

**North Central Crop Evaluation Committee**  
**Minutes from the 1998 Annual Meeting**  
**August 11-12, 1998**  
**Lincoln, NE on East Campus**

**Item 1.** We discussed concern related to seed companies choosing not to participate in variety tests. Concerns were expressed about the inability to supply complete data set, especially when popular varieties were not present. There was a diversity of opinion about entering these numbers ourselves. No conclusions were reached. There was also considerable discussion of whether reports should show ranking by yield, maturity, alphabetical, or random was preferred. No decision was reached.

**Item 2.** Review of soybean testing data. A reiteration that last year we decided to express soybean yield on the basis of 13% moisture. Ralph Esgar distributed results of his survey of soybean testing. He also distributed survey of fees and corn testing surveys. Discussion of corn data included best grain moisture to use for reporting yields. Use of 15.5% was most prevalent but this topic is worthy of further discussion in 1999.

**Item 3.** Jim Peterson, USDA-ARS regional wheat test coordinator presented information about his program. A [Wheat Workers Code of Ethics](#) which his cooperators use was distributed. This document is also available on his web site.

**Item 4.** Bruce Anderson presented his methodology used in alfalfa variety testing. Alfalfa testing clearly has many challenges not faced by annual crops including multiple harvests, multiple years at same site, genetic drift, and high cost of obtaining certain data.

**Item 5.** A tour of facilities at the University of Nebraska gave an opportunity to share ideas and opinions. All Tuesday afternoon was spent with this activity.

**Item 6.** Kraig Roozeboom presented information about wheat test data standardization. Decision was made to use 13% moisture as basis for yield while keeping 12% as basis of protein. In the case of many non-standard reporting formats, it was stressed that documenting the method used in aggregating locations and years, reporting insect and disease ratings, winter hardiness, etc. was most important.

**Item 7.** Bob Caldwell made a presentation concerning uniform data formats. He reviewed the IBSNAT format and its importance in sharing data worldwide. Also, as shared data is used for crop modeling, it is imperative that this format be used. He also reviewed data being distributed commercially by EMERGE. He also discussed the crop modeling programs being made available to farmers from this company.

**Item 8.** Demonstration of web sites used by our group in variety test data distribution. Formats and other page information was shared. A decision was made to have a multi state variety testing page kept by Kansas which all of our sites would refer to and in turn,

would refer back to all of our sites. We must get our site information to Kraig Roozeboom for inclusion.

**Item 9.** An invitation was extended to have our next meeting on the campus of Michigan State University. The dates will be August 10 and 11, 1999. Keith Dysinger will be getting more information to us later. Topics of discussion were suggested including data analysis software, data collection hardware, data collection hardware.