

# ISA

## News Bulletin

1902 - 2006



March 2006

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*Mike Bielenberg (chair)*

Tim Barry

Pat Foley

Del Koch

Tim Johnson

David Thompson

Dean Hamer

Manjit Misra

Dave Tierney

#### Scholarship Committee

*Jim Groepper and*

*Mike Bielenberg (co-chairs)*

John Latham

Manjit Misra

Dave Tierney

#### Nominating Committee

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*(past-past president)*

*Greg Lamka*

*(past-president)*

*Mike Bielenberg*

*(current president)*

#### Membership Committee

*Jim Groepper (chair)*

Dave Treinen

Dave Kennedy

Wade Jensen

Mark Terpstra

Mitch Christensen

#### Golf Committee

*Dave Kennedy (chair)*

John Latham

Rhonda Birchmeier

Mitch Quirin

#### Legislative Committee

*Steve Werning (chair)*

John Latham

Dave Tierney

Greg Lamka

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## Message from the President

Greetings. It certainly is a busy time of year. I would imagine that a lot of you are putting the finishing touches on the current sales year while at the same time working with growers to making plans to get this coming years production in the ground.

With all those activities going on the last thing you need to worry about is stop sales due to labeling issues. Most of you have likely received a letter from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and/or saw an article in the Des Moines Sunday Register. All of us on the Iowa Seed Association board saw the same letter. We felt it was important to visit with IDALS to get a better idea of what their intentions were. During our last board meeting in February, we had Robin Prusiner join us via conference call. Robin told us that her office has experienced complaints about improper labeling and that they were responding to those complaints. Robin also said that her office didn't plan to issue stop sales this spring but that they wanted to raise the level of awareness. She said that if there were blatant labeling errors such as not including germination or seeds per pound, they would require those to be corrected. She also told us that IDALS intention was not to end the use of VNS but to make us aware that it needs to be spelled out completely, "Variety Not Stated."

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a recap of what was discussed with Robin during the conference call. Robin also agreed to work with us to create a website link that would address most frequently asked questions.

It is important that we all comply with Seed Labeling Laws so that the legislature doesn't perceive the need to get involved. Please share your concerns with us and we will continue to take those concerns to IDALS.

Best Regards,  
Mike Bielenberg, ISA President  
Syngenta Seeds

### \$1 MILLION GOAL REACHED FOR ISU SEED SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS

*Source by: Iowa State University, College of Agriculture*

**Contacts:** Manjit Misra, Seed Science Center, (515) 294-6821, [mkmisra@iastate.edu](mailto:mkmisra@iastate.edu)

**AMES, Iowa** — Three recent gifts to support seed-science graduate students at Iowa State University have put a fundraising initiative over the top of its \$1 million goal.

The gifts are part of "Investing in People and the Future of the Seed Industry," an effort led by the Iowa Seed Association to raise support for Iowa State graduate students. Funds

raised through the initiative have established seven fellowships at the university.

Helping wrap up the initiative were a \$150,000 gift from the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, a \$150,000 gift from the Committee for Agricultural Development and a \$150,000 gift from Barbara Everson of Sequim, Washington.

"These fellowships will help prepare our graduates for careers as leaders in the global seed industry," said Wendy Wintersteen, Dean of the College of Agriculture.

## \$1 MILLION GOAL REACHED FOR ISU SEED SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS CONT...



# I S A N E W S

“We’re grateful for the support of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, the Committee for Agricultural Development and Barbara Everson. We appreciate the Iowa Seed Association’s leadership role in achieving the fundraising goal.”

“The new fellowships will help our students address important issues affecting the most critical part of our food supply — the seed,” said Manjit Misra, director of the Seed Science Center. “The seed industry in Iowa is among the finest in the world. The new fellowships will further enhance this already strong industry,” said Mike Bielenberg of Syngenta Seeds Inc. and president of the Iowa Seed Association. The Iowa Crop Improvement Association Fellowship in Seed Science and the Committee for Agricultural Development Fellowship in Seed Science will benefit graduate students conducting research on issues related to global or domestic seed issues. “We’re committed to helping students pursue advanced education in seed science,” said Del Koch, director of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association and executive director of the Committee for Agricultural Development.

The Leroy and Barbara Everson Fellowship in Seed Science will encourage students to advance the science and technology of seed testing. Barbara Everson’s gift was given in honor of the memory of her husband, Leroy, an ISU emeritus professor of plant pathology, the former director of the ISU Seed Testing Laboratory and an internationally recognized leader in research to improve seed testing methodology. Leroy Everson retired in 1980 and died in 2005.

Others interested in contributing to the Everson fellowship and helping today’s students follow in Leroy Everson’s footsteps are encouraged to contact the Iowa State University Foundation.

Other fellowships created through the initiative are the Edda G. Sehgal Fellowship for Graduate Studies in Seed Science, the Iowa Seed Association Graduate Fellowship, the Monsanto Graduate Fellowship in Global Seed Policy and Regulations and the Pioneer Hi-Bred Graduate Fellowship in Seed Science.

The Seed Science Center in the College of Agriculture is home to the world’s largest public seed testing laboratory and administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Seed Health System. The lab’s seed health testing is key to the annual export of millions of dollars of American seed. The center has pursued introducing science into policy to benefit world seed trade in more than 50 countries during the last 10 years. The Seed Science Center also is one of the centers of ISU’s Plant Sciences Institute.

The Committee for Agricultural Development is a nonprofit organization that has been affiliated with Iowa State since 1943. Its mission is to produce crop seeds developed from Iowa State research; to distribute plant genetic materials and other research products to the public; and to acquire and maintain adequate land for agricultural research purposes of Iowa State.

The Iowa Crop Improvement Association is a nonprofit organization designated as the official seed-certifying agency for the state of Iowa. Its mission is to provide an unbiased source of service and education in production and quality assurance for Iowa agricultural crops. The association financially supports Iowa State’s student crops team, sponsors the Iowa FFA Agronomy Career Development event, offers a summer internship program and awards five scholarships annually to Iowa State undergraduates.

The gifts were made through the Iowa State University Foundation, a private, nonprofit corporation dedicated to securing and stewarding gifts and grants that benefit Iowa State University.

### From the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

The following has been prepared specifically for the Iowa Seed Association, March 2006, and is specific to corn and soybean seed. Requirements for bulk seed sales, turf seed, vegetable seed, legume inoculants, plant variety protection nor certified seed, are not addressed within. This is a summarized list of label requirements and should not be employed in place of additional details in Code of Iowa chapter 199. Code of Iowa, chapter 199.3 requires seed which is sold, offered for sale, exposed for sale, or transported within this state shall be labeled accordingly:

- Seed that is treated, inoculated, or coated shall contain a word or statement indicating that the treatment, inoculation, or coating has been done. A separate label may be used.

## From the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

- If treated, the label shall indicate the commonly accepted chemical or abbreviated chemical name of the applied substances or a description of the type and purpose of procedure used. If the substance in the amount present with the seed is harmful to human or vertebrate animals, the label shall bear a caution statement such as "Do not use for food, feed, or oil purposes". In addition, for highly toxic substances, a poison statement or symbol shall be shown on the label.
  - If the seed is inoculated, the label shall indicate the month and year beyond which the inoculants is not claimed to be effective.
  - If the seed is coated, the label shall show the percentage by weight in the container of pure seed, inert matter, coating material, other crop seed, and weed seed. The percentage of germination shall be labeled on the basis of a determination made on at least four hundred pellets or capsules, whether or not they contain seed.
  - The name of the kind (*e.g. corn or soybean*) or kind and variety for each agricultural seed present in excess of five percent of the whole and the percentage by weight of each.
  - If the variety is not stated, the label shall show the name of the kind and the words, "variety not stated".
    - \*Hybrids shall be labeled as hybrids.
    - \*Seed shall not be labeled or advertised under a trademark or brand name in a manner that may create the impression that the trademark or brand name is a variety name.
    - \*Lot number or other lot identification.
  - Percentage by weight of all weed seed.
  - The name and rate of occurrence per unit of weight of each kind of secondary noxious weed seed present.
  - Percentage by weight of agricultural seed which may be designated as "other crop seed" other than those required to be named on the label. P
  - Percentage by weight of inert matter.
  - Percentage of germination, exclusive of hard seed.
  - Percentage of hard seed, if present.
  - The calendar month and year the test was completed to determine the percentages.
    - \* Code of Iowa chapter 199.8(1)(a) requires germination test to be completed within nine months, excluding the month of the test.
  - Name and address of the person who labeled the seed, or who sells, offers, or exposes the seed for sale within this state.
- Q.** What are the Department's plans for 2006 to address labeling issues?
- A.** In March of 2006, IDALS inspectors will be visiting seed warehouses, etc., to inspect seed labeling practices. I categorize 2006 as a raise-awareness-year. We plan to work with seed companies to ensure that the labels are in total compliance with State of Iowa seed labeling requirements. We do not intend to order immediate retagging of bags in 2006. The goal is to have all the seed sold in Iowa in 2007 to be in compliance.
- Q.** What should we expect when an inspector arrives at my door?
- A.** If possible, IDALS will try to call ahead to schedule a convenient time. However, we cannot guarantee that this will always happen. The inspector will be looking at tags to see if all the required information is on the bags/tags. Expect the inspectors to ask questions as needed. If potential infractions are discovered, the inspector will discuss with you what changes will need to be implemented. And, I will always be available to answer your questions and work through concerns until all the parties are comfortable with what is expected.
- Q.** What is being done in 2006 with the variety/brand naming issue?
- A.** The issue has been elevated to USDA officials in the Seed Testing and Regulatory Branch. IDALS is waiting for the USDA's response to specific complaints and request for interpretation of the Federal Seed Act. At this time, I cannot even begin to predict how the federal government will respond, not how much time will pass before their response is set down to the State.

**Additional Information Sources:** Law available at: <http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=IowaCode> Rules available at: [http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/administrativeRules/Ag\\_CH40\\_Seeds.pdf](http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/administrativeRules/Ag_CH40_Seeds.pdf) Federal Seed Act FAQ: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/seed/facts.htm>



### 2006 ISA Golf Event

This year's ISA golf event will be held on July 18 at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames, IA. Watch the mail for more information soon!

### 2006 ISA Membership Directory Reminder

We are in the process of updating the ISA Membership Directory in anticipation of publishing our directory in 2006. Please remember to review your membership information in the 2005 directory and let us know if you have any changes or corrections. The directory will be printed soon!

# 2006 Upcoming Events

**ISA Golf Event will be held on July 18 at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames, IA. Watch the mail for more information.**

## ASTA Upcoming Events

July 8 - 12                      Joint ASTA-CSTA Annual  
Convention  
Hyatt Regency Chicago  
Chicago, IL

December 6 - 8                60th Corn & Sorghum Seed  
Research Conference  
35th Soybean Seed Re  
search Conference Seed Expo  
Hyatt Regency Chicago  
Chicago, IL



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## **Iowa State University Seed Science Center, Ames, Iowa Upcoming Workshops**

Purity Short course for Seed Analysts	April 24-27
Germination Short course for Seed Analysts	May 1-4
Color Sorting (featuring Sortex)	June 5-6
Color Sorting (featuring Satake)	June 7-8
Fundamentals of Commercial Seed Corn Conditioning	June 19-21
Advanced Commercial Seed Corn Conditioning	June 22-23
Fundamentals of Soybean & Small Grain Seed Conditioning	July 10-12
Advanced Soybean & Small Grain Seed Conditioning	July 13
Fundamentals of Research Seed Corn Conditioning	July 31-August 2
Advanced Research Seed Corn Conditioning	August 3-4
Gravity Separation	August 10
Fundamentals of Soybean & Small Grain Seed Conditioning	August 14-16
Advanced Soybean & Small Grain Seed Conditioning	August 17
Seed Corn Quality	August 22
Soybean Quality	August 23
Gravity Separation	August 24
Popcorn Conditioning	November 15-16