

ISA

News Bulletin

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Iowa Seed Association

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Iowa Seed Association Elects Jim Groepper as President

Members of the Iowa Seed Association (ISA) elected Jim Groepper as their president for the 2006-2007 year term at the 104th Annual Iowa Seed Association Convention held November 13-14, 2006 in Ames, Iowa. Groepper, who is Vice President of Sales and Marketing for AgVenture, Inc. of Kentland, Indiana, has served on the ISA Board of Directors for the past four years.

Groepper said, "Advancements in science, genetics and technology bring both benefits and challenges to our industry, our government, its companies and producers. I look forward to serving as ISA President. As an association, we have the opportunity to focus our efforts on seed and the seed business. We have the responsibility of enabling tactical and practical solutions that impact producers' profitability and the health and welfare of our world."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jim Groepper
Ag Venture

First Vice President

Dave Treinen
Kruger Seed

Second Vice President

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Sansgaard Seed

Past President

Mike Bielenberg
Syngenta Seeds

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Iowa Seed Association

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Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl.

Wade Jensen
Remington Hybrid

Dave Kennedy
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Kendall Lamkey
ISU Agronomy Dept.

Dr. Manjit Misra
ISU Seed Science

David Thompson
Stine Seed

Steve Werning
Monsanto

President Groepper's Message

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year and Happy New Year to all! I hope all is well with you and your businesses. As a new year begins, many challenges and opportunities will be present for all of our ISA membership and their companies. I wish all of you the best as we tackle the new year ahead!

I would like to thank Mike Bielenberg for his leadership as president of the ISA board this past year. His efforts with several ISA projects over the past several years have been instrumental in helping the seed industry in Iowa. Thank you also to all board members and people who served on committees this past year. Without your support of ISA we would not get done all that is needed. Thank you all very much!

As we embark on a new year at ISA, many challenges and opportunities are in front of us. We are currently seeing unprecedented demand for grain products in the United States. Production acres for corn will hit new levels not experienced in the last 10-20 years. The seed business continues to change rapidly also. The business is complex and more capital to run business is required than ever before. The stakes are high for our businesses but the opportunities great as we continue to see more crop input dollars driven through seed products.

Our mission at ISA is to ensure a favorable market environment exists in Iowa for seed trade. A great legacy of this exists in Iowa and we need all of your help to see that this continues. Our goal with ISA and our current board is two fold this year. First, we need to improve membership. Our membership has declined by 50% over the last 10 years. Several factors have driven this. We however need to change that trend and work to stabilize and move our membership numbers higher. We need all of your help to look to new people and companies and enlist them to join our ISA membership ranks. Secondly, our board looks to get more involvement from our current members. Great organizations have passionate involvement from its membership. We look to involve as many of you as possible on committees and other activities to ensure our success. Please consider helping. Joan O'Brien has a list of available opportunities.

In closing, thanks again for your support. I look forward to serving you all in this very exciting industry and with ISA.



2007 Committees & Chairs

Convention/Education Committee

Jim Groepper &
Mike Bielenberg (co-chairs)

Nominating Committee

Mike Bielenberg (chair)
Jim Groepper
Greg Lamka

Membership Committee

Steve Werning &
Dave Treinen (co-chairs)

Golf Committee

Dave Kennedy &
Tim Barry (co-chairs)

Legislative Committee

Terry Garner &
Wade Jensen (co-chairs)

We are in need of additional volunteers to serve on ISA Committees for 2007! If you are willing to serve on one of the ISA Committees, please contact the ISA office at: 800-383-1682 or e-mail Joan O'Brien at: joano@agribiz.org

THANK YOU CONVENTION SUPPORTERS!!

The ISA Convention Committee and the Iowa Seed Association would like to thank the following companies for supporting the 104th Annual ISA Seed Convention as a sponsor and/or exhibitor. The convention was held on November 13-14, 2006 at the Gateway Center in Ames, Iowa.

2006 Convention Sponsors

- Bayer CropScience-Coralville, IA
- Bio-Plant Research, Ltd.-Camp Point, IL
- JFS & Associates, Ltd.-Harlan, IA
- Monsanto-Ankeny, IA
- Pioneer Hi-Bred International-Johnston, IA
- Popp Engineering, Inc.-Ames, IA
- Remington Hybrid Seed Co. Inc.-Harlan, IA
- Seed Genetics Inc.-Lafayette, IN
- SOYGENETICS.-Westfield, IN
- Syngenta Seeds, Inc.-Ames, IA

2006 Convention Exhibitors

- Ag Printers-Lafayette, IN
- Bayer CropScience-Coralville, IA
- Bratney Companies-Des Moines, IA
- Committee for Agricultural Development (CAD) & Iowa State University Research Foundation (ISURF)-Ames, IA
- Greif, Inc. (Multiwall Bag Pkg. Group)-Prior Lake, MN
- Iowa Crop Improvement Association-Ames, IA
- Iowa State University Seed Laboratory-Ames, IA
- Mid-West Seed Services, Inc.-Brookings, SD
- O'Mara Ag Services-Urbandale, IA
- Percival Scientific-Perry, IA
- Syngenta Seed Care-Clive, IA



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Cody Bailey, Will Cornelius, Emma Flemmig, Clint Hartmann, Benjamin Hershey, Emily Hoffmann, Wade Kent, Eric Pitzen, Nicole Schneider and Ryan Van Roekel, who were all honored with scholarships from the ISA Endowed Scholarship Fund at Iowa State University. The students were presented the scholarships at the President's Breakfast during the 104th Annual Iowa Seed Association Convention. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2006-2007 school year.



Bruce Maunder at the President's Breakfast at the 104th ISA Convention in Ames, IA.

Iowa State University Professor Named Seed Science Endowed Chair

Gary Munkvold, an internationally recognized seed pathologist, will serve a three-year term as the Iowa State University's Seed Science Endowed Chair, a newly created post. He will lead a research, outreach and teaching program in seed health in the department of plant pathology and at the Seed Science Center. Munkvold was a plant pathology faculty member at Iowa State from 1993 through 2002. He researched diseases in agronomic crops. Since 2003, he served as research coordinator for the Pathology, Entomology and Seed Science Group at Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Munkvold got his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in plant pathology in 1992 from the University of California.

**Mark
Your
Calendar!**

ISA Board Hosts Legislative Luncheon

The ISA Board will be hosting a Legislative Luncheon on February 27, 2007 at the ISA Office, 900 Des Moines Street, Des Moines, Iowa. This luncheon is open to all 2007 ISA members. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact the ISA Office at 800-383-1682.

Organic Lobby Concedes GM - Coexistence is Inevitable

Organic farming and genetically modified cropping will co-exist, two of organic farming's staunchest defenders admitted at a public debate in London as [DEFRA's consultation on co-existence](#) draws to a close this week. But DEFRA proposals for keeping the crops separate are too weak, they insisted. Wider separation distances, a lower limit for GM contamination of organic seed, a compulsory register of fields growing GM crops and improved liability rules are all needed, they said. "Co-existence will happen, because of the big dollars behind GM," organic farmer Oliver Dowding told the *Farming and the Future: Can GM and Organic Crops Co-exist?* debate organized by the [Agricultural Biotechnology Council](#) and chaired by Radio 4's Today Program star John Humphrys. "I expect we will see it, but we need more robust and more transparent protocols in place," agreed Lawrence Woodward, director of Elm Farm Research Centre. Damage to organic farming's marketing message was a key concern. "I can see a greater risk from co-existence, because of the impact on my market, and I'm not prepared to take any risk at the moment, because I can see all the risk and no benefit for me," said Mr. Dowding. After the debate Mr. Woodward told Farmers Weekly he would be happy with a 0.1% limit for GM in organic seed, instead of the proposed 0.5% limit. He also wanted wider separation distances, more in line with earlier trials, and a register of fields growing GM crops, plus better liability provision, such as the laws in place in Germany or the industry fund in Denmark. Herts farmer Bob Fiddaman, who chairs [SCIMAC](#), the UK breeding industry's co-existence initiative, said co-existence was quite achievable. "Give farmers the protocols and we can implement them. I grow double low rapeseed for food use and HEAR industrial rape which is poisonous to humans. With the right separation distances and on-farm protocols I can meet the 0.3% admix threshold, even with volunteers to cope with. It has been measured and it can be done. We can do the same with GM." He felt GM crops would be grown in the UK by 2010, particularly if BASF's blight tolerant GM potatoes, which are currently under field evaluation, prove a success. The debate came against a backdrop of almost 70,000ha of GM crops being grown across the EU this season, with co-existence measures particularly well advanced in the Czech Republic, and fast being developed in Spain, France and Germany. For more info go to www.organicresearchcentre.com, www.defra.gov.uk, www.scimac.org.uk and www.abcinformation.org.

Dale Miksch Named Iowa Seed Association's 2006 Honorary Member

During the ISA convention held on November 13-14, 2006, President Bielenberg announced Dale Miksch as the latest recipient of its highest honor, the Honorary Member Award. The Honorary Member award began in 1949 and is presented to a person who has had a significant impact on the seed industry and who has served as part of the ISA with distinction. Mr. Miksch has spent 40 years of his career in the seed business. He not only made significant contributions in Iowa but throughout the world which seems appropriate in keeping with the 2006 ISA Convention theme: *Iowa Seed in a Global Market*.

Dale Miksch was born in Labette, Kansas as the son of a Kansas farmer. He grew up in a family with one brother and two sisters. He graduated from Kansas State in 1957 with a major in Animal Science. While attending Kansas State University he was a member of the Farmhouse Fraternity. After graduation, Mr. Miksch went to Pakistan for several months as part of an international farm youth exchange. Upon his return he became a 4-H Club agent from 1958 through 1960. During that time, he went to Washington D.C. for graduate studies in the 4-H extension service. While there, he met Bev, whom he married in May, 1961.

In 1960 he went to work for Rudy Patrick and continued in their employment through 1968. During that period, he spent part of his time working in both Mexico and Puerto Rico and continued to expand his international production skills. Dale left Rudy Patrick to go to work for what was then known as Garst and Thomas Seed Company. While working there, he served in various seed corn production related positions. His final position at Garst and Thomas, prior to his retirement, was International Seed Production Representative. While working at Garst he had the opportunity to travel to Europe and South America for seed related activities. He was very involved in a project in the Ukraine to try to improve agriculture production in that region. Between trips to South America, Mr. Miksch was able to serve on the Iowa Seed Association Board and was President in 2000. After his presidency, he not only retired from the Seed Association, but also from the seed business itself.

Although our honorary member spent a fair amount of time out of the country, he and his wife still found time to raise 3 sons and host 4 foreign exchange students. His sons Scott, Gary, and Jeff have blessed him with 8 grandchildren. Since his retirement he has been able to spend time doing the things he truly enjoys such as traveling both in the US and abroad. He and his wife have had the opportunity to visit three of the exchange students that they hosted. He also finds time to golf and fish with friends.

***Congratulations,
Dale Miksch
for being named
Iowa Seed Association's
2006 Honorary Member!***



2007 ISA Membership Directory

We are in the process of updating the ISA Membership Directory in anticipation of publishing it in early 2007. Please review your membership information in the 2006 directory. If you have any changes or corrections please let us know at jodi@agribiz.org or call 800-383-1682. Thank you!

2007 Reminders and Up-Coming Events

- ◆ CCA Exam - February 2, 2007 (call the ISA office for details)
- ◆ ISA Board hosts Legislative Luncheon at the ISA Office, Des Moines, IA- February 27, 2007
- ◆ ASTA 124th Annual Convention, Omni Interlocken Resort, Denver CO - June 23-27, 2007 (for more details go to www.amseed.org and click on the Meetings & Opportunities link.)



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