

Abbreviated Minutes

Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee

Minutes of Sept. 18, 2000, meeting

206 Gourley Hall

Present: John Armstrong, Jack Debolt, Anne Dorrance, Ron Fioritto, David Francis, Bill Goodman, Dan Herms, Pat Lipps, Ray Miller (committee chair), Rich Pratt, Robin Rasor, Bill Ravlin (Assistant Director of OARDC), Steve St. Martin, Bernie Steyer.

Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 9:36 A.M. The minutes of the February 9 meeting were reviewed and two items were corrected, as follows: In the section on maize release OH 605, the statement about use as germplasm free of charge is incorrect. The correct wording is, "On release, the germplasm could be used under an agreement with OSU." The cultivar name 'Sturdie,' proposed for Dr. Cooper's soybean line, was changed to 'Strong'. The minutes were approved as amended.

Reports and Updates.

Dr. Miller reported that Dr. Clay Sneller, University of Arkansas, has been offered the wheat breeding position, and has verbally accepted. On behalf of the Horticulture and Crop Science Department, Dr. Miller expressed thanks to Dr. Lipps for leading the wheat breeding project in the interim period.

Mr. Armstrong gave the OSIA report, distributing the fall directory. Certified acreage continues to decrease, 9% for wheat, 3% for oats, and 7% for soybeans. Overall, soybean acres inspected are up 6%, due particularly to an increase in acres of identity-preserved, food-grade soybeans. Ohio now has the largest identity-preserved acreage inspected by any AOSCA agency. A new focus on identity-preserved wheat is expected in the future. There is currently debate in AOSCA about standards for "non-GMO" grain in shipments to Europe. Label requirements limiting transgenic seed will also be worked out for certified seed produced for the European market. South Dakota was in the news recently for release of a public, certified Roundup Ready® soybean variety.

Mr. Goodman reported on recent activities of the ODA. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, of which Fred Dailey is current President, will meet in Ohio.

Mr. Debolt, reporting for Ohio Foundation Seeds, distributed a summary of foundation wheat sales. Sales are down 15 to 20% from last year, and only two varieties (Freedom and Hopewell) will be planted this fall (in addition, foundation seed of Patterson will be produced out of state). Lack of new varieties is a factor in the decline of sales.

Wheat Report.

Dr. Lipps handed out information on wheat line OH645, which is being increased at Wooster in 2000-01. The line yielded 98.7% of Hopewell but had better test weight and excellent milling quality. This line may be considered for release next fall.

Some new certified varieties in the state performance test are not public varieties, but are owned by a subsidiary of OSIA. Approval of the Ohio Crop Variety Review Board must be obtained before these can be certified. The most recent vote of the board, on the variety Rosco, was not unanimous, because only a single year of yield data was presented and there was no information on disease or pedigree. Mr. Armstrong informed the committee that OSIA has not yet adopted Rosco as a certified variety. There was discussion of how to appropriately label OARDC varieties in the state test and how the Ohio Crop Variety Review Board might revise its standards for certification.

Office of Technology Licensing.

Ms. Rasor reported that her office had filed a PVP application (Kottman soybean) and negotiated two licenses for tomato, 1 for wheat, and two for soybean. The wheat and soybean agreements are with Canadian producers. She has also extended the Roundup Ready® use agreement with Monsanto on behalf of the soybean breeders.

Ms. Rasor requested discussion of the issue of non-payment of royalties. There have been cases where a letter from her office has not been sufficient to resolve the problem. After discussion, Ms. Rasor indicated she will check with legal advisers as to the next step and will contact the OARDC Director's office before proceeding.

A second matter for discussion was a possible plant patent application for the ornamental birch being considered for release. Both a trademark name and a cultivar name are needed, but the trademark may be more important, as it will be used in marketing.

Release of Ornamental Paper Birch.

This was an item discussed at the February 9 meeting but tabled pending further information. Dr. Herms provided an update. He recommended that the variety designated 7999NW01 be released with a trademark, whether it is eligible for a patent or not. Propagation requirements have not yet been established. Release of the variety can be considered now, even if some issues, such as the trademark and patent, must be deferred. The committee voted 10-0 to release the birch as a cultivar.

Soybean Report.

Dr. St. Martin mentioned that several soybean lines will likely be brought forward for release next spring. Mr. Fioritto indicated that the first Roundup Ready® soybean variety is expected to come before the committee in spring 2002.

Revision of Special Circular 139.

A subcommittee, consisting of Dr. Miller, Mr. Fioritto, and Dr. Pratt, has been working on revision of this document ("OSU-OARDC Plant Germplasm Release Guidelines and Practices"), which outlines the committee's policies related to release of varieties and germplasm.

Ohio Bicentennial 2003 Varieties

There was a proposal by Dr. Myers to release varieties to gardeners during the Ohio bicentennial in 2003. These are envisioned as possible giveaway items during Biohio. The consensus of the committee was that such releases should go through this committee, but that our policy allowing for exceptions to the three-year testing requirement may be invoked if appropriate.