

Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee (CVRDC)
Minutes of the April 24th, 2007 meeting
202F Kottman

Attendance:

Clay Sneller, Ann Dorrance, Erin Bender, Pierce Paul, John Armstrong, Jack Debolt, Bill Gault, Jim Beuerlein, and Steve St. Martin (Columbus)

Clay Sneller called the meeting to order. 12:30 PM

Review of Minutes from October 2006

Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as is was made (JA) and seconded (AD). A vote was called and motion was approved 9 to 0.

RR Soybeans: Steve St. Martin

Dr. St. Martin updated the CVRDC on new developments in the RR soybean industry. Monsanto will not support the first version of RR soys (RR1) after the patent runs out (likely in 2013). This will greatly impact export as Monsanto files paper work annually to facilitate export of RR1 soys. This will have a great impact on soybean breeding. Monsanto will support their new RR construct and patent (RR2). OSU is in the process of negotiating a license with Monsanto for RR2 technology.

Release of OH201 soybean: Steve St. Martin.

The CVRDC approved release of OHS 201 in the spring of 2006, but the line was not named nor did the CVRDC recommend how it would be released. After input from the Ohio soybean industry, Dr. St. Martin recommended that OHS 201 be released as a public cultivar under the name "Wyandot". A motion was made to release OHS 201 as a public soybean cultivar named Wyandot (SS) and was seconded (JB). The motion passed with 7 yes, 0 no, and 2 abstentions.

Release of OHS 202: Steve St. Martin

Dr. St martin proposed the release of OHS 202 soybean line. It is noteworthy for its combination of yield potential and early maturity. It has partial resistance to Phytophthora root rot. A motion was made to release OHS 202 as a branded variety (SS) and it was seconded (JD). The motion passed with 7 yes, 0 no, and 2 abstentions.

Pre-release distribution of germplasm: Steve St. Martin

Dr. St. Martin discussed a request from a private company to use some OSU germplasm in its crossing program prior to release of the germplasm by OSU. The CVRDC noted that such distributions should not affect future release and use of the germplasm by any other entity, that OSU should negotiate for royalties from any commercial products derived from the germplasm, and an up front fee for use of the germplasm.

Agreement with Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research (CPBR)

The OSU soybean breeding program and the MCIC are preparing a proposal for the CPBR. The CPBR is partially funded by private industry that would like ownership consideration on any commercial products developed via the funding. This was brought to the attention of the CVRDC but it was noted that such agreements were common for research funded by private companies.

Royalty sharing plan with Ohio Soybean Council (OSC): Erin Bender

The OSC and OTL have been negotiating mechanisms for sharing royalties on soybean cultivars as well as patents developed jointly by OSU and the OSC. Ms. Bender explained the current draft of the plan and its possible implications for OSU soybean research. An objective of the plan is to save money to help sustain research in the event of a decrease in OSC funds. It was noted that a final agreement may be ready by the fall and would be retroactive to January of 2007.

Updates from OSIA – John Armstrong

- Mr. Armstrong voiced appreciation to all OSU researchers who participated in the 2007 OSIA seed school
- Mr. Armstrong then reported that royalties from certified wheat sales were down in 2006 due to a wet fall. Wheat acreage has suffered from the wet fall, winter kill, and competition from other commodities. Recent frost in the southern states has had dramatic affect on the soft winter wheat crop.
- Mr. Armstrong reported stable demand for tofu soybeans with sales of OHFG5 expanding. Demand for Round-up Ready low-linolenic acid soybean cultivars. Sales of conventional (non-GMO) soybeans is very low.
- Mr. Armstrong presented an update on national seed certification issues summarizing certified variety eligibility, rewriting of AOSCA and federal Seed Act Recertification language, National soybean variety review board, and developments from the PVP advisory committee. Regarding PVP, Mr. Armstrong noted that the cost of an application will rise by 20% for 2008 and that they currently have a backlog of 826 applications.

Ohio Foundation Seeds, Inc. Jack Debolt

Mr Debolt reviewed the current sales of foundation oats and soybeans. He noted that oat sales actually exceeded soybean sales. He noted that like counter parts in IL, MI, KY, and IN, Ohio Foundation Seeds was struggling to maintain viability in the new seed market dominated by a few major companies.

Update from Ohio Department of Agriculture: Bill Gault

Mr. Gault reported that ODA had inspected 12,000 samples for quality. They had issued 33 stop sales for various reasons. He noted that two new species had been added to the list of noxious weeds. ODA had also started to monitor seed count for seed sold by count and they had issued warning letters to companies that exceeded 4% (4% higher or 4% lower) of the printed count.

A motion was made to adjourn (JB) and was seconded (JD). The motion passed by a voted of 9 yes to 0 no.