

North Central Crop Evaluation Committee

Minutes from August 22-23, 1995 meeting Madison, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to Order by Dr. Ed Oplinger at 1:05 p.m.

Self introductions and brief crop reports of individual state testing programs were given. An attendance list is attached. A welcome was given by Dr. Neal Jorgensen, Executive Associate Dean of the University of Wisconsin-College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

In depth descriptions of individual state testing programs were given by each state. A number of questions were raised as a result of the discussion. The minutes will be arranged to address some of these questions.

How are entry fees distributed? Nebraska and Kansas cooperate and share money with the research and extension centers in their states. Missouri, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin coordinate out of a central site. Iowa pays farm cooperators \$50.00 per year. They also have the grower pick a hybrid and compare the yield of that hybrid to the trial average and the Iowa testing program would then make up the difference between that hybrid and the trial average.

How do the testing programs plan for major equipment purchases? Michigan - the University administration allows for some planning of major equipment purchases. Iowa and Wisconsin have equipment purchased and donated through the Crop Improvement Associations. Wisconsin and Missouri have also used lease/purchase programs to be able to plan for and buy major equipment.

What happens when people raise fees? Small companies are typically concerned. Although some companies drop out for a year, they quickly get back into the testing program. Each state reviewed their current testing fee structure, Table 1. (1995 Table not currently available. Updated table available on [home page](#).)

How do the different state testing programs handle changes in company names? The changes could be either name changes of the same company or buy-outs by the companies. Iowa State said that they had a policy of allowing one name change. This policy is available to other states.

How do the testing programs handle public entries? There was some discussion about the cost of running public entries in the testing program. Missouri had a policy where the public entries must yield above the trial average for three years to be tested free. If the public entries are not yielding more than the trial average, then the Crop Improvement can include the public varieties and the Crop Improvement would pay the entry fee.

Do the different states have advisory boards for their testing program? Missouri, Michigan, Nebraska and Indiana stated that none of them had variety testing programs. In

Illinois the testing program reports to the department head. In Kansas there is a departmental advisory committee consisting of the breeders and variety testing personnel and personnel at the research and extension centers. Ohio had a separate advisory board for each crop that was being tested. This consisted of the testing personnel, the breeder and usually a plant pathologist. In Wisconsin, the Extension Agronomists in charge of the various testing program act as an informal advisory committee.

Regionalized crop variety testing data base - Joe Lauer demonstrated the SELECT program as an example of what might be done to regionalize our crop testing information. The regionalization of testing would help in making the testing information that is generated more powerful and more widely used by growers and extension personnel throughout the region. There was interest in standardizing the data collection and rating systems across states to permit easier summarization of data.

Testing of specialty varieties/hybrids - Harry Minor led a discussion on what to do the plethora of specialty varieties and hybrids. The general consensus was that these new hybrids and varieties must be high performing hybrids and must be as good as the current high performing hybrids and thus will probably need to be included in our overall trials. There is a lag-time between the development of these varieties and hybrids and acceptance in the marketplace. The problem is what to do with the varieties and hybrids in that lag-time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened Wednesday morning at 8:10 a.m.

Variety testing equipment - The University of Wisconsin reviewed its variety testing equipment, packaging, planting, and harvesting operations and there was general discussion as to how equipment has been modified and used by each state.

Field plots were reviewed starting with the soybean plots and finishing up with corn plots.

A discussion was initiated by Ken Ziegler on where do we go from here for this particular group. A name was proposed and it was North Central Crop Evaluation Working Group. It was suggested that a new attempt be made to develop regional committee status. Dr. Jim Beuerlein (OH), Kraig Rooseboom (KS), Ed Oplinger (WI), Joe Lauer (WI), Ken Ziegler (IA) volunteered to develop a new proposal for submission this year. A proposal will be submitted through the Agronomy Department and Dr. Ham at Kansas State University. The 1996 meeting date and locations are at Manhattan, Kansas on August 13 & 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Wednesday.

**North Central Variety Testing Attendance
August 22**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Crops Evaluated</u>
Ed Oplinger	Wisconsin	Soybeans & Small Grains
Dave Jordan	Ohio	Corn & Wheat
James Beuerlein	Ohio	Soybean
Earl Gritton	Wisconsin	Canning/Freezing Peas; Canola
Kraig Roozeboom	Kansas	Corn, Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat, Alfalfa, Forage Sorghum, Oats
Bruce Voss	Iowa	Soybeans
Len Nelson	Nebraska	Corn, Soybean, Wheat, Sorghum
Ken Ziegler	Iowa	Corn
Joe Lauer	Wisconsin	Corn
Keith Dysinger	Michigan State	Corn
Harry Minor	Univ of Missouri	Corn, Sorghum, Soybean
Carl Morris	Univ of Missouri	Rice, Canola
Kevin Kelley	Univ of Illinois	Corn & Sorghum
Ralph Esgar	Univ of Illinois	Soybeans
Darin Joos	Univ of Illinois	Grad Student - Corn, Soybean, Sorghum, Wheat
Danny Greene	Purdue University	Corn
Miles Kuhn	Purdue University	Forages
Mike Albaugh	Wisconsin	Graduate Student - Soybeans
Tim Maloney	Wisconsin	Graduate Student - Soybeans, Small Grains
Jorge Cusicanqui	Wisconsin	Graduate Student - Corn
John Gaska	Wisconsin	Soybeans, Small Grains

Pat Flannery	Wisconsin	Canning/Freezing, Peas, Canola
Keith Hudelson	Wisconsin	Corn/Corn Silage
Mark Martinka	Wisconsin	Soybean; Winter Wheat