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## Great Day for Golf!

**T**hank you to all that attended the 2015 ISA Golf Tournament, golfers and sponsors!

We are pleased to see our members on the course, what a great event. Every golf registration and sponsor donation benefits the ISA scholarship fund. ISA provides undergrad and graduate scholarships for students interested in pursuing a career in agriculture.

2015 Beverage Cart Sponsor:



### Congrats to our Winners:

First place team - Greanleaf Team  
Second place - AgVenture Team  
Closest to the Pin - Stan Junod  
Longest Putt - Tom Miller  
Longest Drive - Brent Flander  
Longest Putt - Tom Severson

## Iowa Cover Crop Challenge

**B**eing part of Iowa's agriculture community, I am sure you are all aware of the current "buzz-words" floating around the countryside; "Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Cover Crops, Sustainability" are all common conversation. Much time, effort and dollars are being invested by many public and private agricultural entities to achieve the goals attached to the above topics. Your representatives at the Iowa Seed Association feel that as seed producers we should support this effort.

We would like to issue a friendly challenge to all the seed corn producing companies within the State of Iowa. Please join in our goal to have 100% of Iowa seed corn production fields followed with a cover crop. As a seed production company, you and your growers have a special opportunity to promote conservation practices and keep our soils healthy for future generations. Here are a few of the benefits that we feel cover crops may offer seed corn growers.

- Seed corn is harvested early
  - - Longer exposure to the environment
  - + Opportunity to seed and establish cover crops earlier
- Seed corn has less residue
  - - May be more susceptible to erosion and runoff

- - Less organic matter
- + A cover crop will protect soils and reduce erosion potential
- + Cover crops will add residue and organic matter
- Seed corn fields may have more compaction
  - - Multiple trips over the field, some at adverse times may leave the soils compacted
  - + Certain cover crops are known to help break up compaction
- Seed corn fields could have more weed pressure
  - - Less canopy and some limited herbicide use
  - + A cover crop can provide competition against weed seedlings
- Cover crops can sequester nutrients.

Please join us in promoting the use of cover crops with your seed growers. We hope you will help us reach the goal of 100% use of cover crops following seed corn production. We plan on following up with you after harvest to measure the use of cover crops and to recognize your company's efforts. We appreciate your support in this challenge, thank you.



## House Ag Committee Approves Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act HR 1599

**O**n July 14, 2015 the House Agriculture Committee by voice vote passed H.R. 1599, the “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act”. This legislation would provide national uniformity in regards to the labeling of foods.

ARA is part of the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food, which supports this legislation sponsored by Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC). Below is a copy of the press release issued by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-MN) following committee approval of the legislation. Yesterday morning, Rep. Pompeo spoke to several state associations (Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Virginia, Michigan) and their members participating in a D.C. Legislative Fly-in hosted by ARA, TFI, CLA, and BIO. The group thanked him for all his efforts on this important industry issue.

The main components of H.R. 1599 would provide for federal preemption of state and local GMO labeling laws; require USDA to receive notification that FDA has deemed the product safe for consumers; authorize USDA to establish a voluntary non-GMO

labeling certification program; and provides language to address labeling of Natural foods. The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to consider H.R. 1599 next week. In the Senate, Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) is working on a companion bill. The coalition continues to reach out to Senate Democrat offices seeking a sponsor with Hoeven but we have not been able to get any commitments. Without key Democrat support in the Senate, moving any GMO labeling legislation will be more difficult.

“Consumers increasingly want to know more about where their food comes from and how it is produced. I think H.R. 1599 satisfies that demand while also recognizing what we know about the safety of the foods that our farmers produce. The bill is a workable solution that will alleviate the potential mess of 50 states with 50 different labeling schemes,” said Ranking Member Peterson

[Click here](#) to view a Section by Section of the legislation.

### Story Source:

The above story is based on materials obtained from [House Committee on Agriculture](#) press release. Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.

## Agricultural Legal Defense Fund

The Iowa Seed Association (ISA) has been working with the Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI) and the Agricultural Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) to help create an unified defense within the agriculture industry. On March 16, 2015, the Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) filed a lawsuit against Buena Vista, Calhoun, and Sac county boards of supervisors in their roles as governing authorities for ten drainage districts. A cohesive stance is crucial to preventing added regulatory barriers to conservation efforts around the state, and nation.

All ISA members can take immediate action by investing in the Agricultural Legal Defense Fund to help support the drainage districts defend this precedent-setting case. The drainage districts, which are funded entirely by landowner assessments, lack the financial resources to adequately defend this lawsuit. The Defense

Fund provides a way for supporters to make a meaningful but confidential contribution to the cause.

Water quality is important to all Iowans and will continue to be long after this lawsuit is settled. Regardless of this lawsuit, farmers should continue their dedication of on-farm conservation practices to improve soil and water quality.

**ISA MEMBERS CAN DONATE NOW:** To contribute, make a check payable to “Agricultural Legal Defense Fund” for \$50, \$100, or \$250+ (any amount will be accepted). Mail it to: Agricultural Legal Defense Fund 900 Des Moines Street, Des Moines IA 50309. Questions can be directed to [JoanO@abribiz.org](mailto:JoanO@abribiz.org). \*All contributions are confidential and tax-deductible status has been applied for.





## National Pollinator Garden Network Launches Unprecedented Collaboration

In an unprecedented collaboration, dozens of conservation and gardening organizations joined together today to form the National Pollinator Garden Network and launch a new nationwide campaign – the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. Designed to accelerate growing efforts across America, the Network is launching the Challenge in support of the President’s action to reverse the decline of pollinating insects, such as honey bees and native bees, as well as monarch butterflies.

The National Pollinator Garden Network collectively represents nearly one million active gardeners and 15,000 schoolyard gardens. The Network is challenging the nation to reach the goal of one million additional pollinator gardens by the end of 2016. The Network will work to provide resources for individuals, community groups, government agencies and the garden industry to create more pollinator habitat through sustainable gardening practices and conservation efforts.

To tackle these challenges, the Network is rallying hundreds of thousands of gardeners, horticultural professionals, schools, and

volunteers to help reach a million pollinator gardens over the next two years. Any individual can contribute by planting for pollinators and joining this effort to provide a million pollinator gardens across the United States.

“Bees are vital in seed and agriculture production, as well as general ecosystem health, and ensuring their wellbeing is a priority,” said Andrew W. LaVigne, president and CEO of the American Seed Trade Association. “.... We look forward to working in tandem with the White House and members of the National Pollinator Garden Network to increase the outreach and education of this important initiative.”

The American Seed Trade Association is among 24 national organizations that have joined the National Pollinator Garden Network partner list.

### Story Source:

The above story is based on materials obtained from [Million Pollinator Garden](#) press release. Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.

## ISU Seed Conditioning & Quality Evaluation August Workshops

Iowa State University (ISU) offering a series of workshops on seed conditioning and quality testing procedures. The final workshop dates are rapidly approaching, so we are sending this brief reminder in the event either you or a co-worker might be interested in the program.

The 2015 workshop schedule is listed below and on the registration website listed below.

These are small group sessions that feature a mix of classroom and “hands on” equipment operation in our pilot plant at the ISU Seed Science Center.

There are several program revisions for 2015. The food grade bean program is being offered again this year and has been extended to four days to accommodate expanded program

content. The past Satake programs have been duplicate sessions intended to help minimize group size but the second session will focus primarily on their new Evolution machines.

Additional details, including a PDF version of the workshop brochure and on-line registration can be found on the ISU Extension web site [HERE](#).

Routine registration questions may be directed to Extension:

### **ISU - Registration Services**

**Phone: 515-294-6222 Email: [registrations@iastate.edu](mailto:registrations@iastate.edu)**

Seed Corn Conditioning.....August 3-6

Seed Corn / Soybean Quality Testing.....August 11-13

## Thank You To Our Sponsors

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### Iowa Seed Association Reminders & Events

- February 9, 2016      Agribusiness Showcase & Conference: Seed Forum & Annual Meeting

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