

Abbreviated Minutes

Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee

Minutes of Feb. 14, 2001

9:30 A.M. to 3:20 P.M., 139 Howlett Hall

Present: John Armstrong, Dick Cooper, Jack Debolt, Ann Dorrance, Ron Fioritto, David Francis, Bill Goodman, Ron Hammond, Dan Herms, Ray Miller (Committee Chair), Stephen Myers, Rich Pratt (after 12:00) Robin Rasor, Steve St. Martin.

Ray Miller called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

A motion to approve the minutes passed 12/0.

Introductory business

Dr. Myers introduced Dr. Clay Sneller, a new faculty member in Wheat Breeding and Genetics and new member of the committee.

Ohio Bicentennial 2003 Varieties

Dr. Myers discussed the idea of coordinating efforts to release varieties for the Ohio Bicentennial. He indicated that the bicentennial presented an opportunity to release varieties that may not have all of the attributes necessary for a variety used in commercial farming, but may have attributes that would benefit the home gardener. He indicated that this would present a good opportunity to educate Ohio's greater than 11 M consumers.

Reports and updates

OSU

Dr. Miller called the committee's attention to a news release concerning a marketing agreement between Monsanto and South Dakota State University regarding Roundup Ready ® soybeans developed by SDSU.

OFS

Mr. Debolt, reporting for Ohio Foundation Seeds, distributed a summary of foundation soybean and oat sales. Sales of soybean seed are 77.6% of 2000 sales, continuing a trend from the early 1990's. Mr. Debolt indicated that competition from Roundup Ready ® varieties was hurting sales. Sales of Ohio FG1 were down due to two years of adverse weather conditions that have affected toфу quality beans in Ohio. Sales of Oat seed are 3.7% higher than Feb. 2000, but are only 67% of Feb. 1999 levels.

OSIA

Mr. Armstrong, reporting for OSIA reported that Ohio producers are experiencing strong sales of Roundup Ready ® varieties. Seed acreage and inspections of Roundup Ready ® varieties are

projected to increase substantially in 2001. OSIA is issuing more Identity Preserved soybean grain tags than soybean seed labels. Seed quality problems have negatively impacted inventories of corporate seed houses in the West. Projections for 2001 are for fewer small grain seed acres, increased Roundup Ready ® acres, reduced IP grain acres, and fewer Certified seed acres.

The seed lab is busy and is now testing for the StarLink (CRY9C, Bt) event. The GMO non-GMO controversy continues, but there is nothing definitive to report other than some industry concern over how trade will be affected. Monsanto has indicated that Roundup Ready ® wheat may be available within three years.

OSIA is concerned about the slow processing of PVPA title V certificates at the PVPA office. Mr. Armstrong noted that, as of last fall, Hopewell wheat was not officially registered as a Title V variety.

ODA

Mr. Goodman reported for the Ohio Department of Agriculture. ODA is currently working with OSIA and the Agribusiness Assoc. to update Ohio seed law. A copy of the proposed changes is available from Mr. Goodman. ODA has not noted soybean seed quality problems that John mentioned.

Personnel changes at ODA include Bill Pound working on Gypsy Moth and David Shleich as Chief of Plant Industry. Jim Beaky is now the department director, replacing the retired Sam Waltz.

OSU-OTL

Ms. Rasor, director of the Office of Technology Licensing, updated the CVRDC with progress on Secrest Sentinel Birch. Trademark protection has been granted for the name Secrest Sentinel in the United States. There was some discussion whether trademark protection should be sought in other countries. Mr. Herms indicated that the U.S. market was the important one to protect, but that Ms. Rasor's office should follow up on that question with Evergreen Nurseries. Ms. Rasor indicated that plant patent protection of Secrest Sentinel must wait until propagation is routine.

Ms. Rasor's office is pursuing unauthorized Hopewell Sales, but this is potentially complicated by the back up at the PVP office and the lack of a Title V certificate for Hopewell (alluded to by Mr. Armstrong, above). The letters her office has sent regarding unauthorized sales has helped to stop the sales and return compensation.

Ms. Rasor's office has been working to get "Tax Exempt" status in Canada for the FG1 sales. Dr. Miller mentioned that C&M Seeds was collecting royalties on Freedom Wheat, and that they may be withholding taxes. Ms. Rasor will look into this issue.

Roundup Ready ® licenses

Ms. Rasor has clarified the process for licensing the Roundup Ready ® gene from Monsanto. The technology can only be licensed to a current Roundup Ready ® licensee, and OSU/OARDC developed varieties therefore cannot be released as public varieties. Three options exist: (1) release to

AGRA, (2) use one of four to five national “genetic distributors”, or (3) use AGRA in Ohio and a genetic distributor nationally.

Request to market OSU Soybeans in Argentina

The CVRDC was presented with a detailed proposal (14 pages) for exclusive production and marketing of OSU soybean varieties in Argentina by Areco Semillas.

Ms. Rasor was asked to work with Areco Semillas to clarify several issues related to the proposal. (1) what volume of seed will they produce, (2) what varieties are they seeking to market, (3) does Argentina’s seed law provide a mechanism (registration or other) to enforce exclusivity and OSU’s rights?, (4) as it appears that FG-1 is all ready in Argentina, is there a mechanism to grant exclusivity to Areco Semillas and destroy the seed crop all ready in country? Ms. Rasor was also asked to inform Areco Semillas that the earliest decision by the CVRDC on their proposal would be September 2001.

Ms. Rasor was also asked to pursue action against the Iowa seedsman that is suspected to have shipped seed in violation of PVP. Ms. Rasor discussed courses of action and the CVRDC recommended that a strongly worded letter indicating knowledge of a PVP violation, asking for financial remuneration, and asking for proof that the seed crop has been destroyed in Argentina.

Review of policy to assign rights to discarded germplasm and CVRDC Special Circular

Dr. Miller presented the history of a policy to assign rights to discarded germplasm. As we are reviewing the CVRDC guidelines, and as the policy to assign rights had never been voted on by the CVRDC, Dr. Miller suggested that we review and amend this policy and add it to Circular 178. The necessity of doing so was highlighted by a recent request for Oat germplasm.

Soybean releases.

Dr. St. Martin proposed five food-grade soybeans for release, HS96-3136, HS96-3140, HS96-3144, HS96-3145, and HS96-3850. In addition he proposed to release one specialty line, HS96-3818, with low linolenic acid in the seed. Four of the lines, HS96-3136, HS96-3140, HS96-3144, HS96-3145, are derived from the same F₂ plant from the cross HS96-3850 X Ohio FG1. Steve explained that there is a need for a full range of maturities in the food-grade category. He presented three years of data supporting release demonstrating that these varieties were competitive in yield to FG1, and have excellent protein and tofu quality. The best quality was found in HS96-3144 which was proposed for release as Ohio FG3. The committee voted in favor of release.

Dr. St. Martin then proposed to offer HS96-3136, HS96-3140, HS96-3145, and HS96-3850 for public release. The committee voted 0/13, denying public release. Dr St. Martin then proposed that HS96-3136, HS96-3140, HS96-3145, and HS96-3850 be offered to AGRA for branded release. The committee voted in favor.

Dr. St Martin described the low linolenic acid line HS96-3818, carrying the *fan* gene. He indicated that two previous low linolenic acid releases had not found a commercial market. There is a potential advantage of low linolenic acid soybeans because oil made from these varieties is less likely to go

rancid than other oils. The lack of commercial interest reflects problems related to scale and risk. A producer needs enough seed to interest an oil manufacturer before proving the marketability. This will require an investment in seed increase and contract acreage with no guarantee of return. Dr. St. Martin proposed release of HS96-3818 as a public. The committee voted against. Dr. St. Martin then proposed HS96-3818 be released to AGRA for branding. The committee voted to accept.

Dr. Cooper proposed release of HC94-96PR, a semi-dwarf variety developed for high yield environments and carrying the Rps1k gene for Phytophthora root rot. Release was for the white flowered version. Dr. Cooper indicated that presence of the Rps1k gene was based on the pedigree. Dr. Cooper proposed to release HC94-96PR as a public variety under the name "Stalwart". The committee voted to accept release.

Discussion

A brief discussion of releases expected for the September meeting followed. Dr. Hammond distributed a North Central Pest Management Center publication on soybean aphid, *Aphis glycines* Matsumura, which has been found in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Dr. Hammond requested members of the committee alert him to infested fields.