

Minutes of the University Crop Testing Alliance annual meeting on August 5&6 2008 in Chicago Illinois

The attending UCTA members started the day with a tour of the Chicago Board of Trade. The highlight of the tour was witnessing the start of trading at the opening bell.

The meeting portion of the day started at Houlihans 's with a brief welcome from the chairman Darin Joos, introductions, and state reports. The overwhelming consensus was the 2008 growing season will be better when viewed from a "past tense" perspective.

After lunch, the meeting reconvened at 1:00 with Dr. Kurt Thelen discussing bio fuels and their future. Dr. Thelen covered; corn, soybeans, and switchgrass.

Dr. Emerson Nafziger addressed the group next. Dr. Nafziger covered the merits of test weight. A spirited discussion followed with Dr. Nafziger, and within the group.

The afternoon meeting concluded with a presentation from Mr. Todd Vincent. Mr Vincent's presentation covered GPS systems for planting, differences in available systems, and economic implications of implementing systems.

In a post presentation discussion the group's primary focus was on the merits and vagaries of test weight acquisition and the validity thereof.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M..

The next morning session began at 8:10 A.M.. The meeting started with a light breakfast and discussion. Keith Dysinger and John Boyse discussed the display at the ASTA meeting in December. Consensus was that this was well received at the 2007 ASTA meeting and worthy of pursuing. A flyer was distributed listing the addresses of the 14 participating Universities in UCTA. John Boyse volunteered himself and Keith Dysinger to take responsibility for the 2008 ASTA display. Projected cost for the booth is \$1500.00. Jim Breining suggested presenting the display at the IPISA (Independent Professional Seed Association) annual meeting in Indianapolis in late January. The suggestion was positively received. All agreed to pick up their share of economic sponsorship. Discussion followed concerning the future of the display. Michigan State agreed to handle financial and business arrangements of the display.

There is potential for a 2010 joint meeting between UCTA and the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SCC-33). John Shaffer moved : That UCTA pursue a joint meeting with southern crop testing group (SCC-33). Motion carried unanimously. Brief discussion followed concerning "hatch money" for travel.

A paper outlining the structure of each university's testing procedure was compiled by Joe Lauer and distributed at the meeting. Joe's paper was discussed at length by the group.

A discussion took place regarding Len Nelson's proposal to conduct an "elite test" across states.

Jane Lingenfelter Volunteered to host the 2009 meeting in Kansas. Discussion followed to establish the date of the 2009 meeting. The 2009 meeting will be August 11 and 12. Further discussion covered assisting Jane in planning the meeting.

The balance of the morning was spent discussing dissemination of data.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Brian R. Henry. Acting recording secretary.