

Minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting of the
University Crop Testing Alliance
August 15-16, 2011
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0915

Present: Ted Helms (NDSU), Richard Ferguson (UNL), Joe Lauer (Wisc), Neal Mattox (Neb), Richard Little (Neb), Len Nelson (Neb), Shad Mallady (ALMACO), Jim Rouse (ISU), Dustin Puls (SRES), Corby Jensen (Monsanto), John Shaffer (Penn State), Ralph Esgar (Ill), Allen Scott (SRES), Jerry Johnson (CSU), Sally Sauer (CSU), Brian Henry (Ill), Darin Joos (Ill), Dan Berning (Pioneer), Jeff Gous (Neb), Jane Lingenfelter (K-State), Greg Dorn (Neb), Teshome Regassa (Neb).

August 14 The evening of August 14, 2011, Dr. Richard Ferguson, welcomed the participants to the University of Nebraska and the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. In his remarks Dr. Ferguson pointed out the importance of extension and variety testing in improving technology transfer. Participants have dinner and social time following the welcome address.

August 15 Monday morning the meeting started with registration followed by introductions. State report was presented following introduction of participants. The state reports highlighted challenges and success stories in the field. Disease, drought and flood were among the challenges faced running stat trials. Other challenges mentioned include dwindling number of entries. The group also discussed data handling and reporting particularly when to drop a trial form reporting. A regional understanding regarding criteria of dropping a trial/data could be an issue of future discussion. Points were also raised regarding uniform data analysis.

Dr. Ted Helms gave presentation addressing challenges of testing varieties under stress conditions. The abiotic conditions included pH and Fe deficiency and water logging while the biotic stress mainly focused on soybean cyst nematode

Jim Rouse led the panel discussion on the state of variety testing programs and industry relations. Panelists included Corby Jensen from Monsanto and Dan Berning of Pioneer. Industry is emphasizing site specific product placement strategy which may not benefit from variety testing in the current form but there are still areas of collaboration beneficial to both.

Part of the morning was dedicated to equipment demonstration from Almaco and Harvest Master.

Early afternoon the group visited the Nebraska Tractor Museum and the Nebraska Tractor Testing Lab. This is the only facility in the Nation and any

tractor sold in the US should be tested for adherence to a designated code. In the same afternoon the group visited Monsanto seed facility at Waco.

August 16 Business meeting started by a motion to accept Colorado State University as official member of the UCTA.

Meeting date for the 2012 meeting was set to August 6th and 7th. Penn State will be hosting the meeting. Meeting ideas forwarded:

- Regional database
- Sharing data and common analysis platform
- Generate more information than current and present/publish our work
- More thoughts? email John
- John could invite the SCC-33 group (Southern group) to participate in our meeting

ASTA Meeting Presentation: John Shaffer will contact Bill

After the business meeting the 2011 UCTA meeting was concluded with a visit to eEnergy at Adams Nebraska. eEnergy is one of the new generations of ethanol plants in Nebraska.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 P.M. Tuesday August 16, 2011

Please note that the 2012 **National Variety Testing Meeting** will be in **February 8-10** at the Hilton - New Orleans/Saint Charles Ave. in New Orleans, LA. Please follow the link for more information.