

North Central Crop Evaluation Committee Meeting
August 16-17, 2005
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. on August 16.

The traditional first order of business was introductions and reports on the crop condition around the North Central region. Crop condition is quite variable around the country. Dry areas are numerous in MO, IL, WI, IN and NE. Some areas have good soil moisture. Small grains were high yielding.

Iowa Crop Hybrid/Variety Testing Survey

A report was given by Kendall Lamkey on the survey conducted by Iowa State University regarding crop hybrid/variety testing and its impact on farmer decision making. He reported some of the issues in Iowa's crop hybrid/variety testing programs included: 1) resistance to change, 2) data presentation, and 3) influence of farm size for using results.

Grain Quality Measurements

Grain quality measurements taken by state crop hybrid/variety testing programs is variable and concern was expressed about NIR calibration equations and accuracy of measurements. Concern was expressed about xenia effects in corn when measuring ethanol production. Measuring fatty acid composition in soybean might best be achieved by partnering with other universities. It was suggested that USDA in Peoria, IL and NCR213 lead the effort to unify NIR calibration equations. Grain quality labs should be certified using a ring test.

Transgenics in crop hybrid/variety testing programs

Most states charge special prices for transgenic testing. MI requires entry of hybrids/varieties in both conventional and specialty tests if companies would like to test the system. NE conducts a separate CRW trial. Separate soybean tests are conducted for white mold and soybean cyst nematode.

Field Tours and Betty Lou Cruise

Review of UW Silage program and tours of USDA Dairy Forage Research Center, Pioneer Alfalfa Breeding Station and UW ARS Arlington.

Farmer Cooperator Contracts

State programs do different things for their farmer cooperators. MI has a property lease in soybean and nothing for corn. IA has a memorandum of understanding with the farmer. PA gives a small gift and has a meeting around a football game.

Regional database

Use NCCEC website as a clearinghouse for hybrid/variety names. Issues that were brought up include timeliness, continuity of hybrid testing across state lines, and concern about whether the farmer will really use it.

Industry Panel

An industry panel was convened involving representatives from Mycogen/DOW, Pioneer, Monsanto, Syngenta, and Great Lakes Hybrids. Companies would like to see:

1. posting of data in a timely manner on the web,
2. standardization of testing (4 rows),
3. precision planting with no thinning or cone planting with thinning
4. do not use data from plots with populations less than 20% of the trial mean
5. standardize pesticide use

All agreed that industry representatives should meet with the NCCEC in future meetings.

Topics for Next Year

1. Website review
2. Data reporting and presentation formats
3. Entry forms
4. NIR standardization for grain quality measurements (include USDA-Peoria and/or NCR213)
5. Development of variety selection teaching approaches
6. Include FIRST in meeting

The 2006 meeting will be held at Purdue University.

Meeting adjourned at noon, August 17, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Lauer
Professor and Corn Agronomist
University of Wisconsin