

North Central Crop Evaluation Committee
Minutes from the 2001 Annual Meeting
August 14-15, 2001
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Present: Jim Beuerlein (Ohio State), Keith Dysinger (Michigan State), Ralph Esgar (Illinois), Pat Flannery (Wisconsin), Travis Frits (Missouri), Allen Geyer (Ohio State), Wayne Hass (Pennsylvania), Robert Hall (South Dakota), Brian Henry (Illinois) Darin Joos (Illinois), Ben Justen (Wisconsin), Kent Kohn (Wisconsin), Chris KroonVanDiest (Ohio State), Joe Lauer (Wisconsin), Howard Mason (Missouri), John McCormick (Ohio State), Len Nelson (Nebraska), Kraig Roozenboom (Kansas), Peter Thomison (Ohio State), Dick Todd (Pennsylvania), Ken Ziegler (Iowa State).

After a brief introduction of members, committee members were welcomed by Dr. Gary Heichel.

State reports were then presented by committee members covering the current cropping season. Following state reports, Johnny Pendelton presented an enlightening overview of the U of I Variety Testing program from its inception in 1934 to the present.

The balance of the Tuesday morning session covered potential opportunities for Variety Testing and the direction of focus Variety Testing should pursue. Several options were discussed. The consensus was to invite industry representatives to the 2002 meeting and explore their needs and desires. In addition private sector competition was discussed, as well as the possibility of a collaborative effort with state farm bureaus to publicize Variety Testing data.

Joe Lauer reported he has SELECT on the web. He asked how the states would care to pursue this in the future. Potential data formats were also discussed.

Following, the group toured the Variety Testing facilities and viewed research equipment.

Professional activities were adjourned and the group traveled to Decatur, Illinois to tour the Archer Daniels Midland facilities. The afternoon consisted of a tour of the hydroponics processing and handling facilities.

After returning to campus, dinner was held at the Edward R. Madigan Laboratory conference room. In light of time constraints a brief business meeting was held, committee concerns were addressed primarily focusing on the potential involvement of industry.

The morning session of day two consisted of a tour of the Morrow Plots hosted by Robert Dunker, and a tour of the USDA soybean germplasm collection hosted by Dr. Randal Nelson.

At 10:45 the group was called together by Ralph Esgar for a brief business meeting. Ralph proposed potential dates for the 2002 meeting. The date of the 2002 meeting will be August 13-14.

Wayne Haas volunteered Pennsylvania to host the meeting in 2003. Pending confirmation, Missouri will host the meeting in 2002. In the event of conflict, Ken Ziegler volunteered Iowa to act as host as a back up.

Discussion about whom from industry will be invited and what specific crops should be addressed followed. Joe Lauer volunteered to help the hosting state in approaching industry. It was decided to limit industry to five or six representatives. Dr. Nafziger suggested meeting with representatives on an individual basis. Joe Lauer asked how the members of the southern states felt about industry input, as they had previously participated in meetings of this nature in the past. Travis Fritts indicated they went well. Discussion followed about how Variety Testing could respond to industry needs. This included the different needs of large versus small companies. Dr. Nafziger proposed a session specifically devoted to the future of Variety Testing and seeking industry response.

Funding of Variety testing programs was discussed and compared state to state.

Ralph Esgar asked for suggestions of other issues that might be covered next year. Jim Beuerlin wanted to discuss the SELECT program. He mentioned the possibility of changing the format on our data base. This would include just the basic information. Joe Lauer mentioned Kraig Roozeboom's suggestion of having a template for data. This idea was well received by the group. Joe suggested going back five years for the presentation of data. Options for using check hybrids were discussed. Joe said he will put templates on the web and requested to go back to 1997. Crops covered would be corn, soybeans and alfalfa. The group agreed to do this. Jim Beuerlin suggested Joe's computer work be presented to industry representatives at next years meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M. Wednesday, August 15, 2001.

Respectively submitted,

Brian R. Henry, Acting Recording Secretary