season.

Check Bulletin 51, *North Dakota Field Seed Certification Standards* for information you need. It contains information on seed and field eligibility requirements and field inspection as well as specific information about land requirements and field standards for each crop. Pay attention to specific field standards for the crop and class you plan to produce. They will give you an idea of what department inspectors are trained to look for during inspections and a clue to special problems that may require your attention. If you don't have a copy of the Bulletin, revised 2004, call for a copy or get it on the department website.

Growers are also advised to walk seed fields before inspection and rogue any other crop or problem weeds that could result in a failed field inspection.

Applications for field inspection may be obtained from the Seed Department, your County Extension office or NDSU Research Extension Centers. Fillable application forms are available on our website.

North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association Names 2006 Award Winners

The NDCISA presented three awards at its 54th annual convention in Minot February 9. The **Premier Seed Grower Award** recognizes individuals who have successfully grown registered or certified seed for several years and have significantly contributed to the certified seed industry in the state. The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to North Dakota agriculture and their community.



(L to R) Kendall Nichols, Grand Forks County Extension Agent, and Premier Seed Grower Award winners Jason and Chad Nelson.



Duane Berglund (L) accepts the Distinguished Service Award from John Miller, NDCISA Vice President.



Jim Swanson (R) is presented a plaque in appreciation of his years of service from Craig Birdsall, NDCISA President.

Premier Seed Grower Award — Nelson Farms

This year's Premier Seed Grower Award was presented to Chuck Nelson Farms, Thompson, ND. Nelson Farms includes Chuck, his wife Pam, and their three sons Jason, Aaron and Casey.

Nelson Farms has been producing quality certified seed for the past 32 years. Their seed production business involves many crops including wheat, barley, soybeans, oats, and edible beans. They are also licensed growers of the Roughrider Genetics® soybean varieties. In the past five years alone, they have sold close to 350,000 bushels of certified seed. Their seed business is operated very professionally, with an emphasis on quality.

Chuck also finds time to support NDSU Extension among others. The Grand Forks County small grain plot has been on the Nelson Farm for several years. Chuck is an active member of the Grand Forks County Crop Improvement Association and has served as president and vice-president. He served six years as Northeast District Director on the NDCISA Board of Directors and has been involved in the ND Soybean Grower's and Red River Valley Sugarbeet Grower's Associations. He currently serves on the Agronomy Seed Farm Advisory Council and the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education. Chuck has also earned recognition as "Outstanding Agriculturist" from NDSU.

Distinguished Service Award — Duane Berglund, NDSU Area Extension Specialist

This year's recipient is Dr. Duane Berglund, NDSU Extension Agronomist. Raised on a farm near Sheyenne, Duane has always had a real feel for the goals and challenges of North Dakota crop producers. He received his doctorate degree in Agronomy from NDSU and began his career with NDSU in 1977. Throughout the past 29 years he has been an invaluable resource to producers, promoting new ideas for crop production across North Dakota.

Duane's knowledge and support for agriculture and his enthusiasm for his work are profound and he is always available to discuss concerns facing crop producers. Duane has authored numerous publications dealing with crops grown in North Dakota. His talents and knowledge are used regularly for many educational efforts and he has been a guest speaker at almost every major agricultural meeting and field day in the state. He has experience with small grains and corn but now mostly specializes in row crops, concentrating on soybean, dry bean, sunflower, field pea, canola, flax and lentils.

Berglund is one of NDSU's greatest emissaries to the people of North Dakota. He serves on countless agricultural committees, grower groups, associations, societies and organizations. He has also served on many campus-based and community committees. Duane's dedication, professional knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture make him a most worthy recipient of this Distinguished Service Award.

The Association also recognized outgoing Seed Department Regulatory Manager, Jim Swanson and presented him a plaque in appreciation of his many years of outstanding service to the North Dakota seed industry.

ND Potato Post-harvest Test Summary for 2005-2006

Steve Marquardt, Potato Program Director

The 2005-6 seed potato inspection season brought many successes including the cultural success of the North Dakota post-harvest test plot in Homestead, Florida. The weather cooperated fully with planting and reading schedules and a very warm December contributed to better than normal growth.

Upon arrival, many of the varieties were ready for immediate reading, while a few seemed to need just a few more days for sizing-up before inspection.

Clear symptom expression was apparent throughout the plot. Initial symptom expression in many cases was very pronounced.

The number of North Dakota acres represented was reduced from last year. Out of nearly 450 possible seedlots (representing approximately 12,200 acres) about 348 were entered (73% of the acres). This is up from the past few years, probably due to the sharp decrease in summer acres.



Planting the plot in Homestead, FL, November 2005.

2004 - 2005			2005 - 2006			
Seedlots	%	Acres		Seedlots	%	Acres
535		16,644	Possible for Entry	450		12,200
331		9,346	Entered	348		8,960
275	83	7,112	Passed	330	95	8,076

Historically, skin-type categories have repeatedly changed in dominance, but the table reds have always held a very significant, if not dominant, portion of the seed raised in North Dakota. The red varieties seem to have less field resistance to mosaic viruses on the whole, as over the past few years a lesser percentage of those seedlots have achieved eligibility for recertification the following season.

The white varieties seem to have the greatest field resistance to mosaic viruses, and a couple of them seem to have a great deal of field immunity. A few russet varieties seem to have field resistance, but they do not dominate the russet acreage.

Eligibility by generation remained as expected this year with all the minituber seedlots planted in pristine condition and less of the later generations passing.

The incidence of leafroll was elevated, but of little consequence relative to mosaic disease again this year.

All of the lots and acres were less than 3% total virus. Three lots, representing 259 acres exceeded 2% total virus. Eight lots, representing 498 acres exceeded 1% total virus.

Russet Norkotah and GoldRush did not fair as well as all other varieties, but did much better than last year.



Inspector Tom Weippert hand-planting the plot in Immokalee, FL, November 2005.

Final results may also be seen at www.ndseed.com.

Seed potato growers that sacrificed production and flushed their programs at the right time, and then lined up early generation sources are to be commended. Their efforts helped to insure a steady source of healthy North Dakota seed. Credit is also due those who decided to hold the line with the very low tolerance level that has kept the virus incidence to the level North Dakota enjoys.

This year's successful passing-rate could be further enhanced by commercial bulk potato producers who decide

to only use high-quality seed, typically produced in North Dakota, as opposed to importing from other provinces or states. Those growers that do, typically reap the benefits that today's North Dakota seed growers are now enjoying: top quality, field proven seed.

Place your orders early with your seed growers. There isn't much speculative seed production anymore. Seed prices are on the incline now caused by seed shortages and high quality.



Post-harvest test plots, January 2006.

Reminder... FSA Maps Are Required

Seed producers applying for field inspection with the North Dakota State Seed Department **must include FSA maps** for all fields. The boundaries of each seed field must be clearly identified on the map. Applications will be considered incomplete without proper maps.

FSA maps allow our staff to identify incorrect legal descriptions on the applications. Hand-drawn maps are undesirable because often they are drawn or labeled incorrectly and these common errors may delay inspectors, which in turn reduces the number of fields they are capable of completing each day. Inspection delays ultimately reduce our efficiency and yours. Help us serve you better by including FSA maps with your application this year.

Legal Seed Potatoes in North Dakota

State law requires that even commercial plantings be planted with certified seed of quality equal to ND Certified Seed Potato standards to be eligible for seed. If not approved by the ND State Seed Department, the seed is not legal. Growers should inquire with the Seed Department to determine the eligibility of a seed lot.

It has come to our attention that, typically, Canadian and Idaho seed potato fields are not checked at the appropriate time for Bacterial Ring Rot according to ND standards. This realization has prompted our requirement for a BRR test prior to importing seed from those states and provinces for ALL plantings, including commercial fields. Seed brought in from Canada or Idaho without the required testing is illegal seed.

This year, Western Canada has elected not to have a winter grow-out as a post-harvest test and apparently will not have a grow-out plot for the near future. Working through the CFIA office in Alberta, we have solicited Canadian participation in the ND grow-out plot to include Canadian seed destined for ND, but received no reply. In Canada, a winter test is not required for recertification. We have decided that since the winter test is a requirement for North Dakota growers, a typical Canadian lab test will not be accepted from Canada, as the sample size and tests are not appropriate or equivalent to the requirements of ND growers. The lab must be accredited and perform the test in an acceptable manner. Sample size must be approximately the same as for ND growers (typically 600 tubers) and tested for PVY, PLRV and PVA. A minimum of 400 tubers are required for the BRR test.

North Dakota State Seed Department

State University Station
P.O. Box 5257
Fargo, ND 58105-5257

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Fargo, ND
Permit No. 229

NDSSD Calendar

- April 10-12** Northern Region AOSCA Meeting, Fargo
- June 15** Field inspection applications due for all crops except buckwheat, millet and conventional soybeans
- July 1** Bulk certificates due
- July 15** Field inspection applications due for buckwheat, millet and conventional soybeans
- July 31** Labeling fee report due